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**STAGEStheatre Presents**

**The Orange County Premiere of *All The World’s A Grave July 27th- August 26th.***

Fullerton, CA—STAGEStheatre is proud to present ***All The World’s a Grave*** by John Reed, directed by Jill Johnson. Playwright John Reed brings us an epic tragedy of love, war, murder, and madness, plucked from the pages of Shakespeare and directed by Jill Johnson. ***All The World's A Grave*** is as if famous Shakespearean plays have been ripped up into tiny pieces, thrown on the floor in scattered bits and then re-assembled as an entirely new play language is Shakespeare’s, but the drama that unfolds is as fresh as the blood on the stage. The drama unfolds July 27th-August 26th.

Hamlet goes to war for Juliet, the daughter of King Lear. Having captured Juliet as his bride–by reckless war–he returns home to find that his mother has murdered his father and married Macbeth. Enter Iago, who persuades Hamlet that Juliet is having an affair with Romeo. As the Prince goes mad with jealousy, King Lear mounts his army.

“The road to the stage for this piece has been unusual to say the least,” says director Jill Johnson. This book had been on Amanda DeMaio’s bookshelf for some years. I was thinking about directing a Shakespearean piece but I wanted it to be something out of the ordinary. This was perfect—it’s all the best characters from Shakespeare with their same traits and foibles in the same play. Though technically this was written as a book, the lines were Shakespearean and John Reed adapted it for the stage. I know Mr. Reed hadn't intended this as a performance piece, but anyone in theater that read this book could see how well it would translate to stage.”

“I’m very excited to direct it because I feel that it will be a challenge to divorce the audience from their preconceived knowledge of those Shakespeare stories that have been ingrained with us since high school English class. It’s a shrewd, gutsy remix that brings the conscience of Shakespeare to our own troubled modern times,” says Johnson.

Written by celebrated literary and social satirist John Reed, who has in previous incarnations ingeniously reconsidered George Orwell's Animal Farm from an opposing political perspective in Snowball's Chance and effectively rendered the palpable absurdities of life in the modern media spotlight The Whole. Novels & credits include A Still Small Voice  (Delacorte Press / Delta), The Whole (Simon & Schuster / Pocket / MTV Books), the SPD bestseller, Snowball's Chance (Roof Books / Melville House), and Tales of Woe (MTV Press); he’s published in Art in America, the PEN Poetry Series, the Believer, the Daily Beast, Gawker, Slate, the Paris Review, Playboy, the Times Literary Supplement, the Wall Street Journal, Vice, The New York Times, Harpers and many other venues; included in 2015's Best American Essays (Houghton Mifflin).

Starring in ***All The World’s A Grave:*** Marcus J. Andrews,Damian Alejandro Arteaga, Christine Cummings, Abel Garcia, Bella Gil, Julie Kirkman, Rose London, Jill Cary Martin, KC Marie Pandell, Cristian Rincon, Scott Smith, and Josh Williams

Tickets for ***All The World’s A Grave*** are $22.00, $20.00 for students and seniors.  Performances are July 27th- August 26th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. For reservations please visit our website at [www.stagesoc.org](http://www.stagesoc.org/)

*About* ***STAGEStheatre****: Celebrating its 26th year in business, STAGEStheatre is one of Orange County’s most innovative community theaters.  It produces nearly 15 productions annually, showcasing local playwriting, acting and directing talent.  STAGEStheatre is, and will continue to be, dedicated to the development of the artist.   It is located at 400 E. Commonwealth in Downtown Fullerton (between Lemon and Balcom).*

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