

Thursday, March 13, 2014

For immediate release

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Hi-resolution photos are available on request.

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Broadway actor Michael Milligan (BROADWAY: *August: Osage County*, *La Bete*, *Jerusalem*) brings his internationally-acclaimed solo performance to Pillsbury House Theatre for a limited run April 23-May 4.

Thursday, March 13 (Minneapolis, MN) — Pillsbury House Theatre presents Michael Milligan's, *Mercy Killers*, directed by Tom Oppenheim.

Joe, a blue collar mechanic with a red state perspective, recounts the lengths he will go to care for his beloved wife. A detailed and emotional journey, *Mercy Killers* is an unflinching look at health care in the United States.

Mercy Killers was originally produced by The Stella Adler Studio of Acting's Harold Clurman Laboratory Theater Company, directed by Tom Oppenheim, Adler's Artistic Director and President. Milligan is also a member of the Harold Clurman Laboratory Theater Company.

Michael Milligan collected stories from people anguishing through financial disaster on top of chronic illness. After hearing many horror stories of the American health care system, Milligan worked to put a human face on what he perceived to be a national tragedy.

"Over 60% of all bankruptcies in the U.S. are the result of medical debt. And what most people don't realize is that in the majority of those bankruptcies, the person involved actually had insurance at the onset of their health crisis," states Milligan.

Ticket Information

April 23-May 4

Preview: April 22

Wednesday thru Saturday performances at 7:30 pm

Sunday performances at 3 pm

All tickets are Pay-What-You-Can. Pick your own price for every performance, every night. (Regular price = \$25.)

Free child care, Audio-described performances and American Sign Language interpreted performances are to be determined.

Post-show discussions with our community partner and Michael will be held six times during the 10 performance presentation.

For more information and tickets call 825-0459 or visit pillsburyhousetheatre.org

Michael is a performer who has been writing and acting for the theater for almost two decades. Milligan has appeared on the Broadway stage as Little Charles in *August: Osage County*, De Bries in *La Bete*, and as a 'raver' and understudy on *Jerusalem*. No stranger to the one man show, Milligan performed Will Eno's *Thom Pain* Off Broadway. Milligan received his training from Juilliard where he won the John Houseman Prize for excellence in classical drama. He has performed the bard's works with the the Shakespeare Theater, Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare and Company, Cincinatti Playhouse, Shakespeare Sedona and Santa Cruz, St. Louis Rep, the Utah, Alabama, Illinois, Colorado Shakespeare Festivals, Milwaukee Shakes, Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, and New Jersey Shakespeare in roles as diverse as Hamlet, Mercutio, Romeo, Angelo, Cassio, Dromio, Lucentio, Antipholus, Mark Antony, Edgar, Orlando, as well as many spear carriers and various shrubby movers. Milligan is a sometime instructor of Shakespeare at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. He has also appeared at many of the nation's top regional theaters including the Guthrie, Westport Country Playhouse, Charlotte Rep, The McCarter Theater, and Folger Theatre in Washington D.C.

Mercy Killers reviews from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe:

Five Stars, *"There's a marvelous and mysterious kind of alchemy at work in author and actor Michael Milligan's mesmerizing, harrowing indictment of US healthcare. Theatre distilled to its most basic essentials."* **The Scotsman**

Five Stars , *"Beautifully moving and thought provoking..."* **Three Weeks.**

"Thoroughly moving. One man theatre at its very best." **Broadway Baby.**

"Shattering." **The Stage.**

"Some of the best Theatre at the Fringe." **TV Bomb**

About The Harold Clurman Laboratory Theater Company

Grown out of a feeling that the time had come for the Stella Adler Studio of Acting to produce, or reproduce, its spirit, voice and theatrical sensibilities on a professional level.

The mission of the Lab Theater is to produce theater committed to the standards and ideals set out by Stella Adler, Harold Clurman and the Group Theater.

About Pillsbury House Theatre

From the Mainstage series to Chicago Avenue Project to Naked Stages to the Hennepin County Home School Project, Pillsbury House Theatre brings audiences closer—to the edge, to the actors, to affordable, adventurous theatre, to fellow audience members, and to a strong community. Now entering its 24th year, the theatre continues to inspire choice, change, and connection through raw, intimate drama.

Pillsbury House Theatre is proud to be a professional theatre unlike any other. An integral part of Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House Theatre demonstrates that the highest quality art is an integral part of all healthy communities, winning awards for theatre across the metro while also inspiring choice, change, and connection as part of our social service mission in South Minneapolis.

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