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Satiric Evangelist to Perform in Edmonds

SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 -- Sam Singleton Atheist Evangelist's live performances draw a surprisingly diverse audience--not only the expected "true nonbelievers" and "philosophical and theological types" but, a lot of people who just like to laugh, according to tour manager Cari Park.

The two-act show, which writer-actor Roger Scott Jackson describes as a theater piece rather than a stand-up act, will be presented at the Black Box Theatre at Edmonds Community College, Saturday, October 24, at 8 p.m.

Park describes the scene: "The stage is black and bare except for a pulpit, a small altar bench, three rickety folding chairs, and a coat tree, all starkly white. Brother Sam, in his signature frock coat, blue vest and matching spectacles, conducts the crowd through a hilarious and hair-raising tour of his childhood among 'the tongues-speaking, snake-handling, frothing-at-the-mouth holy rollers,' and subsequent 'reversion to the atheistic state into which we all are born,' before ending Act I with a mercilessly satiric deconstruction of the role of God in American life."

She notes that the second act has Brother Sam teaching a "biblically accurate but somewhat irreverent "Bible class" in which Brother Sam satirically details the symbolic use of penises throughout the Scriptures. "Nobody ever told me that what ties the whole book together, its narrative thread, is penises,' he says.

"Don't look for Richard Dawkins or Sam Harris," says Park. "This is comedy. From the subtlest irony to the most flagrant ridicule, it never fails at its purpose, which is to provoke both thought and laughter. Like Brother Sam says, 'If anybody can use some laughs and encouragement, it's atheists.'"

The performance itself lasts a little less than two hours including a 15 minute intermission. Advance tickets (\$15 dollars) and information are available at (425) 640-1448. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.theatreedmonds.org. Any remaining tickets will be available for \$20 dollars at the door.

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