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BAY AREA ARTIST RETURNS WITH A NEW STAGING OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL PERFORMANCE *DECADES APART: REFLECTIONS OF THREE GAY MEN*

Bay Area artist Rick Pulos returns with a new staging of his dynamic and controversial multimedia theatrical performance *Decades Apart: Reflections of Three Gay Men* on August 14, 15 and 16 at 8 PM at Exit Theater, 156 Eddy Street in San Francisco. Mr. Pulos was born in Alameda and raised in Antioch from age 5 until he flew across country to attend Yale College. Of his experience growing up during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Mr. Pulos said, “Antioch was a small town that was beginning to grow when my parents arrived in 1979. My mother worked in a bottling factory in Oakland and as a dark skinned Mexican woman with fair skinned children, we experienced some discrimination in Antioch. They assumed my mother was our nanny. Also, my idea of being gay when I was in high school during that time was a lot of red dots concentrated on a map – that's what they showed on the evening news. Those red dots represented dead gay men across the country and particularly in San Francisco.” Mr. Pulos currently resides in New York City and is bringing *Decades Apart* to San Francisco in a three night engagement produced by the Ryan Repertory Company (Founded 1972, Brooklyn, NY).

A mere half a decade ago in 2009 *Decades Apart* opened the first ever Long Island (N.Y.) Fringe Festival to homophobic outbursts, downright disgust at the material and even verbal threats to the artist. For the performer and author, the experience was both eye-opening and frightening. After all, The Tilles Center for The Performing Arts is just a heartbeat away from New York City where he lives. The Production Manager at the Tilles Center, a 2,242 seat theatrical venue that books everyone from Bill Cosby to James Taylor, said, “We're trying to bring more works like *Decades Apart* to our community but the people are often resistant.”

Since then, DOMA was toppled and gay marriage resumed in California and other states.

Decades Apart tells the stories of three gay men living in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s and positions their experiences within the social and political landscape of their lives. The multimedia show uses historical video and original animation to recreate each decade in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City. One audience member remarked:

I can't stop thinking about *Decades Apart*. It's a fantastic piece, well-observed and visceral. Each of the characters felt like men I've known or been, to one degree or another, while the trajectory of events in their lives (especially Danny's) often proved surprising. I loved the play's theme of the fusion of flesh and spirit, and the beautiful epilogue.

I was surprised to learn about the controversy that appears to have surrounded the play's Long Island Fringe Festival opening. Bravo to you and the team that helped put it together for continuing with the performance! - M. Walter

The producing team hopes to spur conversation and inspire others with this run of *Decades Apart*. Mr. Pulos would be more than happy to engage in an interview with you or a member of your staff. For a media kit and more information visit www.decadesapart.org.

You are invited to see what the fuss is all about. For press passes, please contact Ryan Rep directly at (718) 996-4800.