

# Gorilla Theater Productions

An Evolution in Theatre

[www.gorillatheatre.org](http://www.gorillatheatre.org)



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## IT'S 'DEATH AS USUAL' FOR GORILLA THEATRE

Gorilla Theatre Productions is proud to present a production of **Death As Usual** by Lawrence-based playwright Brendon O'Neill. **Death As Usual** is the winner of last year's 2000 Inaugural Dramatists Festival, a series of staged readings of the best plays entered into Gorilla Theatre's Annual Playwriting Contest. **Death As Usual** will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, September 14, 15, 21 and 22 at the Apehouse, 517 E 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO. This event is free to the public, although donations are encouraged. (Recommended donation \$10.)

**Death As Usual** director/designer Maria Antonia Perez-Andujar worked with O'Neill in a series of workshops to develop the script and custom fit the production to the performers and the performance space. Perez-Andujar has directed collective-writing productions in her native Spain and has worked as a conceptual designer and as an actress in Kansas City, Boston and Spain.

The workshop process uses collective exercises for creativity and team-development and different art media as expression venues. Co-designer Richard Van Cleave helped the script take full advantage of their unique performance space. Five actors – Michael Derting, Lesley Baker, Greg Stanton, Page Conner, and Damien Torres-Botello – participated in the workshop process and noted that, "What we're creating is as unique as it is surprising."

According to Derting, the **Death As Usual** workshop has been very rewarding. "This has been an incredible experience thus far. It is truly amazing what can happen when you have an ensemble of actors, a collaborative director, and the young playwright himself working off each other to achieve a unified goal. This has been a learning experience more than anything. Having the playwright right there is wonderful because he can justify what we as an ensemble don't find in our character study. I'm truly honored to be a part of this workshop and hope we can share this with an audience that appreciates what the Gorilla Theatre brings to the forefront."

The 2001 Inaugural Dramatists Festival will take place during the same time as the production of **Death As Usual**. Plays from this year's playwriting contest will be given staged readings at area coffeehouses on the following dates:

- Tue, Sept 11 – Planet Café, 3535 Broadway
- Wed, Sept 12 – Muddy's, 318 E 51<sup>st</sup> St
- Thu, Sep 13 – Toto's, 9000 W 151<sup>st</sup> St
  
- Tue, Sep 18 – Muddy's, 1719 W 38<sup>th</sup> St
- Wed, Sep 19 – Barnes & Noble's Starbucks, 400 W 47<sup>th</sup> St
- Thu, Sep 20 – 45<sup>th</sup> Street Coffeehouse, 1813 W 45<sup>th</sup> St

All readings will begin at 7 p.m. The winning plays and their reading dates will be announced soon on our website at [www.gorillatheatre.org](http://www.gorillatheatre.org). For more information or questions about **Death As Usual**, please contact Gorilla Theatre at 816-471-APES or [apes@gorillatheatre.org](mailto:apes@gorillatheatre.org). **Death as Usual** is sponsored by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council.

Gorilla Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer based organization that relies on revenue from grants, donations, ticket sales, and advertising dollars to survive. In return, we offer Kansas City audiences a unique combination of entertaining and enlightening theatre unlike any theatre company in town, including our Greek show in This Park which draws hundreds of Kansas Citians annually.

You may receive this notice by email by contacting Gorilla Theatre at [apes@gorillatheatre.org](mailto:apes@gorillatheatre.org)  
or visit our website: [www.gorillatheatre.org](http://www.gorillatheatre.org)

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