



VEST COMMUNICATIONS

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**Production of “Dirt” Scheduled for Performances in Metro Area
“Award winning play about racism and the havoc it wreaks on the human spirit.”**

(February 26 –Potomac MD) –The Washington Theatre Group has announced that Shahin Shakibi an Iranian born, American citizen and local actor will perform “Dirt”, at four locations throughout the Metropolitan area in February, March and April, 2008. The acclaimed European one-man-show was written by Robert Schneider and translated by Dr. Paul Dvorak of Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. David Levin of the Rockville Little Theatre will direct the production.

“My name is Sad. I'm 30 years old,” is the haunting and desperately plaintive refrain heard throughout the play. We never really know his name but we learn who he is through a heart-wrenching monologue. Sad is a self-loathing illegal immigrant from Iraq. He sells roses to scratch out a living on the streets of a country he was inspired to live in from his earliest memory. He tells us he is a liar and inferior, a speck of dirt. But as he weaves his lies through self revelation we are stunned by the greater truth of how he sees himself compared to the beauty of the fair skinned people whose country he has invaded.

“Dirt” is a play about xenophobia, racism and intolerance premiered in Europe after the first Gulf War. Set against today’s bitter political debate over illegal immigration, this play powerfully illuminates the central truth behind arguments over walls along the border and amnesty, the fear and anger that say “you are not one of us.”

Shahin Shakabi has been an actor since the age of thirteen. He has performed throughout the world in Tehran, Vienna-Austria, Canada, New York, New Jersey, Florida and in the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan area. He became a citizen in 1996.

His performances have been acclaimed in New York, Washington and in the Middle East.

“I was eager to perform this vitally important work because it is highly relevant today with its issues of identity, anti-foreign sentiment and self-worth. I believe the powerful messages of *Dirt* are worthy of our attention,” said Mr. Shakabi.

Director Dr. David Levin has been active in local Washington Theatre for almost 40 years. He has worked with Rockville Little Theatre, Rockville Musical Theatre and other groups, appearing onstage, backstage and in the director’s chair.

“I’m proud to be associated with this production of *Dirt*. I believe we all share the responsibility for eliminating prejudice and promoting understanding,” he said.

This production of *Dirt* will be performed in the following venues:

University of MD College Park (Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center) **Friday Feb 29, 08 at 8:00 PM** –Box office: 301-405-2787
www.claricesmithcenter.umd.edu

George Washington University (Marvin Center) **Thursday March 13, 08 at 8:00 PM** G.W. Ticketmaster Box Office -202-994 -7411
800 21st Street NW Suite 204 Wash/DC www.gwired.gwu.edu/mc

Northern Virginia Community College/NOVA, Annandale
Campus (Ernst Cultural Center) **Friday March 21, 08 at 8:00 pm**

Black Rock Center for the Arts (Germantown, MD) **Saturday April 5, 08 at 8:00 PM**--For Nova and Black Rock Center for the Arts ticket purchases go to : www.ticketmaster.com

OR Call: from WASHINGTON (202) 397 - 7328
 from BALTIMORE (410) 547 – 7328
 from VIRGINIA (703) 573 - 7328
 from OUT OF STATE (800) 551 - 7328

For ticket sales call: The telephone numbers above or The Washington Theatre Group at 301) 440–8888 or visit: <http://www.washingtontheatregroup.org/> --Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For new media interviews and previews of performances contact Ken Vest at:
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