



SMOKER

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY BOB BRADER

DIRECTED & DEVELOPED BY SUZANNE BACHNER
PROJECTION DESIGN BY CHRIS KATEFF

WINNER
Best
Autobiographical Show
United Solo
Theatre Festival

Bestseller
Indie Theater
Now

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO:
Give up something you love?

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Have you ever had to give up something you LOVE?

Smoker is award-winning New York monologist **Bob Brader's** acclaimed solo comedy about his 28-year love affair with smoking and how they broke up. As he tries to leave his first love: “those sweet Camel lights” Bob realizes all the complex connections he has through smoking: how it helped him through a turbulent childhood, created jobs, opportunities and community, and one particular connection almost too precious to let go. At once hilarious and cautionary, **Smoker** expertly illuminates addiction with universal resonance.

The London Free Press proclaimed: “Smoker is Addictive Theatre: It’s 80 minutes that feels like 30, a feat few actors have the talent to pull off...compelling theatre fueled by Brader's masterful storytelling and acting talent, a show that must not be missed!”

“I've seen a lot of solo shows and this one stands out from the pack. Whether you're a smoker or not, **Smoker** brilliantly written and performed by **Bob Brader** and directed by **Suzanne Bachner** will move you as a human being and inspire you as a solo performer. It is the perfect storm of excellent writing, incredible storytelling, magnificent acting and impressive and deft direction. Don't miss it!”

- Robin Gelfenbien - Storyteller, Speaker and Co-Founder of The Story Whisperers

Smoker was awarded
Best Autobiographical Show • United Solo Theatre Festival
Bestseller • Indie Theater Now



Company



Bob Brader - Writer/Performer

is an award-winning writer, actor and monologist. *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil*, Bob's acclaimed solo show, has toured all over the U.S. and Canada and won 7 Best of Awards including Best Show of the London Fringe and Best Script and Best Encore at the United Solo Theatre Festival. Bob's new retelling of the story on the RISK! Podcast was called by RISK! creator and host Kevin Allison: "An absolute stunner. Bob Brader's story 'Spitting in the Face Of The Devil' is one of our best episodes ever." Bob made his international debut at the London Fringe Festival with his second solo show, *Preparation Hex*, a hemorrhoid tale and love story, which toured Canada and played in NYC at the Directors

Company and the United Solo Festival. His new monologue, *Smoker*, had its world premiere on Theatre Row as part of United Solo, where it won the Best Autobiographical Show Award and went on to a highly acclaimed Canadian tour. Bob's numerous acting credits include headlining the two-actor NYC run as well as the sold-out international tour of *CIRCLE* (Most Daring Show, London Fringe). He was in the original cast of *We Call Her Benny* and performed in both the recent tour and original five-month NYC run of *BITE* with JMTC Theatre, for which he is Executive Director. Other New York Theatre credits include Bryan Enk and Matt Gray's supernatural theatrical serial, *Penny Dreadful*, at the Brick Theater (Teddy Roosevelt) and numerous DMTheatrics' productions: *Girls School Vampire*, *Bitch Macbeth*, *Who in the Hell is the Real Live Lorelei Lee?* and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Caesar, OOBRA Award). Film credits include *Eat Me* and DelanoCelli Productions' award-winning *Brooklyn in July*. Bob trained with the Stella Adler Conservatory at the Tisch School of the Arts and is a member of the United Solo Academy, SAG-AFTRA and the Dramatists Guild.

bobbrader.com • spittinginthefaceofthedevil.com • smokertheplay.com



Suzanne Bachner - Director/Developer

is an award-winning playwright and director. She is the director and developer of Bob Brader's internationally acclaimed, award-winning solo shows including *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* and *Smoker*. Other solo show directing: Gloria Rosen's award-winning *Listen...Can You Hear Me Now?*, Sarah Elizabeth Greer's *Bio-Hazard: A Relative Comedy* (United Solo Europe 2016), Canadian Burlesque star Rosie Bitts' *Stories of Love and Passion* (U.S. and Canadian tour) and her own play, *The Good Adoptee* (Best Autobiographical Script and Best Actress, United Solo: extensive and ongoing U.S. tour). Her play, *CIRCLE*, was called "ingenious" by *The New York Times* and ran for five months Off Broadway followed by a Sold-Out International Tour where it was awarded "Most Daring Show" of the London Fringe. Playwriting and directing credits: a six month NYC run of her cult hit, *Icons & Outcasts*; a five month NYC run and an international tour of *BITE* and multiple NYC productions of her celebrated kaleidoscopic memoir play, *We Call Her Benny*, which Broadway World called "the future of theatre". Directing: Frank D. Gilroy's *The Subject Was Roses* at the Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles and the short film, *Jennifer Monroe, P.I.*, a finalist in Flicks on 66. Suzanne studied playwriting with Romulus Linney and Adrienne Kennedy and holds an MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School at the New School University. She is a member of the United Solo Academy and the Dramatists Guild.

jmtctheatre.com • circletheplay.com • thegoodadoptee.com

Katie Chai – Lighting Design

A stage manager and technician originally from Dallas, TX and a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College, she has worked with many companies in New York City, including American Globe Theatre, Horse Trade Theater Group, Playwright's Realm and others. She has also worked with the New York Musical Theatre Festival, NY Frigid Festival, the NYC Fringe Festival and five years with the United Solo Festival.

katiechai.webs.com

Chris Kateff – Projection Design

Chris is the Resident Projection Designer at JMTC Theatre. Virtual: *Conversations with My Divorce Attorney*, *Smoker* (JMTC Theatre); *Betwixt & Between* (Maggie Gallant Productions); *Emma: a Pop Musical Stay at Home Version* (Lafayette College). Off-Broadway: *Hamlet*, *Medea* (Titan Theatre Company), *Off the Meter On the Record*, *Rebel in the Soul* (Irish Repertory Theatre), *Sheila's Day* (Lincoln Center Institute); *Rated P For Parenthood* (Westside Theatre); *The Road to Qatar* (York Theatre); *Wine Lovers* (Triad Theater and international touring); *Die Mommy Die* (New World Stages). Off-Broadway associate design: *Assassins* (Classic Stage Company). Off-Broadway assistant design: *Forever Dusty*, *Now. Here. This* (Richard DiBella, designer). Broadway assistant design: *Ring of Fire*, *Jersey Boys* (Michael Clark, designer).

ckateff.wixsite.com/projections

Michael Koch – Graphic Design

is a freelance graphic designer and the Resident Graphic Designer for JMTC Theatre.

mkochgraphics.com

Shar Adrias – Video Production

is the owner and Creative Director of Movements by Shar. Shar established a film company in 2005. Having been a dancer all her life and a choreographer, she brings a special kind of texture and vision to her projects. She operates on instinct and feeling, rather than math and science. Specializing in documentary and dance, her passion is in the art of story telling. "The world is so full of stories. I'd like to tell as many I can, for as long as I can."

movementsbyshar.com

JMTC Theatre – Producer

is an award-winning, international, artist-driven theatre company committed to creating powerful, visceral, passionate theatrical experiences that are provocative and transformative. By partnering with national and international nonprofit organizations like Safe Horizon and You Gotta Believe, JMTC Theatre combines Art and Advocacy to raise both funds and awareness and invite engagement and social change. Founded in London in 1994 by Patrick Hillan, JMTC Theatre is based in NYC and has produced over 50 productions in New York City and collaborated with 100s of incredible theater artists. Past productions include Suzanne Bachner's award-winning Off Broadway hit, *CIRCLE*; Thom Fudal's daring production of Shakespeare's *Othello* starring Patrick Hillan and Geoffrey Owens; Bob Brader's acclaimed solo show, *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil* and Suzanne Bachner's celebrated kaleidoscopic memoir play, *We Call Her Benny*. JMTC has presented work at PSNBC@HERE and 20th Century Fox at the Coronet Theater in LA, The Duplex, The National Arts Club, Flicks on 66 Wild West Digital Shootout (Finalist), the first-ever and 2nd annual FRIGID New York Festival, the Midtown International Theatre Festival (Best of the Fest) and the London International Fringe Festival, among many others. JMTC ran its own unique white box theater space in Chelsea for four years, is a Resident Company Emeritus at Pulse Ensemble Theatre, the Actors Institute (now TAI Resources) and Horse Trade Theater Group (now FRIGID New York), and has received four OOBRA Awards, 14 Best in Fest Awards and Spirit of the Fringe from the London Fringe.

jmtctheatre.com • thegoodadoptee.com • circletheplay.com • spittinginthefaceofthedevil.com

Production Photos



Photos by Michael Koch

Production History



Vimeo On Demand
Live from the London
International Fringe Festival
August 11, 2022 premiere
Still Running!
Available On Demand at
JMTCTheatre.com

BROADWAY
ON DEMAND



Broadway On Demand
Double Feature with
The Good Adoptee
Live from the London
International Fringe Festival
November 4-30, 2021
BroadwayOnDemand.com

BROADWAY
ON DEMAND

Livestream on Broadway
On Demand
Live from the London
International Fringe Festival
Talk Back with Host Ellen Ritter,
Bob & Suzanne and
Addiction Expert David Bohl
October 25, 2021
BroadwayOnDemand.com



**Totally True Things:
A Socially Conscious Storytelling Show**
Produced and Hosted
by Jude Treder-Wolff
Kick Off of the Series
World Premiere of Virtual
Projection Design by Chris Kateff
Talk Back with Jude, Bob,
Suzanne and Guest Expert John Martin,
Senior Public Health Educator,
Suffolk County Department
of Health Services
September 17, 2020
Now Available On Demand
www.Lifestage.me



Smoker joins Solo Arts Heal

Founded by Gail Schickele, Solo Arts Heal is a collective of independent solo show artists whose inspiring true stories are united by a common theme of healing. The collective creative vision is to help communities we share through educational outreach and the healing power of the Arts.

SoloArtsHeal.com



**Solo Arts Heal on
the MarshStream**
Hosted by Gail Schickele
The Marsh
San Francisco, CA
June 10, 2020
**See the show at Solo
Arts Heal at TheMarsh.org**



3 From JMTC @ APAP 2020
The Bridge Theatre at
Shetler Studios
244 West 54th Street
12th Floor
New York, NY 10019
January 9-14, 2020



**Phoenicia Fringe Festival
Inaugural Festival
Phoenicia Playhouse
Phoenicia, NY
July 2, 2019
PhoeniciaPlayhouse.com**



**JMTC Theatre's Benefit Shows
for Safe Horizon**
3 From JMTC @ APAP 2019
New York City
January 2-12, 2019
SafeHorizon.org



indie theater now

SMOKER is included in Indie Theater Now's Most Popular Plays of 2016 Anthology.

Smoking Cessation Series
through Lifestage • Manorville, NY



February-November 2016

Smoker awarded
Best Autobiographical Show
United Solo Theatre Festival



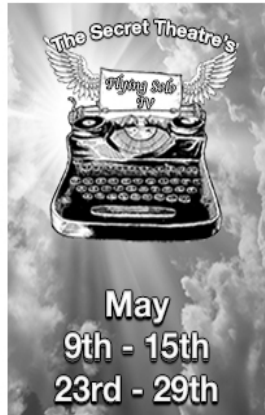
Summer Tour 2016



We are thrilled and honoured to have partnered with the **Canadian Lung Association**. A portion of the proceeds from our **Smoker** Summer Tour 2016 were donated to this incredible organization. Please check out the amazing work they are doing: www.lung.ca



The Lara Touch Studio
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March & May 2016



Flying Solo IV Festival
@ The Secret Theatre
May 13 at 7:30PM

UNITED SOLO™ World Premiere and Sold Out Run in the
United Solo Theatre Festival 2015 • Theatre Row • NYC

Winner • Best Autobiographical Show



The show was presented during Lung Cancer Awareness Month and JMTC Theatre partnered with American Cancer Society (ACS) to raise both funds and awareness. A portion of the proceeds was donated to this wonderful organization.

FROM THE
AWARD-WINNING
CREATIVE TEAM of

SPITTING IN THE FACE OF THE DEVIL



The world premiere of award-winning monologist Bob Brader's new solo show. **Smoker** is about Bob's 28-year love affair with smoking, his fear of being without cigarettes and losing himself, and the love that got him to try to quit.

SMOKER

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY BOB BRADER

DIRECTED & DEVELOPED BY SUZANNE BACHNER

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www.unitedsolo.org • www.jmtcinc.com • www.mkochgraphics.com • www.bobbrader.com

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PHOTOGRAPHY & GRAPHIC DESIGN BY MICHAEL KOCH

SmokerThePlay.com

Acclaim for Smoker

★★★★★ Critics' Choice

"Smoker is Smooth and Satisfying!"

- All About Solo

"*Smoker* is Addictive Theatre: It's 80 minutes of storytelling that feels like 30, a feat few actors have the talent to pull off. *Smoker* is compelling theatre, fueled by Brader's masterful storytelling and acting talent, a show that must not be missed!"

— The London Free Press

"Bob Brader's autobiographical, eloquent and entertaining solo play *Smoker* is a solid addition to the literary genre exploring the mystique and fetishization of smoking cigarettes."

— Theater Scene

"A more endearing and genuine performer than Bob Brader would be hard to find indeed. Don't miss this unique, highly entertaining, first-class show!"

— Hi Drama

"*Smoker* combines Brader's lived experiences with brilliant use of narrative structure and acting that pulls the audience into moments of raw reality to powerful effect."

— Jude Treder-Wolff, LCSW, CGP, MT, Lifestage, Inc

"One of Brader's gifts is that he can take what seems a personal story and make it universal. *Smoker* is very much an American story, in the tradition of Arthur Miller. Brader's signature mix of humor, autobiography and his fantastic gift for storytelling sets the bar high."

— The London Yodeler

"Bob Brader's *Smoker* is the Standout Performance...His autobiographical storytelling style and stage presence has more honesty than I've seen in a long while...In Brader's tale love conquers all. A Winner!"

— New York Theatre Wire

"Brader tells a good story, both engaging and captivating. If you smoke, or used to smoke, you will live everything here. If you've never smoked, you share a slice of the insidious evil of this affliction."

— The Jenny Revue

"Brader is a dynamic storyteller with a wonderful, strong voice and a talent for creating visuals and characters. Never preachy or heavy-handed, and neither for nor against smoking, just — as the old commercials say — satisfying...we're hooked!"

— Winnipeg Free Press



Smoker is Addictive Theatre

By Joe Belanger, The London Free Press



Giving up something you love is tough but giving up that something when it also delivers a highly addictive drug seems near impossible.

But New York's Bob Brader did it and now he's sharing his story in the award-winning show, *Smoker*, on at The Good Foundation Theatre for London Fringe.

Brader, with a long reputation of being a master storyteller and winner of the best autobiographical show at the United Solo festival last fall, delivers a compelling performance talking about his life as a smoker from the age of 12 in a home where both parents smoked, including an abusive father whose love the young Brader relentlessly pursued.

"Smoking doesn't smell bad to me; it smells like home," said Brader, who as a child and through his teen years suffered beatings from his father for transgressions he doesn't understand to this day.

"It was like walking in a mine field, nothing I did seemed to work."

Then he started smoking to be part of the "cool" crowd, finding it helped calm his anxiety about his father.

The only Christmas gift Brader ever received from his father was a carton of cigarettes when he was 14.

"Smoking was the only time I felt any kind of connection with my father," said Brader. "Most of all, I never wanted to lose that connection I had with him."

What's compelling about Brader's story is there is not an ounce of preaching. It's told with brutal, sometimes embarrassing honesty, from the constant beatings to little moments where a smoke was a payoff for a job well done, an opportunity to meet new people or mix with theatre colleagues, a diversion from boredom, a comfort in loneliness and a substitute for love.

Throughout the performance, Brader adopts the voices of a number of characters, including his mother, father, girlfriends and others. He talks about his efforts, including hypnosis, to quit.

The lighting design of this show is excellent, supporting the mood swings and Brader's subtle moves from internal thoughts to his outer voice.

It's 85 minutes of story telling that feels like 30, a feat few actors have the talent to pull off.

Smoker is compelling theatre, fueled by Brader's masterful storytelling and acting talent, a show that must not be missed.

SMOKER

Written and Performed by Bob Brader
Directed and Developed by Suzanne Bachner

A Seemingly Personal Story with Universal Resonance

by Adam Corrigan Holowitz, The London Yodeler



Bob Brader has long been a staple of fringe festivals and the reason why is evident in his newest work *SMOKER*. This play features Brader's signature mix of humour, autobiography, and his fantastic gift for telling a story. The play is his autobiographical account of his love affair with smoking and love affair is exactly the right way to describe it. Brader introduces us to his relationship with smoking by dovetailing it with a relationship breakup he has. Bob's affair with smoking is a lot like breaking up with a girlfriend. There are times when he thinks he is free of cigarettes, then the urge to smoke reemerges. It is the concern of his wife (and director of the play) Suzanne Bachner that spurs him to start the journey toward quitting smoking.

Many of the themes that Brader introduced in his earlier work, *Spitting In The Face Of The Devil*, appear again in *Smoker*. He further explores the troubled relationship with his abusive father and highlights a specific and significant detail in that relationship – that smoking was the one thing they as a family would do together. One of Brader's gifts is that he can take what seems a personal story and make it universal. *Smoker* is very much an American story, in the tradition of Arthur Miller. By exploring his own abusive childhood, he reveals the trauma that existed in many homes in post-war America. This play sets the high bar for Fringe theatrical experiences – go and take it in.

Winnipeg Free Press

SMOKER



We arrive to recordings of nostalgia cigarette commercials (listen for the guy who claims "he forgets to eat, but never forgets to smoke"), and then... we're hooked. There is no "smoke and mirrors" in this solid, hour-long monologue on smoking; just one man's honest examination of how and why he began the habit, and what cigarettes have meant to him at various milestones in his life.

Writer/performer Bob Brader from New York is a dynamic storyteller, with a wonderful, strong voice — hardly the pipes of a longtime smoker — and a talent for creating visuals and clearly delineating the various characters in his story (his interpretations of his cruel father and that mocking "voice of the cigarette cravings" are standouts). He relates things all smokers will understand (that click of the lighter, the sensual satisfaction of that first drag) while simultaneously informing the non-smokers along the way. Never preachy or heavy-handed, and neither for nor against smoking, just — as the old commercials say — satisfying.

— Janice Sawka



New York Theatre Wiresm

Theatre Dance Performance Art Music
Alternative and International Theatre

by Larry Littany Litt

Smoker

Written and performed by Bob Brader

Directed and developed by Suzanne Bachner

Bob Brader's *Smoker* is the standout performance of the first weekend of the Phoenicia Fringe Festival. His autobiographical storytelling style and stage presence has more honesty and dramedy than I've seen in a long while. Yes there's something negative about smoking. Yet Brader reveals there's a lot of positives for him as a smoker. It's a metaphor for all the self-destructive but irresistible habits we acquire in our intense lives. The love and understanding with which he talks about his wife Suzanne offers a good model for couples who need to look into each other's eyes and admit they're in love with both the good and the not so good. In Brader's tale love conquers all. A winner.



Smoker

The mystique and fetishization of smoking cigarettes is joined with personal episodes in writer-performer Bob Brader's eloquent entertaining solo play.

Darryl Reilly, Critic



Of course, I know smoking isn't good for me, I know it can kill me, it says so right on the package. When you're a smoker, you know the risks, you just don't want to think about it all the time, especially when you're smoking. No smoker wants to look at the cigarette they are smoking and think: is this the one that will kill me...

His wife's comment about his smoking during a couples counseling session launches writer-performer Bob Brader's autobiographical, eloquent and entertaining solo play *Smoker*. It's a solid addition to the literary genre exploring the mystique and fetishization of smoking cigarettes.

I look at that Gold Zippo Lighter and think about the first time I ever saw this beauty. It shined as I held it in my hands... It glowed as I filled it with lighter fluid

Mr. Brader's writing on this fascinating subject is sharp, insightful and well-observed. As a performer, Brader's breezy personality endows his personal odyssey with an appealing everyman quality as he appears as himself and

impersonates various other characters. At 80 minutes, the show is overall compelling. Cold turkey, gradual cessation, hypnosis and bicycle spinning are all attempted to stop with varying results.

The black-accented contained stage is set with a white chair and a small white table and is an effective minimalistic landscape. Director and developer Suzanne Bachner's staging is highly resourceful as it places Brader in various spatial areas with visual élan. Katie Chai's jolting lighting design accompanies the revealing storytelling with a variety of fluctuating brightness and redness.

From the age of 12 when he takes his first puff offered by a local girl to the present when he is smoke-free, we experience a bevy of well-crafted anecdotes and incidents centering on his beloved Camel Lights. There's Brader's abusive ex-Marine two-packs-a-day father and his smoking, forlorn mother. The dysfunctional family becomes closer when Brader takes it up. "I was now a man...it connected us."



"Pink Floyd is the music drug addicts listen to!" is uttered in a wild section describing learning how to smoke marijuana with colorful rural Pennsylvania high school classmates in the 1970's, the era of AC/DC, and television's *Kung Fu*.

Bad romantic relationships endure due to the mutual addiction. The camaraderie of smokers in work and social situations is marvelously documented. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 2003 smoking

ban in bars and restaurants incites a hilarious rant.

A visit to Los Angeles with his wife for a funeral leads to an ominous police encounter and psychological reexamination that strengthens the marriage. That richly rendered sequence is one of *Smoker's* numerous moving highlights.

This production is presented as part of "3 From JMTC." JMTC Theatre is a company founded in 1994 that "combines art and advocacy to raise funds and awareness." *Smoker* plays in repertory with two other solo shows, *The Good Adoptee* and *Spitting in the Face of the Devil*. Proceeds from this engagement go to You Gotta Believe, a foster youth organization and to the victim services agency Safe Horizon.



“Smoker” is Smooth and Satisfying

By Chance Morgan

We may think we know all there is to know about smoking. It's all around us, both in our lives and in pop culture. We have seen the public service announcements, heard the lectures in health class, or watched someone we know waste away from a smoking-related illness. But Bob Brader's "Smoker" is unique among such stories. Although it concerns why he quit smoking, it is also a confession of his enjoyment of it, as well as an examination of why he smoked at all.

As Mr. Brader himself describes the show, "Smoker" explores how smokers feel about smoking, which is a perspective rarely considered. Mr. Brader recounts his exposure to cigarettes at a young age, not only by his smoker parents, but also by his peers. He freely admits that for him, like for most smokers, it is a coping mechanism. Cigarettes offer a temporary escape from everyday stress such as work or moving, and from emotionally trying experiences such as funerals. Mr. Brader acknowledges the social benefits of smoking, such as having a 'smoker identity' and enjoying the group bonding of smoking with others. In addition to all of that, he simply enjoyed the act of it. Smokers are aware of the risks and negative consequences but choose momentary payoff and rationalize it later. Every smoker smokes for a reason, and every former smoker quits for a reason. Mr. Brader discusses their motivations at length. At one point he shares something he heard from a former smoker: "If it weren't for my lungs, I'd still be smoking." Rather than preach about how the man's choice to smoke had contributed to his ill health, Mr. Brader admits that he understands that feeling.

Throughout his eighty-minute performance, Mr. Brader effortlessly alternates between energetically recounting humorous experiences and soberly addressing serious and dark subject matter. Each chapter of his story incorporates a skillful blend of narration, impersonation, physicality, pathos and humor that keep the audience's attention. However, the moments of greatest impact came when he spoke simply, honestly and directly about his life-changing experiences and epiphanies.

"Smoker" has the rare quality of feeling at once comfortable and natural, but also carefully planned and well-thought-out, without ever losing balance. It is a personal account made universal through its eloquent and enthusiastic delivery, and its sincere, thoughtful honesty. "Smoker" is both a lighthearted success story and a thoughtful cautionary tale, and neither aspect feels forced. It is a show that draws the audience in with sincerity, shares with them a meaningful message without pretense or judgment and leaves them thinking.



HI! Drama

LESLIE DILEO REVIEWS SMOKER

Written and Performed by Bob Brader; Developed and Directed by Suzanne Bachner; Lighting by Katie Chai.

I have never had a cigarette habit. Once or twice I smoked a cigarette in a bar after one too many lemon drop shots, and in college back in the '80s I flirted with a few packs of Clove cigarettes from Jakarta--until I read in TIME magazine that they contained microbes. I wasn't sure what microbes did to you, but we were already terrified of herpes and AIDS, so I dropped them. Cigarettes may or may not have microbes: but we've known for a while that they can and do kill people: causing heart disease that leads to strokes and heart attacks, deadly and disfiguring cancers and lung disease that robs one of the ability to run, walk, talk and finally, breathe.

What is so compelling about smoking cigarettes? There is the physical addiction to nicotine which is so hard to overcome that out of the 35 million people per year who want to quit, only 15% are successful. In the thorough, moving and sometimes gut-wrenching show SMOKER, Bob Brader shares the history of his passionate and personal pas de deux with his dark savior "those sweet Camel lights".

Performed with only a chair, small table and crisp, perfectly-timed lighting changes, SMOKER relies heavily on Brader's excellent mimicry and acting as he moves through time highlighting the way smoking both soothed him and gave him a sense of belonging through a violent and often lonely childhood and teenage period. He plays his mother, father, neighborhood boys, teen girls, L.A. beautiful people, adult girlfriends and his own wife; and he captures them spot on. A particularly touching scene involves his accompanying a popular girl across an abandoned railroad trestle to deliver a very important package to her uncle on the run: a box of cigarettes.

Brader is also excellent at crafting just the right words and movement to demonstrate the multi-layered appeal of the perfect cigarette experience: lighting one with a gold Zippo. By the time he finished his graceful pose and description of the lighter's internal friction, spark and click to the burning tobacco infused with delicate lighter fluid fumes, I was ready to light up. The recreation of his pure joy was remarkable.

The script for SMOKER is fully developed and eloquently performed. It's no wonder that it won "Best Autobiographical Show" at United Solo. The pre-show audio is filled with old radio and television cigarette commercials--some touting the "health benefits" of smoking. It's amusing and horrifying at the same time--which is an appropriate intro to Brader and Bachner's production. Fortunately, we get the sense that there's still hope for a happy ending; and a more endearing and genuine performer than Bob Brader would be hard to find indeed. Don't miss this unique, highly entertaining, first-class show.

Happy Face Plus

Also check out Spitting in the Face of the Devil and The Good Adoptee.

All proceeds go to benefit You Gotta Believe which connects homeless youth with permanent, loving families and Safe Horizons, the largest victims' services agency in the US.

www.YouGottaBelieve.org and www.SafeHorizon.org

Awards & Press for Bob Brader & Spitting In The Face Of The Devil



★★★★★ **“Brader is a brilliant storyteller/performer. Oh the pictures he paints with his words. His energy, brutal honesty, voice(s) – all astound. Eighty minutes of brilliance!**

- Donald D'Haene, The Dish, London

★★★★★ **“Unforgettable!”**

- Carolin Vesely, Winnipeg Free Press

★★★★/4 **“Down to earth masterful storytelling!”**

- Mark Killeen, The Beat Arts in London

★★★★★ **“Brader keeps the audience mesmerized with his dark comic relief!”**

- Emily Wessel, UPTOWN Magazine, Winnipeg

“Bob Brader keeps the audience at their knees with an engaging knack for storytelling adorned with smart humor and a shattering kind of sadness that will linger in the mind.”

- Nanah Israelyan, OffOffBway.com

"A masterful childhood memoir that can take a hairpin turn from joyful to chilling without missing a beat!"

- Stephen Cooke, The Chronicle-Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia

“Absolutely enthralling, it’s Brader’s performance that makes this show so brilliant. The show is a triumph. And I never say shit like that.”

- Jason Schreurs, Culture Vulture Victoria

“Brader’s confident, candid storytelling manner and his vivid, earnest writing keep us compelled throughout...a gripping, elegantly conceived event”

- Martin Denton, NYTheatre.com

"In Brader's talented, sensitive, caring hands Spitting In The Face Of The Devil is as compelling and engrossing as it is devastating and unforgettable....genius...I cannot recommend this show too highly."

- Louis Hobson, XL 103FM and the Calgary Sun

"Brader is a wonderful storyteller!"

- Kate Watson, The Coast

"Brader's high energy performance and gripping story will wow you. SEE IT!"

- Jessica Goldman, APPLAUSE! METER, Calgary

Contact



For booking requests or more information on **SMOKER**, please contact:



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200 West 54th Street, Suite 10L
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SmokerThePlay.com

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646.621.8252



SmokerThePlay.com