

THE MOST FAMOUS MAN IN AMERICA

or, THE TRAGEDY OF JOHN WILKES BOOTH

a new one-act play by Christopher Fabbro

He's waiting for his cue and has an hour to kill...

Starts May 11th at the Jim Bonney Theatre in Chelsea

Booth Back on the Boards!

John Wilkes Booth returns to the footlights in the world premiere of *The Most Famous Man in America*, an explosive one-man play debuting May 11th and running through June 1st at the **Jim Bonney Theatre**. Mr. Booth was last seen on stage fleeing *Ford's Theatre* in Washington, DC and has not trod the boards since.

☠ *Danger!* 🎭 *Comedy!* 💣 *Intrigue!* ❤️ *Romance!*

"When I leave the stage, I will be the most famous man in America."—J. Wilkes Booth

That John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln is beyond doubt, but who can definitively say *why?*

We meet Booth waiting outside Lincoln's theater box on the fateful evening which will change his life and the course of history. Intensely vain, awkward and self-doubting, he is an *unlikely murderer*: more Hamlet than Brutus, and more Lear's Fool than *either*. We follow him through the next hour as he struggles to write a farewell letter to his mother and even remember his "lines," as episodic flashbacks of his family and love life intervene and threaten to deter him from his appointed task. In the final moments of the play Booth is faced with a crisis of conscience in which he must choose whether to take the life of a man who has become the scapegoat for all of his past disappointments, or **risk losing his own soul...**

The Most Famous Man in America explores the psyche of the **most famous assassin in history**, and explodes the myth that he was a one-dimensional mad glory-seeker. *Nothing could be further from the truth!* As a matinee idol, Booth was the **Tom Cruise of his era**, wildly successful as an actor and first in the hearts of the ladies... and there were *many ladies*—but only one who captured his heart. He was the scion of a prominent acting family that included his melancholy brother Edwin (namesake of Broadway's **Booth Theatre**) and father **Junius Brutus**, the best-known actor of his generation whose tales of drinking and madness are legendary. **Booth is essentially a nineteenth-century terrorist**. Rather than apologize for or indict, this play hopes to **entertain**, and allow the audience to judge for themselves *The Most Famous Man in America*.

Playwright and actor **Christopher Fabbro** stars as John Wilkes Booth. Fabbro has performed in the New York City area for several years, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association. He starred in a successful Off-Broadway revival of *The Widow's Blind Date*, with directorial help from playwright **Israel Horovitz** and fight direction from world-renown stunt choreographer **B. H. Barry**. Fabbro has also toured the country in *The Three Musketeers* and appeared twice regionally as Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, for which he received much praise. Against the advice of his betters, he has been obsessively researching and writing *The Most Famous Man in America* for over two years.

The play is directed by **Brooke Behmke**, making his NYC directorial debut. Behmke is also an accomplished actor who has performed regionally throughout the country with leading credits for the Utah, Colorado, Virginia and Baltimore Shakespeare Festivals and many other metropolitan theatres. Representative roles include: Richard (*Richard II*), Toby Belch (*Twelfth Night*), Duke Vincentio (*Measure for Measure*), Claudio (*Much Ado About Nothing*) Guildenstern (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *Hamlet*, performed in repertory), Georg (*She Loves Me*), Feste (*Twelfth Night*) and Billy Hollarcut (*The Sea*). This past year he premiered two productions, playing MacDougal in the musical *I'll Be Seeing You* at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts in Philadelphia and Jonathan Harris in the American premiere of the 2001 KulturePreis Europa award-winning author Jeff Baron's *Mother's Day* in Michigan.

Performances of *The Most Famous Man in America* will be on **Sundays, May 11th through June 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Jim Bonney Theatre, 134 West 26th Street** on the 6th floor (between 6th and 7th Avenue in Chelsea), with a special **Press Performance on May 18th**. Tickets are \$15. Media and theatre industry members will be admitted for free. Seating is limited. To make reservations or for information call **(212) 875-7199** or visit *The Most Famous Man in America* on the web at:

<http://mostfamousman.com>

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SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS!