

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE**

**Presents**

***Hand to God***

**By Robert Askins**

**September 7 - September 30**

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FREDERICK, MD (August 8, 2018) - **Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET)** is proud to present *Hand to God* by Robert Askins.After his father’s death, Jason seeks solace at the Christian Puppet Ministry. His quiet life is thrown into upheaval when his puppet, Tyrone, takes on a shocking and irreverent personality of his own. Darkly delightful, *Hand to God* explores the startlingly fragile nature of faith, morality, and the ties that bind.

*Hand to God* offers a stark and unfiltered look at the uncomfortable truths of devout religion. Much like the puppets, the clever satire and witty humor will leave you in stitches. Director **Tad Janes** is thrilled for the opportunity to bring this play to life. “I think our audience comes to expect the unexpected from the MET. We are constantly challenging ourselves as an ensemble and our audiences by reaching for pieces of theatre that excite us. This play has some very intricate puppet work, and it's great fun to be able to pool our resources and utilize the puppetry expertise in our ensemble.”

The *Hand to God* crew includes: **Tad Janes** (Director and Sound Designer), **David Allerton** (Stage Manager), **Spencer Barron** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Vanessa Strickland** (Puppet Coach), **Matt Vance** (Scenic Designer), **Doug Grove** (Lighting Designer), **Sherry Shaner** (Costume Designer), **Tabetha White** (Props Designer), and **Lee Hebb** (Puppet Design/Construction).

The cast includes: **Kevin Cole** as Jason, **Lauren Johnson** as Jessica, **Steve Custer** as Timothy, **Lia Seltzer** as Margery, and **Thom Huenger** as Pastor Greg.

*Hand to God* opens on **Friday, September 7** and runs until **Sunday, September 30, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sundays at 3:00 p.m.**. Tickets are **$24 for adults** and **$20 for students and seniors**. Tickets may be purchased by phone at (301) 694-4744, online at [marylandensemble.org](http://marylandensemble.org) or in person at the MET box office. Come bust a gut at this hilariously macabre tale.

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**RATING/AGE APPROPRIATE/WARNINGS:** For mature audiences only.

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director: Tad Janes

Stage Manager: David Allerton

ASM: Spencer Barron

Puppet Coach: Vanessa Strickland

Scenic Designer: Matt Vance

Lighting Designer: Doug Grove

Sound Designer: Tad Janes

Costume Designer: Sherry Shaner

Props Designer: Tabetha White

Puppet Construction: Lee Hebb

**CAST**

Jason: Kevin Cole

Jessica: Lauren Johnson

Timothy: Steve Custer

Margery: Lia Seltzer

Pastor Greg: Thom Huenger

**MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE MISSION:** Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is dedicated to the creation and production of extraordinary theatre art through the combined voices of a diverse ensemble of professional resident artists who are influential leaders in the community and visionaries in the art of theatre.

To learn more about MET, visit [www.marylandensembletheater.org](http://www.marylandensembletheater.org).

For the latest updates, like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MarylandEnsemble)!

Photos are rehearsal shots. Production photos will be available Sep. 5. Left photo: From left Kevin Cole and Lauren Johnson. Right Photo: From left Thom Huenger and Lia Seltzer