



THE MARSH BRINGS DAN HOYLE'S UPDATED
THE REAL AMERICANS
TO BERKELEY

Written and performed by Dan Hoyle
Developed with and directed by Charlie Varon
February 10 – February 25, 2017

BERKELEY, CA (5 January 2017) – **The Marsh Berkeley** presents the wildly popular *The Real Americans* by award-winning actor/playwright Dan Hoyle, with newly-added post-election material. In this riveting recollection of his 100-day van trip through small-town and rural America, Hoyle found himself at ground zero of the country's economic inequality and political division, a state which has become even more starkly relevant as the nation heads into its new administration. The show returned to San Francisco last July with additional material gathered in June 2016, to update the state of polarized politics in the era of Donald Trump, and proved to be the same sold-out hit it was when it debuted. The new post-election ending will bring heightened relevancy in 2017 as the new president championed by Middle America begins his first term. Director Charlie Varon's work in *The Real Americans* earned a 2016 Theatre Bay Area award for "Outstanding Direction of a Play" and *SF Theatre Blog* hailed the revised production as "over the top brilliant, a belly-laugh evening of the best that solo performance has to offer." Developed with and directed by Charlie Varon, *The Real Americans* plays from February 10 – 25 at The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. For tickets (\$25-\$35 sliding scale, \$55-\$100 reserved), the public may visit www.themarsh.org or call 415-282-3055 between 1-4pm, Monday through Friday.

Through Hoyle's interactions with a Reaganite union coal miner in Appalachian Kentucky, a family oriented drug-dealer in the Mississippi Delta, an anti-war gun salesman in Michigan, a closeted gay creation theory expert in Texas, a group of hipster brunchistas in San Francisco, among many others, audiences catch a glimpse of the intense polarization of culture throughout the United States.

The Real Americans made its World Premiere at The Marsh San Francisco in 2010, and was held over for eighteen months. An instant hit with audiences and critics alike, the show continued to receive critical acclaim from major news outlets as it went on to perform in New York and around the globe. It won critical kudos from *The New Yorker*, which called Hoyle's performance "smart, entertaining, funny, insightful and surprising... [the show] is compassionate and ultimately hopeful, without being soft at all." It was also praised as "impressive, hilarious, moving and provocative... should be seen in and outside every liberal bubble in the country," by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *The New York Times* celebrated his performance noting, "Hoyle channels just plain folks with compassion and respect." Since its original run in San Francisco, the show has been performed in New York (Culture Project, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater), Chapel Hill (Playmakers Rep), Philadelphia (Painted Bride), Cleveland (Cleveland Playhouse), Berkeley (Berkeley Rep), Portland (Portland Center Stage), Santa Fe (The Lensic) and Calcutta, India.

Dan Hoyle's *Each and Every Thing*, also directed by Charlie Varon, made its World Premiere at The Marsh San Francisco in 2014, and enjoyed multiple sold-out runs and extensions, receiving the highest accolades from every news outlet, and winning the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Solo Show. It was dubbed "smartly constructed and highly entertaining, globe trotting 'slow-tech movement' embodiment of the essential need to prioritize face-to-face, real-world relationships," by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which also recognized it as a Top Ten play.

Hoyle also created *Tings Dey Happen*, helmed by Varon and premiered at The Marsh San Francisco. It won the 2007 Will Glickman Award for Best New Play before running five months Off-Broadway at The Culture Project, where it was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show. *Tings Dey Happen*, called "funny and poignant. Engrossing. First-rate." by *The New York Times*, was based on Hoyle's experiences as a Fulbright Scholar living in the Niger Delta of Nigeria studying oil politics. In October 2009, Hoyle returned to Nigeria to perform the show in five Nigerian cities, sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Charlie Varon is an artist-in-residence at The Marsh in San Francisco, where he has been writing, performing, directing and teaching for more than 20 years. As collaborator/director,

Varon has worked with performer Dan Hoyle since 2004, on his solo shows *Circumnavigator*, *Tings Dey Happen*, and *Each and Every Thing*. As playwright/performer, Varon's award-winning shows – all created in collaboration with David Ford – have enjoyed extended runs at The Marsh and traveled around the country. These include *Rush Limbaugh in Night School*, *The People's Violin*, *Rabbi Sam*, *Feisty Old Jew*, and most recently, his collaboration with Joan Jeanrenaud, *Second Time Around*.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT: **The Marsh Berkeley** presents the wildly popular *The Real Americans* by award-winning actor/playwright Dan Hoyle, with newly-added post-election material. In this riveting recollection of his 100-day van trip through small-town and rural America, Hoyle found himself at ground zero of the country's economic inequality and political division, a state which has become even more starkly relevant as the nation heads into its new administration. The show returned to San Francisco last July with additional material gathered in June 2016, to update the state of polarized politics in the era of Donald Trump, and proved to be the same sold-out hit it was when it debuted. The new post-election ending will bring heightened relevancy in 2017 as the new president championed by Middle America begins his first term. *The Real Americans* is directed by Charlie Varon.

WHEN: **February 10 – February 25, 2017**

SHOWS: 8pm, Thursdays and Fridays
5pm, Saturdays

WHERE: **The Marsh Berkeley Theater Stage**
2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
Parking: Allston Way Garage, 2061 Allston Way between Milvia & Shattuck
The Downtown Berkeley Bart station is one block away on Shattuck

TICKETS: \$25-\$35 sliding scale, \$55-\$100 reserved
For tickets, visit www.themarsh.org or call 415-282-3055

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PRESS: Contact Carla Befera & Co. 650.327.1200 | courtney@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://www.cb-pr.com/press/realamericans.html>