

BACK BOG BEAST BAIT

by Sam Shepard

April 19-May 5

The Yard Theater

4319 Melrose Ave

Los Angeles, California

90029

For Immediate Release:

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Hollywood, CA: A fresh, compelling take on an early and enigmatic work by Sam Shepard. Brought to you by alumni of the USC MFA Acting program and Padua/Shepard and the Avant-Garde.

A shack in a swamp. A woman hires two gunslingers to help her defend her home against a mysterious and ravenous beast intent on destroying the human race. Everyone feels the presence of the beast, but no one can prove it's real. Maybe the only way to protect ourselves is to lay our bodies bare on the altar and call forth our worst fears, our biggest regrets, and the baddest evil we can dream up.

This production of Back Bog Beast Bait comes to you from Scavengers, a collective of artists who value the gritty, sensory worlds Sam Shepard spent his life meticulously creating. Stan Mayer (The Lobster Man in last year's production of *Cowboy Mouth* by Such A Death) plays Slim, a killer with dreams of hearth and home. Abe Martell (fresh from O-Lan Jones' August premiere of *Cynosemma: A Dirge from the Dog's Tomb*) plays Shadow, a fast-living bull rider trying to make a buck. James Bane (whose play *Traditions* is currently premiering at the Actor's Gang) plays the Preacher, a man ripped apart in the swamp and losing his mind. Cecilia Fairchild (who played Cavale in Such A Death's *Cowboy Mouth*) plays Gris-Gris, a swamp girl set on calling up the beast and making us all look it in the eye. Tali Forest-Smith (a veteran of Padua Playwrights' Shepard and the Avant-Garde workshop) plays the rifle-toting earth-mother Maria, wracked with grief and worry over the deaths of her children and seeking transcendence. Ren Farren Martinez (an actress and musician, whose music can be found on Spotify and Apple Music under Ren Farren) brings her unique and soulful voice to the production as Maria's dead daughter Ghost Girl, burning the house down with screeching blues songs and sweet, heartbreaking ballads. Paul Lacques of I See Hawks in L.A. plays a haunting live soundscape on guitar and dobro, composed specifically for this

production. Melanie Fairchild of Salt & Sage (costume designer of Elan Ensemble's recent Miranda July adaptation *How We're Different From Animals*), uses costumes to smash together elements of magic and messy humanity. Award-winning lighting designer Matt Richter illuminates the swampy landscape. Darrell Larson (a long time collaborator of Shepard's, and who was recently seen in Mexican Day at Rogue Machine, and The Dance of Death at The Odyssey), directs in conjunction with the cast.

Back Bog Beast Bait by Sam Shepard. Directed by Darrell Larson and Scavengers. The Yard Theater. 4319 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, California, 90029

Performances:

Thursday April 18, 2019 - 8pm PREVIEW

Friday April 19, 2019 - 8pm

Saturday April 20, 2019 - 8pm

Sunday April 21, 2019 - 7pm

Thursday April 25, 2019 - 8pm

Friday April 26, 2019 - 8pm

Saturday April 27, 2019 - 8pm

Sunday April 28, 2019 - 7pm

Thursday May 2, 2019 - 8pm

Friday May 3, 2019 - 8pm

Saturday May 4, 2018, 8pm

Sunday May 5, 2019 - 2pm

Sunday May 5, 2019 - 7pm

The play will run 80 minutes with no intermission.

Tickets are \$20 and space is limited. Seats may be reserved online at backbog.bpt.me