

MARDI GRAS

AT THE SEYMOUR CENTRE



SYDNEY ²⁰¹⁰
GAY & LESBIAN
MARDI GRAS

SQUABBALOGIC



LOVE, LOSS & SONG WITH 'THRILL ME: THE LEOPOLD & LOEB STORY' AT SEYMOUR CENTRE

Relationships can be murder. It's 1924, and two wealthy University of Chicago students believe themselves to be Nietzschean 'supermen', superior to the rest of society. But when they forge their dark plans to commit the 'perfect crime', things don't unfold exactly as they'd planned. Infatuation and love meets psychotic compulsion, in **THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story** the award-winning Off-Broadway musical written by Stephen Dolginoff at the Seymour Centre from **February 24 to March 6, 2010**.

Brought to life in Australia by emerging production group, **Squabbalogic**; the latest in a string of acclaimed stage shows including *Reefer Madness!*, directed by **Jay James-Moody**, produced by **Jessica Burns** and supported by a strong musical score directed by **Mark Chamberlain**; brilliant and convincing performances from **Blake Erickson** and **Benjamin Giraud** ensure a night to remember.

THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story is a cautionary tale of obsession, co-dependency and addiction to another. The musical tells the tale of two infamous students of the University of Chicago, **Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb**, who brutally murdered fourteen-year-old **Bobby Franks** in the mid-1920s, and were sentenced to life in prison. Wealthy and intellectually prodigious, the two boys are consumed by their desire to commit the ultimate crime undetected. Fastened in a master-slave relationship and completely absorbed in each other, their intimate connection twists beyond the realm of normal and leads them to make a horrible life-changing decision.

Written by award-winning New York playwright-composer **Stephen Dolginoff**, **THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story** has achieved international recognition and is a must-see for all lovers of musical masterpieces and those who have ever felt consumed by their love for someone. "Startling, provocative... freezes the blood and keeps you wanting more!" (New York Observer); brace yourself and let **THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story** do just that.

THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story is just one of the superb musical acts, and so much more, included in the Seymour Centre's partnership with the **Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras**. A smoldering line-up of music, theatre and conversation celebrating all things queer is showing at the Seymour Centre beginning in February and continuing throughout the month of March. With special double bill packages available to see The Margaritas' **On the Rocks**, and **THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story**, plus Multi-Tix discounts for three or more shows booked, you'll die (just a little bit) if you miss out.

THRILL ME Dates: 24 Feb-6 Mar Tue-Sat **Times:** 7pm **Where:** Downstairs Theatre, Seymour Centre - Corner Cleveland Street and City Road, Chippendale **Bookings & More Info:** Box Office P: 02 9351 7940 W: www.seymourcentre.com
Prices: \$20-\$30 * Multi-tix price - buy tickets to 3 or more Seymour 2010 Season shows and enjoy the Multi-tix discount.
* Double bill offer - discount tickets to *Thrill Me: The Leopold & Loeb Story* and *On the Rocks* when you purchase a DOUBLE BILL package.

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MEDIA RELEASE

EDITORS NOTES

Squabbalagic

This passionate musical is brought to you by Squabbalagic, an independent Sydney theatre company established in 2006 that premieres stagings of international fringe work. Their eclectic and exciting productions, such as the highly acclaimed *Reefer Madness!* at the Cleveland St Theatre has seen Squabbalagic’s audience on their feet in standing ovation, and ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*** promises to deliver more patron elation. Squabbalagic recently relaunched the iconic Statement Lounge beneath the State Theatre with a sell-out Sydney premiere of *Forbidden Broadway* and is excited to be associated with the great line-up of Sydney talent offered at the Seymour Centre in 2010.

Jay James-Moody – Director of *THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*

Jay’s production and performance credits are long and impressive. 2009 saw Jay direct and produce *Forbidden Broadway* and *Rent*, and over his five year career as director, Jay has ensured other successful productions such as *Reefer Madness*, *Speed-The-Plow* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* have the guidance and professional edge they deserve. Performing in over fifteen major productions and with a host of various film and television credits, Jay directs ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*** at the Seymour Centre this Feb/Mar 2010.

Jessica Burns – Producer of *THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*

A talented and accomplished producer, performer and stage technician, Jessica produces ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*** for Squabbalagic to be performed at the Seymour Centre in conjunction with the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras. Jessica’s productions include *Forbidden Broadway*, *The Santaland Diaries & Season’s Greetings*, *Reefer Madness!*, *Speed-The-Plow* and *Trial By Jury & The Sorcerer*. She has performed in a variety of Australian productions and has used her expertise as a microphone technician and design/operations manager to ensure the success of over thirty productions.

Stephen Dolginoff – Writer of *THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*

Stephen is an award-winning New York City based playwright-composer. His most notable work is ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*** the musical version of the true story of Leopold and Loeb, which opened Off-Broadway at the York Theatre in 2005. Performed across cities in America, as well as internationally in Australia and Korea, ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*** earned Stephen an ASCAP Music award for the production’s score, nominations for New York’s Drama Desk Award for Best Musical and Best Musical Score, as well as a Los Angeles Garland Award for the musical’s score and lyrics. Stephen has also written the musicals *One Foot Out the Door*, *Most Men Are*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and *Panic*.



Blake Erickson – ‘Richard Loeb’ in *THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*

Blake has studied his craft at the University of Sydney, Sydney’s Northern Beaches Music Studio and completed a Vocal Studies diploma in 2005. A finalist at the 2009 Sydney Cabaret Showcase, Blake has lent his talents to over ten stage productions including *Just So*, *Margi De Feranti Concert Series*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Showqueen*, *Sweet Charity* and *Blood Brothers* last year. He has also acted in the short film *Mobile Lives* by David Andrew Green. Blake plays Richard Loeb in 2009’s ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story***.

Benjamin Giraud – ‘Nathan Leopold’ in *THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story*

Another Sydney-based up and comer, Benjamin completed a Bachelor of Arts in (Music Theatre) in 2008. He has performed in various Australian productions, including *STC Cabaret*, *Liza on an E*, *Short Sweet & Song*, *DNA*, *Blood Brothers*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Benjamin was a member of the National Boys Choir for six years, during which time he featured as a soloist in the Qantas ‘I Still Call Australia Home’ advertisements and CD, sang solo for Melbourne’s *Carols by Candlelight*, and promoted and sang in the USA and Hong Kong, to name but a few credits. Benjamin has performed at The Three Tenors Concert at Rod Laver Arena and toured in Italy, France and London, and will perform in the production of *Mary Poppins* later this year. Benjamin plays Nathan Leopold in ***THRILL ME: The Leopold & Loeb Story***.

