

Theatre

Sandy Theatre presents play about AIDS, friendship

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Sandy Theatre is extremely proud to present an extraordinary play, titled *Lonely Planet*, about friendship and fear in the age of AIDS. The audience will be taken on a hilarious yet touching journey through the vision of Seattle based playwright Steven Dietz. *Lonely Planet* won the 1994 PEN Center USA West Award in drama. The script is "absolutely charmed, a phrase friend's also use to describe the author. The play is so well written that its poetry, truth, and compassion affect all. Everyone everywhere has been touched by the AIDS epidemic, either directly or indirectly. *Lonleyplanet* gently reminds us that "no man is an island."

Enhancing this powerful script are a dedicated and talented cast and director. Peter Baker, Jr. and Alan Ryman are Jody and Carq, two friends who come at life from very different angles, but support each other unconditionally in their respective batties. An OSU graduate, Peter studied acting at Boston University and North Carolina School for the Arts. His first performance with Sandy Theatre was in *Rehearsal for Murder* and his many stage credits include *A Comedy of Errors*, *Equus*, and *American Buffalo*. Alan, a talented actor and improv comedian, has performed in several theatres around Portland including many shows at Sylvia's Class Act Dinner Theatre, most recently in their production of *Sylvia*. Alan's stage credits include *Life and Death on the Amedcan Road*, *Butterflies Are Free*, and *The Nerd* at Sandy Theatre. Director Stephen Ulrich is well known for his accomplishments on and off stage. His 20+ years experience acting, directing, and writing (Steve is a playwright, as well) complete the talent package.

Lonely Plane opens on Friday, January 21, 2000. The show will run Fridays and Saturdays for four weekends along with two Thursday performances, January 27 and February 3, all at 8 PM. Ticket prices for Thursday, Fnday, and Saturday shows are \$7.50 adult; \$6.00 seniors and students. On Thursdays bring two cans of food to donate to the Oregon Food Bank and get half off your ticket price.

In conjunction with local AIDS organizations, the Sandy Players will provide a forum of discussion following each performance in an attempt to share feelings, emotions, and deliver information on local resources. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds will be donated towards AIDS research. We encourage you to support this play with articles and televised interviews so we can inform the community benefit AIDS research, and touch the lives of many that are struggling to live with this disease.



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