



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 23, 2009

**THEATER GROTTESCO ANNOUNCES 2009 PRODUCTION RICHEST DEADMAN ALIVE**

(Santa Fe, NM)— Theater Grottesco will perform the hilarious “The Richest Deadman Alive!” September through October 2009 in the Stieren Hall of the Santa Fe Opera. The company is known for boisterous, joyous, cutting-edge physical theater.



The play, created by Theater Grottesco, is the story of an average middle class couple that accidentally discovers the road to riches. They stumble along it the best they can, with some dubious results. The play speaks directly to social and economic conditions, and is presented as a broad farce to poke fun at the universal human foible of greed.

William Walden, a hapless asthmatic, is locked out of the house one spring morning when the flowers are particularly aggressive. He succumbs, but sneezes himself back to life when flowers are placed in the open coffin at his funeral. His joy quickly vanishes when his wife informs him that the insurance money has already been collected and if they simply create a new identity for William, they can take their dream vacation. They lose all their scam money while on vacation, one thing leads to another and by play’s end, the Walden’s have discovered insurance fraud, preying on society’s weakest members.

The actors include Todd Anderson, John Flax, Rod Harrison, Kate Kita, Mona Malec, Vanessa Rios y Valles, and Elizabeth Wiseman, and guest artists Ian Rosenkranz, Kent Kirkpatrick and Patrick Mehaffy.

- WHAT:** Theater Grottesco’s “The Richest Deadman Alive!”  
**WHERE:** Santa Fe Opera’s Stieren Hall  
**WHEN:** September -October 2009, Thursdays – Sundays, 8 p.m.  
Tailgate parties are encouraged.  
Opening Night Gala: Friday night in September, 7 p.m. \$100.  
Catered champagne reception before and after the show
- TICKETS:** \$25 general admission; \$10 students. [tickets@theatergrottesco.org](mailto:tickets@theatergrottesco.org) 505.474.8400  
Group ticket price: \$22 each for 10 or more people.  
Thursday Performances: Pay What You Wish  
Friday Performances: Talk-Back with the Company  
Sunday Performances: Talk-Back with Guest Commentator

## QUICK THEATER GROTTESCO FACTS

- Founded in 1983 in Paris, France, by John Flax and Didier Maucort. The company was later based out of New York City and then Detroit and now resides in Santa Fe, NM.
- The company has evolved to 13 artist/creators and 4 designers trained in a wide variety of methods including Lecoq, Suzuki, multiple styles of dance, classical and conservatory training.
- Theater Grottesco has created 11 full-length plays and over 30 shorter pieces.
- The company toured nationally and internationally for 15 years, performing in 7 countries, 30 states, most major U.S. cities and hundreds of smaller communities.
- Awards include an international award for Best Production, 2 Drama Critic's awards, a silver medal with Detroit's Zone V Productions from the Houston Worldfest Film Festival, a Rockefeller MAP Fund Grant, 11 National Endowment for the Arts Professional Theater Awards, and one of 2 MetLife/TCG A-ha Do It grants in the programs inaugural season.
- Theater Grottesco (TG) performances are visual, explosive and full of surprise.
- TG is a highly trained ensemble of artists.
- TG rekindles interest in live performance by juxtaposing classical theatrical styles with a daring, poetic research of culture and imagination, taking audiences to the brink of emotional wonder and soulful reflection.
- In 1999, Theater Grottesco performed *The Angels' Cradle* Off-Broadway at The New Victory Theater; that work is now permanently archived at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
- In addition to creating original, ground breaking theater, Grottesco conducts workshops and master classes for youth, students, theater professionals and the general public in a wide variety of styles including clown, commedia dell'arte, buffoon, mask and ensemble training.
- Theater Grottesco's plays are:
  - *Shorts 2010: Theatrical Transitions/Global Metamorphosis (In Progress)*
  - *Grottesco's 12<sup>th</sup> Night* – 2008
  - *Winter One Acts* – 2006: *Swimming in the Gases of Jupiter, Motherland*
  - *A Dream Inside Another* – 2005
  - *Keyholes* – 2003
  - *This is Life as We Know it* – 2001
  - *Grottesco Shorts II* – 2000
  - *The Angels' Cradle* – 1993
  - *Grottesco Shorts* – 1991
  - *Wenomadmen* -1989
  - *The Richest Deadman Alive* – 1988
  - *Fortune: The Rise and Fall of a Small Fortune Cookie Factory* – 1987
  - *The Gryphon* – 1985
  - *The Big Move* – 1985
  - *The Insomniacs* – 1984
  - *Crusoe* – 1983



[www.theatergrottesco.org](http://www.theatergrottesco.org)

**INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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