

STRAWD OG

T H E A T R E C O M P A N Y

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STRAWD OG THEATRE COMPANY OPENS 22ND SEASON WITH MIDWEST PREMIERE OF HISTORICAL COMEDY

ST. CRISPIN'S DAY, SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

**Matt Pepper's Black Comedy Provides A "Behind the Scenes"
View of the Battle of Agincourt Where Shakespeare's Characters
Try to Overthrow Henry V and Completely Avoid the Famous Battle.**

CHICAGO – Strawdog Theatre Company proudly announces the first production in its 22nd anniversary season, the Midwest premiere of Matt Pepper's *St. Crispin's Day* directed by Kevin Christopher Fox at Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway Street, Sept. 24 – Oct. 31. The run continues Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m., tickets are \$20 with a student and senior discounted ticket price of \$15. There are two additional performances: Monday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. is an industry performance with a ticket price of \$5 to industry members and a Thursday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. performance tickets are \$20. There is also a closing night benefit, Saturday, Oct. 31 with a \$30 ticket that includes post-performance reception. Single tickets and group discounts for groups of ten or more are now available at 773.528.9696 or strawdog.org.

Set on the eve of the Battle of Agincourt, *St. Crispin's Day* takes place in the world of Shakespeare's *Henry V* and follows his famous characters, Bardolph, Pistol and Nym, as they attempt to overthrow England's King Henry V and avoid the battle altogether. Kevin Christopher Fox makes his Strawdog Theatre directing debut with this production. Fox has also directed *Widower's Houses* for TimeLine Theatre, *Beggar's in the House of Plenty* for Mary-Arrchie Theatre, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* for The Gift Theatre, and *Arms and the Man* for the Oak Park Festival Theatre. *St. Crispin's Day* runs approximately two hours with one intermission. Immediately following each night's production are Strawdog Late Night performances in Hugen Hall (Late Night schedule available at strawdog.org).

Appearing in *St. Crispin's Day* are Strawdog ensemble members Carmine Grisolia (Nym), Kyle Hamman (Will), Tom Hickey (Bardolph), and John Henry Roberts (King Henry), with guest artists Marika Engelhardt (Cecile), Carlo Garcia (Tom), James Joseph (Father Morpath), Brian McCartney (Fluellen), Caroline Neff (Mary Anne) and Michael E. Smith (Pistol).

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Strawdog Company members Michael Caloia (Casting), Cortney Hurley (Production Manager), Matt Hawkins (Fight Choreography) and Sean Mallary (Lighting Design), with guest artists Tiffany Bedwell (Dialect Coach) Kevin Christopher Fox (Director), Anders Jacobson (Co-Scenic Design), Nic Jones (Master Electrician), Joanna Melville (Costume Design), Kevin O'Donnell (Sound Design) Judy Radovsky (Co-Scenic) Design and Jon Ravenscroft (Stage Manager).

Strawdog Theatre Company is committed to ensemble acting and an immersive design approach, offering Chicago the premiere storefront theatre experience. The company develops new work, reimagines classic plays, explores new fusions of music and theatre, asks provocative questions and delivers their audience the unexpected. The company is also proud to provide a home for their celebrated ensemble to work and play with the most sought after artists in Chicago theatre along with the best new talents in the city. The Strawdog ensemble has consistently produced shows built on authentic human connections, in their 70-seat home in Lakeview, offering the audience "*the whole wide world in a little black box.*" Strawdog is a proud member of the NorthHalsted Area Merchant Association, The Chicago Storefront Theatre District and the League of Chicago Theatres. For more information on Strawdog Theatre Company visit www.strawdog.org.

The company, formed in 1988 by a group of actors who had performed together in a production of Euripides's *Helen* at a (now defunct) theatre on the west side, took their name from Sam Peckinpah's movie *Straw Dogs* (*Theatresaurus Rex* was, thankfully, the runner-up), and they produced their first show, Len Jenkin's *Five of Us* at a (now defunct) space in Bucktown. At the time, the *Chicago Reader* said "Strawdog Theatre Company's inaugural production brings ... truth home with a vengeance," and *Skyline Chicago* added "The Strawdog troupe shows us what an ensemble can do." Twenty-two years later, Strawdog Theatre Company has survived the ups and downs of Chicago theatre, and is still dedicated to bringing the truth to audiences through the committed work of an award-winning ensemble of actors and designers.

The run for *St. Crispin's Day* is Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. through October 31, tickets are \$20 with a student and senior discounted ticket price of \$15. There are two additional performances: Monday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. is an Industry performance with a ticket price of \$5 to industry members and a Thursday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. performance tickets are \$20. There is a closing night benefit following the 8 p.m. performance, Saturday, Oct. 31 with a \$30 ticket that includes post-performance reception. Single tickets and group discounts for groups of ten or more are now available at 773.528.9696 or strawdog.org.

Strawdog Theatre Company is supported in part by The Alphawood Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, The Saints, The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency), and the through the generous contributions of businesses and individuals.

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