



Written & Performed by Jeffrey Solomon

Directed by Joe Brancato

Produced by Houses on the Moon Theater Company

INFO PACKET



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ABOUT THE PLAY

When a little boy's gender atypical gift request to the North Pole is denied, a series of heart-felt letters from the child nudge Santa Claus out of the closet, and into the culture wars. A theatrical mockumentary in the mold of Anna Deveare Smith and other story-focused works, acclaimed writer Jeffrey Solomon purports to have interviewed, and portrays, all of the key players in the scandal that has come to be known as 'Santa-Gate'.

THE SANTA CLOSET was inspired by the national movement to speak honestly and openly to children about LGBTQ+ lives and issues, and the conservative backlash.



PROJECT HISTORY

A one-person theatrical mockumentary, centered on a beloved holiday icon's questions of identity and cultural stigma, "The Santa Closet" was inspired by the national debate on providing gay role models to children, as well as performer-playwright Jeffrey Solomon's research into the "parents' rights" movement to keep LGBTQ+ issues out of schools.

Solomon premiered the play, originally titled "Santa Claus is Coming Out," at Chicago's Bailiwick Theater in 2001. From 2001-2014, the show enjoyed several NYC, regional, and international productions, including Columbus, OH's National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival ("Best of Festival" Award, 2002), the Dublin International Gay and Lesbian Theater Festival; Off Broadway's Kirk Theatre (in collaboration with Diverse City Theater Company, Penguin Rep Theatre, and Shotgun Productions, 2009); and San Diego's Diversionary Theatre (StageSceneLA's Best Solo Performance Award, 2010-11).

The play's current incarnation, "The Santa Closet," premiered at Baltimore's Theatre Project in 2015. After further development, Houses on the Moon produced the show, under the direction of Penguin Rep's Joe Brancato, from December 3-22, 2019 at NYC's Teatro Circulo. In 2020, subsequent licensed productions were live-streamed from Richmond, VA's Triangle Theater and Atlanta, GA's Out Front Theatre.

The SANTA CLOSET is available for touring and licensing; for more information, please contact Emily Joy Weiner at info@housesonthemoon.org.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JEFFREY SOLOMON (PLAYWRIGHT/PERFORMER) is the co-founder of Houses on the Moon Theater Company, and curated and directed Houses' story-based theater projects TRANSformation (true stories about gender identity and family), and gUN Country (true stories from people impacted by guns and gun violence.) His solo play MotherSON has had acclaimed runs at HERE Arts Center, the Oval House (UK), and Theater Works (Melbourne, Australia) and has been presented as an educational and support tool around LGBTQ+ and human rights issues in India, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. Jeff wrote Jim Henson's "CITYKIDS" which was Emmy nominated for Best Children's special. He is a MOTH Grand Slam Champion and has been featured on NPR's Moth Radio Hour.

JOE BRANCATO (DIRECTOR) is the Artistic Director and founder of Penguin Rep Theatre. He directed Karoline Leach's Tryst (Outer Critic's Nominee, Best Play) starring Maxwell Caulfield at the Promenade Theatre; Lee Blessing's Cobb (Drama Desk winner) produced by Kevin Spacey and Melting Pot at the Lucille Lortel Theatre and co-produced by Mr. Spacey and Garry Marshall in Los Angeles; George Walker's Escape From Happiness starring Marsha Mason; The Big Swing (starring Madeline Kahn, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, and Marisa Tomei) and Dr. Valentine's Waltz (starring John Turturro, Laura Linney, Gina Gershon, and Jane Alexander) at Naked Angels.

HOUSES ON THE MOON THEATER COMPANY was founded in 2001 with a mission to dispel ignorance and isolation through the theatrical amplification of unheard voices. Our projects begin with relationship building, collaboration, and partnership with grassroots community organizations to identify an urgent social need; a vital untold story that must be heard. Our creation process includes extensive research, first-person storytelling workshops, and interviews, and our work is presented Off Broadway as well as in non-traditional spaces throughout New York City, the US, and internationally.



WORD OF MOUTH

“A Delightful Surprise! ... This isn’t a clumsy parody, but a sensitive, imaginative tale that really is about a boy’s realization that he is different. Mr. Solomon portrays an amazing range of characters, all of them beautifully.” –The New York Times

“Thought-provoking and funny...Hilarious and good-spirited”--Joe Lombardi, [BroadwayWorld](#)

“A frothy, zany tale aloft with quite a few grins and chuckles...Solomon portrays every one of the characters with only voices and physical traits to identify them. This acting feat is quite a marvel to behold.”--Christopher Cazwell, [TheaterScene.net](#)

“Underneath the hilarity of Solomon’s clever writing and flawless characterizations, is a piece that examines gender and sexual identity in a heteronormative society that rejects us before we have a chance to accept ourselves, and how the fear of rejection threatens to damage our relationships with ourselves and others.”--Kyle Jackson, [BearWorld Magazine](#)



BOOKING

***FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT
INFO@HOUSESONTHEMOON.ORG***

