



STAR BAR PLAYERS

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Star Bar to produce regional premiere of politically-charged black comedy

THE GOD OF HELL

by Sam Shepard
June 23 - July 9

Colorado Springs, CO (June 12, 2017) - **Star Bar** is proud to present the Pikes Peak regional premiere of *The God of Hell*, a 2004 play by legendary American playwright and actor **Sam Shepard** which explores patriotism and government in the modern US, directed by **Jordan Mathews**, a talented actor and director who has worked with numerous theatre companies and organizations in the region. **Star Bar** is thrilled to have this hilarious and chilling show, a riveting, prophetic black comedy described as full of "absurd and angry vigor" by the New York Times, wrapping up its 2016-17 season. *The God of Hell* premiered at **The Actors Studio** in 2004 and has since been produced both nationally and internationally.

Sam Shepard is a Pulitzer-winning playwright, Oscar-nominated actor, and author whose career spans over fifty years. *New York Magazine* described him as "the greatest American playwright of his generation." His contributions to the canon of American theatre include *Buried Child*, *True West*, and *A Lie of the Mind*, with over forty plays to his name.

The God of Hell focuses on two Wisconsin dairy farmers, Emma and Frank. After Haynes, an old friend of Frank's, arrives to stay in their basement, a slick, shady salesman named Haynes appears, selling patriotic baubles and asking too many questions about their nervous, secretive basement guest. Soon, the simple world of the farm is turned upside down by two visitors and their shadowy connections to some sort of secret project. The play is a not-absurd-enough exploration of patriotism, fear mongering, and the use of both for political ends.

Sam Shepard writes about the show: "What is that show-your-colors mentality about? Fear. The sides are being divided now. It's very obvious. So if you're on the other side of the fence, you're suddenly anti-American. It's breeding fear of being on the wrong side. Democracy's a very fragile thing. You have to take care of democracy. As soon as you stop being responsible to it and allow it to turn into scare tactics, it's no longer democracy, is it? It's something else. It may be an inch away from totalitarianism."

The cast includes local favorites **John Zincone** (Welch), **Sarah S. Shaver** (Emma), **Dylan Mosley** (Frank), and **Bob Kopp** (Haynes).

Performance Schedule:

June 23 - July 9, 2017

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7.30 pm
Sundays (excluding June 25) at 4.00 pm

Talkback/Second Saturday Gala - Saturday, July 1 immediately following the performance-
Have a conversation with the cast and creative team about the show, accompanied by some complimentary wine and cheese. Donations will be gladly accepted, of course.

Location:

The David H. Lord Theatre at **Cottonwood Center for the Arts**, 427 E. Colorado Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Patron parking is available for free in the lot across from the Cottonwood entrance.

Box Office:

719-357-5228 or starbarplayers.org

Tickets:

\$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors/military/veterans, \$6 for students (at the door only). Sundays are pay-what-you-can.

About Star Bar:

Founded in 1973, Star Bar is the oldest theatre group in Colorado Springs and all throughout that time has been committed to exploring great theatrical works, from classics up to the cutting edge. As an organization, Star Bar's mission to provide a venue for the production of plays of weight and substance with ideas that stimulate and challenge a diverse audience.

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