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Lodestone

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LODESTONE THEATRE ENSEMBLE'S WORLD PREMIERE OF *TERMINUS AMERICANA*

Lodestone's Latest is a Dark Comedy Exploring the Genesis of a Culture of Violence

Lodestone Theatre Ensemble presents the world premiere of **Terminus Americana** by award-winning playwright Matt Pelfrey. A presentation of the East L.A. College Theatre Artists-in-Residence Program and part of *Edgefest 2001*, the city-wide celebration of the vibrant and diverse L.A. theatre community. Directed by Jeff Liu, the show will run at the East L.A. College Little Theatre, 1301 Ave. Cesar Chavez in Monterey Park from Oct. 27-Nov. 18, 2001.

Terminus Americana is a dark comedy about one man, his great country and his greater destiny. Mac Winchell...a middle-aged office worker...an everyman. After barely surviving a gruesome shooting rampage at work, this unwitting employee is thrust into an absurd landscape populated by lost Marlboro Men, psychotic hobos, cats with implanted transmitters and a strange cult known as "The Church of Christ, Office Shooter". Mac attempts to escape this twisted reality by undertaking an epic quest that ultimately leads him into the darkest corners of the American Dream.

Dennis Dun (veteran actor of Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, Cimino's *The Year of the Dragon*, Carpenter's *Prince of Darkness* and *Big Trouble in Little China*, as well as three seasons of NBC's *Midnight Caller*) is excited to be working with Lodestone and views this as "...a period of infectious excitement and drive to create new works by Asian Americans." Mr. Dun made his L.A. theatre debut in Chay Yew's *A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN*, which received the L.A. Weekly's Best Ensemble Award, and his latest solo performance *GIANT ORANGES* was commissioned by the Mark Taper Forum and premiered at the Taper's *Word Up* festival. He has participated in the Sundance Institute's Theatre and Film Labs.

Emerging playwright Matt Pelfrey was nominated for the American Theater Critics New Play Award, a PEN Center West Literary Award and won the National Ten-Minute Play Competition. His play *Drive Angry* won the Heideman Award and premiered at the 1999 Humana Festival at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. Pelfrey who has been produced nationwide, including productions at Roadworks in Chicago and numerous ones in Los Angeles, recently had his play *Cockroach Nation* presented to critical raves by Moving Arts. Although not Asian American, he has accepted the invitation to be a writer-in-residence for Lodestone.

In its mission to develop, create, promote and present edgy, compelling and impassioned works that bridge communities through truthful and entertaining artistry, Lodestone Theatre Ensemble has quickly risen to the forefront of ultra-contemporary Asian American theatre and Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director, Tim Lounibos, points out that **Terminus Americana** couldn't be more timely. "After the horrific events that occurred on that fateful September day, it's important for art to play its instrumental role as not only a healer and entertainer but as a guide that challenges us to look into that societal mirror and question what we see – not to validate another person's destructive actions, but to learn and anticipate that person's needs and, resultingly, foster a mutual respect."

Dennis Dun puts it another way: "I'm taken with Matt's unique voice and talent. His work is original, compelling and entertaining; and he writes about the American dream and the American nightmare from the perspective of the outsider, which is something that is completely relevant to the Asian American experience. I especially appreciate that this perspective is of the dark humorous kind. When the opportunity came up to work with Lodestone and Matt on **Terminus Americana**, it was something I couldn't pass up."

Performances for **Terminus Americana** are Oct. 27-Nov. 18. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30 pm, Sat mat. at 2:30 pm, Sun. at 7:30 pm. No matinee on Oct. 27. Tickets: \$ 13 for general, \$11 for seniors & students, \$9 for groups (10+). At the East L.A. College Little Theatre, 1301 Ave. Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park. For general information call the Lodestone Theatre hotline at (323) 993-7245, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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