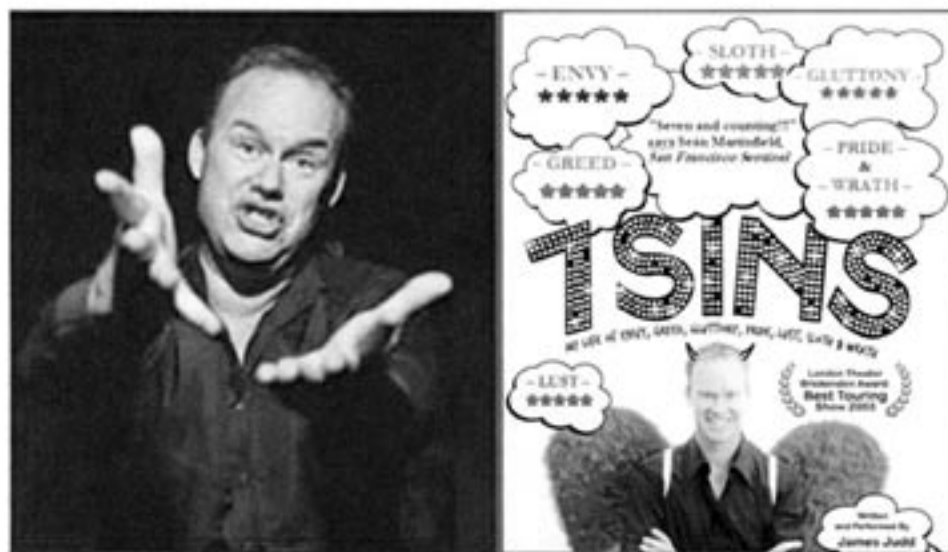


By Seán Martinfield
Sentinel Fine Arts Critic
Photo by Lynn Imanaka

7 SINS is a real flamer and James Judd is the best One-Man-Show-type guy in San Francisco! A pot-boiler tour de force, 7 SINS and its creator James Judd are what beloved comedian Frank Morgan (the “Wizard of Oz”) once described in NAUGHTY MARIETTA as, “Two barrels of gun powder!” Zooming around like greased lightning, the man’s wit and energy never stops. And neither do the laughs. James’ 7 SINS is an episodic account (a hell-bent confession) of how he got to be the way he got to be. The building blocks of his accumulated Self are the “Seven Deadly Sins” – envy, lust, sloth, gluttony, greed, pride and wrath. The rest is the stuff of classic vaudeville and the gift of perfect timing.

It all started with Envy. While in the 5th grade, James reads MY SEARCH FOR PATTY HEARST – a cheesy tale authored by the kidnapped socialite’s once live-in boyfriend and fiancé, Steven Weed. Come the Foothill Elementary School’s Annual Book Report competition, James is totally convinced he will beat out Marianne, the most popular self-effacing smart-ass ever, and crush her version of an oft-repeated snow white promo for “Little Women”.



JAMES JUDD – 7 Sins, now at The Exit Theatre

It’s the semi-finals. “The very semi-finals,” he says, “and I am THIS CLOSE to being named Top 5th-Grade Book Reporter. I know! It’s HUGE!” Once Marianne is de-throned, he will be catapulted into international celebrity. If nothing else, as a 5’ 9” ten-year-old with a pear-shaped body and huge head of curly brown hair – “the type of kid who likes to wear corduroy pants and long-sleeved shirts even in summer” – he will become COMPLETELY POPULAR! Enter the school censors. “Your mouth ought to be washed-out with soap!” And it’s lights out on that fantasy. Except for the soap part. His mother introduces him to the other six Deadly Sins by paying him two dollars a day to cut class and watch “The Young and the Restless” which he will then re-enact for her when she gets home from work.

“It changed my life!” says James. “I learned things I could NEVER learn at school! Like – I learned how to walk into a room and cause a scene!”

James Judd is causing quite a scene at THE EXIT THEATRE. (located at 156 Eddy Street, San Francisco). Catch him breaking the commandments before it’s too late!

7 SINS began as a local group show. Judd made a solo show for the Canadian Fringe Festival Circuit from stories developed from the original. It set several new fringe festival attendance records for a Solo Show over the course of more than 100 performances. It also won the London, Ontario Theater Guild’s prestigious Brickenden Award for Outstanding International Production, and received numerous “Best of Fringe”, “Best Solo Performance”, and “Audience Favorite” accolades. 7 SINS will be performed this year at the Edinburgh Festival, produced by Fringe Management International. Randall Rapstine, who recently directed Margaret Cho’s electrifying revue The Sensuous Woman at the Zipper Factory off-Broadway, will helm the production.