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The New York Musical Theatre Festival and Rake Theater

Present

OEDIPUS FOR KIDS!

A New Musical

Book by Kimberly Patterson and Gil Varod

Lyrics by Gil Varod; Music by Robert J. Saferstein

Directed by Dan Fields

September 12 through September 25

At The Sage Theatre, 711 7th Avenue

August 18, 2006

The New York Musical Theatre Festival and Rake Theater will present the new musical, *OEDIPUS FOR KIDS!* Performances begin on September 12 and will run through September 25 at The Sage Theatre, located at 711 7th Avenue.

OEDIPUS FOR KIDS! premise revolves around three members of the Fuzzy Ducks Theatre Company, whose purpose is to bring the classics to children via theatre. Following their recently acclaimed productions *Titus Andronicus Bakes a Cake* and *Uncle Tommy's Cabin*, the artistic director has decided that this week's classic should be the Greek myth of Oedipus. As the children's production goes down into a Charybdis-like whirlpool of suck, the performers remain confounded by the question of how the hell you portray such a screwed up myth to elementary-schoolers. Songs include "A Little Complex" and "My Lover Is My Husband Is My Son". In other words, despite the title, this show is definitely not for kids.

The plot mirrors the authors' own dilemma: back in early January Kimberly Patterson posed a question to Gil Varod: "Do you want to write a children's musical?" Since both have a deep love for Greco-Roman culture, they decided to do an adaptation of a Greek Myth. But what to adapt? Hercules has been done. Medusa teaches a strange lesson. Most stories about the Greek Gods were too short, or too harsh. The Aeneid, Odyssey and everything Trojan was just too bloody. Then Gil says to Kim, "We should adapt Oedipus." Kimberly's horrified response, "But... you can't do Oedipus for Kids!" gave them their title. It was followed by an e-mail to Robert Saferstein, "you have 2 weeks to compose the first five songs to these lyrics. Go." For the full story behind the show, as well as a blog detailing the rehearsal process, visit www.oedipusforkids.com.

Lyricist Gil Varod is best known for the website broadwayabridged.com, a site featuring comedic "abridged" scripts of current Broadway Shows. Previous productions include *Passing Aggressing* at the Pearl Street Theatre Company and *The Doctor Will See You Now Without Pants, or, Will My HMO Cover This?* at the Tank. Gil wrote the book with Kimberly Patterson, who has worked in Off- and Off-Off Broadway theater in almost every capacity possible (with the notable exception of acting) for the past 10 years. Kimberly's plays were featured in the Midtown International Theatre Festival in 2005 and 2006, and she has produced shows for the Ice Factory and the New York Fringe Festival. The composer is Robert J. Saferstein, an accomplished multimedia artist who has been composing for years. He holds a BFA in Photography and Imaging from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and his work has been seen at the Pool Art Fair, the AAF Contemporary Art Fair, the School of Visual Arts, and New York University.

The creative team will be led by director Dan Fields, who is currently Associate Director of the Chicago national tour production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He also served as Resident or Associate Director for the Broadway productions of *The Lion King*, *In My Life*, and *The Graduate*. Off-Broadway work includes *21 Dog Years: Doing Time @ Amazon.com* at the Cherry Lane Theatre, as well as many regional productions around the country. His production of Arthur Miller's *The Man Who Had All The Luck* was the first U.S. revival in 56 years, and was named one of the Top 10 Productions of 2000 by the Los Angeles Times, as well as being awarded L.A. Weekly's Revival of the Year.

Jessica Redish will be the Choreographer; she most recently staged new work at the Flea Theatre. Gregory M. Brown (*7 Brides for 7 Brothers* at Goodspeed Opera House) will serve as Musical Director. The design team will be Scott Orlesky (Sets; credits include the 2004 national tour of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, as well as the touring production of Tyler Perry's *Madea Goes to Jail* and *Why Did I Get Married?*), Michael K. Berelson (Lighting) and Hannah Rose Peck (Costumes).

The cast of *OEDIPUS FOR KIDS!* includes Laura Jordan (Broadway's *In My Life*), Gavin Lewis (in his "1/2-a-block-from-Broadway debut!"), and Reed Prescott (2006 Broadway Easter Bonnet, *Wicked City Blues* at the York Theatre).

Tickets for *OEDIPUS FOR KIDS!* are currently available only to NYMF members. Memberships are still on sale. Members can now reserve their tickets by calling (212) 352-3101. Remaining tickets (\$20) will go on sale September 1 at theatermania.com or by calling 212 352-3101. The schedule for *OEDIPUS FOR KIDS!* is Tuesday, September 12 at 8PM, Saturday, September 16 at 7:30PM, Sunday, September 17 at 4:30PM, Wednesday, September 20 at 8PM, Sunday, September 24 at 4:30PM and Monday, September 25 at 8PM.

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