

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS
GOD FIGHTS THE PLAGUE
New work by 18-year-old playwright Dezi Gallegos
June 7 –August 10, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (29 May, 2014) – **The Marsh** presents 18-year-old youthful visionary Dezi Gallegos' **GOD FIGHTS THE PLAGUE**. This solo show starring Gallegos, developed with and directed by Charlie Varon, chronicles the comic and moving journey of a young man who sets out to determine if there is one God, no god, or many gods. The extraordinarily talented Gallegos made a splash at age 14 as the co-writer and assistant director of the award-winning *Prop 8 Love Stories*. For **GOD FIGHTS THE PLAGUE**, Gallegos interviewed individuals from nine different religions to create an original documentary theatre piece. From a rabbi who moonlights as a singing drag queen and an Elvis-worshipping witch, to the California State Director of American Atheists and a man who found Jesus in the back of a bus, Gallegos recreates his conversations with a wide variety of followers in his quest to know why we're here, where we're going, whether our ship has a captain or if we're sailing on our own – ultimately creating a performance that rekindles faith in humanity. **GOD FIGHTS THE PLAGUE** plays **Saturdays at 8:30pm and Sundays at 7pm** at **The Marsh San Francisco Studio Theater, June 7 – August 10, 2014** (press opening June 21, 2014). For tickets (\$15-\$35 sliding scale; \$50-\$100 reserved), the public may visit www.themarsh.org or call **415-282-3055** between 1 – 4pm, Monday through Friday.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Petaluma, **Dezi Gallegos** was 14 when he co-wrote and assistant directed the award-winning *Prop 8 Love Stories*, which received performances throughout the Bay Area (Cinnabar Theatre, Magic Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre) before traveling to New York for a two-week run Off-Broadway. It has recently been published. At 16, he penned, directed, and co-starred in the comedy *Quite Dead* at Petaluma's Cinnabar Theater. Gallegos wrote **GOD FIGHTS THE PLAGUE** at 17, and spent the next year refining and reworking it with writer-director-actor Charlie Varon. Next up, he will be working with 18

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young people developing an original show for the 6th Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa, and in fall 2014, Gallegos heads to Los Angeles, where he will study film at the University of Southern California as a Trustee Scholar.

Charlie Varon is an artist-in-residence at The Marsh, where he has been writing, performing, directing and teaching for over 20 years. As collaborator/director, Varon has worked with performer Dan Hoyle since 2004, on his solo shows *Circumnavigator*, *Tings Dey Happen* and *The Real Americans*. As playwright/performer, Varon's award-winning shows – all created in collaboration with David Ford – have enjoyed extended runs at The Marsh and traveled around the country. These include *Rush Limbaugh in Night School* (1994), *The People's Violin* (2000), *Rabbi Sam* (2009), and his current hit comedy, *Feisty Old Jew*, which has been extended at The Marsh through July 13.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT: **The Marsh** presents 18-year-old youthful visionary Dezi Gallegos' **GOD FIGHTS THE PLAGUE**. This solo show starring Gallegos, directed by Charlie Varon, chronicles the comic and moving journey of a young man who sets out to determine if there is one God, no god, or many gods. For this original documentary theater piece, Gallegos interviewed individuals from nine different religions and recreated their words, wisdom, and wit onstage. From a rabbi who moonlights as a singing drag queen and an Elvis-worshipping witch, to the California State Director of American Atheists and a man who found Jesus in the back of a bus, Gallegos recreates his conversations with a wide variety of followers in his quest to know why we're here, where we're going, whether our ship has a captain or if we're sailing on our own – ultimately creating a performance that rekindles faith in humanity.

WHEN: June 7 – August 10, 2014 (Press opening June 21, 2014)

SHOWS: Saturdays at 8:30pm; Sundays at 7pm

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco Studio Theater**
1062 Valencia Street (between 21st & 22nd Streets)
Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage
(21st St between Mission & Valencia.)
Bart Station (closest): Mission & 24th Street

TICKETS: \$15 – \$35 sliding scale; \$50 - \$100 reserved
For tickets, visit www.themarsh.org or call 415-282-3055

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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://www.cb-pr.com/press/godfightstheplague.html>