



Press Release

The Bay Area Premiere of *Shoggoths on the Veldt* Opens in Redwood City in May

When famed Victorian explorer Melford Pumbleshire is torn to pieces by something horrible and unseen while on safari in deepest, darkest Africa, his redoubtable fiancé Euphonia Riggstone must lead an expedition to put his unquiet spirit to rest. This globetrotting adventure comedy has romance, betrayal, an amnesiac ghost, perfidious cultists, and a Lovecraftian tentacle monster. Part of the Main Stage Series.

Shoggoths on the Veldt is a comedic homage to the works of H.P. Lovecraft. You might not know who Howard Phillips Lovecraft is, but you've definitely felt his influences. Contemporary writers like Stephen King, Neil Gaiman, William S. Burroughs, and Alan Moore have all cited Lovecraft as having a major influence on their writings. Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges wrote his short story *There Are More Things* in memory of Lovecraft. Even writer Joyce Carol Oates is a fan - she wrote an introduction for a collection of Lovecraft stories. Visual artist H. R. Geiger's creature designs for James Cameron's *Alien* films were all heavily influenced by Lovecraft's monster aesthetic. Batman's Arkham is named after a Lovecraft fictional location, and Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead Necronomicon* was actually invented by Lovecraft.

Artistic Director Alika Spencer-Koknar says that "it was love at first sight when (co-artistic director and husband) Max and I saw the premiere of *Shoggoths on the Veldt* in Seattle, Washington, at The Rogues Gallery back in 2015 while on tour with the California Theatre Center. When Meredith Hagedorn, founding Artistic Director, asked the Dragon staff for script recommendations for her final season of programming back in 2017, we eagerly passed the script onto her. We were so honored that she chose the script for her final hand-picked season. Obviously, we *had* to be a part of the creative team bringing this hilarious, heartwarming, swashbuckling, adventure story to life on Dragon's stage. As the new co-artistic directors of the Dragon, Max and I are excited to share this story and we hope you will fall in love with it just as much as we have."

Managing Director Kimberly Wadycki says "*Shoggoths on the Veldt* checks off so many check boxes for me – fantastic roles for women, some epic fight scenes for the ladies, it made me laugh out loud several times, it vibes very strongly of *Indiana Jones and the*

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Temple of Doom, and it flips some conventions on its head. It's a terrific entry in the season and a great introduction to the Koknars."

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Cameron McNary is an Actor and Playwright who lives in Columbia, MD. His first play, *Of Dice and Men*, premiered at PAX Prime in 2010, and has since gone on to significant regional success. It was made into an independent feature film of the same name in 2013, which can be viewed on Amazon Prime. He is currently chipping away at the script for *Bed and Breakfast of the Damned*, a traditional door-slaming sex farce, but with zombies.

Featuring the talents of: Tasi Alabastro (Famed Explorer Welton Mountcrag), Betsy the Shoggoth (as Herself), Lisa Burton (Lady Phillipa Bickleford-Smith-Jones), Ronald Feichtmeier (Lord Melford Pumbleshire), Alika Spencer-Koknar (Lady Euphonia Riggstone), Michael Weiland (Crompt/Arnult/God of the Bloody Tongue)

Designers & Production Team: Bora "Max" Koknar (Director), Samantha Ricci (Assistant Director), Melinda Marks (Stage Manager), Austin Barnes (Assistant Stage Manager), Karl Haller (Technical Director), Nathaniel Card (Scenic and Lighting Designer), Jonathan Covey (Sound Designer), Kathleen Qiu (Costume Designer), Kate Martin (Properties Master), Jacob Vorperian (Projections Designer), Mike Fatum (Fight Choreographer), Lance Huntley (Photographer), Maggie Ziomek (Graphic Designer)

WHEN: May 10 – June 2, 2019

Thursdays – Saturdays, 8pm, Sundays, 2pm. Doors open 30 minutes before the show.

Pay what you will preview on Thurs., May 9th at 8p

Opening night performance on Fri., May 10th at 8p with post-show reception

Post-show discussion with the cast on Sun., May 19th

This show is rated PG-13 for violence, horror, adult language, and sexual innuendo. The run time is approximately 2 hours, with one 15-minute intermission.

WHERE: The Dragon Theatre in downtown Redwood City
2120 Broadway Street at the intersection of Broadway and Theatre Way

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HOW MUCH:

Early Bird Prices (ends 2 weeks before opening of the show)

\$35 general admission

\$27 students and seniors

Full Price (begins 2 weeks before a show and runs while the show is performing)

\$37 general admission

\$29 students and seniors

\$15 rush tickets on Thursdays and Fridays starting 2nd week. Limited availability and cash only at the door.

Pay what you will preview on Thursday May 9th – no reservation necessary, pay cash at the door.

\$175 for the VIP box (seats 4 people and includes champagne and chocolates.)

CONTACTING THE BOX OFFICE: Leave a voicemail at 650-493-2006 x 2 and your call will be returned within 2 business days. If you'd rather email, contact Ellie at tickets@dragonproductions.net. The Dragon Box Office is not staffed 7 days a week so there might be a delay in response. Buying tickets online at <http://www.dragonproductions.net> is the very best way to reserve a ticket in advance, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TIX & MORE INFO: <http://dragonproductions.net/>

PHOTOS SOON AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dragonproductionstheatre/albums/72157706764277441>

Select archival photos from the run of the show available opening weekend.

For Photos, interviews, videos, press tickets, etc. contact:

Kimberly Wadycki, Managing Director, 650.493.2006 x 5, or kim@dragonproductions.net (preferred)