



# Antelope Valley Thespians

2011  
Writers  
Briefing





# Who We Are

- AVT is an incorporated 501(c)3 **nonprofit theatre** company ...
- Dedicated to **advancing the creative potential** of the local theatre and artistic culture ...
- Through the production of **unique, original, and experimental** drama ...
- And cultivating an integrated community of **local writers, actors, musicians, and fine-artists.**





# Company History

- **4 Full Length Productions**
  - CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
  - BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
  - THE INTERROGATION OF NATHAN HALE
  - CROSSINGS
- **2 Playwrights Expos**
  - Staged readings of local original work
- **1 Writer on Contract**
  - We pay for quality work
  - Looking to expand

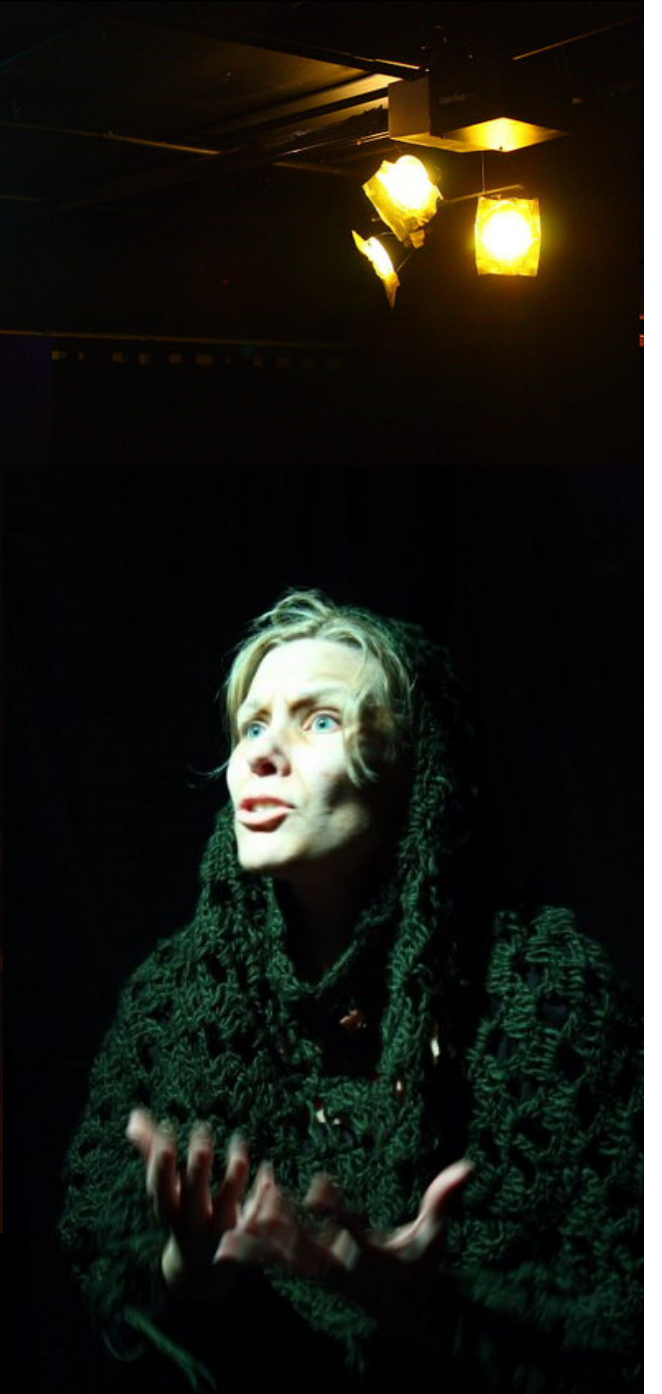
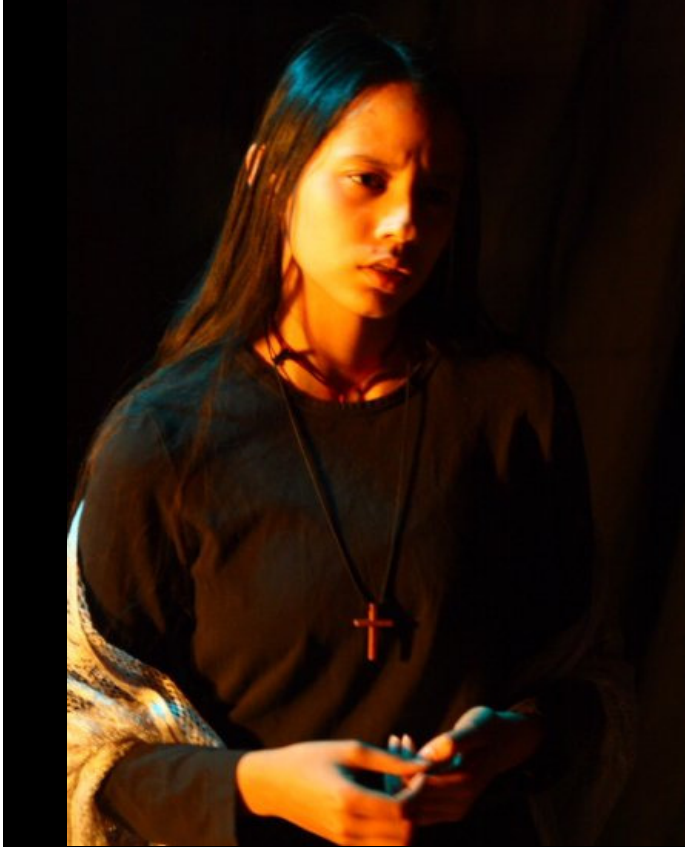




# Garage Black Box Studio

- Main rehearsal and workshop space
- Floor-to-ceiling black walls
- Sixteen-piece overhead lighting grid with controllable hue and intensity
- Sound system
  - 4.1 surround speakers + mixer board
  - Laptop + linked CD players for effect/music control
- Flexible configuration, up to 30 seats







## Focus on Playwrights

- One of our founding goals: bring the work of local playwrights to the stage.
  - OUR COMMUNITY HAS A WEALTH OF VOICES
- We provide a structured series of events for bringing your play from concept to stage.
- Or, submit original work at any time, and we will negotiate royalties for scripts that meet our artistic standards.



# The New Play Process

- Write a play
  - That's your job... and it can take years. We have tools and people to help.
- Submit to an experimental theatre company
  - That's us. We explore what it can do on the stage, giving you critical feedback and promoting your work.
- Submit to a professional theatre company
  - They will want to know if it has been produced and how well it did... how will you answer?
- Submit manuscript to publishing houses
  - Dramatic Publishing Company, Dramatists Play Service, Samuel French, Norman Maine, etc....



## What's In It for Us?

- We produce the premiere of original plays that provide fresh new theatrical material
- We develop lasting relationships with local writers and invest in future productions
- We promote a greater artistic awareness and involvement in our local community, which comes back around to us
- We are recognized as an innovative theatre company willing to take artistic risk



# What's In It for You?

- Practical Experience
  - Gain invaluable feedback from directors, actors, technical crew, and production staff.
  - Observe and participate in how your work is interpreted and brought to life by other artists.
  - Prepare for Publication through production.
  - Publishers strongly consider successful production with an experimental theatre company.
- Get Paid
  - We consider the going rate for published plays, the record of the playwright, and also the financial risk of staging a new, experimental production



# Writing for AVT

- Dramaturgical Philosophy
  - Character-driven
  - Thought-provoking
  - Unique
- Logistical Constraints
  - Cast size, budget, space.
- WE HOLD ALL ORIGINAL WORK TO THE SAME STANDARD AS WE WOULD ANY OTHER PLAY





# 2011 Playwright Events

- **February 2011 — Writer’s Briefing.** Attend this primer on who we are, what we are looking for, and how to get your script produced by your local experimental theatre company. Participate in a question and answer session with company directors.
- **March 2011 — Concept Workshop.** Workshops involve discussions and readings in an informal setting, as well as ideas and feedback on the play’s story, themes, and characters. These are designed for the earliest, most conceptual stages of crafting a play.
- **April 2011 — ScriptFrenzy!** AVT is happy to support Script Frenzy, an international writing event in which participants take on the challenge of writing 100 pages of scripted material in the month of April. For more information on ScriptFrenzy!, visit [www.scriptfrenzy.org](http://www.scriptfrenzy.org).
- **June 2011 — Scene Expo.** Each script or scene selected for expo will be given a staged reading, limited direction, and time for discussion with feedback from actors, techies, directors, fellow writers, audience members, and the company dramaturg.
- **Final manuscripts** for full production consideration in 2012 are due to the AVT Dramaturg no later than October 1, 2011. For more information, see the “Playwrights” page on our website.



Main Website/Blog:  
[www.avthespians.org](http://www.avthespians.org)  
Click on “Playwrights”

Nalin Ratnayake, Producing Director  
[nalin@avthespians.org](mailto:nalin@avthespians.org)

Find us on Facebook  
or follow us on Twitter (@AVTheSpians)

