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THE STAGE CENTER THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Sex and relationships are the themes of the Stage Center Theatre's new production of Howard Korder's *Boys' Life* opening April 16

Sex, women, and the men who seek them is the focus of the Stage Center Theatre's production of Howard Korder's *Boys' Life*. The show runs April 16, 17, 18, 19, at the Stage Center Theatre located on the Northeastern Illinois University campus. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Boys' Life takes a biting, in-depth look at the insecurities and sexual misadventures of three, under 30, post-college buddies and the women they encounter.

Jack (Les Davis) is a married

father, who isn't above getting high and picking up women while baby-sitting his son at the playground. Phil (Adam Rivera) has had a string of bad relationships with women and has resigned himself to a life of unfulfillment. Don (Luke Stinson) risks his relationship with his girlfriend Lisa (Lisa Litberg) by sleeping with another girl (Dana Wandrey) just to see if he can get away with it.

The story, told in a series of short fast-paced scenes, takes a close look at male narcissism and men who are afraid to let go of their adolescence.

This show contains adult themes and language and may not be suitable for younger audiences. General admission is \$8, seniors and students are \$6. The Stage Center Theatre is located on the NEIU campus (F-Wing) near the corner of Bryn Mawr and Central Park. The box office will open for reservations and ticket sales on April 9. Regular office hours are from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on performance nights. For more information the public can call (773) 794-6652.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

When I first announced *Boys' Life* as part of our season of plays, I received a note from Dan Wirth, a part-time faculty member in our department, who had acted in the original production of the one act plays that provided the genesis for the full-length version. The one-acts had been successful enough in the early 1980's to encourage the author, Howard Korder, to expand them into a full-length play which opened in New York in 1988 and garnered Korder a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

Boys' Life offers a fascinating look at three young urbanites and their male value system. The leading figure of the play, Jack (played by Les Davis), believes totally in a life-style of pot, beer, and women. Unfortunately, he is unemployed, married, and a father, but he doesn't let this stop him. His two disciples, Don (Luke Stinson), and Phil (Adam Rivera), former college buddies, celebrate the male ideal with him. However, Phil is totally unsuccessful with women and Don falls for a strong woman who leads him to question Jack's values.

The play graphically and humorously reveals the erosion of the relationship of the three men leaving only Jack to carry on. Jack's values are best expressed by him in a speech towards the end of the play, "You want to know the truth, you want to know what I have **found out** while you sit there twisting your guilt-ridden nuts off? ...**It doesn't matter!** ...So don't dare tell me that I'm doing something wrong, because I decide that, and I decide there is nothing wrong. I'm going to commit adultery, Phil! ...and as long as I'm careful and don't get caught I don't give a shit."

Korder's acerbically funny portrait of contemporary males provides a balanced and intelligent comment on an old theme, the battle of the sexes. The play contains strong language and sexual themes but is both entertaining and provoking.

-- RICHARD HESLER



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