Spitting In The Face Of The Devil

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About

SPITTING IN THE FACE OF THE DEVIL

Can you imagine discovering that your father is a predator?

Hailed by critics as “brilliant”, “masterful” and “unforgettable”, *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* is New York monologist Bob Brader's gripping true story of discovering that his abusive and charismatic ex-Marine father is a pedophile. Brader's daring, uplifting and often comedic play has toured the U.S. and Canada to tremendous critical acclaim.

A powerful tale of personal survival and triumph that pertains to today's focus on sexual predators, *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* is a 7-Time Best of Fest Award-Winner, including “Best Show” of the London Fringe and “Best Script” and “Best Encore” at NYC's United Solo Theatre Festival.

Spitting In The Face Of The Devil

Has been honored with 7 Awards

Production History

29th Annual New York State Foster and Adoption Conference: "Nurture and Heal", Albany
AFFCNY • Keynote Speaker

Whitefire Theatre Solofest, Sherman Oaks, CA • LA Premiere

A Benefit run for Safe Horizon, NYC

Jersey City Theater Center, NJ

SaraSolo Festival, Sarasota, FL

United Solo Theatre Festival Encore, Theatre Row, NYC

Montreal Fringe Festival

London International Theatre Festival

Orlando International Theatre Festival

The Royal Theater, NYC

Theatre Row Studio Theatre, NYC

New Village Arts, San Diego, CA

San Francisco International Theatre Festival

Victoria International Theatre Festival

Calgary International Theatre Festival

Winnipeg International Theatre Festival

Regina International Theatre Festival

Rogue Festival, Fresno, CA

United Solo Theatre Festival, Theatre Row, NYC

The Atlantic International Fringe Festival, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY

London International Theatre Festival

Theatre Row Studio Theatre, NYC

The Garage Theatre Group Solo Festival, NJ

New York International Fringe Festival, NYC

Directors Company, NYC

The Woodstock Memoir Festival, Produced by Authentic Writing, Woodstock, NY:
Featured Theatrical Event in Inaugural Festival headlined by
The McCourt Brothers—Frank, Malachy and Alphie.

Encore Performance at The Red Room, NYC

The Fletcher Gallery, Produced by Authentic Writing, Woodstock, NY

World Premiere & Three Month Extended Run at The Red Room, NYC

Company

Bob Brader - *Writer/Performer*
is an award winning writer, actor and monologist. *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil*, Bob's acclaimed solo show, has toured all over the U.S. and Canada and won 7 Best of Awards including Best Show of the London Fringe and Best Script and Best Encore at the United Solo Theatre Festival. Bob's brand new retelling of the story on the RISK! Podcast was called by RISK! creator and host Kevin Allison: "An absolute stunner. Bob Brader's story 'Spitting in the Face Of The Devil' is one of our best episodes ever." Bob made his international debut at the London Fringe Festival with his second solo show, *Preparation Hex*, a hemorrhoid tale and love story, which toured Canada and played in NYC at the Directors Company and the United Solo Festival. His new monologue, *Smoker*, had its world premiere on Theatre Row as part of United Solo, where it won the Best Autobiographical Show Award and went on to a highly acclaimed Canadian tour. Bob's numerous acting credits include headlining the two-actor NYC run as well as the sold-out international tour of *CIRCLE* (Most Daring Show, London Fringe). He was in the original cast of *We Call Her Benny* and performed in both the recent tour and original five-month NYC run of *BITE* with JMTC Theatre, for which he is Executive Director. Other New York Theatre credits include Bryan Enk and Matt Gray's supernatural theatrical serial, *Penny Dreadful*, at the Brick Theater (Teddy Roosevelt) and numerous DMTheatrics' productions: *Girls School Vampire*, *Bitch Macbeth*, *Who in the Hell is the Real Live Lorelei Lee?* and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Caesar, OOBR Award). Film credits include *Eat Me* and DelanoCelli Productions' award winning *Brooklyn in July*. Bob trained with the Stella Adler Conservatory at the Tisch School of the Arts and is a member of the United Solo Academy, SAG-AFTRA and the Dramatists Guild.
bobbrader.com • spittinginthefaceofthedevil.com • smokertheplay.com

Suzanne Bachner - *Director/Developer*
is an award-winning playwright and director. She is the director and developer of Bob Brader's internationally acclaimed, award-winning solo shows including *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* and *Smoker*. Other solo show directing: Gloria Rosen's award-winning *Listen…Can You Hear Me Now?,* Sarah Elizabeth Greer's *Bio-Hazard: A Relative Comedy* (United Solo Europe 2016), Canadian Burlesque star Rosie Bitts' *Stories of Love and Passion* (U.S. and Canadian tour) and her new play, *The Good Adoptee* (Best Autobiographical Script and Best Actress, United Solo: extensive and ongoing U.S. tour). Her play, *CIRCLE*, was called "ingenious" by *The New York Times* and ran for five months Off Broadway followed by a Sold-Out International Tour

where it was awarded “Most Daring Show” of the London Fringe. Playwriting and directing credits: a six month NYC run of her cult hit, *Icons & Outcasts*; a five month NYC run and an international tour of *BITE* and multiple NYC productions of her celebrated kaleidoscopic memoir play, *We Call Her Benny*, which Broadway World called “the future of theatre”. Directing: Frank D. Gilroy's *The Subject Was Roses* at the Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles and the short film, *Jennifer Monroe, P.I.*, a finalist in Flicks on 66. Suzanne studied playwriting with Romulus Linney and Adrienne Kennedy and holds an MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School at the New School University. She is a member of the United Solo Academy and the Dramatists Guild.
jmtctheatre.com • circletheplay.com • thegoodadoptee.com

Michael Koch - *Graphic Design*
is a freelance graphic designer and the Resident Graphic Designer for JMTC Theatre.
mkochgraphics.com

Shar Adrias - *Video Production*
is the owner and Creative Director of Movements by Shar. Shar established a film company in 2005. Having been a dancer all her life and a choreographer, she brings a special kind of texture and vision to her projects. She operates on instinct and feeling, rather than math and science. Specializing in documentary and dance, her passion is in the art of story telling. "The world is so full of stories. I'd like to tell as many I can, for as long as I can.”
movementsbyshar.com

Cory Pattak - *Lighting Designer*
NYC: *Stalking the Bogeyman* (New World Stages), *Revolution in the Elbow…*(Minetta Lane), *Handle with Care* (Westside Downstairs), *Witnessed by the World* (59E59), *Skippyjon Jones* (Theatreworks USA), *This Side of Paradise* (St. Clements), *Unlocked*, *Nymph Errant*, *With Glee*, *The Blue Flower* (Prospect Theatre), *Hot Mess in Manhattan* (Chernuchin), *Ingmar Bergman’s Persona* (HERE), *The Maiden’s Prayer* (InProximity Theatre), *Dreyfus in Rehearsal* (Beckett Theatre), *Mercy Thieves*, *Ride* (Outhouse Theatre), *Do Not Disturb* (59E59), *They’re Playing Our Song*, *Our Town* (Actor’s Fund), *Thank You Kind Spirit* (Target Margin), *Happy We’ll Be* (Roseland Ballroom), *Spitting in the Face of the Devil* (United Solo Fest) and many NY Fringe and NYMF shows. Regional: *Dog and Pony* (Old Globe), *The Fabulous Lipitones* (Goodspeed), *A Little More Alive* (KC Rep), *Other Desert Cities* (Maltz Jupiter), *Single Girls Guide*, *A Christmas Carol* (Cap Rep), *Liberty* (Warner Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Arkansas Rep), *Shipwrecked!* (Penguin Rep), *42nd Street* (Resorts Casino), *Rent*, *My Fair Lady*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, *Music Man* (Engeman Theatre), *High School Musical* (Surflight), *Woodloch Pines Resort*, *Les Miserables*, *Spelling Bee*, *Parallel Lives*, *Boeing Boeing* (Northern Stage), *Cats*, *West Side Story*, *JSC*, *Footloose*, *Annie* (Pittsburgh Musical Theatre), *Fully Committed* (Syracuse Stage), *Rounding Third*, *Our Lady of 121st Street* (The Redhouse), *The Complete Works…Shakespeare* (Shadow Lawn Stage.) Associate/Assistant: *Newsies*, *Peter…Starcatcher* (Tony Award), *A Time to Kill*, *An Evening..Patti Lupone & Mandy Patinkin*, *The Story of My Life*, *Irena’s Vow* (Broadway), *Heathers: the musical* (New World Stages), *Band Geeks, How to Succeed…* (Goodspeed), *Daddy Long Legs* (Various Regional/London), *Newsies*, *Chicago*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Peter…Starcatcher* (US Tours), *42nd Street* (TOTS Tour),*Side Effects* (MCC), *Newsies* (Paper Mill), *Lost in the Stars*, *Where’s*

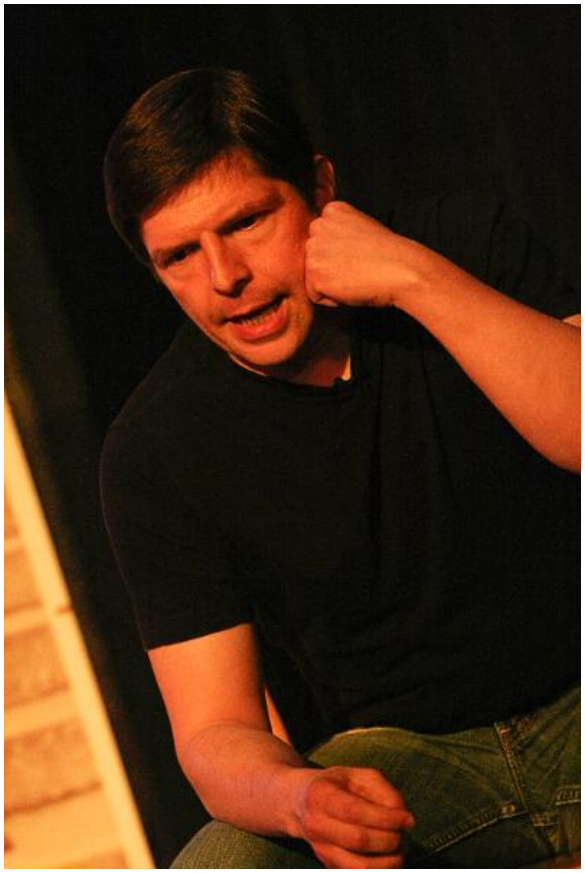
Charley (Encores!), *The Devil's Music* (St. Lukes), *Peter…Starcatcher* (NYTW), *Shamu's Xmas Miracle*(Seaworld), *Gem of the Ocean*, *I Am My Own Wife* (Pittsburgh Public), *Essential Self-Defense*, *Rapture Blister Burn* (Playwrights Horizons), *The Internationalist* (Vineyard), *Altar Boyz* (Adirondack Theatre Fest), *The Yellow Brick Road* (Theatreworks USA), and multiple years of BC/EFA *Easter Bonnet* and *Broadway Backwards*. Cory is the host of "in 1: the podcast," which features interviews with theatrical designers. Member United Scenic Artists Local 829. BFA: Syracuse University.
corypattak.com

JMTC Theatre - *Producer*

is an award-winning, international artist-driven theatre company committed to creating powerful, visceral, passionate theatrical experiences that are provocative and transformative. By partnering with national and international non-profit organizations, JMTC Theatre combines art and advocacy to raise funds and awareness. Founded in London in 1994 by Patrick Hillan, JMTC Theatre is based in NYC and has produced over 50 productions in New York City and collaborated with 100s of incredible theater artists. Past productions include Suzanne Bachner's award-winning Off Broadway hit, *CIRCLE*; Thom Fudal's daring production of Shakespeare's *Othello* starring Patrick Hillan and Geoffrey Owens; Bob Brader's acclaimed solo show, *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* and Suzanne Bachner's celebrated kaleidoscopic memoir play, *We Call Her Benny*. JMTC has presented work at PSNBC@HERE and 20th Century Fox at the Coronet Theater in LA, The Duplex, The National Arts Club, Flicks on 66 Wild West Digital Shootout (Finalist), the first-ever and 2nd annual FRIGID New York Festival, the Midtown International Theatre Festival (Best of the Fest) and the London International Fringe Festival, among many others. JMTC ran its own unique white box theater space in Chelsea for four years, is a Resident Company Emeritus at Pulse Ensemble Theatre, the Actors Institute (now TAI Resources) and Horse Trade Theater Group, and has received four OOBR Awards, 14 Best in Fest Awards and Spirit of the Fringe from the London Fringe.
jmtctheatre.com • circletheplay.com • thegoodadoptee.com • smokertheplay.com

Production Photos

Photos by Daren Scott



Photos by Tracy Olsen

A BENEFIT FOR SAFE HORIZON

WINNER Best Show The London Fringe The Beat Magazine
WINNER Best Script United Solo Theatre Festival
WINNER Fringe Hit Atlantic Fringe Festival
WINNER Pick of the Fringe Victoria Fringe Festival
WINNER Best of the Fest San Francisco Fringe Festival
WINNER Maestro Award SaraSolo Festival
WINNER Best Encore United Solo Theatre Festival

SPITTING IN THE FACE OF THE DEVIL

written and performed by
BOB BRADER
directed and developed by
SUZANNE BACHNER
lighting design by
CORY PATTAK
graphic design by
MICHAEL KOCH

★★★★★
"Eighty minutes of brilliance!"
- Donald's Dish London

4 NIGHTS ONLY!
TUE • JAN 3 • 7PM
SUN • JAN 6 • 2PM
WED • JAN 9 • 7PM
SAT • JAN 12 • 7PM

Can you imagine discovering that your father is a predator?

★★★★½
"A must see performance that will make you laugh, cry and just feel good!"
- London Free Press

"A truly AMAZING one-man show. Bob Brader is the next Spalding Gray; I kid you not!"
- Michelle Stevens, PhD, Author of *Scared Selfless*

100% OF THE TICKET SALES WILL GO TO BENEFIT SAFE HORIZON
www.safehorizon.org

Bridge Theatre @ Shetler Studios
244 West 54th Street • 12th Floor
Bet. Broadway & 8th Avenue

Tickets $40 • $50 at door
Get tix at Eventbrite.com
JMTCTheatre.com

safehorizon
moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence

JMTC THEATRE
spittinginthefaceofthedevil.com

Partners

We have had the honor of partnering with these amazing organizations
to raise both funds and awareness.

Safe Horizon

is the largest non-profit victim services agency in the United States. For 40 years, Safe Horizon has been a source of healing and hope for millions of adults, children and families suffering from the trauma of violence and abuse. With over 50 programs throughout the five boroughs, we strive to ensure that every victim has access to our life-changing services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Last year, we touched the lives of 1 in 34 New Yorkers, including 8,422 children who have suffered sexual or severe physical abuse. These children came through our Child Advocacy Centers and were cared for by our multidisciplinary teams of Safe Horizon specialists, children protection specialists, prosecutors, law enforcement professionals and expert pediatric specialists whose focus was to ensure the safety and healing of each and every child. Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. Learn more at safehorizon.org

Manatee Children's Services:
Dedicated to Breaking the Cycle of Child Abuse

Manatee Children's Services, a non-profit Child Advocacy Center (CAC), has been serving our area's children victimized by abuse and/or neglect for over 39 years. The agency provides a variety of services including our area's only emergency shelter and group homes for child victims of abuse, parenting classes, grandparent and relative caregiver advocacy services, abuse prevention workshops and presentations, forensic medical and interview services and mental health counseling. Manatee Children's Services welcomes community support in promoting our important mission:
"To advocate for and provide the resources, skills, and shelter to alleviate abuse through prevention and intervention for all children and their families."
www.ManateeChildrensServices.com

Prevent Child Abuse California

Is an agency of the Child Abuse Prevention Center with a 35 year history of serving children and families. Our mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of California's children by building community resources, enhancing public awareness, developing and coordinating prevention programs, and facilitating advocacy activities.
www.thecapcenter.org

Women's Resource Center

is dedicated to providing the highest quality supportive services, counseling, shelter and education to North San Diego County women, children and men involved in or threatened by domestic violence or sexual assault.
www.wrcsd.org

Little Warriors

is a national, charitable organization based in Canada committed to the awareness, prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse. Little Warriors provides: Information about the prevalence and frequency of child sexual abuse and healing and support resources, Treatment through the **Be Brave Ranch** for children between 8 and 12 who have been sexually abused and a Workshop called Prevent It! that educates adults on how to take action to stop child sexual abuse.
www.littlewarriors.ca

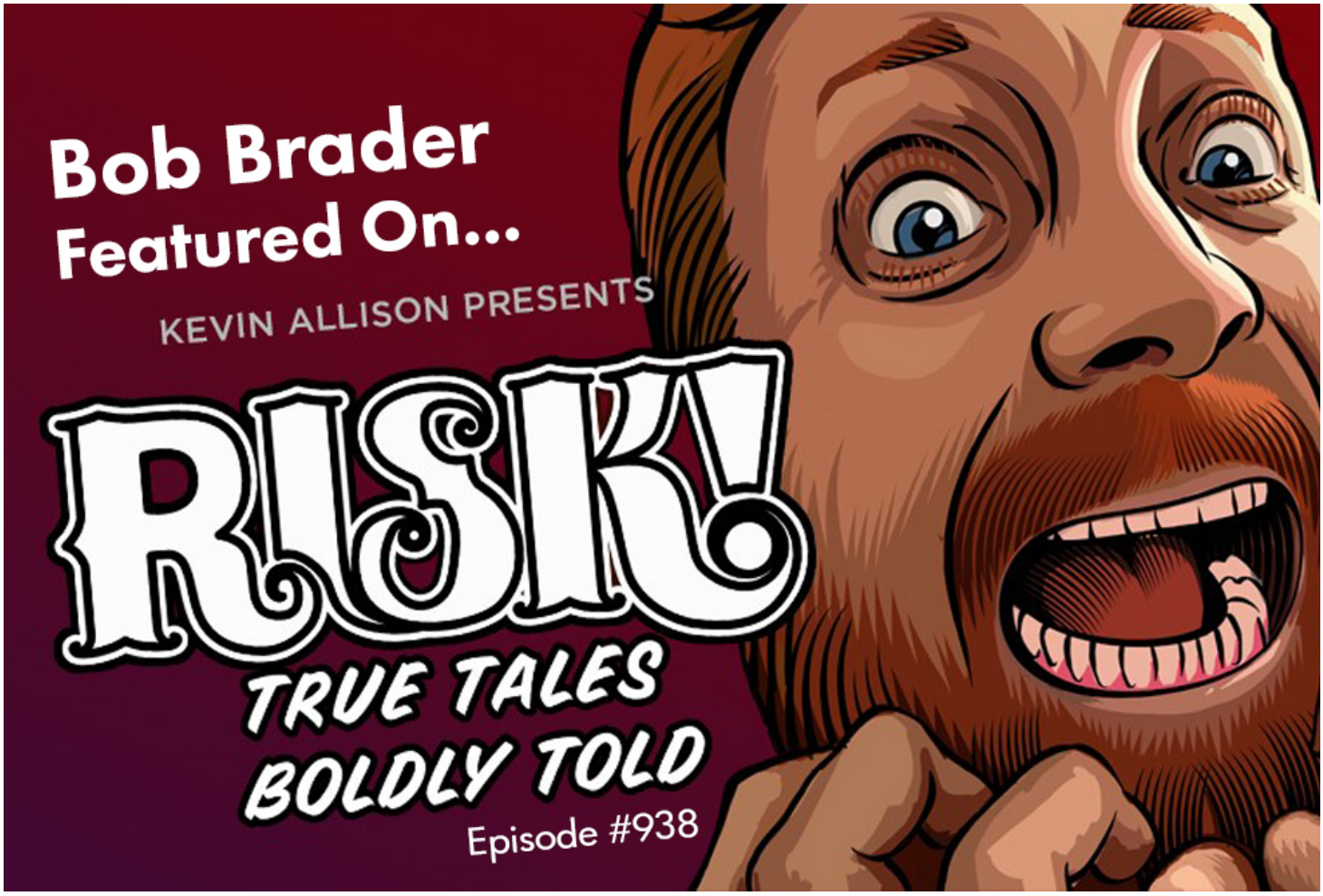
Women's Community House

Founded in 1978 Women's Community House (WCH) in London with a combined total of 67 beds at the Wellington Road and Clarke Road facilities is the largest high security shelter for abused women and their children in Canada. Open 365 days per year around the clock, each year WCH provides emergency and short term shelter, counseling support, and transitional outreach services to roughly 6,000 London and area residents. WCH also owns and operates Second Stage Housing a 25-unit apartment complex that provides Rent-geared-to-income independent living for 49 families each year.
www.shelterlondon.org

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey

Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey is a nonprofit organization working to end child abuse. Our mission is to prevent child abuse in all of its forms, for all of New Jersey's children. Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey is the only statewide non-profit dedicated to preventing child abuse in all of its forms, for all of as the New Jersey chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, the 9th Chapter to be established among a national network. Today, we exist as one of the largest chapters across the country, and have become a recognized leader for prevention work in New Jersey.
www.preventchildabusenj.org

RISK! Podcast



Bob's brand new retelling of the story on the RISK! Podcast was called by RISK! creator and host Kevin Allison:
"An absolute stunner. Bob Brader's story 'Spitting in the Face Of The Devil' is one of our best episodes ever."

Check it out at:
http://risk-show.com/podcast/spitting-in-the-face-of-the-devil/

Awards & Press

★★★★★ **"Brader is a brilliant storyteller/performer. Oh the pictures he paints with his words. His energy, brutal honesty, voice(s) – all astound. Eighty minutes of brilliance!**
- Donald D'Haene, The Dish, London

★★★★/4 "Down to earth masterful storytelling!"
- Mark Killeen, The Beat Arts in London

★★★★★ "Brader keeps the audience mesmerized with his dark comic relief!"
- Emily Wessel, UPTOWN Magazine, Winnipeg

"Bob Brader keeps the audience at their knees with an engaging knack for storytelling adorned with smart humor and a shattering kind of sadness that will linger in the mind."
- Naneh Israelyan, OffOffBway.com

"A masterful childhood memoir that can take a hairpin turn from joyful to chilling without missing a beat!"
- Stephen Cooke, The Chronicle-Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia

"A brilliant one man show…Bob Brader is one of the bravest men in show business!"
- Jeff Goodman, "Two On The Aisle, Time Warner Cable

"Absolutely enthralling, it's Brader's performance that makes this show so brilliant. The show is a triumph. And I never say shit like that."
- Jason Schreurs, Culture Vulture Victoria

"Brader's confident, candid storytelling manner and his vivid, earnest writing keep us compelled throughout...a gripping, elegantly conceived event."
- Martin Denton, NYTheatre.com

"In Brader's talented, sensitive, caring hands Spitting In The Face Of The Devil is as compelling and engrossing as it is devastating and unforgettable....genius…I cannot recommend this show too highly."
- Louis Hobson, XL 103FM and the Calgary Sun

"Spitting In The Face Of The Devil is a truly AMAZING one-man show. I was bowled over by the way Bob Brader is able to blend a dark, agonizing family history with laugh-out-loud comedy. Bob Brader is the next Spalding Gray; I kid you not!"
- Michelle Stevens, PhD., Founder and Executive Director of Post-Traumatic Success, Author of *Scared Selfless*

"Brader's high energy performance and gripping story will wow you. A Tour de Force performance. SEE IT!"
- Jessica Goldman, APPLAUSE! METER, Calgary

Bill Bowers, Bob Brader, Austin Pendleton, Anna Deavere Smith, et al. Win United Solo Festival Awards

Anna Deveare Smith has won United Solo Festival's uAward, which recognizes an artist's achievements in popularizing the concept of one person shows. The prize was presented in a ceremony hosted by Marsha Mason on Sunday, November 21 at Theatre Row, the same day the two-week festival concluded.

Other awardees included Bill Bowers for Best Production for *It Goes Without Saying*; Bob Brader for Best Script for *Spitting in the Face of the Devil*; Austin Pendleton for Best Directing for *CLUTTER: I'm Saving My Life and It's Killing Me*; and Patty Staco, who won the Audience Award for *In My Shoes*.

Winners also included performers John Paul Karliak, Danusia Trevin, Brian Stanton, Alica Dattner, Prescott Smith, and Jelena Stuplijanin.

Coming to Terms with Abusive Dad

By Joe Belanger, The London Free Press
Wednesday, June 11, 2014 4:39:15 EDT PM

By no measure was Bob Brader's childhood idyllic.
His was one scarred by the physical and emotional abuse heaped upon him and his mother by his ex-Marine father, Bob, a gay pedophile.
That's the focus of Brader's show, *Spitting in the Face of the Devil*, on at London Convention Centre for the 2014 London Fringe Festival.
This is a courageous, poignant show, a brilliantly told story of pain, heartache and recovery that relies on Brader's substantial acting talents to tell a horrific story while bringing the various family members and friends to life.
From his opening words to its conclusion, it's a riveting, disturbing, funny, heartwarming and inspiring story.
"When I got the phone call that The Devil was dead, I felt nothing," he says at the start.
That's not surprising, as we quickly begin to see that the seemingly 'normal' family portrait on the stage is nothing but an illusion.
Using only his voice and physical movements, Brader presents the characters of his father, mother, grandparents, uncle, friends and lovers who all suffered directly and indirectly from his father's physical and emotional abuse and the sexual abuse suffered, not by Brader, but his uncle and two childhood friends.
The lighting of this show is beautifully brilliant, at times almost fading to black as this dark story is told.
Brader was beaten by his father for bed wetting as a child, ridiculed for his early attempts at performing impressions in school variety shows and humiliated by his father's pedophilia, all of it explored with abject honesty and Brader's keen eye and recall of details.
Brader doesn't shy away from the truth, even as he tells of the impact of his father's abuse later in his own life.
It is rare for men to stand up and tell their stories of childhood abuse and Brader has to be lauded, if only for his courage. But don't be discouraged by the dark subject matter. This is a funny, engaging marathon of storytelling that not only delivers understanding, but inspires — a must see performance that will make you laugh, cry and just feel good.

"Spitting in the Face of the Devil"
By LOUIS B. HOBSON

The "devil" in Bob Brader's one-man show SPITTING IN THE FACE OF THE DEVIL is his father It's an apt description of the man but hardly an adequate one. Bob Brader Sr. was a monster of epic proportions. He regularly beat his son when the young boy wet his bed. He tormented and taunted the boy on an almost daily basis.

It seems Bob Sr. never wanted children. Well not to father them at least as we learn early on in the shocking memory play. Bob Brader Sr. was a pedophile who preyed on young boys including several of his son's junior high school friends.

This is disturbing subject matter to be certain but in Brader's talented, sensitive, caring hands SPITTING IN THE FACE OF THE DEVIL is as compelling and engrossing as it is devastating and unforgettable.

Brader's genius both as a writer and a performer is that he makes us want to take this cathartic journey with him and that is no easy feat.

At the performance I attended Brader had the audience in the palm of his hand. One moment we gasp in disbelief as when his mother agreed to take her husband back when he assured her he had cured himself of his obsession. The next minute we'd laugh when the young Bob recalled watching ROLLERCOASTER and EARTHQUAKE with a thundering speaker at the back of the theatre creating the illusion of being in the film. Then there is the marvelous anecdote about his battling cockroaches in his first apartment. He knows we need comic relief before we return to accounts of Brader Sr.'s evil.

Even as a child, Brader's forte was impersonations and he has honed this skill so that he can play numerous characters of an age and sex in his story.

This is one play I did not want to end. I wanted to find out more about how Brader was rescued or rescued himself from his own downward spiral. As with so many victims of abuse he was filled with self-loathing. He claimed it was because "the devil" had got inside him. To exorcise the demon, Brader turned to alcohol and drugs. Today he is a successful actor and writer and is in a happy, fulfilling relationship with Suzanne Bachner who directed the play. I cannot recommend SPITTING IN THE FACE OF THE DEVIL too highly. It is one of those productions that lingers with you long after you've left the theatre. You'll need and want to vent your emotions.

CultureVultureVictoria.com reviews the VICTORIA FRINGE

Spitting in the Face of the Devil

I was waiting for that one show to come along this year that knocked me right out of my seat. Spitting in the Face of the Devil, a solo show by the energy ball known as Bob Brader, is that show. Detailing a very painful childhood dominated by a terrorizing father ("The Devil"), this performance has a script that sinks into you like a meat-hook and doesn't let go for 80 minutes. New York resident Brader has mounted this show at Fringes all over the world and won accolades for it—and no wonder: this is a polished, expertly written piece of theatre. And while the story of child abuse by a closeted gay man—and the rage that kept boiling over on his family—is absolutely enthralling, it's Brader's performance that makes this show so brilliant. He has an endless arsenal of facial expressions and character switches, complete with different voices and accents. Definitely the performance of this year's Fringe, and my vote so far for Pick of the Fringe, Spitting in the Face of the Devil is a triumph. And I never say shit like that.
—Jason Schreurs

SDGLN.com SAN DIEGO GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

THEATER REVIEW: "Spitting In The Face Of The Devil"

Jean Lowerison - SDGLN Theater Critic

The devil in question is Bob Brader's violent Marine Corps veteran father, who made his son's young life miserable with near-daily beatings, constant belittling and threats.
But he was a different person to others, a hail-fellow-well-met type known and apparently loved by everyone.
Brader describes life with father in his harrowing and powerful one-man show "Spitting In The Face Of The Devil," playing only three more shows at New Village Arts Theatre in Carlsbad. The show is directed by Brader's wife Suzanne Bachner, who also wrote and directs the main-stage show "Brilliant Mistake."
Brader explains how his father expropriated his son's male friends – first David (in fifth grade) and later Richard, spending far more time with them than with his son – and recounts his shock when Richard told him his father was gay.
It's a difficult story to hear, but extremely well presented – Brader eventually went to NYU's well-known Tisch School to study acting, much to his father's disgust, and he's a riveting actor as well as storyteller.
Proceeds from Brader's four-night show will go to the Women's Resource Center in Oceanside, which provides shelter, crisis intervention and counseling and education programs for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Spitting In The Face Of The Devil in the United Solo Festival

Indie Theater Now asked Bob Brader a few questions about his play *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil*. The theme of this interview is "Writing About Social Issues".

- ***What's this play about (in a few sentences); and what particular current issues are you addressing in it?***

  Spitting In The Face Of The Devil is the true story of discovering that my charismatic ex-Marine father was a pedophile. The main issues are of child abuse and child sexual abuse but there are a lot of underlying themes like how we learn from our parents (both good and bad), standing tall and not letting anyone tell you that you cannot do something. The show is about growing up as a survivor, so it has a lot of different themes running through it.

- ***Why is this issue/these issues important to you? Why should it be important to the audience?***

  To me, these issues are important because nobody wants to talk about them. Nobody wants to think about a child being beat or worse being sexually abused, and that is exactly why I felt the need to write this show. We need to talk about these issues, because they are still happening today, everyday. The more we talk about it, the less caught off guard we will be when we see it happening, or hear about it happening. The easier it will be to confront and prevent the problem and stop blaming the victim, especially when we see it happening in our own backyard.

- ***Can a play actually bring about social change? How?***

  Absolutely. I am not saying that Spitting In The Face Of The Devil is anywhere close to these shows, but look at what Angels in America did for understanding the AIDS epidemic, look at what Hair did for understanding a generation. Theater has the power to make us sit up and pay attention. Everything is happening right in front of us; it has the power to suck us into a story and helps us comprehend issues we know nothing about.

- ***If you could get one real person (past or present) to be the spokesperson for your play, who would you choose and why; and what would you want them to tell people about your work?***

  That would have to be the master of the monologue, Mr. Spalding Gray. I wrote *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* in a Spalding Gray style. I wanted it to be as honest as one of his monologues and in the beginning I did the whole show behind a desk. We kept the honesty, but lost the desk. I would want him to tell people how we are able to tell a gripping powerful story with humor and heart. I would want him to tell people that it is not scary to take this journey and it is one you will not forget. Honestly, I would have just loved him to have seen the show. Performing one of my monologues in front of Spalding Gray was one of my dreams.

- ***Which is more important to you in your playwriting, and why: to tell an authentic story, to make the audience laugh, to make the audience cry, or to make the audience think?***

  If you tell an authentic story you can get an audience to laugh, cry and think. For me being authentic is important. Everything that I talk about in my monologues are things that I have truly experienced. They are my thoughts and feelings. I don't believe in lying in a monologue, just to make the story more interesting. Truth is stranger than fiction, and it makes a great story.

Contact

For booking requests or more information on
Spitting In The Face Of The Devil, please contact:

JMTC Theatre
200 West 54th Street, Suite 10L
New York, NY 10019
JMTCTheatre.com

SpittingInTheFaceOfTheDevil.com

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