

"It's rare when an artist's talent can touch an entire generation of people; it's even rarer when that same influence affects several generations!" – Dick Clark



ROBERT A. RUSH
ANNOUNCES CAST FOR THE NY PREMIERE OF
ELVIS PEOPLE
A NEW PLAY BY DOUG GRISSOM,
DIRECTED BY HENRY WISHCAMPER

Performances Begin June 6th For a June 21st Opening
At New World Stages/Stage 1

No performer before or since has had the impact of Elvis Presley: from that first groundbreaking appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" to Las Vegas to Graceland; American Demographics reports that 84% of all Americans say their lives have been touched by Elvis in some way. Now, in this new play by Doug Grissom you will meet some of the funny and touching cast of characters whose lives were forever changed by 'The King' as Grissom traces the influence of Presley on our culture.

Robert A Rush, in association with Emilee MacDonald, proudly announce the Off-Broadway premiere of *Elvis People*, a new play by **Doug Grissom**, directed by **Henry Wishcamper**. Performances will begin June 6th, at New World Stages Stage 1 (340 West 50th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues). Opening Night is set for Thursday, June 21st.

The cast features Jordan Gelber, Jenny Maguire, David McCann, Nick Newell, Nell Page, and Ed Sala and will have scenic design by Cameron Anderson, costume design by Teresa Squire, lighting designer Robert Robins, sound design by Graham Johnson, wig, hair and make-up design by Erin Kennedy Lunsford, video & projection Design by Maya Ciarrocchi and properties design by Lorelei Esser.

Tickets for *Elvis People* are \$41 (including \$1 theater restoration fee). during previews (June 6th through June 20th); regular tickets will be \$65 (including \$1 theater restoration fee). Performances will be Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8pm, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm, Sunday at 3pm. Additional performances Monday, June 18th at 8pm, Monday, July 2nd at 8pm, and Sunday, July 8th at 7pm. Special performance Thursday, August 16th (30th anniversary of Elvis' death with post-show reception and talkback) – all seats \$99.00. To purchase tickets, please call Telecharge.com or at 212-239-6200 or for more information visit www.elvispeople.com on the Internet.

MORE...

BIOS

JORDAN GELBER Broadway: *Avenue Q* (special Outer Critics Circle Award). Off-Broadway/NY: *Avenue Q*; *Birth and After Birth*; *On The Sporadic*; *The Polish Play*; *The White Devil*; *Waiting for Godot* (NY International Fringe Festival); *Women And Criminals* (HERE Living Room Series). Regional: *Betty's Summer Vacation* (dir. Doug Hughes); *Camelot*. TV: first three *Law & Order* series (recurring on *SVU*), *The Sopranos*, *Queens Supreme*, *100 Centre Street*. Film: upcoming *Fanboys* and Sidney Lumet's *Before The Devil Knows You're Dead*, *Everyday People* (IFP/Gotham Award nominee for Breakthrough Acting), *Riding in Cars With Boys*, *Changing Lanes*. BA, Stanford University; MFA, NYU Tisch Graduate Acting (2000 Laura Pels Award).

JENNY MAGUIRE New York Theatre: *Stay*, *Acts of Mercy & Stuck* (Rattlestick); *Anon & New Works: Chance* (Atlantic Theater); *Live Girls* (Urban Stages); *Karla* (Culture Project); *Rose's Dilemma*, *Wonder of the World* (MTC); *Cavedweller* (NYTW); *Museum* (Keen Company); *The Latecomer* (Joseph Kesselring Award); *Goner* (Present Company). Regional: *Indoor/Outdoor* (Hangar), *Amadeus* (ATL); *Whores* (CATF), *Synergy & Frame 312* (Alley); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Studio Arena); *The Hunger Education* (O'Neill Center); *The Ruler of My Destiny* (Long Wharf). Film/TV: *The Girl In The Park*, *The Baxter*, *Reveille*, *Stella Shorts*, "Stella", "Law & Order: SVU", "That 70's Show", "One Life to Live", "As the World Turns". Jenny is also currently producing the feature length documentary *21 Below*.

DAVID McCANN has appeared at theatres across the US and UK, as Hamlet (3 times), Claudius (2), Prospero (2), Oberon, Feste (2), Bassanio, Lord Byron, Hosanna (2), Don Pedro (2), Aunt Augusta (3), Salieri, Cauchon, Ganesha, Robert Scott, Colm Primrose, Claudio, Ross (2), Pato, Bernard Nightengale, Felix Turner (3), Judge Brack, Rev. Brown, Edward (*The Retreat...*), and in John Barton's *Tantalus*. TV includes *Sex and...*, *Sopranos*, *L&O*, and *L&O: CI*. He is also a food writer and playwright (*Great American Home Cooking*, *Christmas Carol*- 16 Productions, *Immortal Longings*)

NICK NEWELL is making his Off-Broadway debut. Regional: *Hamlet* (title role) *Elvis People* (world premiere) Mill Mountain Theatre; *Antigone*, *Doctor's Dilemma*, *Mother Courage*: American Repertory Theatre; *Drawer Boy*, *Last Train To Nibroc*, *Tomfoolery*: South Carolina Repertory Company; *Nina Variations*: Chester Theatre Company. Film: *Neo-Noir* (Sundance selection 2003) MFA: Moscow Art Theatre School & Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard.

NELL PAGE is making her Off-Broadway debut in *Elvis People*. She has been acting in professional regional theatre for more than thirty years and a veteran of more than 80 productions in that time, including the Southeastern premiere of *Elvis People*. Regional highlights: *The Smell of the Kill*, *Our Town*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Life X 3*, *Carpetbagger's Children*, *Betrayal*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. *Elvis People* is Nell's second collaboration with playwright Doug Grissom. Together they co-wrote the play *Coquina*, which opened at New York's Harold Clurman Theatre.

ED SALA has appeared in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* on Broadway, in *Johnny Guitar* and *Perfect Crime* Off-Broadway, and in *Robert Fulghum and Friends* at Carnegie Hall. He thanks his wife, Renee, and his daughter, Emma Shenandoah, for their patience and support. He dedicates his work in this show to the memory of William Pitts, an extraordinary performer and true friend.

DOUG GRISSOM's plays have been produced in many regional and university productions including Theatre Virginia, the Source Theatre in Washington, D.C., Mill Mountain Theatre and Theatre 40 in Los Angeles, as well as numerous productions Off-Off Broadway. He has won several awards, including the Virginia Playwriting Award, Mill Mountain New Play Competition and the Outstanding New Play Award at the Washington Theatre Festival. His educational theatre piece on acquaintance rape "But I Said No" has toured extensively for the last five years on college campuses throughout the nation. He is the co-founder of Offstage Theatre in Charlottesville, a theatre committed to producing new work non-theatrical spaces. He is chair of the playwriting committee for the Southeastern Theatre Conference and is active in the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, having been a regional playwriting chair and a national vice chair.

HENRY WISHCAMPER's credits include *The Polish Play*, *A Conflation of Macbeth by William Shakespeare and Ubu Roi by Alfred Jarry* (Katharsis Theater Company), *Pullman Car Hiawatha* (Keen Company; Drama Desk Nomination for Outstanding Revival of a Play; Time Out New York Top 10 Productions of 2004), *School for Scandal* (Gallery Players), Scott Blumenthal's *So Frightful...* (McGinn/Cazale Theater; commissioned by the Maine Humanities Council), *The Good Thief* (Portland Stage Company), *The Flying Doctor* and *The Imaginary Cuckold* (Roundtable Ensemble), *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (HERE), *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Maine Summer Dramatic Institute/Shakespeare in Deering Oaks Park). He served as the assistant director on the Broadway productions of *Shining City* (directed by Robert Falls), *Absurd Person Singular* (directed by John Tillinger) and *Match* (directed by Nicholas Martin). Henry is the Artistic Director of Katharsis Theater Company. He served as the Artistic Director of the Maine Summer Dramatic Institute in Portland, Maine from 1997-1999 and as the Artistic Associate of Keen Company from 2002-2005. He is a Drama League Directing Fellow.

ROBERT A. RUSH discovered *Elvis People* in 2003. He has spent the last three and half years developing this new play alongside playwright Doug Grissom. His dedication and vision for the certain success of *Elvis People* fostered the founding of E.P. Productions, Inc. Originally from the New York City area, Rush moved to North Central Florida outside of Gainesville, and attended Johns Hopkins University and the University of Florida where he obtained his law degree. Rush is one of only four attorneys in the State of Florida that is Board Certified in both Civil Trial Law and Criminal Trial Law. He also teaches Trial Practice at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Rush served on The Florida Bar Board of Governors for six years, ending in 2005, and also served on The Florida Bar's Executive Committee. He is a past president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Rush's continual commitment to his community is made evident by his 12 year tenure as President and member of the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Center of Alachua County. Rush is also involved in the renovation of historic properties in and around the Gainesville area including the complete renovation of several landmark houses.

At 23, **EMILEE MACDONALD** became one of the youngest staff members at the highest ranked theatre in the state of Florida, the Hippodrome State Theatre. As Patron Relations Director she managed the needs of over several thousand season ticket holders and led the sales team to a record setting increase of 68% in season subscription sales. MacDonald finished her career at the Hippodrome State Theatre in 2006 as Director of Development. Her work in this key leadership role led to a healthy increase in corporate support for the nonprofit. As a co-founder of **E.P. Productions, Inc.** she has helped to orchestrate the artistic and business path of *Elvis People* to unprecedented success for the north central Florida theatre community. MacDonald is proud to create a work environment that honors the art, the artist, and the audience by delivering works of excellence.

PRESS CONTACT:
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