

Gorilla Theater Productions

An Evolution in Theatre

www.gorillatheatre.org



10/11/01 PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

David Brisco Luby Artistic Director
Post Office Box 45043
Kansas City, MO 64171-5043
apes@gorillatheatre.org
(816) 471-APES

GORILLA TAKES ON WAR IN 'STATES OF SHOCK'

One of the few anti-war plays written in protest of the Gulf War, Sam Shepard's surreal **States of Shock** is the third theatrical condemnation of war that Gorilla Theatre has produced this year, after **Major Barbara** and **The Trojan Women**. **States of Shock** is suddenly relevant after the events of September 11. Almost everyone in the country is in a state of shock based not only on the loss of American life but on the loss of our former sense of safety and security. With war erupting in Afghanistan, this play reminds us to consider the consequences before we act.

With **States of Shock**, Shepard became interested in exploring post-traumatic conditions or "shock states" -- where one's identity has been shattered under severe personal circumstances. Shepard's story involves a wounded soldier who is taken to dinner by a veteran colonel to celebrate the death of the colonel's son. It turns out the wounded soldier tried to save the son's life in battle and now is bound to a wheelchair because of his injuries. The private battle that engulfs these two and the rest of the restaurant's occupants explores the loss and states of shock that result from failure to recognize the full consequences of war.

Directed by Robin Zeplin, the cast features Walter Winch, Tom Jones, Dawn Stringer, Carol Leighton, and Wally Leighton. Production design is by Richard Van Cleave, Nathan Powers, and Georgianna Londré. **States of Shock** runs November 1-17, Thu-Sat, 7 pm at the El Torreon, 3101 Gillham Plaza. Tickets are \$10, or \$6 if purchased along with admission to the live music that follows each performance.

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 Theis Park which draws hundreds of Kansas Citians annually. For more information about the poetry readings, contact Gorilla Theatre at 816-471-APES or apes@gorillatheatre.org or visit our website at www.gorillatheatre.org

You may receive this notice by email by contacting Gorilla Theatre at apes@gorillatheatre.org
or visit our website: www.gorillatheatre.org

Gorilla Theater Productions is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity employer.
Have you hugged a gorilla today?