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DEATH, A VERY SERIOUS COMEDY
Premiering in Los Angeles on February 19, 2011

A new, comedic play exploring the causes and consequences of one immigrant's misguided pursuit of the American dream



Written by Amir Ohebsion and Fariborz David Diaan

Directed by Jon Kellam and Paul Quinn

Starring Fariborz David Diaan

Los Angeles, CA – February 7, 2011 – Sublime Entertainment and Soul Mining Productions present **Death, A Very Serious Comedy**, a satirical play about an Iranian-American's surreal journey in the afterlife, premiering on Saturday, **February 19, 2011** at **The Wilshire Ebell Theatre** in Los Angeles.

Upon discovering he has lost his life savings in a local Ponzi scheme, a Beverly Hills businessman (Fariborz David Diaan) suffers a heart attack that sends him straight to the gates of heaven. But that is only the beginning of a hilarious musical journey in which he confronts his demons and seeks redemption.

"While delving into the subjects of death, missed opportunities, and regrets, this play is in essence a celebration of life and a humorous exploration of human folly," states Amir Ohebsion, who co-wrote the play with Diaan.

Directed by Jon Kellam and Paul Quinn, and brought to life by a dynamic and diverse cast, **Death, A Very Serious Comedy** examines the amusing causes and consequences of one immigrant's misguided pursuit of the American dream, while touching on universal themes of reflection and redemption.

"My mission as a writer and performer in an immigrant community has always been to entertain and enlighten through satire," states Diaan. "I aspire to give my audience an opportunity to look inside their own lives from an outside perspective."

Diaan and Ohebsion previously collaborated on Liquid Productions, a theatrical company that mounted productions of "The Belind Date & The Vedding" and "The Liquid Talk Show" to consistently sold-out venues in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. "Death" marks their long-awaited reunion on stage.

Death, A Very Serious Comedy premieres Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 7 p.m., at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. The historic venue, known for its commitment to cultural and social growth, is located at 4401 West 8th Street, Los Angeles, California.

For tickets and information, please visit: www.DeathComedy.com or email info@deathcomedy.com.

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREW



FARIBORZ DAVID DIAAN is a popular Iranian-American radio and TV personality who produced and starred in Liquid Productions' popular plays as well as the smash hit 99 CENT FAMILY. In addition to his background in theater, David co-produced and starred in the film AMERICA SO BEAUTIFUL, which premiered at the prestigious Berlin International Film Festival; and produced the feature OTIS E. in which he also acted. David's directorial debut was the heartwarming documentary IRAN IS MY HOME. Most recently, David played the role of Mayor Ebrahim in THE STONING OF SORAYA M., which premiered at the 2008 Toronto Film Festival.

AMIR OHEBSION is the writer and co-founder of Liquid Productions, a theatrical company, which enjoyed a big following in Los Angeles and New York after its inception in the 90's. Amir's first feature screenplay, THE APOLOGY, won the grand prize at the 2004 Slamdance Screenplay Competition. His other screenplays include the supernatural thriller DEATHDAY, reincarnation comedy THE METAMORPHOSIS OF RADHA, and YOGAGUY, a broad comedy developed for a Hollywood Studio. Amir is currently producing the much-anticipated feature JIMMY VESTWOOD – based on a character co-created with comedian Maz Jobrani.



JON KELLAM is co-artistic director and co-founding member of Zoo District Theatre, a resident director and member of the Actors' Gang, and a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre LA, all critically acclaimed theatre companies in LA. Directing credits include TARTUFFE, DRUMS IN THE NIGHT, THE EXONERATED NATIONAL TOUR, and THE TRIAL OF THE CATONSVILLE NINE, which toured nationally and to Brisbane Australia. Jon also directed and co-created the award winning original production of NOSFERATU, co-directed and co-created HOME ...THE SEARCH FOR THE LOST TABLET OF UR, and directed THE ASS by Parviz Sayyad.

PAUL QUINN hails from Chicago, where early in his career he formed a theater company with Jeremy Piven, John Cusack, Jon Kellam and others. After moving to Los Angeles, he began work in film and television as a director, actor and writer. Paul has directed two features: THIS IS MY FATHER (starring James Caan, Aidan Quinn, John Cusack and Stephen Rea), and NEVER GET OUTTA THE BOAT, both of which have won numerous awards and played at prestigious festivals including Toronto International Film Festival and Sundance. As an actor, Paul has appeared in BOB ROBERTS, AVALON, and LEAVING LAS VEGAS.



ROXANA RASTEGAR received an M.A. in Theater Arts from Cal State Los Angeles, after graduating from the American University in Paris with a B.A. in Comparative Literature. A multi-talented artist, Roxana began working as a professional photographer, before joining the Avaz International Dance Company. As a member, she has performed all over the country, including such acclaimed venues as the Japan American Theater, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and Royce Hall. Roxana also performed as the leading actress in 99 CENT FAMILY. She has produced various live performances as well as a feature called OTIS E., in which she also acted.

LUKE WRIGHT was born and raised in Brisbane, Australia, where he performed in several productions notably THE LARAMIE PROJECT, CORPUS CHRISTI, BY BURNING IRON, and the award winning THE RETURN. He also appeared in the films SWIMMING UPSTREAM with Geoffrey Rush and Judy Davis and the teenage comedy BLURRED. After moving to the US, Luke has appeared in the LA productions ALMOST MAINE, TWELFTH NIGHT, SCHMUTZIGEN DEUTSCHE KABARETT and BEAUTIFUL SOULS, which also toured Theatre Row, New York City.



LAUREN PARKINSON hails from southern Ohio where she got her BFA in Theatre Performance at Miami University. Since moving to Los Angeles, she has been active in the independent film circuit as well as a string of productions at *Zombie Joes Underground Theatre* including the roles of Titania in MIDSUMMER, Hecate in MACBETH, Maria in TWELFTH NIGHT, and Sally Bowles in SCHMUTZIGEN DEUTSCHE KABARETT.

PIERRE ADELI moved to Los Angeles in 2003 to raise bear cubs with hopes of training them to juggle and dance. Due to an increase in awareness of the cruelty done to these majestic beasts he gave up and tried acting. He has been a member of the Actors' Gang at the historical Ivy Substation in Culver City for 7 years. He would love a ride home after the show.

