

For Immediate Release

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The Dueling Bear

A FuzzyCo Production

Saturday, March 8th
8 PM and 10 PM
Two shows: ONE NIGHT ONLY

Spanganga Gallery
in the Mission District
(415) 821-1102
3376 19th Street
San Francisco, CA
On Folsom in between 18th and 19th
<http://www.spanganga.org/>

Tickets: \$10.00

FuzzyCo will present **The Dueling Bear** on Saturday, March 8th, 2003 at 8 PM and 10 PM at the Spanganga Gallery (3376 19th Street) for 2 shows on ONE NIGHT ONLY.

The Dueling Bear is a unique theatrical experience performed by just two performers. This Chicago-style improvisational show takes one suggestion from the audience and weaves it into a showcase of scenes, characters and monologues that intertwine as the two performers give and take to create this one-of-a-kind show. A performance of **The Dueling Bear** “grabs your attention and never lets go.” (*Northside Comedy Review*, Chicago).

The all-star cast features Shaun Himmerick and Beth Melewski. *Now Toronto* raved that “Shaun Himmerick (is) talented...shone” and *New City Chicago* proclaimed that “Beth Melewski is a stand out.” Director Fuzzy Gerdes has been raved about as well, shows he has directed have been praised as “a fresh funny and remarkably inventive show”, “an instant blast” by the *Chicago Tribune*, “unrestrained enthusiasm”, “highly recommended” by the *Chicago Reader* and “a success...exploring the boundaries of improv” from the *New City Chicago*.

The Dueling Bear is a production of FuzzyCo, a small but ambitious production company in Chicago that strives to produce shows at the cutting edge of theatre. Praise for other FuzzyCo shows includes:

"the best improv I've seen in Chicago in years."
--*theaterchicago.com*

"...provided an example of how longform can be extraordinarily successful in the hands of improvisers who are working together to create interesting scenarios and characters. "
--*Improv Review* (NYC)

"...top choices for the most inventive and empowering productions of 2002."
--*Performink* (Chicago)

Interviews and other materials are available upon request and/or from the press section of our website at www.fuzzyco.com/press

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WHAT: **The Dueling Bear** is a unique theatrical experience performed by just two performers. This Chicago-style improvisational show takes one suggestion from the audience and weaves it into a showcase of scenes, characters and monologues that intertwine as the two performers give and take to create this one-of-a-kind show. A performance of **The Dueling Bear** grabs your attention and never lets go.

WHERE: Spanganga Gallery, 3376 19th Street, San Francisco
On Folsom in between 18th and 19th

WHEN: Saturday March 8th 8 PM & 10 PM. ONE NIGHT ONLY

TICKETS: \$10.00

CAST: Shaun Himmerick & Beth Melewski.
Fuzzy Gerdes (director)

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The Dueling Bear Bios

Shaun Himmerick - Shaun has been performing and teaching improvised theatre since 1993. In the past he has performed with National Velveeta, Crazy Monkeys, and Denver TheatreSports. While in Denver, Shaun was the Executive Director of the Denver Civic Theatre and took part in dozens of projects in the Denver theatre community. His favorite class to date is Buddhist movement for theatre, which he took at the Naropa Institute in Colorado. He has also trained at the ImprovOlympic, The Annoyance Theatre and Act One. Shaun has done lots of scripted theatre, with favorite roles including Tom Joad in both *Grapes of Wrath* and *Grapes & Nuts* and Elvis in both *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Cooking with Elvis*. Shaun has directed an un-aired sketch comedy TV show. Shaun currently performs at colleges and corporations around the country with Chicago Comedy Company and is half of the critically acclaimed two-man show, Bare. His favorite project to date is The Dueling Bear, of course, though *The Neutrino Project*, a new improvised indie film every week, comes in a close second.

Beth Melewski - Beth Melewski has been improvising for close to ten years. She is a Graduate of both ImprovOlympic and The Annoyance theaters in Chicago. Besides The Dueling Bear, she can currently also be seen with the critically acclaimed two-person show Dual Exhaust and Chicago ComedySportz. With Dual Exhaust she placed runner up in the Chicago Improv Festival's Cagematch Championship, facing Improv groups from Toronto, New York City, and New Zealand. She is a founding member of Cornerstone Theater Company in Milwaukee where she premiered *The Vagina Monologues* and was praised for her "outstanding work" in Harold Pinter's *The Lover*. Beth loves improv. In any form. Beth would like to especially thank Mr. Yakamoto for his kisses and smiles.

Fuzzy Gerdes (Director) - Fuzzy started FuzzyCo on February 3, 1970. His training includes a laundry list of well-known improvisation institutions (The Annoyance and ImprovOlympic training programs) and instructors (Del Close, Keith Johnstone, Charna Halpern, Jeff Wirth). He tours nationally with the two-man improv group Bare. In Chicago, he is particularly proud of his appearances in the FuzzyCo productions *Actual Theater* and *Armando Diaz' Eventé* and in the Playground Directors Series shows *A Day in the Life*, *1000 Monkeys*, and *Sybilization*. As a director, he is delighted by the critical acclaim for *The Neutrino Project* and expects the same will result for the upcoming *As Yet Untitled Movie Dubbing Show*. Shaun and Beth make him laugh.

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