

Wing-It Productions

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The Show That Wants You Dead

SEATTLE, WA – Wing-It Productions kicks off its 2008 season with a show that will leave you full of holes in a dark alley. *Shades of Gray*, the latest fully improvised play featured at the Historic University Theater, is a live noir comic book presented with all the brutes, all the babes, and all the bullets you would expect.

Shades of Gray performances are at the Historic University Theater, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00PM, January 3rd - 18th and January 31st – February 8th. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door or through www.wingitpresents.com. There is also a special Opening Night Gala on January 3rd with champagne, snacks and a discussion to follow the performance. Wing-It Productions' Historic University Theater is located at 5510 University Way NE.

Even though the Historic University Theater has a strong history of producing comedy, Director Ian Schempp worked hard to keep *Shades of Gray* smartly in line with the cheerless antiheroes and nihilism found in modern noir. "It's dark, it's lonely, and it's life or death," explains Schempp. "When there are humorous moments, they have serious bite because of the gravity of the stories we're telling."

Great storytelling is at the heart of *Shades of Gray*, and Schempp can't deny the similarities between his show and Frank Miller's *Sin City*. "The movie strictly influenced *how* the *Shades of Gray* story is told. Specifically you'll see two or three different plotlines that will interweave themselves at points. The audience will enjoy seeing how the actors use the locations and characters to get each story to connect."

Because of the character-driven nature of neo noir, *Shades of Gray* puts a lot of emphasis on its cast of deviants. Each actor developed two robust characters, one "good" and one "bad", to utilize during the run. "You know, even the good characters aren't all that good," notes cast-member Douglas Willott, "They're just less evil. My good character, the priest, has killed nearly as many people as my bad character, the librarian."

Due to the killing, the violence, and the language Wing-It recommends *Shades of Gray* for mature audiences only.

Shades of Gray was conceived and directed by Ian Schempp, co-creator of past Wing-It

shows *Suave* and *Wallflowers*. The veteran cast includes Eli Boer, Jeannine Clarke, Gabe Denning, John Faga, Adina Gillett, Jana Healey, Stephani Thompson, Elicia Wickstead and Douglas Willott. Original art-work

Shades of Gray is produced by Wing-It Productions, creators of *Jet City Improv* and *Twisted Flicks*. Organizational funding for *Shades of Gray* was provided by Boeing, Artsfund, The Seattle Foundation, the Washington State Arts Commission, 4 Culture, and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

For more information on Wing-It Productions or *Shades of Gray* please visit www.wingitpresents.com.

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