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A welcome moment of relief: An interview with one of THE CUTTHROAT SERIES: GRAND GUIGNOL DUELS' directors - STEBOS



Resident Director **Stebos** (above) chats about THE CUTTHROAT SERIES: GRAND GUIGNOL DUELS with The Flea's Audience Development Associate, **Ellen Joffred**.

ELLEN JOFFRED: In your own words, what is Grand Guignol?



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STEBOS: It's a genre of extremes that enhances the effect of one theatrical flavor by quickly switching to its opposite, a rollercoaster journey for those who enjoy heightened emotional content and situations.

ELLEN JOFFRED: What terrifies you?

STEBOS: The amount of electronic gadgets that are gradually eliminating the need for live human interactions. Artists who give up on their dreams.

ELLEN: What cracks you up (What makes you laugh the hardest)?

STEBOS: I still laugh at *The Simpsons*, I don't think it has been surpassed yet. Watching kittens play, jump, and fall in their explorations of the world around them. *The League*. #Serials at The Flea.

ELLEN: In one sentence, describe the play you are directing.

STEBOS: A grotesque farce about infidelity and the uncontrollable after effects of sex.

ELLEN: What do you love about your play? What is most challenging?

STEBOS: I love how its perfect mechanism exposes bourgeois



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taboos and desires by mixing the erotic with laughter, a welcome moment of relief from the horrors of Grand Guignol. The challenging aspect is that comic tempo can only be adjusted with an audience present: we're looking forward to having our spectators!

ELLEN: Why should audiences vote for your play to come back to the winner's weekend in January?

STEBOS: Everyone loves "doing the deed" and we do it all the time... let's do it some more! January is a cold month and everyone could use some hotness (wink wink).

ELLEN: Why have you chosen to pursue directing?

STEBOS: It all started with a marionette theatre... but that will be a chapter in my artistic bio LOL. From the perspective of now, I'd say to create worlds on stage in the company of other artists: you never really know what the result is going to be. I still surprise myself at each performance's unexpected moments.

ELLEN: What other projects are you working on, or what's coming up next?

STEBOS: In a month, I'll be directing a play by Pirandello for the Italian Culture Month



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celebrations. In the meantime, I am doing preliminary research for Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* with my own theatre company, Theatreplots. For The Flea, I am planning two readings and a commedia project. Stay tuned at www.stebos.net

ELLEN: What led you to The Flea?

STEBOS: I moved to New York City two years ago because I wanted to get back to practical business after a more scholarly period of my involvement with the theatre. When I saw the Flea's ad on Playbill, I thought that getting to know the inner workings of a New York downtown company would be a great asset for my career and interactions with fellow theatre makers.

ELLEN: Tell us your favorite Flea memory.

STEBOS: So far it must be my interview with Jim Simpson before getting into the Resident Director program. Even if lots of people are involved in a production, a director often works in isolation and it's rare to find a mentor with the sensibility to discuss high art, practical matters, and crazy ideas in the same sitting. We did it that evening and the conversation has continued up until now with this *Tics*, or *Doing the*



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Deed.

ELLEN: I can't wait to see it!
You can get your tickets [here!](#)

3 years ago

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