



A Light in the Dark

One man, one night, 29 deaths.

On the surface, a theater performance that consists entirely of the moment before death seems like a morbid concept. But instead of being a downer, *A Light in the Dark*, Eugene native Ezra LeBank's one-man show, is a life-affirming statement about what it is that makes life worth living for 29 different characters. In the instant that precedes death, LeBank examines what must happen in a lifetime to allow a person to willingly surrender to the inevitable.

The heavy topic of death, LeBank says, is just a springboard from which to discuss the passions and people that make life a worthy adventure — as well as the politics that affect us. And for LeBank, *A Light in the Dark* is as much a response to the current political climate as it is a personal journey. Watching President Bush on television telling New Yorkers to put duct tape on their windows made LeBank aware of his need to create something that dealt with human mortality.

"I realized not only that I'm going to have to come to terms with [death], but everybody

around me was in this frantic place of being really unsettled," he said. So LeBank began writing a piece that progresses from the external political forces that impact billions of people back to the poetic, primal, "human rhythm" of motion. It's a reverse chrysalis, a physical and emotional struggle to achieve peace.

"Politics only matter because of how they affect us in a personal way," LeBank said. "It's a very physical play, and at the heart of it is a physical and verbal rhythmic sense."

But don't show up expecting answers, because LeBank doesn't have any. Instead, he hopes to bring the audience into his struggle with the age-old question, "Why are we here?" It's an affirmation of the beauty and wonder of life, and LeBank hopes that it will be a positive experience for his audiences.

"If by facing our deaths, we could just enjoy this moment together a little bit more, that's a goal I have," LeBank said. "To make this feel like a moment in life that's worth doing."

A Light in the Dark
Friday, Aug. 26 • 8pm
ACE Annex, \$12

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