

9/26: Award-winning Cake Productions revives *Swimming in the Shallows*



For Immediate Release

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Cake Productions presents
SWIMMING IN THE SHALLOWS
October 13th - 22nd, 2011
at West 52nd Street Theatre

NEW YORK - Cake Productions (winner of the 2010 NY Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Featured Actor and nominated for Outstanding Costume Design) revives Adam Bock's *Swimming in the Shallows*, to be presented at the West 52nd Street Theatre. Previews October 13th; **Press Night October 14th**.

Swimming in the Shallows, written by Adam Bock (author of OBIE award-winning *The Thugs* and *The Drunken City*), will be revived in NYC by Cake Productions. The play is directed by Maria Aladren. Performances will be at the West 52nd Street Theatre, 549 W 52nd Street, 3rd Floor, from October 13th through the 22nd (Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8pm, Saturday 10/15 matinee at 3pm, Sunday 10/16 matinee at 3pm). All tickets are \$18, and reservations can be made at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/195917 or by calling (800) 838-3006.

Three unconventional couples fight for their dreams and desires, sometimes with unconventional consequences. Barb, inspired by Buddhist monks, vows to own just eight items in an attempt to free herself from the barrage of goods imposed by modern life. But as she gives away possessions, she realizes it's her marriage that's weighing her down the most. Carla Carla is terrified of accepting the marriage proposal of her long-time partner, Donna, for fear that Donna's smoking habit may be indicative of deeper problems. Nick has spent his life bouncing from sex partner to sex partner only to face love in the most unexpected area of the local aquarium. The characters are direct descendants of *The Honeymooners* and *Seinfeld*, yet deeply rooted in the foibles of the 21st century -- they carry extra baggage, physical and emotional, and they live shallowly but long for depth.

In Cake's revival, Director Maria Aladren's approach is sparse, concentrating on characters who cannot escape their cages, like fish from the ocean displayed in glass bowls. The mother of a gay son, Aladren often stares at the news terrified that her boy's life will be a non-stop activist campaign to gain the same rights granted to heterosexual couples. She was drawn to direct this show, as it is refreshing for her to encounter a play in which the characters' homosexuality has little or no relevance to their conflicts. In fact,

these characters fall in the same traps and deal with the same mundane problems we all face--eventually discovering that the solutions may lie in some unexpected places.

Founded in 2009 by Francesca Day and Marta Kuersten, this primarily-female company produces off-off-Broadway revivals that have a cultural significance for modern, urban audiences. Winner of the 2010 NY Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Featured Actor (Amir Darvish) and nominated for Outstanding Costume Design (Brooke Berry and Mark Mears), Cake Productions is geared toward commercially appealing, thought-provoking, edgy plays. Their inaugural production, *Modern Dance for Beginners* by Sarah Phelps, opened at the Cherry Lane Studio and was followed by Evan Smith's *Psych*, presented in the East Village (Fourth Arts Block), and Andrew Bovell's *Speaking in Tongues* at New York Theatre Workshop's 4th Street Theatre. In addition to creating opportunities for women as performers, administrators and designers, Cake focuses heavily on production values and presents their work in welcoming, accessible venues. Entertainment is central to their aesthetic, and there's always cake available in the lobby!

The cast includes Cake Productions' co-founders Francesca Day and Marta Kuersten and company member Sarah Brill, as well as Jason Cicci*, Moti Margolin* and Stephen Ward.

**Appears Courtesy of Actors' Equity Association*

Written by Adam Bock, Directed by Maria Aladren, Scenic Design by Chien-Yu Peng, Lighting by Jessica Burgess, Sound Design by Louis Wells, Costumes by Carolyn Hoffman, Stage Management by Courtney Ferrell, Assistant Stage Management by Michelle Lane, Choreography by Cleo Mack.

Performance Details:

West 52nd Street Theatre
549 W 52nd Street, 3rd Floor
Nearest Subway: C, E at 50th Street

October 13th - 22nd, 2011
Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8pm, Saturday 10/15 matinee at 3pm, Sunday 10/16 matinee at 3pm
Running Time: 75 minutes, with no intermission

For Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/195917
All Tickets: \$18

Press Night: October 14th at 8pm Please contact Marta Kuersten to attend this performance or make other arrangements (917-716-3276, cakeproductions.nyc@gmail.com). Production photos, credits, captions and other press materials will be downloadable from www.CakeProductions.org by October 13th.