Suburbia

Department of Theatre, Florida International University
FIU THEATRE PRESENTS
SUBURBIA
Written by Eric Bogosian
Directed by Leroy Clark

October 11-14 and 18-21, 2001
Florida International University
Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Studio Theatre
Miami, FL
COMMENTS ABOUT THE PLAY
FROM THE ACTORS

"What I think is best about this play is that the author actually did it. Anyone who knows this type of "slacker" environment always thinks, 'Someone should write a book, a play or a film about our group of friends.' This, of course, usually is discarded promptly because that's what slackers do--slack off! Bogosian actually immortalized characters he knew. He recreated the overwhelmed individuals who probably like him wanted out of their suburban town. Through this play the characters finally get to 'shatter the world.'"

Kristy Webb

"It's easier to not accept accountability for the choices we make, or don't make, in our lives. And then we wake up one day and we can't remember why. Once we realize that we can control our attitude towards life, we can begin to change the future." As Goethe wrote, "Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

Christina Burchard

"The American youth of today's suburbia doesn't really know what it's like to suffer--to need. We live in a dream world of material possessions, of plastic ideals. Perhaps if we had to work harder for what we wanted, it would mean more when we got it."

Megan Teske

"I think this show will appeal to young people because they will be really able to relate to the happenings and especially to Jeff. Today's youth are just like him--depressed and indecisive."

Vladimir Berrios

"This play is a great and precise metaphor for the present times. The irony lies in the fact that these generation X-ers are receiving the message from the Middle-Eastern store owner."

Kristian Cardenas

"The play is especially relevant to our generation in light of the recent tragic events our country has suffered. Our generation has never really had anything to fight for, leading to extreme apathy. I hope this play can serve as a wake up call to those who do not realize that there is a world outside this 'tarpit of stupidity.'"

Ivan Lopez

NOTE BY ERIC BOGOSIAN

I grew up in Woburn, Mass., about ten miles northwest of Boston. Like most suburbs, its history is a nasty collision between past, present and future....

Woburn has grown from being an aging industrial hamlet to a teeming professional community intersected by I-95. As I was growing up, as the mall and the high-tech factories were built, the local roads and highways got busier and busier.

Thirty years ago the mini-mall where I first hung out, "Four Corners," had a barber shop, a pharmacy and a furniture store. Now a 7- Eleven, a Burger King and a car dealership stand in their place.

Looking at Four Corners now, it's hard to believe anyone ever had a personal feeling for the place. But I did. It's where I came of age. I fell in love there, got drunk there, got in fights. (One time, Mikey Turner bit a chunk out of me in the parking lot of the Dunkin' Donuts. Had the scar for six years.)

For the people who first moved to Wobum, the suburbs represented escape, fresh air, order and lack of crime. But for those of us who grew up in the suburbs, the suburbs didn't represent anything, they were something: home. Suburbs were not an escape from reality, they were reality.

Not until I went to school in Chicago, did I realize there was any place not like Wobum. My home is a strange home, a home full of contradictions. A community, but not a community, a place, but not a place....

This territory is where I come from, where lots of other people come from, too. If you grow up in the suburbs, you are told over and over again that you are living the American Dream. But if you are like me, you're not so sure.

If you are like me, you leave the American Dream. The strangest aspect of growing up where I grew up is thinking you know everything about the world, when in fact you know nothing. This is the story of me and mine, as it continues today, all over America.
SUBURBIA
By Eric Bogosian
Directed by Leroy Clark
Set and Lighting Design by Joel Eis
Costume Design by Marilyn Skow
Assistant Costume Designer by Daniela Schimmer
Sound Design by Danny Suarez & Rey Bode

CAST
Tim ................................................................. Manny Casimir
Buff ....................................................................... Ivan Lopez
Jeff ................................................................ Charles Quinteros
Norman .......................................................... Kristian Cardenas
Pakeeza ........................................................ Olga Christodoulou
Bee-bee ................................................................. Kristy Webb
Sooze ............................................................. Christina Burchard
Pony ............................................................... Vladimir Berrios
Erika ................................................................. Megan Teske

SETTING
The parking lot of a convenience store somewhere in suburban U.S.A. in a
town called Burnfield.

TIME
Evening into morning.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission between acts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
"Suburbia" is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play
Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Originally
produced by Lincoln Center Theatre, New York City.

Special thanks to Barbara Joyce, FIU Cafeteria, Campus Bookstore, Road
House Grill in Doral and Golden Hong Kong for props, Melissa Almaguer,
Roger Paz of Publix, and Drew Bongiorno
FIU Student Spotlight

Ready, set, go! We have eagerly commenced our season with three dramatic productions for the fall and winter months but many of our students kept busy this summer working in professional and amateur theatre.

Arnold Bueso built and designed the costumes for City Theater’s Summer Shorts Festival. While up north in the state of Massachusetts Mike Santos and Marina Pareja (FIU Costumer) worked long hours in producing (number) of shows for the Mt. Holyoke Summer Theatre.

Susie Pinedo and Ana Andreu co-directed an original play “Jade’s Betrayal” which opened the Showcase Players Summer Season. Rey Bode was featured as a lead cast player. Danny Suarez made his directorial debut with Nicky Silver’s “Raised In Captivity” which starred a brilliant cast of FIU theater students including Lucia McArthur, Christe Perdomo, Joe Llorens, Robert Maxwell (Alumni) and Robert Friedman.

In the June issue of Miami’s Sunpost edition entitled “The Best of Miami”, Christina Burchard was selected as the best actress for her portrayal as Ariel in FIU’s Production of “The Tempest.” Congratulations Christina!

Taking on a monumental task, Megan Teske and Jeanette Taylor co-directed the musical “Romance! Romance!” Melissa Almaguer starred in Nicky Silver’s “The Food Chain” in which former student Stephanie Acosta came down from St. Louis to direct. Showcase Players closed their season with Ivan Lopez and Joe Llorens co-directing and starring in Sam Shepard’s “True West”. At New Theatre’s new space in downtown Coral Gables, Gustavo David Ortiz, Claudia Latorre and Professor Wayne E. Robinson, Jr. were featured in the critically acclaimed drama “Wit”.

Currently FIU alumni Robert Maxwell and David Perez are performing in the world premiere of “Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams” written by Miami’s very own Nilo Cruz at New Theatre.

BOOKSMART

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The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Supported in 'Part by

The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
The US Department of Education
Delta
The National Committee for the Performing Arts
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNichols
The HRH Foundation

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2002.

Last year more than 1,200 productions and 198,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater ‘grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Catch our upcoming fall productions
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Nov. 8-11 and 15-18
Vanities by Jack Heifner
Nov. 29-Dec. 2