

# ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD

Featuring Sideshow Physical Theatre

Written and Directed by  
Jade Rosina McCutcheon


Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center

Fri-Sat, 10/23-24 & 30-31, 8pm  
Sun, 10/25 & 11/1, 2pm



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PRESENTS

## **Sideshow Physical Theatre** ***Elephant's Graveyard***

A UC Davis Office of Campus Community Relations American Movement Series Event

Friday–Saturday, October 23–24, 2009 • 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, 2009 • 2 p.m.

Friday–Saturday, October 30–31, 2009 • 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 1, 2009 • 2 p.m.

Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center, UC Davis

There will be no intermission.

Post-performance Q&A

Sunday, October 25, 2009, and Sunday, November 1, 2009

### **Cast**

ESME .....	Claudia Marie
THE SINGER .....	Kim Deacon, Esme's soul
EVE .....	Bella Merlin, Esme's daughter
EMMA/CISSY .....	Anne Reeder, Esme's granddaughter
STEVE/BOB.....	Matt Sullivan
DR. LEWIS PENN .....	Chris Mantione, Esme's doctor
CHARLES .....	James Marchbanks
THE SHAMAN.....	Jorge Morejon
FRANCIS .....	Dave Lutheran
LADIES IN HOME .....	Donna Sachs, Nancy Jungeman, Lois Grau, Ruth Hall, Doris Beresford
Company (dancers) .....	James Marchbanks, Chris Mantione, Dave Lutheran, Jorge Morejon, Anne Reeder
Conductor.....	Garrett Shatzer
Piano .....	ChiaWei Lin
Violin .....	Yosef Farnsworth
Clarinet .....	Al Bona
Double Bass.....	Amanda Wu

### **Creative Team**

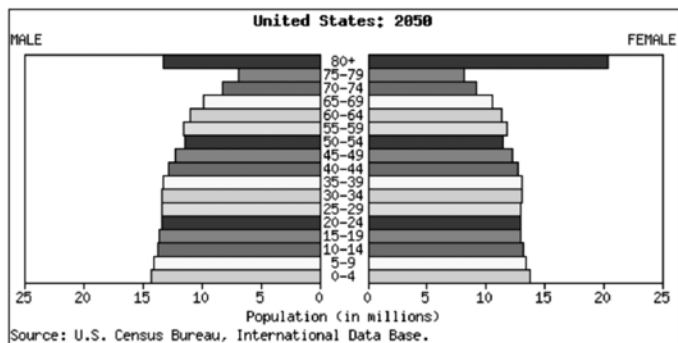
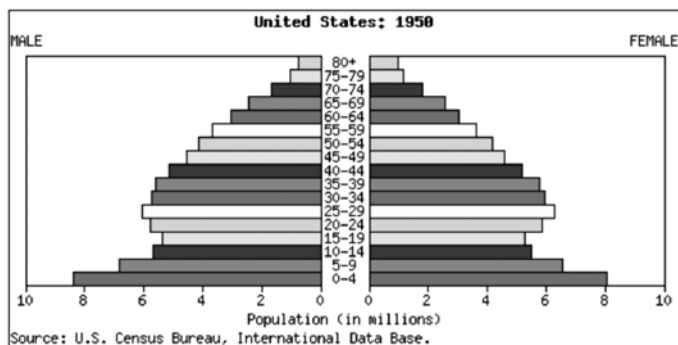
Writer & Director .....	Jade Rosina McCutcheon
Set Designer .....	John Iacovelli
Lighting Designer .....	Tom Munn
Costume Designer.....	Maggie Morgan
Choreographer.....	Kerry Mehling
Composer, dances.....	Laurie San Martin
Composer, songs.....	Garrett Shatzer
Assistant Director.....	Julie Friedrichsen
Stage Manager.....	Reed Wagner
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Janice Seid
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Jake Nelson

*The artists and your fellow audience members appreciate silence during the performance. Please be sure that you have switched off cellular phones, watch alarms, and pager signals. Videotaping, photographing, and audio recording are strictly forbidden. Violators are subject to removal.*

## NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR/DIRECTOR

I have been researching and working on this play for two years after witnessing many heart-breaking and disturbing scenarios around aging, aged care, and elderly accommodation. I read many blogs debating the worth of “longevity” versus euthanasia, home care, or institutionalized care. I spoke with elderly people in Davis, Sydney, San Francisco, Seoul, Sacramento, and Melbourne. I spoke with my general practitioner, my friends, family, and colleagues on campus. It seems we are all very concerned with the issue of aging and the future. I wanted to put some of these issues forward to this community for consideration, debate, and information via the artistic and social medium of physical theater.

As the U.S. population ages, many of us will become consumers of long-term care. We may need to put our parents in residential settings, or to find assisted living for ourselves. I discovered the diagrams below in the U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base and immediately became concerned about the situation we will all be facing, particularly those in their 20s now, who will be 60 in 2050 and faced with a country full of 80-plus year olds and possibly no planning to ensure everybody's quality of life.



The report, *65+ in the United States: 2005*, was commissioned by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), a component of the National Institutes of Health, to provide a picture of the health and socioeconomic status of the aging population. “The social and economic implications of an aging population—and of the baby boom in particular—are likely to be profound for both individuals and society,” says Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon.

I also became aware of developments in science and medicine that were amazing to me. The development of stem cell technology, synthetic protein, and nanotechnology are all forefronts of the drive to longevity. Curing aging of course will eventually result in immortality, a planet of people who never age. This throws up huge issues and questions around the place of god, religion, spirit, and the meaning of life itself. Who are we if we don't die and there is no god?

Hopefully the play attempts to highlight some of these issues and questions in a thoughtful and entertaining way. There will be question-and-answer sessions after the two Sunday performances. Please join us for discussion.

—Jade Rosina McCutcheon



### Jade Rosina McCutcheon

Jade Rosina McCutcheon is a director and scholar, with research revolving around actor training, performance and consciousness, social theater, and playwriting. A graduate of Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art, Jade gained her Doctorate of Creative Arts at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance at UC Davis. McCutcheon is co-convenor of

the International Federation of Theatre Research Working Group, Performance and Consciousness and co-founder of the laboratory management system 'LabAct.'

McCutcheon's publications include *Awakening the Performing Body* (Rodopi Press, Amsterdam, 2008); *Laboratory Management Institute: a model for the professional development of scientists* (co-author with Galland and Chronister, *Journal of Research Administration*, Fall 2008); and “Intuition as the Receptive Other,” chapter in *Technologies and Intuition* (YYZ Books, Montreal, 2006).

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