

Winnipeg Premiere for *Slaves of Starbucks*, Winner of Five Awards Internationally

“Jet-black comedy...ideas as resonant as dreams”—*The Guardian* ****

“Hysterical, wickedly funny...absolute genius”—*The Scotsman* ****

“Comic genius...close to perfection”—*Toronto Sun* ****

“Deadly dark satire at its best”—*The List* ****

Toronto, June 23, 2014—*Slaves of Starbucks: A Requiem for the 20th Century* lands at the Winnipeg Fringe this summer, promising Winnipeggers a banquet of biting dark satire that has won rave reviews in six countries. Exploring the rise of America and the decline of Europe in the 20th century, *Slaves of Starbucks* is a savage, wickedly funny dissection of contemporary culture. Playing 19 different characters, comedic actor Peter Aterman offers up a surreal free-fall through the Golden Age of mass culture, effortlessly bridging solo comedy and theatre with a superbly polished performance.

The show is Aterman's signature work, and has won five awards internationally:

- **The Hackney Empire New Act of the Year (London)**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hackney_Empire_New_Act_of_the_Year
- **The Golden Cockerel Award (Edinburgh Fringe)**
- **The Tapwater Award (Edinburgh Fringe)**
- **Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe (Edinburgh Fringe)**
- **Thespi Monodrama Festival (Kiel, Germany)**

“I'm delighted to bring my show to Winnipeg,” says Aterman. “I've performed it abroad more than I have in Canada, and this goes some way to correcting that.”

The show goes well beyond typical solo comedy, using lighting, sound and extensive physicality to create a perfectly integrated piece. Above all, it features writing that is intellectually challenging as well as funny. “My aim is to make people think as much as they laugh,” continues Aterman. “The show is rich in historical allusions and cultural references, and it is definitely not light fare. You really have to pay close attention to fully enjoy it. But the effort is worth it.”

***Slaves of Starbucks*:** Venue 10, Planetarium Auditorium; Wednesday, July 16, 8:15 pm; Friday, July 18, 12:00 pm; Saturday, July 19, 5:30 pm; Sunday, July 20, 10:30 pm; Tuesday, July 22, 3:15 pm; Thursday, July 24, 7:15 pm; Saturday, July 26, 1:15 pm

For more information and interviews, please contact:

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SLAVES OF STARBUCKS

SYNOPSIS

Slaves of Starbucks is a satirical comedy about the rise of American culture to world dominance in our time. Peter Aterman plays 19 characters in a series of solo sketches that take savage aim at the world around us: from pop stars who confuse Andrew Lloyd Weber with Hitler, to tourists in St. Peter's wondering if they're in Paris or Rome; from couples who undergo surgery for fun and profit, to Wall Street brokers who hire Aztec priests to predict the stock market; and from figure-skating queens who "train with cocaine," to a helpless everyman confronting the true horror of shopping malls. Directed by Christopher Caines, an award-winning choreographer and director from New York, the show presents a darkly funny tableau that not only makes audiences laugh, but also provokes them to think. The show has won five awards internationally, including the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year (U.K.) and Second Place at the Kiel International Monodrama Festival (Germany).

*"Jet-black comedy...ideas as resonant as dreams"—The Guardian *****

*"Hysterical...wickedly funny...absolute genius...a superb comic actor. His delivery is spot-on, ranging from completely deadpan to deliciously over-the-top."—The Scotsman *****

*"Gifted at making the outrageous strangely believable, he presents an apocalyptic vision of corporate America...this is deadly-dark satire at its best—The List *****

*"Comic genius...close to perfection"—The Toronto Sun *****

BIOGRAPHIES

PETER ATERMAN

WRITER AND PERFORMER

Peter Aterman is an award-winning comedic actor, writer and stand-up from Toronto, Canada. He has written and performed four one-man theatre shows, and regularly performs stand-up in Canada and internationally. He has performed his signature work, *Slaves of Starbucks*, in Canada, the U.S., the UK, Australia, Germany and Spain. He has won five awards for the show, including the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year, one of the UK's top comedy awards; the Tapwater Award for Best Theatrical Comedy (Edinburgh Fringe); the Golden Cockerel Award for Best Show at Hill Street Theatre (Edinburgh Fringe); Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe (Edinburgh Fringe); and second place in the Kiel Monodrama Festival (Kiel, Germany). He also licensed the work for performance by David Beckett at the American Renegade Theater in Los Angeles.

CHRISTOPHER CAINES

DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER CAINES is a Canadian choreographer who has worked in New York since 1986, where he founded his company, Christopher Caines Dancers and Singers. Critics have called his work "less about dancing to music than dancing through music" and "saturated in intuitive musicality and cultivated musicianship." In addition to his choreography, he has composed scores for numerous choreographers and for theatre director Richard Nash; danced for more than 20 New York choreographers; and performed as a singer and actor. He also performed in Ping Chong's puppet play *Kwaidan*; assistant-directed and performed in Chong's *Edda* at Carnegie Hall; and composed an audio installation for the Atlanta Olympic Games. He directed Peter Aterman's *City of Heroes*, *Slaves of Starbucks* and *Love and Despair*. In 2006, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for his contribution to American choreography and dance.

PHOTOS FOR MEDIA



Peter Aterman in scenes from *Slaves of Starbucks*.



Full reviews from the following are available for media on request:

The Guardian

The Scotsman

The List

BBC Scotland (audio interview)

The Stage

Brighton Review

Time Out London

Metro

Three Weeks

Fest

LA Weekly

NoHo LA

Back Stage West

Village Voice

Toronto eye

Toronto Sun

Digitalcity.com

Offoffoff.com

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