

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR

Chaos and Order. Turbulence and Calm. Static and Change. What a time we are living in. When *As Much As You Can* was first performed, George W. Bush was President and California did not have gay marriage rights. Since that first production and throughout several others, Barack Obama waged a successful campaign to become President, same sex marriage rights were granted in California,....and then taken away. In the midst of all of this, Dan Kirsch and Diversionary decided to present my play, and I saw an opportunity to take another look at it. I wanted to see how I could keep the piece as current as possible and in step with all the chaos and order, turbulence and calm, static and change that is happening in our country.

It is with great anticipation and excitement therefore that I present a brand new version of the play with several new scenes, and a new ending.

I'm so honored and thankful to Dan and the artists and administrative staff for taking on what is now, in essence, a world premiere. Most of all, I thank the audience, without whom there is no play. As John Patrick Shanley, writer of *Doubt*, famously does, I welcome you to write me personally and tell me what you think of the show at powerpaulny@gmail.com or Facebook me! Enjoy the show! - Paul Oakley Stovall

I want to first of all thank Paul for writing this story about the Bryant family. At first I thought it was about me and my family! Now I know it's about all of us - all our families, the flawed past that we all must live thru to get to the confused present that we fight thru, to dream of the promising future we live in together. We struggle to find what our newly elected president calls that "common ground," the place we must find to exist in harmony with the people we love. Evie, Jesse, Ronnie and Tony Bryant and Kristian and Nina represent all of us and the people we love. See if you can see yourself reflected in this mirror of the stage. Try to find the thing that helps us love each other, not completely, not all the time, but as much as we can. - Antonio T.J. Johnson



**SAN DIEGO
BLACK ENSEMBLE
THEATRE**



The San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre's purpose is to illustrate the richness and diversity of the African-American culture through performance art. We engage primarily African-American directors, actors, design artists, technical staff as well as performance art professionals and amateurs from other ethnic groups to showcase new and classic works reflecting artistic integrity, cultural openness and social consciousness.

In this tragedy, a poet is harassed by authorities for writing inflammatory verse and for reading it in public. In quick succession she is interrogated, subjected to a banning order and killed in prison. "*Impassioned, indigenous theatre*". - *The New York Times*

SORROWS and REJOICINGS

September 2009
by Athol Fugard

In the semi-desert Karoo region of Southern Africa, two women meet: one white, the other black-they seem to have little in common except their love of one man, an exiled poet deeply connected to his homeland. But after the leukemia-stricken poet returns to his village to die, his passing leaves the women struggling to reconcile the secrets of the past, and their hopes for post-apartheid South Africa. "*a romantic memory play, heightened by the playwright's poetic storytelling*" - *Cape Times*

DIVERSIONARY

THEATRE

presents

By **Paul Oakley Stovall**
Directed by **Antonio T.J. Johnson**

In collaboration with
San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre

**AS MUCH
AS YOU CAN**

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

CAST (in order of appearance)

Evie Bryant Jerome Ida L. Rehm
Jesse Bryant Kevane La'Marr Coleman
Nina Cole Melissa Coleman Reed
Kristian Silborn Brian Mackey
Tony Bryant Patrick Kelly
Ronnie Hahn Leticia Martinez

ARTISTIC STAFF

Set Design Jane Lamotte
Costume Design Joan Hanselman-Wong
Lighting Design Chris Renda
Sound Design Jason Connors

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager Bret Young+
Stage Manager & Properties Annie M. Goodale
Stage Manager & Asst. House Manager Chris Martin
Production Intern Chris Bland
Set Construction Chris Martin, David Medina, Bret Young

Special Thanks to: Robert Shepard, Anne-Carlotte Harvey
Family painting by David Medina
Lobby display by Chris Bland

+ Diversionary Associate Artist

You can still subscribe to our 2008-2009 season!
Get reserved seats and great savings on each show!
See Travis at the Box Office and order today!

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City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

