

March 4, 2009

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**Taffety Punk Theatre Company Presents a World Premiere:**  
***The Faithkiller***  
**By Gwydion Suilebhan**

**Directed by Marcus Kyd, Artistic Director**  
**Featuring Company Member Kimberly Gilbert**

Stories about faith and heroism have long dominated American life. They have shaped at a deep level the way we think... but have they been good for us? In **Gwydion Suilebhan**'s new play *The Faithkiller*, a bold new work, the power of radio and television to transform our collective storytelling upends conventional notions about American belief.

The new play is the first work produced in 2009 by **Taffety Punk Theatre Company** – winner of the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company at the 2008 Helen Hayes Awards.

When an ambitious young network television producer resurrects a 1940s-era radio program and recasts its central character as an atheist superhero, conflicts over the nature of faith and the power of belief erupt across lines of family, politics, and culture. *The Faithkiller* is a parable for an age in which old-time religion collides head-on with the New Atheism... and neither side comes away unscathed.

Suilebhan says that *The Faithkiller* is an investigation of sorts into “the difference between faith and belief.” The play’s inquiry spans history, denomination, and race, as characters grapple with thorny questions raised by the strictures and demands imposed upon them not only by Christianity, Islam, Judaism, but also by the militant, fundamentalist atheism that has appeared in recent years, most prominently in best-selling books by Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens.

Both Suilebhan and Taffety Punk artistic director **Marcus Kyd** – who directs the play – also observe that *The Faithkiller* has another investigation at its core: an exploration of what Kyd says is “the nature of storytelling across mediums.”

*The Faithkiller* uses a mix of media to delve into its investigation of the power of genre, including film, radio and (of course) live performance. Much of the play’s action takes place in the places where media is made (radio and television studios) and consumed (the family home).

Suilebhan observes that his decision to place radio drama at the center of the play is not only a manifestation of his “lifelong love of radio drama,” but also the unique power of that medium in allowing the listener to shape the narrative. On radio, he says, “stories were so much more important to us. There is so much more work on the part of the listener to create the story – the work of imagining in our heads.”

**What:** *The Faithkiller*

**When:** March 30, 2009 (Opening Night) 7:30 p.m.  
April 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17 (Wednesday-Friday) 7:30 p.m.  
April 4, 11 and 18 (Saturday) 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
(Pay-What-You-Can Previews March 27 and 28 at 7: 30 p.m.)

**Where:** Capitol Hill Arts Workshop  
545 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Washington DC 20003

**Tickets:** All tickets \$10  
[www.taffetypunk.com](http://www.taffetypunk.com)  
Or call: 1-800-838-3006

**Gwydion Suilebhan** is the author of *Abstract Nude*, *The Great Dismal*, and *The Butcher*. His previous work with Taffety Punk includes the world premiere of his play *Let X* (2006) and contribution of a prologue to the company’s production of *Cardenio Found* (2007). His plays have been produced, workshopped, read, and commissioned by the Kennedy Center, National Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Mead Theatre Lab, Theater of the First Amendment, Rorschach Theatre, Intentional Theatre Group, Source Theatre Festival, and the Capitol Fringe Festival. He has received two Individual Artist Fellowships and a Larry Neal Award from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and has twice been accepted into the Cultural Development Corporation’s Mead Theatre Lab program. He was recently named a finalist for the Washington D.C. Mayor’s Arts Award in the category of Outstanding Emerging Artist.

**Taffety Punk Theatre Company** kicks off its 2009 series of performances with *The Faithkiller*, a new play by Washington, D.C. playwright **Gwydion Suilebhan** at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. The play opens on Monday, March 30, 2009 and will run Wednesdays through Saturdays from April 1 through April 18.