

One of the religious right wing's most infamous anti-gay slogans is "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." Comedy writer Paul Rudnick (*Jeffrey, In & Out, Addams Family Values*) took the rhyming phrase as a challenge, and he set out to write the newest stage version of the most sacred of Christian doctrines, the Holy Bible. Not the King James version of the world's best-selling book, but more like the Queen James version.

Producer-director Don Horn and his company, Triangle Productions, are debuting *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* through June 24.

None too concerned with any charges of heresy, Horn describes the unconventional comedy show as "a love story between two gay boys that just happens to interweave the Bible. We meet Adam alone in the garden—in a jockstrap—then along comes Steve. When they are kicked out of the garden, they become nude and discover a new world."

an openly gay actor who's appeared on Portland stages for the last three years.

He notes that, at heart, the show is a love story. "The backdrop is this framework of 2000 years of biblical history, but I get to explore the lifelong partnership. That's what the show is about to me," he explains. "The issues that Adam and Steve deal with are the same kind of issues that any long-term relationship deals with: how you respond to things that go on in your life in a different way, and how to respond to differences between what he wants and what I want. In this particular case, it happens to be his relationship with God. I don't want to play second fiddle to God. I don't think that the play is about gay people or straight people or atheism or religion. It's about a relationship."

Teufals also appeared in the Rudnick play *I Hate Hamlet*.

"He's a wonderful playwright, and the show is incredibly funny and intelligently written," the actor says.

## The gay-den of Eden



PHOTO BY BENBOOM

Michael Teufals (left) and Jefferson Davis

Their misadventures include booking passage on Noah's ark during the legendary flood and falling into the clutches of an Egyptian Pharaoh during the time of Moses. They even show up as a couple of joke-cracking wiseguys at the Nativity.

But lest you think gay men were the only queers present for the creation of life on earth, Horn promises some sisterly fun as well. Adam (Jefferson Davis) and Steve (Michael Teufals) also meet Jane (Angela Keene) and Mabel (Tracy Scottel), who, according to Horn, "think that they are the only ones in the garden. Jane's not nude either—because she needs pockets—and Mabel thinks that Adam and Steve are ugly women without breasts."

Later in the play, Jane and Mabel are married by the disabled lesbian Rabbi Sharon, whose slogan is "oy, gay!"

The first act is a retelling of the Good Book, while Act 2 takes place in a present-day New York loft. The characters are the same, implying that perhaps they are reincarnated kindred spirits.

"It's definitely a grown-up show. My grandmother's not coming," laughs Michael Teufals,

Triangle Productions debuts *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*

BY ANDY MANGELS

As for his nude scenes, Teufals laughs and admits that he has "been working out six days a week for the last six months."

He adds: "Being naked on stage is not nearly as bad as I thought it was going to be, but I'm still a little wary of my friends and co-workers—who come to support me at all my shows—seeing my 'block and tackle.'"

Actress Angela Keene, who plays Jane, gets to have a birthing scene, as well as a lesbian love scene on Noah's ark that hints at bestiality.

"I'm not very butch," she admits, "but this is a very tough woman, and that's fun. The character has a lot of power and that's a really fun thing to explore."

Acknowledging the controversy the play might engender, Keene points out that "the subject matter seems controversial, but the play is a comedy. It's always good to keep an open mind. It might not change anyone's opinions of the way the world is, but it might at least make people consider different points of view."

Producer-director Horn has one caution for the audience: He notes that *Most Fabulous* is "quirky fun, but the subject matter—especially concerning the Bible—may not be for everyone."

Also, given the play's scenes with male nudity, adults may want to think twice before bringing children...or childishly prudish adults.

■ THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD plays through June 24 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. in Portland. Tickets are \$17 at the door or \$15 in advance, available from the box office, (503) 239-5919, or from Fastixx.

ANDY MANGELS is a longtime Portland entertainment writer with three books and hundreds of comic books and magazine articles to his credit. You can write to him at AMangelsSW@aol.com.

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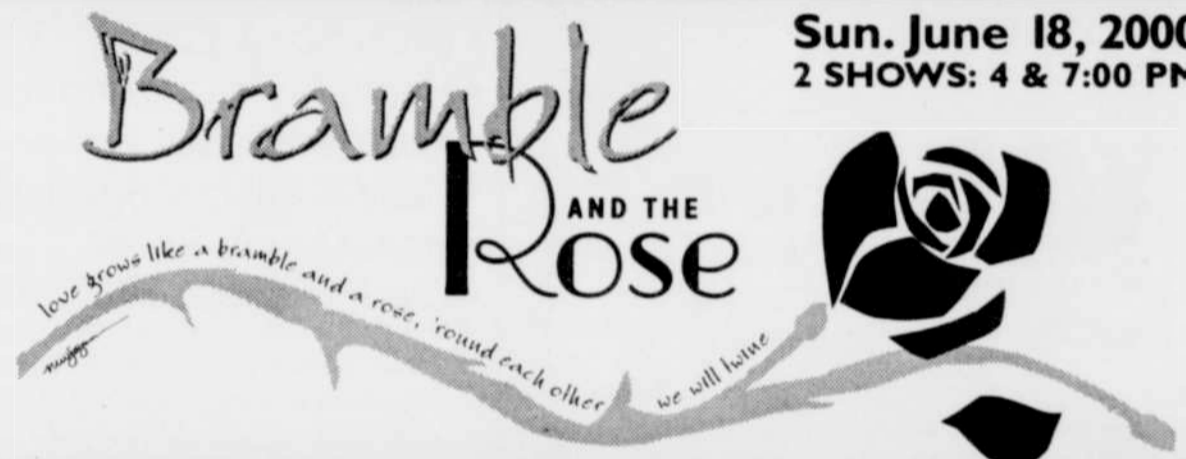
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