

THE STAGE

Press Release
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www.thestage.org

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2009 Outer Critics Circle Award-
Outstanding Musical

The Toxic Avenger

Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro

Music and Lyrics by David Bryan

Based on Lloyd Kaufman's film of the same name

Directed by Jonathan Williams

June 7 – July 17, 2017

Opening Night: Saturday June 10, 2017

San Jose, CA (April 2017)- San Jose Stage Company is proud to wrap its culturally diverse 34th season with the award winning Off-Broadway hit musical *The Toxic Avenger*.

TOXIC LOVE STORY WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL TWIST

Based on Lloyd Kaufman's cult film, this laugh-out-loud musical has it all: an unlikely hero, his beautiful girlfriend, a corrupt New Jersey mayor, bullies, mobsters, and stiletto-wearing back-up singers.

After attempting to clean up Tromaville, the most polluted town in New Jersey, Melvin Ferd is dumped into a vat of radioactive toxic waste, only to reemerge as *The Toxic Avenger*. Affectionately known as Toxie, our new hero is a mutant freak with superhuman strength and a heart as big as Newark. He's out to save New Jersey, end global warming, and woo the blind librarian in town.

About the Playwrights:

Joe DiPietro's current Broadway hit *Memphis* won the Tony Award for Best Musical and two additional Tony Awards (Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score (Music and Lyrics) Written for the Theatre (with David Bryan). Joe was born and raised off Exit 166 in New Jersey and thus has been a Toxic Avenger fan for the last twenty years. Joe wrote the book & lyrics to *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, the longest running musical revue in New York history which has had hundreds of productions across the country and around the world. He also wrote the book and lyrics to the Broadway musical *All Shook Up*, and the award-winning musical, *The Thing About Men*, which has played internationally. His plays include the Edgar Award-winning mystery, *The Art of Murder*, as well as the long-running hit comedy *Over the River and through the Woods*, which has had over a hundred productions around the world and is currently being developed into a feature film. He lives in Manhattan and Connecticut, but his heart will always be in New Jersey.

David Bryan is the keyboard player, songwriter and a founding member of Bon Jovi. They have sold over 130 million records worldwide, performed more than 2,600 concerts in over 50 countries for more than 34 million fans, and were inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2006. On the band's award-winning CD *Have A Nice Day*, David and Jon wrote the song *Last Cigarette*. David began a career as a composer and lyricist of musicals. The song, *Memphis Lives In Me*, which he performs on Bon Jovi's recent box set, is actually from his musical, *MEMPHIS* which won four Tony Awards, including Best Musical. David also won a Tony for Best Orchestrations (with Daryl Waters) and Best Original Score (Music and Lyrics) Written for the Theatre (with Joe DiPietro). David has also dedicated his time to become a National Spokesperson for VH1's *Save The Music Program*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of music education in America's schools. He was conceived, born and raised in New Jersey. As a young man, he saw *The Toxic Avenger* at a midnight showing in Newark, and from that day on, he dreamed of writing a musical about the first mutant superhero from his home state.

About the Director:

Jonathan Williams is the Producing Director of San Jose Stage Company, recently playing Isaac in DISGRACED & Kenneth in THE NIGHT ALIVE earlier this season. He made his San Jose Stage directorial debut with the 2013 production of THE ELABORATE ENTRANCE OF CHAD DIETY. Jonathan has worked extensively throughout the BAY AREA as an actor & director with companies like TheatreWorks, The Aurora Theatre, Theatre on San Pedro Square, San Francisco Shakespeare Company and American Musical Theatre of San Jose. In 2002 he relocated to Sacramento where he co-founded Capital Stage Company, producing over 75 productions and leading the organization to becoming the region's premier new works theatre. Jonathan has directed numerous productions, including GUARDS AT THE TAJ, UNCANNY VALLEY, TRIBES, THE ELABORATE ENTRANCE OF CHAD DEITY, DYING CITY, MASTER CLASS, HUNTER GATHERERS, DIRTY STORY, BOY GETS GIRL and THE SHAPE OF THINGS.

Cast Includes:

COURTNEY HATCHER*

JOSHUA MARX*

ALLISON F. RICH*

WILL SPRINGHORN, JR*

BRANDEN NOEL THOMAS

**Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.*

Creative Staff:

Jonathan Williams	Director
CJ & Brett Blankenship	Choreographers
Brian Allan Hobbs	Music Director
Michael Palumbo	Scenic/Lighting Design
Vijay M Rajan	Video Design
Ashley Garlick	Costume Design
Cirby Hatano*	Stage Manager

FOR CALENDARS:

WHAT: THE TOXIC AVENGER
2009 Outer Critics Circle Award-
Outstanding Musical
Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro
Music and Lyrics by David Bryan
Directed by Jonathan Williams

SHOWS: Previews: June 7 @ 7:30 pm / June 8 @ 7:30 pm/
June 9 @ 8:00 pm
Opening: June 10 @ 8:00 pm
Run Dates: June 7 - July 17
Wednesday & Thursday @ 7:30 pm
Friday & Saturday @ 8:00 pm
Sunday @ 2:00 pm

WHERE: 490 S 1st St, San Jose, CA 95113

TICKETS: For tickets (\$30-\$65) or more information, the public may contact San Jose Stage Company box office at 408-283-7142, or www.thestage.org