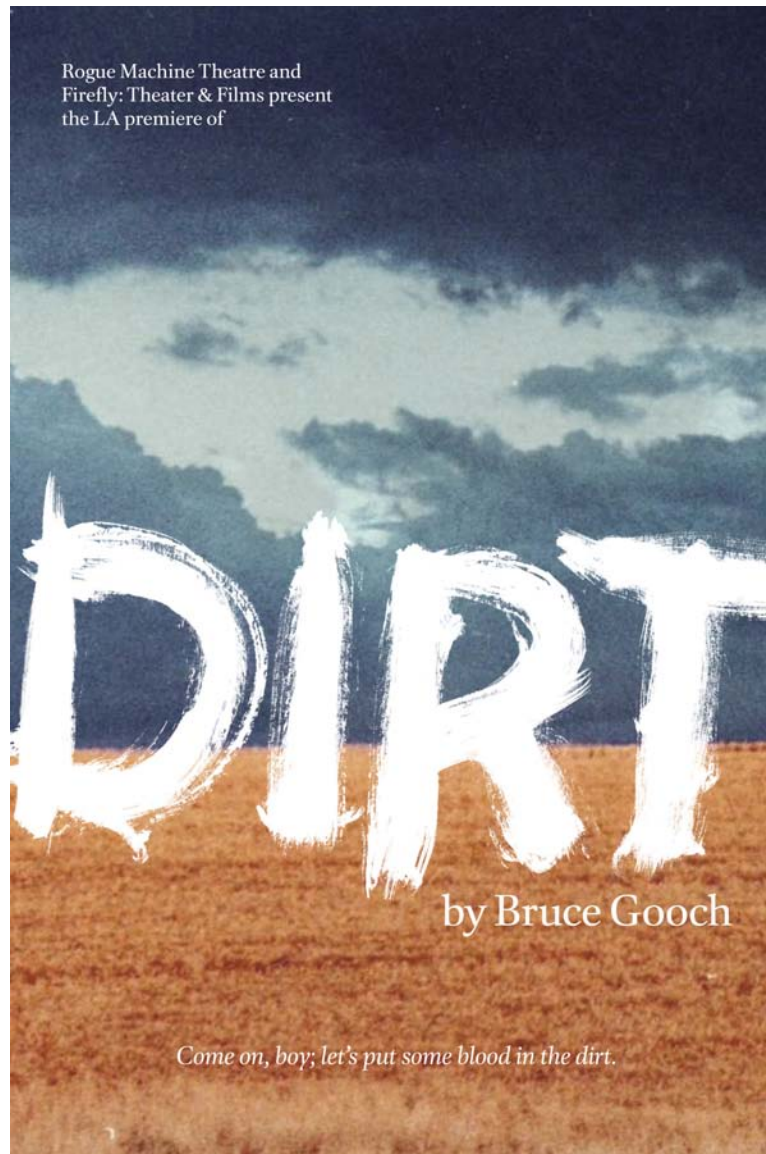


Dirt

press packet



Contents:

- ☐ Press Release;
- ☐ Program; and
- ☐ Review Excerpts & Awards



Press Contact: Natalia Duncan (323) 639-3454
press@fireflyinc.com

TWO OF LA'S LEADING THEATRES TEAM UP IN EARLY 2011
ROGUE MACHINE & FIREFLY WILL PRODUCE LA PREMIERE OF "DIRT," BY BRUCE GOOCH

Dirt, which will mark the first collaboration for Rogue Machine and Firefly, is a gritty, poetic play set for its Los Angeles premiere at Theatre/Theater. Performances begin Wednesday, January 26 for a limited engagement through Sunday, February 27. Opening is set for Friday, January 28 at 8pm.

When an estranged son returns home and finds his father fighting to hold onto his mind, they are thrust into a struggle to control their land and the memories it holds. *Dirt* explores how we forge our identities through our connections to our home, to our past, and to each other. The play made its world premiere at the Williamstown Theatre Festival directed by Jenny Sullivan and starring the late James Whitmore and **John Dennis Johnston**, who will star in the Los Angeles premiere, which will be directed by **Bruce Gooch** and will also star **Ryan Johnston** and **Andrea Robinson**.

Playwright and director **Bruce Gooch** is making his Los Angeles stage debut with this production. His most recent work includes writing a feature adaptation of Lew Wallace's *Ben Hur; a Tale of the Christ* for Academy Award-winner Albert Ruddy and Clearview Pictures, where Bruce also has his screenplay *Whiskey Kisses*. *Dirt* star **John Dennis Johnston** grew up in Nebraska and began his career in Omaha dinner theatres doing musicals. He went on to work in New York and Chicago before landing in LA and more than 100 television shows and films over 35 years, from *Annie Hall*, to *Roots*, to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and more. **Ryan Johnston** was last seen on a Los Angeles stage playing Ben in the LA premiere of *The Four of Us*, for which he received a Maddy Award and a Ticketholder nomination, and is best known as Patrick McCreary from *Grand Theft Auto IV*. **Andrea Robinson** has been twice nominated for a Canadian Emmy for her series regular role on the series *Doc* and, in addition to numerous guest star roles, has also been seen in the films *The Nutty Professor II: the Klumps* and in *Sgt. Bilko* with Steve Martin. The show will be produced by **Johnny Clark**, **Natalia Duncan**, and **Steven Klein**. The design team for *Dirt* includes **David Potts** (set), **John McElveney** (props), **Derrick McDaniel** (lights), **Gelareh Khalioun** and **Karina Torrico** (costumes), and **Kyle Johnston** and **Matthew McGaughey** (original music and sound). The assistant stage manager is **Brenda Goldstein**, and the production stage manager is **Amanda Mauer**.

Dirt will be presented at Theatre/Theater, at 5041 W. Pico Blvd (just west of La Brea) in Los Angeles. Preview performances are Wednesday, January 25 at 8:00pm and Thursday, January 26 at 8:00pm. Opening night is set for Friday, January 27 at 8:00pm. Performances run through February 27, Thursday through Saturday at 8:00pm with Sunday matinees at 3:00pm. Preview tickets are \$15 and regular seats are \$25. Tickets are available via phone at (323) 960-5563 and online at www.roguemachinetheatre.com.

Rogue Machine presents plays that are new to Los Angeles. Since 2008, this has included 3 Los Angeles Premieres (*The Sunset Limited*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, and *Stop/Kiss*); 5 West Coast Premieres (the multi-award winning *Four Places*, *MilkMilkLemonade*, *American Dead*, *Bingo with the Indians*, and *Half of Plenty*); and 3 World

Premiere productions (*Yard Sale Signs*, *Razorback*, and the multi-award winning production of Henry Murray's *Treefall*, now published by Dramatist Play Services). The company draws upon the diverse and extensive experience of its collective to create high-quality productions by contemporary playwrights who specifically address our culture and time.

Firefly: Theater & Films was founded in 1996 to mount new and classic plays while searching for more rigorous ways to define and measure the success of theatrical ventures. On stage, Firefly last produced *Belfast Blues* off-Broadway at the Barrow Street Theatre in 2010 and last produced in LA with the LA premiere of Itamar Moses' *The Four of Us*, which won eight 2008 Garland, Maddy, and Ticketholder awards and nominations. On screen, Firefly last produced *Make Believe*, a documentary on six of the world's best teen magicians, which won the grand jury prize at the Los Angeles Film Festival and the audience award at the Austin Festival and which will be distributed in early 2011. Firefly theater projects have garnered over two-dozen awards for shows in Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Belfast, Off-West End London, and Off-Broadway. For more information, visit www.fireflyinc.com.

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[12/27/10]



Rogue Machine Theatre and
Firefly Theater & Films present
the LA premiere of

DIRT

by Bruce Gooch

Come on, boy; let's put some blood in the dirt.

DIRT

**WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:
BRUCE GOOCH**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PAPA
John D. Johnston*

ELLIE
Andrea Robinson

ZAC
Ryan Johnston*

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

*** Member of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Playwright & Director.....	Bruce Gooch
Producers.....	Johnny Clark, Natalia Duncan, & Steven Klein
Production Stage Manager.....	Amanda Mauer
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Brenda Goldstein
Set Design.....	David Potts
Props.....	John McElveney
Lighting Design.....	Derrick McDaniel
Costume Design.....	Gelareh Khalioun & Karina Torrico
Sound & Music.....	Kyle Johnston & Matthew McGaughey
Makeup.....	Justine Vickery
Dresser.....	Brenda Goldstein
Master Builder.....	David Mauer
Graphic Design.....	Maria Johnston/Do Not Bend

Bruce Gooch (Writer/Director) | Bruce has worked in the theatre and the film and television industry in North America and Scandinavia for over thirty years as an actor, writer, director and coach. He is privileged to be able to work with these immensely talented actors and designers and this exceptional company. He is humbled by their belief and dedication in this play.

John Dennis Johnston (*Papa*) | John Dennis Johnston grew up in Nebraska and began his career in Omaha area dinner theatres doing musicals. He worked in New York and Chicago and before landing in LA and starting to work doing over a hundred or so television shows and Movies the last 35 years. He met Bruce Gooch at the Old Globe in San Diego where they worked on an early version of *DIRT*. Johnston says "I love working with the author and this play is very special to me. I have done a lot of original work but this one has real heart. It is going to be a great adventure for me." Go Huskers.

Ryan Johnston (*Zac*) | Ryan Johnston began his work in acting, directing, and producing while studying theatre and vocal music at the University of Nebraska and has been collaborating with Firefly since 1998. LA

highlights include: playing Ben in the LA premiere of Itamar Moses' *The Four of Us* (Maddy Award and Ticketholder Nomination for Best Actor), directing and producing Sam Shepard's rarely staged *The Unseen Hand* and a workshop production of *Julius Caesar* (Firefly: Theater & Films); playing Trinculo in *The Tempest* (The Ark) and David in the world-premiere of *Farewell Miss Cotton*, by Keith Josef Adkins (Black Dahlia); producing *Measure for Measure* (Waging Theatre) and starring in the west coast premiere of Jane Martin's *Flags* (Odyssey Theatre). Along with Steven Klein, he produced and starred in Firefly's 2007, Off-Broadway production of *Flags* at 59E59. TV credits include *The District* (CBS) and *To Live and Die in LA* (pilot), and Johnston is often recognized for playing Patrick "Packie" McCreary in *Grand Theft Auto IV*. Johnston now lives in Brooklyn with his wife Maria. There are few things he loves more than cycling, and he has competed as an amateur bicycle racer throughout the Northeast.

Andrea Robinson (*Ellie*) | Andrea's acting career spans 25 years in television, film and the theater. She has been twice nominated for a Canadian Emmy for her series regular role as the female lead in the television series *Doc*. Her television guest star

appearances, to name a few, include *CSI Miami*, *The Ghost Whisperer*, *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*, *3rd Rock from the Sun*, *Joey*, *Melrose Place*, *Home Improvement* and the *West Wing*. She is an original member of the Elephant Off Main Theater Company and has appeared in the plays *Love Bites Harder*, *The Princess and the Peon*, and *Halfway There*. She has appeared in feature films, including *The Nutty Professor II: the Klumps* with Eddie Murphy, *Sgt. Bilko* with Steve Martin, and *Gang Related* with James Earl Jones. When Andrea is not acting, she is the Founder of ARC Sustainability (www.ARCsustainability.com), an environmental consulting firm responsible for greening projects such as the 2008 Democratic National Convention and Al Gore's Live Earth global concerts, corporations and residences. Andrea is thrilled to be performing in Bruce Gooch's *Dirt*.

Johnny Clark (Producer) | Clark is the co-founder and Artistic Director of the critically-acclaimed VS. Theatre Company, a Los Angeles-based company dedicated to producing new works and Los Angeles premieres. Prior to forming VS., he was the producing director for Interact Theatre Company. This is his second collaboration with Firefly Theatre and Steven Klein. Johnny is also an actor, and can be seen as "Ben" in the upcoming VS. production of Neil LaBute's *THE MERCY SEAT* at [Inside] The Ford Theatre. Prior VS. credits: *THE CREDEAUX CANVAS*, *MODERN DANCE FOR BEGINNERS*, *NAVY PIER*, *BEGGARS IN THE HOUSE OF PLENTY*, *WASTE OF SHAME*, *ERIC LARUE*, *ON AN AVERAGE DAY*, *EAGLE HILLS...EAGLE RIDGE...EAGLE LANDING*, and *BLACKBIRD* for which he received a Best Actor Nomination from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle for his performance as "Baylis.". He starred in the film *LIARS CLUB*, which he also co-wrote and which won First Prize at the Rhode Island Film Festival and received a limited theatrical release.

Natalia Duncan (Producer) | An actress, dancer and producer, Duncan began her career at a young age dancing across the US and abroad. Since graduating from Yale,

she splits her time between Los Angeles and Jackson, WY, teaching the Michael Chekhov Technique with Marjo-Riikka Makela at Chekhov Studio International as well as serving as Artistic Producer. She also serves as an associate producer with Firefly: Theater & Films and is founder of Coyote-Nightingale Productions, a company merging dance with narratives on film. Selected stage credits include: Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Meredith in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Producing credits include: *Stage Matters* (Firefly in association with TCG), *The Seagull* (CSI), and *Blood Memory* (CNP).

Steven Klein (Producer) | An actor and producer, Steven Klein runs Firefly: Theater & Films. Klein's theatre acting and producing in LA has garnered over 35 awards and noms, and his local stage highlights include David in the LA premiere of Itamar Moses' *The Four of Us* (Firefly); Charles in *An Infinite Ache* and Sean in *Orson's Shadow* (Black Dahlia); and the Foole opposite James Gammon's *King Lear* (MET). Concurrent with *Dirt*, he is playing Prometheus in Emily Halpern's *Prometheus, No!*, which also stars Michael Stahl-David and is running as part of *Unscreened* at the Zephyr Theatre, as in the ad later in this program. He most recently appeared on TV as Alexi on *Burn Notice* and produced the film *Make Believe*, a documentary on six of the world's best teenage magicians competing for Teen World Champion, which won the grand jury prize for Best Documentary at the 2010 LA Film Festival and the Audience Award at the Austin Film Festival and will be released wide in 2011.

Amanda Mauer (Production Stage Manager) | Amanda Mauer is a playwright, stage manager, and Rogue Machine's Production Manager. Her plays have recently appeared at Third Eye Theatre's Grand Guignol 2 (Portland, OR), Moveable Piece's Greenscape (Hollywood), and Screaming Media's Gi60 (Halifax, UK). Rogue Machine has produced her work as part of Shorts & Sweets and the Around

the-Clock Play Festival. She's stage managed a bunch of productions around LA and looks forward to the next bunch. Thanks to David, always.

Brenda Goldstein (Assistant Stage Manager) | Brenda is a Los Angeles native who graduated from CSUN with a BA in Theatre Arts. She is excited to be working once again with Firefly. Some of the shows Brenda has worked on include the LA premiere of *The Four of Us* at the Elephant Lab Theatre, the world premieres of *Pin-Up Girls* and *Tracing Sonny* at the Avery Schreiber Theatre, *Rupture* at the Unknown and the West Coast premiere of *The Jazz Age* at the 2nd Stage Theatre. Brenda would like to thank her family and friends for their support.

David Potts (Set Design) | David Potts recently designed *A Free Man of Color* for the Colony Theatre where he has designed many productions including *Sherlock's Last Case* (Ovation Award nomination), *Almost, Maine*, and *Grand Hotel*. Also in LA, he designed *Elephant Man* for the Actor's Co-op, and *Sister Act* for the Pasadena Playhouse. He designed the Broadway productions of *Born Yesterday* with Ed Asner and Madeline Kahn, *As Is*, and *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. His many off-Broadway credits include acclaimed productions of *The Seahorse*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Album*, as well as numerous productions for the Manhattan Theatre Club and Circle Repertory Theatre. He has designed extensively for regional theatres across the country, the television movies *Kennedy's Children* and *Fifth of July*, and, on ice, the world tour of *100 Years of Disney Magic*. He has art designed several television series, and for HBO's *Deadwood*, he received an Emmy Award. He is currently at work on *No Ordinary Family* for ABC.

John McElveney (Props) | John was an Equity Stage Manager and Lighting Designer for many years before joining ABC Television as a Production Manager. While there he worked many sitcoms, specials and awards shows. He was Senior Production

Manager for twenty-four Academy Awards Presentations. Of late, he and the group called MacAndME have designed properties for over twenty-five productions at the Colony Theatre in Burbank. He is also past president of the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni and Associates.

Derrick McDaniel (Lighting Design) | Derrick has been lighting plays since 1995. A few of his lighting credits include, *The Godfather Workout* for the HBO comedy festival in Aspen, *Blood Brothers* at the Whitefire Theater, *Taming of the Shrew* at the Odyssey Theater, and many others. Derrick is the resident lighting designer for VS. Theatre Company. He has been nominated for a 2006 & 2008 Ovation Award for lighting, for *The Shelter* at the Odyssey Theater and *Lady* at the Road Theater. He has also been nominated for a 2004 & 2008 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award for lighting, for *Among The Thugs* at the Odyssey and *On An Average Day* with VS. Derrick would like to thank you for your participation in supporting live theater. Enjoy!

Gelareh Khalioun (Costume Design) | Gelareh has a Bachelor of Arts in theatre from USC, with an emphasis in costume design. She is a member of the local 705 Costumers Union, and is the resident costume designer for VS. Theatre Company. She has also designed for the Alliance Repertory Company (Ovation and ADA Nominee), International City Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, Edgemar Center for the Arts, 24th Street Theatre, Ivy SubStation, Santa Monica Playhouse, Hudson Guild, Gardner Theatre, The Elephant, The Complex and The Matrix. She is thrilled to be working on DIRT, and sends a special thanks to the cast and crew.

Karina Torrico (Costume Design) | Karina Torrico is costume designer & fashion stylist currently based in LA. Karina studied film at USC & has been working in fashion & costume departments for 8 years on a wide variety of projects, from working on Annie Leibowitz sets, Superbowl commercials, Kanye West & Rihanna music videos, *So You*

Think You Can Dance costumes, *Dancing With The Stars* tours, Elton John album packaging, couture editorial, celebrity styling to dressing real homeless people on the union film *The Soloist*.

Kyle Johnston (Sound & Music) | Kyle is a member of the composer's group Serialmusique. He scored his first feature, *Pinching Penny* last year and contributes cues to several network television programs. He also worked on the Firefly/Level 22 documentary *Make Believe*. Kyle holds a degree in Theatre from the University of Nebraska.

Matthew McGaughey (Sound & Music) | Matthew is the founder of Serialmusique, LLC and has been a member of the Los Angeles based Barefoot Music team since 2006. With Barefoot, he began writing for NBC's *Treasure Hunters* and Bravo's *Project Runway*. Since then he has held a prominent position on many Barefoot projects. In addition to his work with Barefoot Music, he has scored 8 feature films and contributed music to many more.

Some recent titles include: *Butterfly Dreaming*, *Chasing Tchaikovsky*, *Primal*, and the new documentary *Make Believe*. Matthew holds a Bachelors of Music from the acclaimed Eastman School of Music and a PhD in Composition from the University of York in the U.K. In 2003 he founded Sin Fronteras, a nonprofit organization dedicated to crossing cultural borders through arts and music education. Through Sin Fronteras, he has organized several events at Los Angeles City College where he also teaches composition and electronic music.

David Mauer (Master Builder) | David Mauer is the Technical Director of Rogue Machine Theatre and a freelance designer/TD. Recent design work includes *Orpheus Descending* at Theatre/Theater, *The Philadelphia Story* at Actors' Co-op, *The Limitations of Genetic Technology* at Theatre of NOTE, and the special effects for *Yard Sale Signs* with Rogue Machine. He is thrilled to be working with such a fantastic group. Love to his wife, Amanda.



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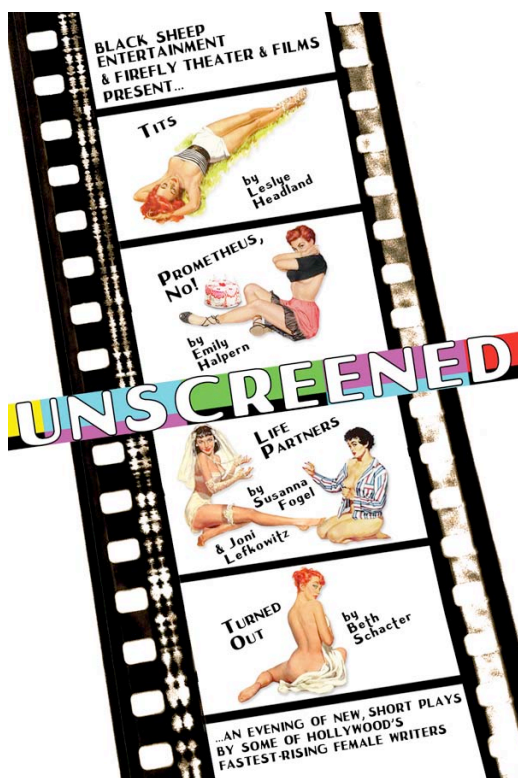
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“The play's L.A. premiere is superbly acted and adeptly designed...it culminates in a powerfully moving conclusion...John D. Johnston is splendid as the gruff yet frightened widower, unprepared to face the challenges of his age: the ongoing decline of his body and mind. Projecting rage, impatience, despair, and the suppressed tenderness beneath the bluster, the actor creates an affecting and credible characterization. Ryan Johnston gives a poignant performance as the prodigal son, coming to terms with many lost years of family connection and the inevitable sadness yet to come.”

-Back Stage West

“...Bruce Gooch's barnyard gothic is set on a farm where the horses are dead, the cows sold and the dog eaten by coyotes. Mom's dead, too, and son Zac (Ryan Johnston) is in exile. This leaves Papa (John D. Johnston) alone to work the land, whether or not it needs working, because it's a sin to slack....Set designer David Potts has draped the walls in dense netting and installed a front porch that looms like a gallows. It's an apt backdrop for when Zac returns to find his muscular pops has gone dangerously senile. And as the set is stockpiled with a hatchet, knife, saw and shotgun, I'd take Dad seriously when he threatens that he won't leave his land without a fight. Andrea Robinson is quite fine as a local waitress who swings by to check on the fellas, but the stars of the show are the evocative technics...and the elder Johnston, whose presence dominates the play like a frontier Fury....veteran actor John D. Johnston pivots on a nail head from mulish to brutish to yearning, giving the play an immediacy...”

-LA Weekly

“...a fine work filled with poetic imagery, expressing the grandeur, beauty, and mystery of the cycles of life and death, nature, and man's place in the world....The pillar of this production is John Dennis Johnston. His performance is marvelous – simple and straightforward, brimming over with passion for the land....Ryan Johnston is excellent...David Potts has given us an original and true environment that almost takes on the role of chorus attentively standing watch over the action in the play.... The original sound and music (Kyle Johnston and Matthew McGaughey) is modern, eerily compelling...”

-Stage Happenings