



PHOTO CAPTION: Kieron Barry (center) at a read-thru of his new play, *The Official Adventures of Kieron and Jade* that took place in Ventura, California earlier this year. The world premiere of this contemporary comedy written in 1930s screwball style will take place on Thursday, April 20th at The Bridge Street Theatre in Catskill. For more information and tickets, call 518.943.3818 or go to www.BridgeStreetTheatre.org.

Theater: The Art of Making a Comedy Work

CATSKILL – Kieron Barry’s new play, *The Official Adventures of Kieron and Jade*, is a comedy with pain and loss at its center. “I needed it to be fizzy as champagne,” he said, “albeit with a shard of broken glass at the bottom. The story is something awful and grief laden that makes a room full of people laugh.”

Barry is referring to his collapsed real-life relationship with a singer-songwriter named Jade. But the subject of the play is more than that. It is the pros and cons of writing about his collapsed relationship. Should he or shouldn’t he? Particularly, should he record the happenings – even though the female half of the equation has no input?

Beginning on April 20th, Bridge Street Theater, 44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, will present the world premiere of this comedy, *The Official Adventures of Kieron and Jade* starring Jason Guy and Bonita Jackson and directed by John Sowle. Performances run Thursday through Sunday for two consecutive weeks. Evenings at 7:30. Matinee on Sunday at 2. The Thursday preview on April 20th and the Sunday matinee on April 23rd are “Pay-What You Can”. For reservations, go to <http://official.brownpapertickets.com> or call 800.838.3006. Further information regarding the performances can be obtained by contacting the theatre at 518.943.3818.

“Having obsessed on my failed relationship for months,” Barry said, “I finally decided that my thoughts could be a play. But to write about myself and an unhappy time, the form would require two things. First, it would have to be short. And second, it had to be a comedy. What could be more awful than listening to someone complain about themselves?”

So the playwright morphed his thoughts into a stage production with dialogue delivered in the rapid fire style usually associated with 1930s screwball comedies like *The Awful Truth* or *His Girl Friday*. “It’s a heightened linguistic form,” he explained. “I tried to make every sentence as beautiful as it could be with exquisitely wrought phrases. In a sense, it loses realism, but benefits from that burnished quality.”

“Comedy is hard to write. If people haven’t laughed in the last 30 seconds, you’re in trouble,” he adds. “But a benefit is that, as long as people *are* laughing, you can get away with almost everything else. On paper, this is a play about self-harming, mental illness, even suicide. But, as long as I can make a joke out of it, it will work.”

Kieron Barry is best known for his one act comedy, *NUMBERS*. He has also been showcased locally in the enormously successful 2012 production of *Tomorrow in the Battle* at Stageworks/Hudson. It was hailed by the *Albany Times Union* as “one of the most remarkable pieces of theatre in recent memory.”

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