

# GLOBE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

March 2007

## NEXT PRODUCTION

***Stage Blood*** by Charles Ludlam, directed by Jerry Jaffe.

This wild farce tells the story of a touring company and its production of *Hamlet*. The company is led by boozy old Carlton Stone Sr., whose untimely death throws the company into turmoil. His son, Carl Jr., while also learning the role of Hamlet, finds his mother has become involved with his rival and now they are competing for control of the country—I mean, company. Along the way, there are soliloquies, closet scenes, ghosts, and a lovely young girl-friend who likes to "swim" in the river (and who, of course, also plays Ophelia!) As the great tragedian Carlton Stone Sr. once said: "In order to play Hamlet, you have to have been Hamlet!" In the opening scene, Stone Sr. and his son Carl are arguing over Pop's drinking when they are due to open *Hamlet* that night in Dunedin. The rest of the company arrives and the depth of their trouble is soon revealed: they have no Ophelia (the last one quit due to Stone's womanizing habits), Jenkins the Stage Manager is a frustrated playwright who hates everyone, Carl himself doesn't know how to play the role of Hamlet, and Carl's mother Helga learns from her Ouija board which actors will mess up which lines in the upcoming performance. The first act culminates with their performance of *Hamlet* being interrupted by the discovery of Stone's dead body (but then who was playing the ghost?). From there the plot complications and jokes multiply! Audience member should be warned that this production includes adult language and nudity. Moreover, this production features the use of the Globe as never seen before.

Directed by Theatre Studies Lecturer Jerry Jaffe, whose 2006 Fortune production of *The Shape of Things* was chosen by the *New Zealand Listener* as one of New Zealand's best plays of the year. Jerry says that this production is a personal dream project. "I read this play many years ago, and have always wanted to do it," he explained. "And now I have the right cast in the right theatre to make it all work." The writer of this farce is Charles Ludlam (1943-1987) who in the 60s, 70s and 80s ran the New York-based Ridiculous Theatre Company, for which he wrote, directed, and usually starred in over 30 productions. Ridiculous Theatre is a style of modern farce that deals with fringe groups and artistic experimentation all the

while trying to provide the audience with a roller coaster of non-stop entertainment and surprises. This style of farce also provides unexpected opportunities for pathos and deep reflection. Ludlam once said of the theatre "This is farce not Sunday school . . . Test out a dangerous idea." This is the first production of this play in New Zealand or Australia.

***March 22-24, 27-31: 8 pm; Matinee: March 25, 2 pm. \$15 waged/\$12 unwaged/\$10 members. Opening Night: \$8 public/\$6 members. Bookings may be made by calling 03.477.3274, via our website-[www.globetheatre.org.nz](http://www.globetheatre.org.nz), or at the door.***

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Secretary  
Friends of the Globe Theatre  
P.O. Box 5334  
Dunedin  
<http://www.globetheatre.org.nz>