

FringeNYC 2007 LGBT Checklist

This year's FringeNYC features an array of LGBT shows as diverse and spectacular as our community itself. Here are a few to get you started!



CHASER

The first date between two men goes horribly awry when a dangerous erotic request is made. Contains male nudity and scenes of a sexual nature. From the creators of the London and 2005 FringeNYC hit "Extra Virgin".



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

In *The Gospel According To Matthew*, Matthew testifies and performs verbatim stories of sinners, teachers, and preachers. Sometimes cathartic, always provocative, this one-man play will inspire and transform the conversation between the Christian Fundamentalist and gay communities.



A MIKVAH

When Alan finds out that his long-lost childhood love (Ben) has returned, he is ecstatic. However, as he learns more and more about Ben's mysterious past, he must choose between love and reality.



SHE'S NOT WELL

Three ambitious starlets... three powerful men... sex, drugs and yodeling... backstabbing and elephant stompings. Shortlisted for Best Play at Montreal Fringe, *She's Not Well* proves that addiction, failure and public degradation are really fun when they're happening to someone else.



SODOMY & PEDICURES

Mom is a women's studies professor. Dad is a Communist. The result? A 37-yr-old exhibitionist fag-hag with unresolved domination fantasies. "A comedy orgasm!"—hails the Austin Chronicle—"Top Ten Theatre Event of 2006!" A filthy journey into the heart of female identity.



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARRIAGE

The Sexy Side of Same-Sex Marriage. Gay Marriage: Pot of Gold or Crock of Shit? San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros, the nation's oldest queer theatre, asks, "Is this what we really want?" Join the debate in this audience participation show.



TO BE LOVED

Inspired by Kabuki, a monk confronts the reincarnated soul of his dead lover, a boy, in this unsettling gay ghost story about how far one man will go for love. "Remarably sensitive & witty" -Theresa Rebeck. "Astonishing" -Michael Maclennan, former Co-Executive Producer, *Queer As Folk*.



TOP & BOTTOM

What happens when the world's most submissive bottom boy answers a bondage personals ad and meets the world's most socially awkward leather top? Don't miss this funny and moving L.A. and Provincetown smash hit. ADULT SITUATIONS/NUDITY.

*The New York International Fringe Festival
and Constaybul Productions Presents:*

THE GOSPEL according to Matthew

by Matthew Francis

Characters

The following texts are verbatim excerpts of interviews conducted by Matthew Francis (with the obvious exception of his own narrative) between 1996 and 2004.

An excerpt from a sermon by
BILLIE HUNT, Oasis of Love, Houston, TX
“Where is God’s mouth?”

REV. FRED PHELPS, Pastor of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas
Founder, www.GodHatesFags.com
“Sinners in the hands of an angry god”

REV. MEL WHITE, Author, *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay And Christian In America*.
Justice Minister, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
Founder, Soulforce (gay activist group)
“Selective literalists”

FLIP BENHAM, National Director, Operation Save America (formerly Operation Rescue)
“This LIE”

REV. MEL WHITE
“The shadow of the dome”

ANONYMOUS EX-GAY WOMAN
“Long list of sins”

FLIP BENHAM, National Director, Operation Save America (formerly Operation Rescue)
“His mercy”

IMY, Sitting in Dunkin’ Donuts.
“The spirit of it”

FRED PHELPS
“A-bomination!”

MISTER D.
“More a burden on me”

REV. DIANA AKIYAMA, Director of the Office for Religious & Spiritual Life, Occidental
College
“Penetrated”

ANONYMOUS EX-GAY WOMAN
“Unpin God”

J.F. COGAN, Author, *The Demon Possession Handbook*
“The anus is not designed for thrusting”

MISTER D.
“A little dick on the side”

J.F. COGAN
“Walls of the anus”

REV. DIANA AKIYAMA
“Permeable boundary”

ANONYMOUS MAN, Minister of Liberation Theology
“Fucked by Jesus”

ANONYMOUS EX-GAY WOMAN
“What’s in your heart”

RENÉ GIRARD, World-renowned French historian, literary critic, and philosopher
“Parasitic”

BOB DAVIES, Former President, Exodus International (ex-gay ministry)
“Needlepoint party”

JACK PANTALEO, Member, Evangelicals Concerned
“How a real man sits”

MICHAEL LUMBERGER, Exodus International
“Spit on me”

DR. DEBORA PHILLIPS, PH. D.
“Clockwork Orange”

JEFF FORD, Ex-ex-gay man (a person who has left the ex-gay movement)
“Electric shock machine”

DR. DEBORA PHILLIPS, PH. D.
“Covert Sensitization”

JEFF FORD
“Pretty helpful”

DR. DEBORA PHILLIPS, PH. D.
“Very heavy at that moment”

JEFF FORD
“Very discouraged”

MISTER D.
“Smoke and mirrors”

FRED, Evangelicals Concerned
“Lumberjack special”

MISTER D
“Rite of passage”

Director's Notes

One of the final frontiers in dismantling homophobia in America is through our delicate and determined dialogue with organized religion. As a gay theater artist who has sought a balance between the personal, the political and the spiritual throughout my career, I am very excited and proud to be able to contribute to this discussion by directing Matthew Francis' deeply personal yet uniquely drawn exploration in his autobiographical solo show *The Gospel According to Matthew*. By weaving his own journey of coming to terms with his sexual orientation into the multitude of voices of real people whom Matthew recounts in *Gospel* in the docudrama style of his mentor Anna Deavere Smith -- from leaders of the ex-gay movement to numerous theological academics to the Rev. Mel White, as well as Pastor Fred Phelps (of www.GodHatesFags.com) -- I firmly believe this play sets a new benchmark of sophistication and maturation on this most complex social reality. Finally, having had the privilege of working with Anna myself (as an actor in her examination of the presidency in *House Arrest* several years ago at Harvard University), I am thrilled to re-engage this invaluable technique of storytelling for the theater, and hope audiences will keep the dialogue going strong well after *Gospel's* world premiere in the 2007 Fringe.

- David Drake

Artistic Team

Matthew Francis* (Playwright/Performer) Matthew Francis' one-man play about the struggle to reconcile faith and sexuality, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, was workshopped at the Virginia Tech New Play Festival in Blacksburg, Virginia, and was more recently seen as part of the FREEPLAY reading series at Manhattan Theater Club. His acting work includes: (at the American Repertory Theater) Cleomenes in *The Winter's Tale*, George in Scott Zigler's production of *All My Sons*, and Boodkin in Yuri Yeremin's *Ivanov*. Other credits include: the international tour of Julie Taymor's *The King Stag*, a leading role in *Holes Before Bedtime*, a rock musical, and involvement in the development of *Gone Missing* by The Civilians.

He is a graduate of Stanford University, where he developed a one-man show under the tutelage of Anna Deavere Smith entitled *She Just Stopped Breathing*, which concerns the loss of his mother at age 13. He was subsequently awarded a Golden Grant from Stanford to create a one-person docudrama about twins and Twinsburg, Ohio (he is an identical twin himself). For *House Arrest*, Ms. Smith's docudrama exploring the relationship between the press and the presidency, Mr. Francis traveled with Ms. Smith through the South to conduct interviews about black church burnings and with the Christian Right at the Republican National Convention and is featured in her books, *Talk to Me: Travels in Media and Politics* and *Letters to a Young Artist*. He was also Ms. Smith's first teaching apprentice at New York University.

He has worked and taught in theaters and institutions across the country including: Arena Stage, the A.D. Players, the American Repertory Theater, and the Institute for the Arts and Civic Dialogue at Harvard University. A classically trained singer, Mr. Francis studied at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, France. He also holds an M.F.A. in acting from the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University/Moscow Art Theater School.

David Drake (Director) David Drake is a New York-based actor, writer and director. His most recent work as a director includes the solo shows of Sherie Rene Scott at the Zipper last spring and Taylor Mac in the 2007 Under-the-Radar Festival at the Public and at London's Soho Theatre. (The latter is now on an extensive international tour.) David's production of *2 Boys in a Bed on a Cold Winter's Night* is currently enjoying a summer run at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in San Francisco. Other directing projects include developing Edmund White's *Terre Haute* at the Sundance Theater Lab, Anne Bobby's *That Woman: Rebecca West Remembers* at Manhattan Theatre Source, as well as staging new plays at NY's Theatre for the New City, Rattlestick Theatre, NY Fringe Festival, and regionally at Provincetown Rep, Baltimore Theatre Project and Out North Contemporary Art House in Anchorage. On stage, David is most widely known as the playwright/performer of one of the longest-running solo shows in New York theater history, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, for which he won an Obie Award. His latest autobiographical monologue, *Son of Drakula*, premiered at Dance Theater Workshop, where he was an artist-in-residence in 2002-03, and was praised by *The New York Times* as "A dazzling, inventive...terrific new one-man show" before making its European debut in Zagreb, Croatia. Among his numerous movie appearances (including his critically acclaimed work in the performance film of Larry Kramer), David co-stars in Roland Tec's upcoming feature *We Pedal Uphill*.

Katie Riegel (Producer) Katie Riegel has worked as a theater journalist and web producer for Broadway.com since 2002, where she has written over 75 celebrity features and has played a major role in two site redesigns, giving creative input on content, usability standards and design. She also oversees the company's email strategy and helped to bring to life Broadway.com's revolutionary Word of Mouth section, in addition to executing several show-specific internet marketing campaigns and the company's ticketing partnership with The New York Times. She recently produced a reading of Isaac Oliver's new play, *Eddie Goshen is Dead*. Katie formerly worked as an assistant to Broadway producers Barry and Fran Weissler and holds a B.A. in Journalism and Dramatic Literature & Theater History from New York University.

Aysan Celik (Acting Coach, Associate Producer) Aysan is honored to be a part of Matthew's creative team. For the past several years she has worked as a performer, teacher, assistant producer, and musician with Theater Mitu. She has coached actors in the apprentice program at Actors Theater of Louisville, taught performance workshops at high schools and colleges around the country with The Acting Company, and directed ATL apprentice Jane Lee in her solo *22 Years of Desire*.

Special Thanks

Her credits as a performer include: Off-Broadway - *The Black Eyed* (NYTW), *Faust* (CSC/Target Margin), *Pericles* (Culture Project/Red Bull), *Turn of the Screw*, *Murder By Poe*, *Richard III* (Acting Company); Off-Off Broadway - *Arahsak* (Mitu), *Canard, Canard, Goose?* (Civilians), *Attempts On Her Life* (SoHo Rep), and *The Belle's Stratagem* (Prospect); Regional - *9 Parts of Desire* (Actors Theater of Louisville), *Dhammasboka* (Mitu/Taper/Sundance), *1001* (O'Neill), *Antigone* (American Repertory Theater), *Paris Commune* (Civilians/La Jolla Playhouse), and *Diary of a Young Girl*, a solo performance at the American Repertory Theater and at the dedication of the Anne Frank Center for Human Rights (Carr Foundation).

Aysan trained at UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and the ART Institute at Harvard. She's a Civilian, a member of LightBox and a co-founder of Mitu. This fall she will perform in LightBox's *The Food Project* at 3LD, and will soon be seen in the indie comedy feature *Capers* (2008).

Julie Fetzner (Associate Producer) *In addition to being Matthew's twin brother, Monte is a journalist and writer who has covered several high-profile murder trials. He has received two Emmy Awards for his television news reports and several awards for his news writing from the Associated Press.*

Monte Francis (Dramaturg) *In addition to being Matthew's twin brother, Monte is a journalist and writer who has covered several high-profile murder trials. He has received two Emmy Awards for his television news reports and several awards for his news writing from the Associated Press.*

Azania Dungee (Stage Manager) *Azania Dungee is a recent graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, with a double major in Drama and Anthropology. She last stage managed the play *Boogie Woogie Landscapes* at NYU. In addition to the technical side of the stage, Azania is an actor/singer whose credits include: Maria in *Twelfth Night*, Sarah in *Ragtime*, Prunes & Prisms in *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, The Mexican Woman in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and the short films "Tight Rope" and "The Enabler". She also conducts Shakespeare workshops for Elementary School students.*

Diana Akiyama
Jim Augustine
Robert Brustein
Joe Burzynski
Aysan Celik
Dmetrius Conley-Williams
Anna Deavere Smith
David Drake
Azania Dungee
Tamara Jones Dunn
Evangelicals Concerned
Julie Fetzner
Jeff Ford
Sophia Fox-Long
Monte Francis
Brett Halsey
Alison Hart
Kathy Hendricks

Nancy Houfek
Hugh Hysell
David J. Martin
Bryan Matsuoka
Hugh McGowan
Geoffrey Moonen
Jack Pantaleo
Dr. Debora Phillips
Ruben Polendo
Katie Riegel
Gita Srinivasan
Darrick Uccellini
Virginia Tech Department of Theatre Arts
Fred Wells
Mel White
Scott Zigler
Melody Zobel



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

In loving memory of Steve Hunter, 1945-1994