

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Dan Brick
(301) 694-4744 ext. 303
dbrick@marylandensemble.org



31 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301.694.4744
marylandensemble.org

A WORLD PREMIERE ORIGINAL COMEDY MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE'S *PICKLE MY MONKEY*

Press Night: Sunday, May 19 @ 7pm (Reception @ 6pm)
RSVP to dbrick@marylandensemble.org or 301.694.4744

FREDERICK, MD (May 1, 2013) - Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is wrapping up its 2012-13, 15th anniversary mainstage season with a new World Premiere comedy *Pickle My Monkey* beginning May 16. Like **David Mamet** teaming up with the **Marx Brothers** to write their own apocalyptic version of *The Comedy of Errors*, *Pickle My Monkey* is a truly surreal farce. Sexy, madcap, odd, and modern, the show featuring a loaded gun, a briefcase full of cash and a talking chimp, promises to be inventive, original, and fun! Maryland Ensemble Theatre **Artistic Director, Tad Janes**, directs the script by MET company members **Lisa Burl, Kevin Cole** and **Matt Lee**.

The Maryland Ensemble Theatre's latest original production is an offbeat comedy that follows the doomed exploits of three slacker roommates. On the eve of his girlfriend **Chloe's (Lisa Burl)** high profile art opening, **Bobby (Jack Evans)** makes the biggest mistake of his life. He brings home a seductive grifter (**Courtney McLaughlin**) who turns his life upside down. The femme fatale quickly pits Bobby's roommates against each other: the marimba playing philosopher turned stoner, **Hank (Matt Lee)**, versus the painfully awkward, conspiracy theory blogger, **Jeff (Kevin Cole)**. Caught in the con and his own entangled web of lies, Bobby has no choice but to play along. That is, until a stone cold hitman (**Thomas Scholtes**) pursuing the grifter comes to collect. Inspired by the true story of the "Hipster Grifter", *Pickle My Monkey* plunges head first into a mysterious world, where everyone only listens to records, drinks cheap beer and wears flannel shirts...ironically, of course.

"This play is created through a group process, improvisation, three writers, and a director to steer the whole project. Each actor was chosen for their specific talents, in improvisation, in writing, and in creating a positive working environment for the group", said director Tad Janes. It is truly an ensemble based creation, scripted and starring MET company members Lisa Burl, Kevin Cole and Matt Lee and featuring company members Jack Evans and Courtney McLaughlin, as well as Thomas Scholtes of **The Comedy Pigs**. Also featuring original music by Jack Evans, the MET's new original comedy promises to deliver razor sharp slapstick humor with biting social commentary.

The ensemble will be ably assisted by a production team that includes lighting design by **Doug Grove**, costumes by **Julie Herber**, set design by **Tad Janes**, sound design by **Tom Majorov** and props by **Katie Rattigan**.

The show will run from May 16 through June 9 every Thursday through Sunday at the MET, located in the historic **FSK Hotel** at 31 W Patrick Street. The first Thursday performance will be a \$5 preview night (cash only at door) and the first Sunday performance will be a gala night with a reception preceding the performance sponsored by **The Wine Kitchen**. Tickets are \$15 (Thursdays) through \$24 and can be purchased at 301.694.4744, marylandensemble.org or in person at the Maryland Ensemble Theatre box office. This show is sponsored by **Holistic Health Associates** and made possible in part through the

---MORE---

support of MET's season sponsors including **Comcast, The Frederick Gorilla, Key 103, Eagle 106.9, Ausherman Family Foundatoin, Mark A Pitts Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, The Gazette** and both the **Frederick** and **Maryland Arts Councils**.

Now in it's fifteenth season the Maryland Ensemble Theatre produces thought-provoking theatre, fun family entertainment, artist residency programs for public schools, theatre camps, challenging classes and the side-splitting **Comedy Pigs**.

TICKETS/LOCATION/DATES INFORMATION

PICKLE MY MONKEY:

By Lisa Burl, Kevin Cole and Matt Lee

Directed by Tad Janes

Cast:

Matt Lee (Hank), Jack Evans (Bobby), Lisa Burl (Chloe), Courtney McLaughlin (Tori), Kevin Cole (Jeff), Thomas Scholtes (Sacha and Thug)

Production Team:

Devin Gaither (Assistant Scenic Design), Doug Grove (Lighting Design), Julie Herber (Costume Design), Geoff Huntoon (Stage Manager), Tad Janes (Scenic Design), Tom Majarov (Sound Design), Katie Rattigan (Properties), Bailey Sterling (Assistant Stage Manager)

Where: Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 West Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dates: May 16 - June 9, Every Thursday through Sunday

Performances: Thursday - Saturday at 8pm, first and last Sundays at 7pm, middle two Sundays at 2pm

Ticket Prices: Adults \$25.50, Students/Seniors \$21.50, Thursdays \$16.50 (includes \$1.50 ticketing fee)

\$5 Preview tickets - No Reservations/Cash Only - The first Thursday.

Box Office: 301-694-4744 or marylandensemble.org or at the MET (Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 11am - 3pm and 1 hour before each show.)

PRESS INFORMATION

Press Photos & Press Releases: Dan Brick at dbrick@marylandensemble.org or 301-694-4744 x303