

ANGRY SONGS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME



A Boston Tale of Violence, Music & Redemption

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY ALAN AYMIE



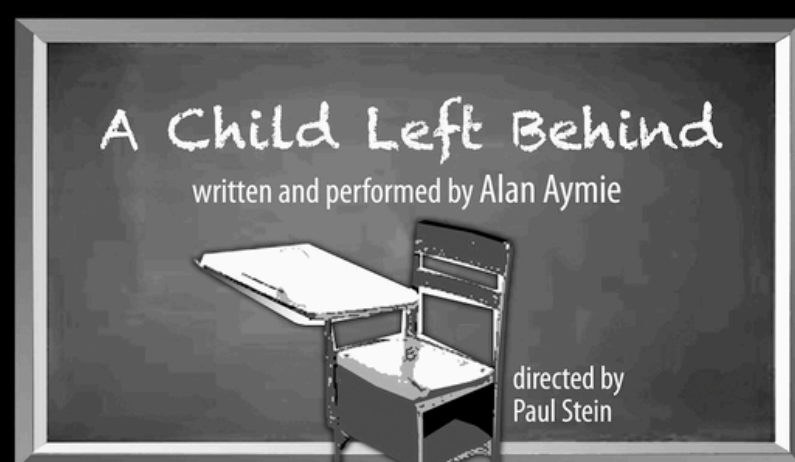
ANGRY SONGS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME

"ANGRY SONGS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME," IS A POWERFUL SOLO PLAY EXPLORING THE HAUNTING LEGACY OF GENERATIONAL TRAUMA AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE QUEST FOR HEALING. SET AMIDST THE BACKDROP OF AN ANGER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN VENICE, CALIFORNIA, THIS GRIPPING NARRATIVE TRACES THE PROTAGONIST'S PATH FROM A CHALLENGING UPBRINGING IN THE RACIALLY CHARGED 1970S BOSTON TO HIS OWN EMOTIONALLY RAW STRUGGLE AGAINST INHERITED RAGE HERE IN LA WHERE A HARROWING INCIDENT WITH HIS OWN CHILD SETS THE STAGE FOR SELF-REFLECTION AND CHANGE. "ANGRY SONGS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME" OFFERS A CATHARTIC EXPLORATION OF BREAKING FREE FROM THE CHAINS OF THE PAST, ILLUMINATING THE NUANCED AND ENDURING BOND BETWEEN FATHER AND CHILD.

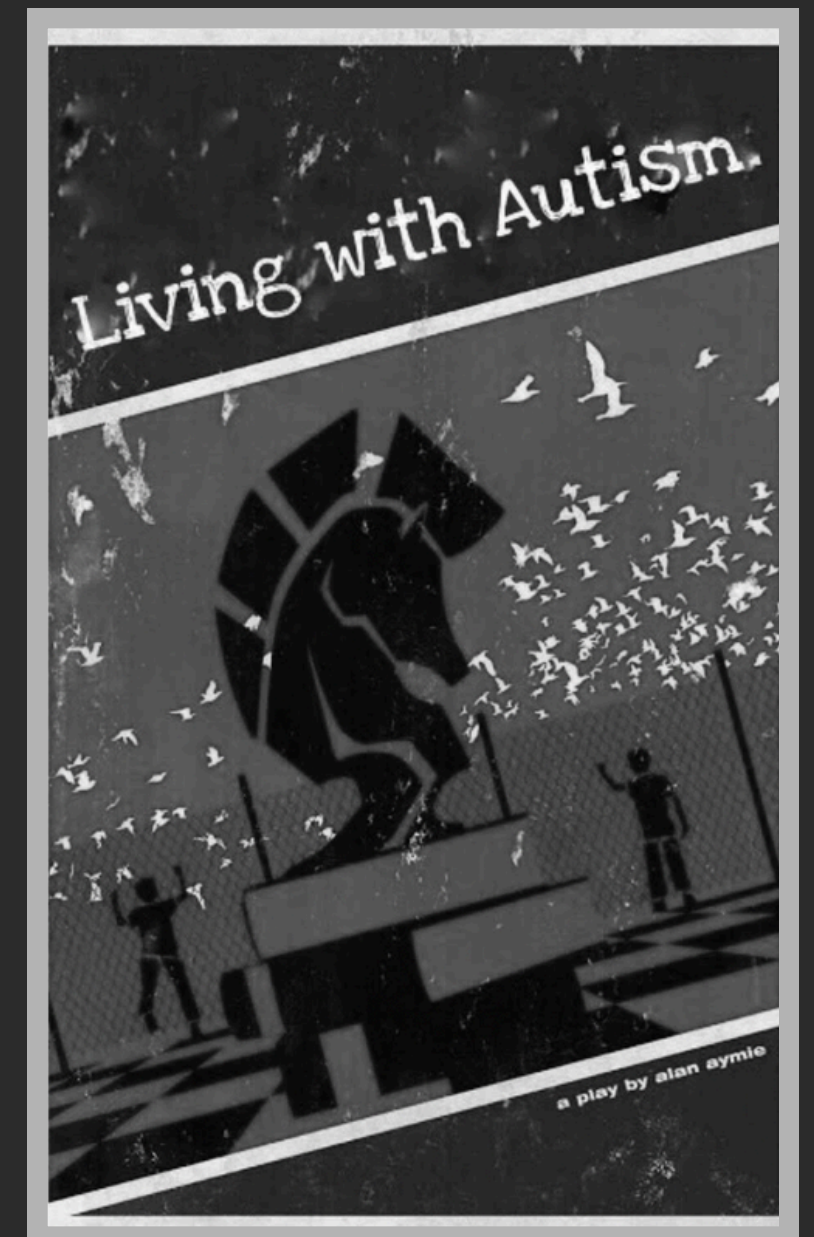
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PAST WORK




He fought hard to teach his students...he fought harder to teach his son.



“Compelling...Aymie proves first rate....”


- LA TIMES (A CHILD LEFT BEHIND)

Alan’s work has been seen across the country, garnering three LA Weekly Pick of the Weeks, and two Best New Play Awards, including full productions at theaters, including: The Zephyr Theater, John Anson Ford Theater, HBO Aspen Comedy Festival, The Ruskin Theater, The Ensemble Theater, Theater 40, The Malibu Playhouse, the Beverly Hills Playhouse, PSNBC, Comedy Central Stage, HBO Workspace, 45th Street Theater, Road Theater Company as well as colleges and universities across the country.


**PICK OF THE WEEK – GO!**

Alan Aymie's autobiographical saga of his travails within LAUSD, *A Child Left Behind*, is this week's Pick. Other New Reviews also include Bill Raden's "GO" review of Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight Los Angeles, 1992*, honoring the 20th anniversary of our most recent riots. Smith is not performing in that production (at the Skylight Theatre, 1816 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz).

Alan Aymie takes aim at the Los Angeles Unified School District and the *L.A. Times* in his solo show *A Child Left Behind*, about his time spent as a teacher in a low-performing school. Laid off from teaching for a second time last year and given a "below average" ranking in the *Times*' database of value-added teacher ratings, which are based on student progress on standardized tests, Aymie picked up a pen instead of a picket sign. The resultant narrative is a Sisyphian struggle to teach poverty-stricken students amidst dwindling budgets and out-of-touch administrators. Compounding Aymie's frustrations over missed connections with kids is his son's diagnosis with Asperger's syndrome. The script balances social and personal commentary successfully, and Aymie's energetic charm allows us easy access to his outrage. Beverly Hills Playhouse, 254 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; through May 26. (702) 582-8587. ktickets.com, bhplayhouse.com (Amy Lyons)



A Child Left Behind
LA WEEKLY PICK OF THE WEEK



"What's remarkable about writer/performer Alan Aymie's one-man show *Child's Play* is the super-abundant energy, tight scripting and furious pacing - so fast the audience can barely keep up as Aymie morphs into a disparate cast of characters. With his spitfire delivery, the indefatigable performer never misses a beat, careening from an estranged girlfriend bearing his child to an unctuous paternity lawyer, a no-nonsense-talking cousin back in New York and in a distinctly uncomic about face, to the brutally dysfunctional kids he teaches. Aymie's performance is quite electric....

CHILD'S PLAY
LA WEEKLY PICK OF THE WEEK



Playwright Alan Aymie takes swipes at gangster rap, the music industry and consumer culture in this boldly refreshing one-act. While performing on Hollywood Boulevard, street musician from Ghana, Kwame (James Black), is “discovered” by an executive (Wylie Small) from Gang Rape Records. Despite the fact that he’s a soulful folkie who doesn’t rap, he’s made over into a gangster rapper. At the urging of another company executive (Abner Genece), Kwame reluctantly accepts a phony identity intended to boost his street credibility and takes on a new name: MC Bling Bling. (Ironically, Gang Rape’s motto is “Keeping It Real”). Thrust into the media spotlight, Kwame maintains the charade of MC Bling Bling but finds the hoax increasingly burdensome, especially after a young fan is killed at one of his concerts. Other characters offer counterpoints to Kwame’s story, including two sound engineers (Wolfgang Bodison and Jarrett Galante) — who provide a short history of hip-hop and rap — an impoverished African-American teen (Damien Johnson), and a TV news announcer (the marvelously deadpan Scott Vance). The cast is excellent under Rodney Nugent’s direction, and Black demonstrates amazing range in the lead. Aymie’s audacious one-act has much to recommend it."

RAP
LA WEEKLY PICK OF THE WEEK

Life's Echoes

Series' final one-man show is powerful, funny and touchingly humane.

By TODD EVERETT
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Theater 150 ends its current series of one-person shows this weekend, and although each has had its merits, Alan Aymie's "Child's Play" may be the most inviting and accessible.

Like his predecessors this season, Aymie writes from his own life. A month after a brief romantic relationship ends, he learns that the former girlfriend is pregnant. Somewhat taken aback by the news, if only because he'd thought she was using birth control, Aymie is thrilled by the prospect of fatherhood and immediately offers to marry the woman.

Explaining that, among other qualities, he's "too hairy" and smells like garlic, she declines. From that point, he embarks on a brief (45 minutes onstage) retelling of advice from several sources and recounting of his efforts to gain partial custody of the child, Emma.

The tender coming-together of father and child is the show's focus, and—refreshingly—Aymie doesn't paint the unnamed mother as a villain. But at least as interesting is the writer-performer's telling of his time as a substitute teacher in an inner-city school. Although it forms a substantial part of this piece, it might be expanded rewardingly into a show of its own.

Aymie and director James Brown-Orleans have come up with a presentation that's informative, powerful and energetic, touching, funny and humane—in short, everything a one-man show should be.

CHILD'S PLAY
LA TIMES

BIO



ALAN AYMIE

PLAYWRIGHT/PERFORMER

Alan Aymie is a classically-trained actor and renowned playwright and performer known for his compelling works including "Child's Play," "RAP," "A Child Left Behind," and "The Old Man of the Mountain." He first rose to prominence with "Child's Play," a one-man show that received critical acclaim and was selected for the HBO Aspen Comedy Festival. Aymie's subsequent play, "RAP," won the African-American Playwrights Exchange's Best New Play award, and his work "A Child Left Behind" has been praised for its insightful exploration of autism and public education. Alan has worked with such theaters as the Soho Rep, A Noise Within, Center Stage, West Coast Theater Ensemble, Theater Geo, Maryland Stage Company, The Folger Library, The Kennedy Center and others. He lives in LA with his wife and family.

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