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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 21, 2008

*"Clive Barker is the great imaginer of our time...Haunting, bizarre, beautiful."* – Quentin Tarantino

**Ragged Wing Ensemble presents  
The Northern California Premiere of....  
THE HISTORY OF THE DEVIL by Clive Barker**

**Oct. 3 – Nov. 1, 2008**

**Central Stage in Richmond, CA**

**Directed by: Jeffrey Hoffman**

**Fri. & Sat. at 8:00 pm**

**Sun. Oct. 19 Matinee – 2:00 pm**

**Opening Night: Fri. Oct. 3 - 8:00 pm**



**THE HISTORY OF THE DEVIL**, written by **Clive Barker** (playwright, artist/illustrator, and screenwriter) is the fifth production by Ragged Wing Ensemble (RWE) - **Oct. 3 – Nov. 1, 2008** presented at **Central Stage** - 5221 Central Ave. in Richmond, CA 94804. It is also the Northern CA premiere of the play! Performances are Fri. & Sat. at 8:00 pm, with a special matinee on Sun. Oct. 19. Opening Night is Fri. Oct. 3 - 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 - \$15 - sliding scale, and are available by calling **800/ 838 - 3006** or by going to our web site - [www.raggedwing.org](http://www.raggedwing.org) Student discount (5 or more)-\$10.

Clive Barker's **THE HISTORY OF THE DEVIL** – a story of redemption, compassion and fear - takes place at The Devil's parole hearing, where audiences sit in as jurors and are transported back in time via vignettes of testimony that illustrate The Devil's actions throughout history. Frequently fantastic, often grotesque, and chock full of wry humor in true Clive Barker style, this show's scope and staging will highlight Ragged Wing Ensemble's distinctive work in the Bay Area as a physical theater company that creates physically adventurous and visually stimulating work.

In **THE HISTORY OF THE DEVIL**, the prosecution argues that The Devil's presence on Earth has had a disastrous effect on mankind, whereas the defense counters that The Devil is - and always has been – humanity's greatest scapegoat. Legal arguments aside however, The Devil demands that he be found innocent of sins against humankind and be released back into Heaven. Throughout the play, as we examine how the modern world views the archetypal battle between good and evil, we are faced with many core questions: Has The Devil wreaked havoc on Earth or has he simply been

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an innocent observer of the human condition all these thousands of years? Does any being, no matter how terrifying it may seem, deserve an eternity of suffering? Does he deserve Paradise?

This will be RWE's first foray into performing in Richmond, and they are excited to introduce their work to communities in that section of the East Bay, as well as to Clive Barker fans from all over the region.

**THE HISTORY OF THE DEVIL** was written in the early 1980s, *and* published in 1995 as part of a collection of plays called *Incarnations*. Clive Barker never intended the play to be published, originally writing it to be developed and performed by his own theatre, The Dog Company, with himself as director. Since 1995, the play has been performed all around the world, often resulting in banned productions in places that deemed the content "too blasphemous". This attention helped launch the audacious script into notoriety often playing to sold-out houses. According to Clive Barker, *The History of the Devil* is a story best described as "John Milton meets John Grisham."

**To arrange an interview with playwright Clive Barker** (limited availability), or anyone with the production, call publicist Lawrence Helman at 415/ 661-1260.

The actors featured in the production are: Sora Baek, El Beh, Fiona Cheung, Kevin Copps, Keith C. Davis, Ara Glenn-Johanson, Gary Grossman, Erin Maxon, Amy Penney & Davern Wright. Acting Interns in the production are: Anna Kennard and Hillary Milton. Set Designer: Plamena Milusheva; Lighting Designer: Joey Brennan; Costume Designer: Joui Turandot; Puppet/Mask Designer: Garrett Shockley; Choreographer: Amy Sass; Producer: Anna Shneiderman; Asst. Producer: Ashley Porcuincola. The show is directed by Jeffrey Hoffman

#### **Directions to Central Stage:**

**DRIVING** - From I-80 East, exit at Central Ave. in El Cerrito, take a left on Central going under the highway - stay in the right lane. Go straight through the light - then immediately veer right just before the bridge, going towards the warehouse buildings. Go towards the black iron gate, but before the gate, take a right at the pylon with business names on it. Central Stage is the first building on the corner. Easy street parking.

**BART** - Take the Richmond line to El Cerrito Plaza, walk 1 block north to Central Ave., go less than 1 mile (8-10 blocks) down Central Ave. After passing under the highway bridge, follow the same directions as above.

**Ragged Wing Ensemble** is a collective of artists who create innovative work for the theater, drawing our theatrical vocabulary from physical theater, dance, clowning, mask work and puppetry. We seek to redefine classic stories, folktales and myths by creating original interpretations and placing them in new contexts. Our process is collaborative - from the management of the company to the creation of our pieces, from our educational programs to our commitment to low ticket prices and audience involvement. As the founding members are all artists and teachers, we place equal emphasis on quality performance and arts education.

## Company Bios

**Keith Cory Davis** began his theatrical training at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He has acted with numerous award-winning theatre companies, such as Shakespeare at Stinson, foolsFury, Darvag Theatre, Exit Theatre, CuttingBall Theatre, and Shotgun Players. With Traveling Jewish Theatre, his performance in *Dybbuk* was listed as one of the top theatrical duets of 2004. He has appeared in several independent films, voice-overs, and brings his dynamic physical comedy and theatrical versatility to Ragged Wing. He has performed in RWE's productions of *The Serpent*, *Splinters...and Other F-Words*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and presently, *The History of the Devil*. He directed *The Tempest* for Ragged Wing in 2007.

**Jeffrey Hoffman** has lived in the Bay Area since 2002, and makes his living as a Project Manager. He was the founding Artistic Director of theatre Q in both Chicago and the East Bay, which promoted positive theatrical portrayals of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the transgendered. Jeffrey has directed with theatre Q, St. Sebastian Players, & the San Francisco Fringe Festival, His artistic process is heavily influenced by Richard Schechner's work with Environmental Theatre, and by Stanislavsky's method acting. As an actor, Jeffrey has performed with The Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Shotgun Players, Thrillpeddlers, Naked Masks, and theatre Q.

**Amy Sass** has dreamed of creating a company like Ragged Wing Ensemble since she was 15 years old. At that age, she trained with Open Space Arts, a grassroots theatre organization through which she developed skills in puppetry, mask work, physical theatre, ensemble technique, and all manners of traditional and experimental forms. She has directed and choreographed countless productions with actors and artists of all ages. A skilled painter and illustrator, she often brings her finely tuned aesthetic to the stage. In 2007, she was caught in action hanging from giant nets as Ariel in Ragged Wing's *The Tempest*, and directed their most recent production of *Alice In Wonderland*.

**Anna Shneiderman**, also a Ragged Wing founding member, is committed to working at the intersection of theatre, education and social justice, and has trained with Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed as well as with Michael Rohd and Sojourn Theatre. In Chicago, Anna co-founded The Antigone Project—an ensemble of immigrants and refugees that created new theatrical pieces—and she worked at Steppenwolf Theatre and Redmoon Theatre. Anna brings her experience with mask-making and puppeteering to Ragged Wing from her work with Bread and Puppet Theatre in Vermont, the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre in California, as well as theatres in Massachusetts and Washington , DC.

## Clive Barker (playwright) - Bio

Clive Barker was born in 1952 in Liverpool, England, and attended Liverpool University where he studied both English and Philosophy. While there he wrote stories, comic strips and plays, and together with his friends formed a fringe theatre group that toured productions around Liverpool and London.

Barker was inspired to write and paint by his grandmother who had a keen taste for the macabre, and he has been doing both since a very young age. His first book—a collection of horror stories titled “The Books of Blood” was published in England in 1984, and when the book reached the United States, Stephen King proclaimed: “I have seen the future of horror and its name is Clive Barker.”

Since that time, Barker has become known as one of the leading contemporary authors in the horror/dark fantasy genres. He writes using signature breaks in reality, themes of sexuality mixed with the supernatural and deliberate blurring of the distinction between opposites such as hell and heaven, for example, or pleasure and pain.

His novels have always seemed to fly off of bookshelves. From “Weaveworld” (1987) to “Imajica” (1991) to “Sacrament” (1996), Barker’s work never failed to impress his zealous fans. In fact, the first volume of his award-winning Abarat series (2002) made the NY Times' bestseller list, and Abarat’s second volume (2004) won a Bram Stoker award.

Barker’s published plays may be few, but they are still powerful. Self-described as “eclectic collages” and “full of strange narrative thrusts,” his scripts mix almost-cinematic scene changes with radical changes of tone, pace and style. The collections *Incarnations* (1995) and *Forms of Heaven* (1996), each contained three archetypal Barker scripts.

Barker’s quintessential themes are also highly visible in his film work, most notably in his movie *Hellraiser* (1987), based on his novella “The Hellbound Heart”, and *Lord of Illusions* (1995), starring his recurring occult sleuth, Harry D’Amour, from the Book of Art series.

In addition to his literary and movie-making skills, Barker is a visual artist, often illustrating his own books. His paintings have been seen on the covers of his official fan club magazine, “Dread”, as well on the covers of his play collections and many of his books. Some of his artwork has been exhibited in LA, Chicago and NY, and some can be found in the collections *Clive Barker, Illustrator* (1990), and *Visions of Heaven and Hell* (2005).

A longtime comic book fan, Barker published his own superhero books in 1993. Based on detailed premises, titles and lead characters set outside the Marvel universe, he created Ectokid, Hokum & Hex, Hyperkind, and Saint Sinner. In December 2007, Barker announced an upcoming collaboration with IDW of an original comic book series, “Torakator”.

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In 2001, he also worked on the creative side of a horror computer game developed by DreamWorks Interactive, *Clive Barker's Undying*, providing the voice for the character Ambrose. Six years later, Barker returned to the video game industry, working on *Clive Barker's Jericho* for Codemasters.

Barker was an Executive Producer of the film *Gods and Monsters* (1998), which received major critical acclaim, and in 2003 Barker received The Davidson/Valentini Award at the 15th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. This award is presented "to an openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individual who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for any of those communities."

Barker is writing the script to a forthcoming remake of his original *Hellraiser* movie, and a screenplay has been written for "The Thief of Always"—his 1991 book "for all ages"—with *Shrek 2's* director, Kelly Asbury, overseeing the project. He is also developing a film based on his Tortured Souls line of action figures from McFarlane Toys. He is writing volume three of the Abarat series, having painted nearly all the pictures over the past year or so, as well as his next novel for adults—"The Scarlet Gospels", featuring two of Barker's most well-known characters: the cenobite Pinhead from "The Hellbound Heart"/*Hellraiser* series, and Harry D'Amour. This year, a collection of introductions to both his own work and the works of others called *The Painter, The Creature and The Father of Lies* will be published, and Japanese director Ryuhei Kitamura is attached to direct *Midnight Meat Train* based on Barker's 1984 short story of the same name. Barker lives in Beverly Hills, CA with his partner of 17 years, photographer David Armstrong, and Armstrong's daughter.

**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

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Directed by Jeffrey Hoffman

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WHERE: **Central Stage**  
5221 Central Ave. in Richmond, CA 94804

SHOW TIMES: Fri. & Sat. at 8:00 pm • **Sun. Oct. 19 Matinee – 2:00 pm**

TIX PRICES: \$15 - \$30 - sliding scale.

BOX OFFICE: **Call 800/ 838 - 3006 or visit our web site to reserve tickets.**

WEB SITE: [www.raggedwing.org](http://www.raggedwing.org) – for additional information.

**Central Stage** is wheelchair accessible.

