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For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

www.thrillpeddlers.com/press/press.html

**Marc Huestis presents...THRILLPEDDLERS production of
MARAT/SADE**

the Tony Award-Winning Theatrical Classic by Peter Weiss

July 13 - 29, 2012

Previews July 11 & 12

Limited Engagement - 15 Performances Only

Brava Theatre in SF

<http://thrillpeddlers.com>

*Whenever possible please refer to the production as
"Marc Huestis presents Thrillpeddlers Production of **MARAT/SADE**".*

On July 13, 1793 Jean-Paul Marat was brutally stabbed in his bathtub by French counter-revolutionary Charlotte Corday. On July 13, 2012, 219 years later (to the day) **Marc Huestis** presents **THRILLPEDDLERS** production of **MARAT/SADE**, the Tony Award-winning theatrical classic by Peter Weiss. **MARAT/SADE** runs for a Limited Engagement of 15 performances (schedule below) at **Brava Theatre**, 2781 24th St. (at York St.), San Francisco 94110.

MARAT/SADE asks the age-old question whether true revolution comes from changing society or changing oneself. This production brings to the stage a rousing group of collaborators - SF impresario **Marc Huestis** (producer), the Bay Area's vibrant theatrical troupe **THRILLPEDDLERS** (2011 recipient of six Bay Area Theatre Critics Awards & voted *Best Underground Theater Company by 7 x 7 Magazine*) featuring the talents of **Russell Blackwood** (director) and **Scrumby Koldewyn** (musical director) and costume designs by award winner **Beaver Bauer** (TALES OF THE CITY, Teatro Zinzanni).

Tickets & information: 415/ 863-0611 <http://marchuestispresents.com/>
<http://thrillpeddlers.com/>

MARAT/SADE plays as a limited engagement – running only 15 performances

Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. at 8:00 pm and Sun. at 7:00 pm from July 11 – 29, 2012.

There is one matinee performance on Sun. July 22 at 1:30 pm.

Previews are July 11 & 12 (Wed. & Thurs.) Opening (press night) Thurs., July 13 8:00 pm.

2012 dates for MARAT/SADE are:

July 11 & 12	(Wed. & Thurs. 8:00 pm)	PREVIEWS.
July 13	(Fri. 8:00 pm)	OPENING NIGHT (press night)
July 14	(Sat. 8:00 pm)	BASTILLE DAY
July 15	(Sun. 7:00 pm)	
July 19, 20, 21	(Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 8:00 pm)	
July 22	(Sun. 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm)	
July 25, 26, 27, 28	(Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 8:00 pm)	

July 29

(Sun. 7:00 pm)

Brava Theatre is located at 2781 24th St. in SF 94110, (at York St.) Tickets are available (after May 20) at <http://www.ticketfly.com/venue/4167> or by calling **415/ 863-0611**

Ticket prices:

\$20 previews; \$38 Opening Night; Wed., Thurs., Sun. \$25 (loge) \$35 (orchestra)
Fri & Sat \$28 (loge) \$38 (orchestra)

Thoughts on MARAT/SADE (full title "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade")

Almost 50 years ago, when Peter Weiss' Tony Award-winning play and theatrical event premiered, voices demanded change. Today with the Occupy & further worldwide revolutionary movements, once again the streets are alive with youth questioning authority. **Marat/Sade** captures the politics of these electrifying moments by harkening back to another tumultuous period in world history - the French Revolution. The dialectics of personal & political change are seen through the eyes of its two protagonists: the infamous Marquis de Sade, after whom sadism is named, and a proponent of pleasure; and Jean-Paul Marat, the clarion voice of the people - now awaiting assassination in his bathtub at the hands of the steel-willed, French counter-revolutionary Charlotte Corday. The play itself is performed on July 13 by the inmates of the asylum of Charenton- under the direction of the Marquis, who was housed within its walls. With its bloody depiction of class struggle and human suffering, hope and disillusionment, **Marat/Sade** is a slyly humorous feast for the mind and eye and once again proves to be affectingly relevant.

Original 1965 NY Times Theatre review: <http://tinyurl.com/863uaol>

Thrillpeddlers brings a unique new take on this classic work and in a shameless wink to history, the show opens on July 13- the day of Jean Paul Marat's assassination, and one day before Bastille Day.

Marat/Sade is directed by **Russell Blackwood** and original Cockette and composer **Scrumby Koldewyn** serves as Musical Director and plays piano for all performances. Thrillpeddler and San Francisco favorites will be featured in this revival, including: **Jeff Garrett** (Marquis de Sade), **Aaron Malberg** (Jean Paul Marat), **Bonni Suval** (Charlotte Corday), **Rumi Missabu** (Jacque Roux), **Carlos Barrera** (Herald), **Kära Emry** (Simonne), **David Moore** (Duperret) / **SINGERS: Connie Champagne, Tom Orr, Christopher M. Nelson, Michael Mohammed, Jamie Harkin; Brian Trybom** (Coulmier), **Lisa Appleyard** (Coulmier's wife), **Carina Lastimosa Salazar** (Coulmier's daughter) / **PATIENT/ MUSICIANS - Birdie-Bob Watt, Eden Neuendorf, and Scrumby Koldewyn / PATIENTS: Alison Sacha Ross, Noah Haydon, Shawn Toczyl / Scott Ragle** (Nurse), **Joshua Devore** (Nun).

The Technical crew for **Marat/Sade** includes: **Marc Huestis** (producer), **Russell Blackwood**, Thrillpeddlers, Artistic Director (director), **Scrumby Koldewyn** (musical director), **Beaver Bauer** (costumes), **Flynn DeMarco** (wigs & make-up), **James Blackwood** (set design), **Nicholas Torre** (lighting design), **Dave Maier** (fight director), **Joshua Devore** (dance captain), **Andrea Weber** (choreographer), **Julie Gillespie** (prop master) **Daniel Nicoletta** (photography), **Bill Selby** (graphic design).

To arrange interviews with producer Marc Huestis, director Russell Blackwood or any cast members or for additional information call Lawrence Helman at 415/ 661-1260.

Calendar Editors:

WHAT: Whenever possible please refer to the production as "Marc Huestis presents Thrillpeddlers Production of **MARAT/SADE**".

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Opening Night (press night)– Fri., July 13 at 8:00 pm

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Marc Huestis - Marc has acted as an impresario of gala film/benefit events at the 1400-seat majestic Castro Theatre in SF since 1994. "Marc Huestis presents" has produced over 25 in-person tributes to such screen luminaries as Debbie Reynolds, Jane Russell, Ann-Margret, Ann Miller, Tony Curtis, Patty Duke and a host of others, as well as contemporary concert events featuring John Cameron Mitchell, Justin Vivian Bond, Alan Cumming, Joan Baez, John Waters and more. Huestis was awarded the coveted Lifetime Achievement GOLDIE Award by the SF Bay Guardian, the oldest and largest alternative weekly in the Bay Area. Co-founder of the SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Marc Huestis' film & video works include **UNITY** (1977); **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUSAN JANE** (1982); **CHUCK SOLOMON: COMING OF AGE** (1986), **SEX IS...** (1993), winner of the Teddy-Best Gay Film Audience Award at 1993 Berlin Int'l. Film Festival; and **LULU GETS A FACELIFT** (2006). He was the co-winner

of the 2001 Frameline Award.

Russell Blackwood (Director / Producing Artistic Director, Thrillpeddlers) produced and directed his first Grand Guignol horror play twenty years ago with his own adaptation of the 1926 shocker *The Laboratory of Hallucinations*. That production led him to found Thrillpeddlers with his boyhood friend, Daniel Zilber. He's produced and directed for Thrillpeddlers ever since. In 1999, the duo produced the first *Shocktoberfest!!*, Thrillpeddlers annual Grand Guignol spectacular. Four years later, Thrillpeddlers launched the research web site www.grandguignol.com. In 2004 Russell and his husband, Jim, opened The Hypnodrome to be Thrillpeddlers home. Producing and directing Scrumby Koldewyn's three Cockettes musicals: *Pearls Over Shanghai*, *Hot Greeks*, and *Vice Palace* were other delightful milestones for Thrillpeddlers. Russell's productions have played throughout the U.S. from NYC to Alaska, as well as England, Taiwan, and South Africa. Other directing credits include *Otello* and *Carmen* (Berkeley Opera); *The Pirates of Penzance* (Lamplighters), *Ex-Lovers*, *Strangers in Paradox*, and *Women Behind Bars* (Theatre Rhinoceros); *Cabaret* and *Medea* (Shotgun Players); and productions for the S.F., L.A., and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festivals. He earned his BFA in Acting from Boston University.

Scrumby Koldewyn (Composer/Music Director/piano) was a founding member of The Cockettes and composed many songs for *Pearls Over Shanghai*, *Vice Palace*, *Hot Greeks* and other shows. In the 1980s he performed and composed for The Distractions, and then for 25 years with The Jesters Vocal Trio, touring extensively in Europe. He composed for approximately 36 original theatrical productions, including the *Jesters' Singing Fools*, and has been an accompanist/musical director and performer in theater and cabaret since the mid 1970s. Shows he created include *The Untamed Stage* (1920s Berlin Cabaret) in 1999 and *Wilde Boys* at NCTC in 2007 (BATCC awards for musical direction and best production--musical). Awards include the BATCC for original music (1981), two S.F. Bay Area Cabaret Gold Awards with the Jesters ('91 & '92), and the Dean Goodman Choice Award 2000 for Cabaret performance (*Goldfield & Koldewyn*). Currently, he is also music director at Stagebridge in Oakland, and New Conservatory Theatre Center in SF. Thrillpeddlers' revival of Mr. Koldewyn and Martin Worman's musical *Vice Palace* received 8 BATCC Award nominations and performed at NYC's HOWL Festival. The 1972 musical *Hot Greeks*, also by Koldewyn and Worman, had its 40th anniversary production at Thrillpeddlers' Hypnodrome.

Beaver Bauer (Costumes) Award-winning BEAVER BAUER has designed costumes for numerous A.C.T. productions, including *Tales of the City*, *Scapin*, *War Music*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Government Inspector*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Rivals*, *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?*, *The Gamester*, *The Beard of Avon*, *The Misanthrope*, *Edward II*, *Tartuffe*, and *Insurrection: Holding History*, among others. She is the resident costume designer at Teatro ZinZanni and has designed the *Brian Boitano Skating Spectacular* for eight years. She has also designed for the SF Shakespeare Festival, Eureka Theatre Company, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Lamplighters, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Magic Theatre, the Pickle Family Circus, Classic Stage Company, Theater of Yugen, and the Riviera and Desert Inn hotels in Las Vegas. From 1972 to 1984 she worked for Angels of Light, a troupe that specializes in cabaret and theater, and in 1995 she designed a circus that traveled to Moscow and Japan. Bauer has won numerous Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards.

Thrillpeddlers (www.thrillpeddlers.com) have been performing their unique brand of horror and fetish theatre in San Francisco since 1991. Under the direction of Russell Blackwood, Thrillpeddlers are continuously engaged in translating, adapting, and producing classic plays from the infamous repertoire of Le Théâtre du Grand Guignol and producing other works inspired by the Grand Guignol tradition. In 2008, Thrillpeddlers embraced another niche theatrical genre with the company's annual Theatre of the Ridiculous Revival. That same year they were invited to perform for NYC's HOWL Festival with their productions of Charles Busch's THEODORA, SHE-BITCH OF BYZANTIUM; Charles Ludlam's JACK IN THE BEANSTALK; and Link Martin and Scrumby Koldewyn's PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI. Following this, a full production of PEARLS was mounted in San Francisco in 2009 and ran for 22 months. In the summer of 2011 and Winter 2012 they revived another of Koldewyn's works, VICE PALACE. The hit

show garnered the group's second trip to New York to perform at the HOWL Festival which also included a special performance at NYC's Lincoln Center to celebrate the life and works of long time Koldewyn collaborator, Martin Worman. In Spring 2011 they revived a run of HOT Greeks (originally revived in 2010) to sold-out houses and rave reviews including a feature in the NY Times:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/06/us/cockettes-drag-troupe-returns-now-with-rehearsals.html>

The company's SOMA performance venue, The Hypnodrome, is tailor-made for the specific needs of horror theatre, musical extravaganzas, and "lights-out" spook show spectacle. Inaugurating The Hypnodrome with WELCOME TO THE HYPNODROME in 2004, Thrillpeddlers have gone on to produce wildly popular Grand Guignol bills including BLOOD BUCKET BALLYHOO, FLAMING SIN, AUDACIOUS ARTEFACTS, KISS OF BLOOD and the recent hit, FEAR OVER FRISCO.

SHOCKTOBERFEST!!, Thrillpeddlers' annual pageant of terror and titillation, is now in its 13th year and has become a San Francisco Halloween favorite. Prior to that, the company's production history includes the American premiere of Clive Barker's FRANKENSTEIN IN LOVE, MONDO ANDRONICUS (selected Best of the 1997 S.F. Fringe Festival), and a double-bill of THE MEDIUM and A CRIME IN THE MADHOUSE (in Pretoria, South Africa). Thrillpeddlers has won the Guardian's "Best of the Bay" and back-to-back "Best of San Francisco" awards from SF Weekly. Thrillpeddlers Theatre Company received a coveted 2009 GOLDIE AWARD (Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery award) from the SF Bay Guardian! In 2010, 7 X 7 Magazine named Thrillpeddlers "BEST UNDERGROUND THEATRE COMPANY IN SF." They are also the purveyors of www.GrandGuignol.com, the most complete source of Grand Guignol information on the Net.

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