

For immediate release:



"Hilarious...clever...has the makings of a cult fave." - Variety

Bay Area BEST NEW PLAY of 2008 comes to NYC

Shotgun Players presents

The award winning

Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage

A Banana Bag & Bodice SongPlay

Written by Jason Craig, Music by Dave Malloy, Directed by Rod Hipskind

Beginning performances are March 31st, Press Opening April 5 2009

At The Abrons Arts Center's Harry de Jur Playhouse

New York: Flawed heroes, sympathetic monsters and haughty professors collide as this hefty poem is rescued from the grasp of 1,000 years of highbrow analysis and transformed into a defiantly raucous musical. Presented by San Francisco's infamous Shotgun Players and New York's infectious Banana Bag & Bodice, this new SongPlay is an irreverent dissertation on art versus criticism in blood soaked Scandinavia! The award winning ***Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage*** is written by Jason Craig with music by 2009 Larson Award Winner Dave Malloy and directed by Rod Hipskind.

The production will be presented at The Abrons Arts Center's **Harry de Jur Playhouse** (466 Grand Street @ Pitt). Performances will **begin Tuesday, March 31; Opening April 5** through April 18, 2009. Tickets are \$20 -\$25 (March 31 is pay what you can). They can be purchased by calling OvationTix at 866-811-4111 or at www.beowulfnyc.com.

Some would say the old world character of Beowulf is a rugged warrior fighting for survival. Others would argue that he is fighting for the destruction of society. Is the great story a structurally pagan tale with Christian overtones or a Christian tale inspired by the book of Genesis? With so many contrary ideas, the only reasonable plan is to create a new version of Beowulf, one where each narrator battles to tell the story from their own perspective.

[Shotgun Players](#) and [Banana Bag & Bodice](#) have gotten down to work inspecting this classic poem—adapting its powerful narrative to make a new play that is part homage and part parody. ***Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage*** combines Weillian cabaret, 40's jazz harmony, indie rock, electronica and Romantic lieder into a new musical voice, allowing the original epic poem and the language of modern musical theater a uniquely outrageous platform on which to unite.

Banana Bag & Bodice has brought their own brand of outlandish, creative and poetic style to the downtown theatre scene for the past 5 years, creating such critically acclaimed favorites as *Panel Animal*, *The Sewers* and *The Fall & Rise of The Rising Fallen*, mixing music and text with provocation, satire and whim. **Banana Bag & Bodice** is an ensemble theatre company who work to redefine the traditional notion of performance through original texts and music. **Shotgun Players** exist to create fearless, provocative, relevant theatre. Over the past 18 years Shotgun has made a significant contribution to the modern theatrical canon with it's bold, innovative commissions from playwrights such as Adam Bock, Marcus Gardley, Eisa Davis and Liz Duffy Adams.

Acclaim and accolades for *Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage* include:

Winner Glickman Award for Best New Play of 2008!

Winner Best Theatrical Production of the Year, East Bay Express 2008

"Exhilaratingly eclectic and comic Banana-Shotgun Players world premiere, a two-hour creative deconstruction and celebration ... with a terrific, eclectic score" [San Francisco Chronicle](#), "Part funky rock opera, part tart

Brechtian parable, thoroughly visceral." [San Jose Mercury News](#), "Rages with an anarchic energy" - [SF Weekly](#),

"brilliantly funny, muscular, and plain irresistible..." [SF Bay Guardian](#), "One of the most exciting and unusual

theatrical events of 2008...shrewd, highly imaginative, often startlingly designed." [SF Bay Guardian](#), "That was

fucking awesome...the most thoroughly enjoyable theatrical display I've seen yet this year." [East Bay Express](#).

The cast of *Beowulf* features Banana Bag & Bodice company members **Jason Craig** (*The Fall & Rise of the Rising Fallen, Oh What War*) and **Jessica Jelliffe** (*Panel. Animal, The Sewers*), as well as Bay Area darlings **Chris Kuckenbaker, Anna Ishida, Shaye Troha & Beth Wilmurt**. The band, led by composer **2009 Larson Award Winner Dave Malloy** on Piano/Accordion, includes **Benjamin Geller** on Viola, **Mario Maggio** on Bass Clarinet/Clarinet, **Jen Baker & Andy Strain** on Trombones, **Andre Nigoghossian** on Guitar/Saw, **Ezra Gale** on Bass and **Daniel Bruno** on Percussion. The production is directed by **Rod Hipkind**; set design by **Banana Bag & Bodice**; original costume design by **Kaibrina Sky Buck**, with additional costumes by **SF Buffoons**; Lighting Design by **Miranda Hardy**; **Sound Design** by **Brendan West**. **Cat Coffey** will stage manage.

Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage

Written by Jason Craig with music by Dave Malloy and directed by Rod Hipkind

Begins performances on March 31, opens on April 5 and will run through April 18

The Abrons Arts Center's Harry de Jur Playhouse is located at 466 Grand Street @ Pitt

Performances schedule: Wednesday-Saturday at 8PM, Sunday at 5PM

Running Time is 2 Hours with Intermission

Wednesday, March 31 is Pay What You Can

The tickets are \$20 (Wed – Fri and Sun), \$25 (Sat)

and can be purchased by calling OvationTix at 866-811-4111.

Subway: F train to Delancey; J or M trains to Essex Street; D or B trains to Grand Street

Bus: M15 to Grand Street; M22 to Montgomery Street; M9 to Grand Street;

M14 to Grand Street; B39 to Essex

For tickets or to check out clips from *Beowulf* visit www.beowulfnyc.com.

Press performances are: Wednesday, April 1, Thursday, April 2 at 8PM; Friday, April 3 at 8PM; Saturday, April 4 at 8PM; Sunday, April 5 at 5PM (Opening).

To arrange press seat or interviews with the creative team please contact Springer Associates PR at 212 354 4660.