



Rogers Little Theater

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA COVERAGE REQUESTED AT EVENT

Re: An Evening With Oren Safdie at Rogers Little Theater, Sunday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.

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An Evening With Oren Safdie at Rogers Little Theater, Sunday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.

Rogers, AR: Oren Safdie, playwright, screenwriter and the son of architect Moshe Safdie, has offered a staged reading of his Off-Broadway 2003 hit *Private Jokes, Public Places* at Rogers Little Theater (RLT), Sunday, November 6, 7:30 p.m. Safdie is visiting Northwest Arkansas for the celebratory opening of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

Mr. Safdie graduated with a Master's in Architecture from Columbia University. He also received an MFA from Columbia University in Fiction Writing. While at Columbia he studied with playwright Romulus Linney.

His plays include *The Bilbao Effect, West Bank, UK, The Last Word..., Jews & Jesus, Fiddler Sub-Terrain, Hyper-Allergenic, Broken Places, Laughing Dogs, La Compagnie* and *Private Jokes, Public Places* which debuted at the Malibu Stage Co. and went on to play in New York at La MaMa ETC, before transferring to the Center of Architecture for a 5 month run. It also received productions at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, Welfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre in Boston, the Aurora Theatre in Berkeley, California, The New End Theatre in London, England, and the National Theatre of Romania in Timisoara. Safdie wrote the 1998 film *You Can Thank Me Later*, based on his play *Hyper-Allergenic*. It won the Grand Jury Prize at the Newport Film Festival. It was subsequently premiered on *Showtime* in the United States.

He currently holds the position of the Artistic Director of the Malibu Stage Co. and is married to actress/playwright M. J. Kang. Kang performed in *Private Jokes, Public Places* in New York, Los Angeles, London, Toronto and Berkeley. She will reprise her role (which was written for her and is semi-biographical) for the staged reading at RLT.

"Implausible as it sounds, Mr. Safdie has done the impossible: He's written an unpretentiously witty play of ideas about some of the most pretentious ideas known to man... the funniest play to hit New York in months." -- *Wall Street Journal* review of *Private Jokes, Public Places*

"A scream, a short, tight play, and an X-acto-blade sharp comedy. Safdie exposes the emperor's new blueprints for all to see." -- *New Yorker* review of *Private Jokes, Public Places*

The staged reading of *Private Jokes, Public Places* will run Sunday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online at <http://www.rogerslittletheater.org>.

For the past 26 years, Rogers Little Theater has focused on bringing high-quality community theater to Northwest Arkansas. Housed at the historic Victory Theater in downtown Rogers, RLT produces a wide variety of plays, musicals and special events each year, and over 15,000 audience members attended RLT productions in the past two seasons.

RLT continues to strengthen its connections to our communities through alliances with other arts and nonprofit organizations in Northwest Arkansas. The theater relies on more than 500 volunteers, including approximately 100 volunteer actors. Their donations of time, talents and financial resources bring vitality and strength to RLT and help fulfill its mission to provide live theater for audiences, performers and students, enhance the Rogers Historic District and create a regional arts destination.

RLT is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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