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**JUST ADDED**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
THE UNITED STATES PREMIER OF RICK MILLER'S WITTY AND PROVOCATIVE  
BIGGER THAN JESUS, JUNE 20 – 24 AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE**

**THE CREATOR OF THE WORLDWIDE HIT *MACHOMER* TACKLES THE STORY OF JESUS IN A  
MULTI-MEDIA, ONE-MAN SHOW**

**BERKELEY, April 11, 2006** – Rick Miller, the creator and star of *MacHomer*, the hilarious send-up of *MacBeth* as viewed through the perspective of the Simpsons, turns his trademark humor and razor-sharp curiosity to Jesus in a new, award-winning one-man production *Bigger Than Jesus*, Tuesday – Saturday, June 20 – 24 at Cal Performances. Two thousand years after his death, Jesus continues to be a potent and controversial figure with the thorny question “just exactly who was he” still looming. Grappling with this mystery, Miller and co-creator and director **Daniel Brooks** employ a dozen characters ranging from a street-smart Jewish academic to an unorthodox revivalist preacher to explore the enduring Jesus narrative while satirizing all forms of fundamentalism. “An exciting piece of multi-media theater with a challenging point of view... a fast-paced, thought-provoking ride” (*Variety*).

The title refers to John Lennon's inflammatory remark in 1966 that The Beatles were “more popular than Jesus.” Appropriately, the Beatles, along with other current cultural and political figures, play a part in this cutting-edge production. Structurally based on the Catholic Mass and using music, live cameras and a big dose of pop culture, Miller examines the historical inaccuracies surrounding the story of Jesus and the role religion has played both in his life as a Roman Catholic and the life of the world. *Bigger Than Jesus* won three 2005 Dora Awards (the Canadian equivalent of the Tony Award) for best production, actor and lighting. The visually-rich production uses both low- and high-tech multi-media designed by Ben Chaisson (sound and video) and Beth Kates (lighting), both longtime collaborators with Miller. In addition to its Berkeley engagement, *Bigger than Jesus* will premiere in Europe in 2006; a feature film version is also in progress.

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## **RICK MILLER**

**Rick Miller** trained in Montreal as an architect, actor and singer, and has performed in three languages on four continents. He is the founder and artistic director of WYRD Productions, a company devoted to multi-disciplinary artistic creation that has evolved into one of Canada's leading international exporters of culture. Blending theater, art, music and multi-media, Miller has created and performed the award-winning productions *Art?*, *Slightly Bent*, *Into the Ring* (with playwright Dawson Nichols) and the hugely popular *MacHomer*, now in its tenth year of touring. Miller is one of Canada's most respected multi-disciplinary performers, with credits ranging from classical theater to the avant-garde, from musicals to live comedy. He is a frequent collaborator with internationally renowned director Robert Lepage. With Lepage, he has worked on the plays *La Géométrie des Miracles*, *Zulu Time* (co-created with Peter Gabriel), and the upcoming *Lipsynch*, as well as the film *Possible Worlds*. With director Daniel Brooks, Miller has created *Bigger Than Jesus* and is in the process of writing a new work titled *HardSell*, set to premiere in the 2007/08 season.

## **DANIEL BROOKS**

Director, writer, actor, and producer, **Daniel Brooks** has won accolades and awards for such productions as *Here Lies Henry*, *The Noam Chomsky Lectures*, *House*, *Insomnia* and *Faust*. Among the awards he has won or been nominated for are the Dora Mavor Moore Award, the Chalmers Award, The Edinburgh Fringe First Award and the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. Brooks co-founded the Augusta Company, helped build the international touring company da da kamera, was an artist in residence at the Tarragon Theatre, and has an on going association with Soupepper Theatre. Brooks was appointed the Artistic Director of Toronto-based Necessary Angel Theatre Company in 2003. The company has been an influential and original presence in Canadian Theatre for more than twenty-five years, committed to the long-term development of new and original works.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for *Bigger Than Jesus* on **Tuesday - Saturday, June 20 - 23** at **8:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, June 24** in Zellerbach Playhouse are priced at **\$30.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at

www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

The *Contra Costa Times* and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2005/06 performing arts season.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Tuesday – Friday, June 20 – 23 at 8:00 p.m.**      **Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus**  
**Saturday, June 24 at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.**      Dana Street at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Theater*

***Bigger Than Jesus***

**Rick Miller**, actor & writer

**Daniel Brooks**, director & writer

**Program:** **Rick Miller**, the creator and star of *MacHomer*, turns his trademark humor and keen curiosity to Jesus in a new, award-winning one-man production.

**Tickets:** \$30.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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