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The 91' Owl : Leaving a Bus Stop Near You

The 91' Owl comes to the African American Cultural and Arts Center in Hayes Valley, San Francisco, from 8 July to 22 July, at 8 pm. A play based on the intersecting lives of various cultures and sub-cultures, it centers around music, a San Francisco street corner and the types of people using the bus as transportation and more.

San Francisco, CA -- 17 June 2010 -- A new play by a new playwright turned director, Bernard Norris, will premiere on 8 July at the African American Arts Cultural Center in Hayes Valley. Called *The 91' Owl*, it depicts the lives of various sorts of people who ride buses in San Francisco. From drunken war veterans to artistically inclined juvenile delinquents, from businesspeople to police and fire professionals, the comedy offers music, mayhem and a message.

"I wrote the play in order to explore the clash of people in the melting pot that is San Francisco," says Norris. "It came to me one night as I witnessed a barrage of people coming at me from all directions, all rushing to get to the bus on time."

The 91' Owl takes stereotypes and overturns them, putting them into play for all to judge, reflect upon and even detest. It also questions American values as it goes along, with some people believing in the Dream while others question it and undermine its authority.

About a day in the life of a bus stop, the play goes from stop to stop as audiences meet people and see things that will astound. From Phil, the disabled vet, to Jaime, the Hispanic troublemaker, to Tommy, the angry white boy, the characters come to life in a vision only Norris could create. Combined with this are the bizarre situations in which the characters find themselves. Are they realistic or are they just stereotypes? The play questions audiences' assumptions as it runs its course, from start to stop.

Music plays an important element in the play as well. Norris plans to have a live DJ spinning songs reflecting the themes in the play as it plays out. Audiences will thereby engage even further with the play and understand the many messages it seeks to convey.