

Curtis D. Shepard

A WORTHY INVESTMENT!

Lyle Benjamin
Queen City Theater



Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Lyle Benjamin, I am the Producing Artistic Director of Queen City Theater. I have worked with Curtis Shepard since 2001. What Curtis brings to all his performances is immediacy, energy, and freshness. He is an actor who is always in the moment, always genuine. As a writer his work is heartfelt, earthy, personal, and thought provoking.

Over the years I have directed in him several productions and have seen him on stage in other productions on numerous occasions, so I am not the best reference because I am biased, I always enjoy what he does and I am usually surprised.

A performance by Curtis Shepard would be a welcomed addition to any companies theatrical season.

Sincerely,

Lyle Benjamin
Producing Artistic Director
Queen City Theater
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Piper M. Davis

To whom it may concern –

Engaging, captivating, thought-provoking and relatable are some of the things I have come to expect from a Curtis D. Shepard performance.

Hard working, dependable, intelligent and energetic are some of the things I've come to expect from the professional artist.

I am a professional actress, director and producer. I have known and had the joy of working with Curtis for over sixteen years.

Curtis is a writer as well as an actor, which enables him to take his pieces, (literally), from the inside out and present them with humor and candor. He creates an EXPERIENCE, not just a show! He is a creative thinker who has then ability to draw from his life experiences and use the characters he creates to educate, inform and entertain his audiences.

If you would like to have a Powerful season, then your season needs to include Curtis D. Shepard!

Sincerely,

Piper M. Davis

piper.davis@cincyplay.com

The Cincinnati Playhouse





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Amy Pettinella
Twilight Productions

I had the privilege of meeting Curtis Shephard in 2012 at the Chicago Fringe Festival. He was performing his show, "UnMasked," and I was a fellow performance artist. I enjoyed his show so much that I saw it twice and promoted it at my own show.

Two years later, my independent theater production company, Twilight Productions, produced "UnMasked" at IndyFringe, which is my home Fringe Festival. Until this time, I had written all of our productions, but I was so excited about the work Curtis had done with "UnMasked" that I wanted to use my slot to introduce him to my beloved city and home festival.

Curtis was an absolute professional. He came to tech prepared and instantly struck a rapport with the technical director, and the two collaborated about how to stylize the show. Although he lived in Cincinnati, he worked the Indy streets as if they were his own, talking to passersby and inviting them to the show. It wasn't long before word got out about this brilliant, almost impossible to categorize spoken-word/drama/comedy.

A couple of years later, I encouraged Curtis to apply for Onyx Fest, a local play-writing festival for African Americans. Curtis introduced his new show "Sidewaze Rain," and in a word, you could say that audiences were thunderstruck. The festival could not have been launched on a worse weekend--the same weekend as the Indy 500. The festival overall had a low turn-out, but all Curtis could talk about was the people who DID come to the festival and his show. He sees every audience member as a gift. He has an uncanny knack for breaking the fourth wall without breaking character and bringing audience members into the fray. Doing this always makes a lasting impression, and once Curtis makes a friend, he is a friend for life.

It is my honor to recommend my sometimes artistic partner, always-professional artist, and lifetime friend, Curtis, to any Fringe Festival that is looking for fresh and original voices. He has a voice like no other, and he is always 100% committed to bringing his A-game, while being flexible and spontaneous enough to let his shows evolve and change with each new run. I have seen "UnMasked" at least ten times, and each time I got something new from his telling.

Sincerely,
Amy Pettinella
Indianapolis, Indiana

Curtis D. Shepard

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Karla K. Imbus

Fasten your seatbelts. You're in for a wild ride. With charm and charisma, author and actor Curtis Drake Shepard snatches up and holds his audience in a powerful embrace of storytelling. He poetically illuminates characters from brilliant and sinister to sweetly naive, then smashes them together. Cleverly delivered quips provide timely relief from tensions of betrayal, addiction, and loss. Portrayals of souls as disparate as babies and pimps demonstrate Shepard's unplumbable empathy for the human spirit.



Mr. Shepard knows something about how to survive life's highs and lows. As a child, he defiantly fled the abuse of an overwhelmed and addicted mother and the pain of an absent father to the relative stability and endlessly forgiving love of his Aunt Cat. Poverty dictated Curtis come up as a latch-key kid in Cincinnati, allowing for many delinquent adventures, and fodder for plenty of stories.

Curtis's youth was filled with extended family, a few key mentors, opportunities to develop his music sharing & business interests, and plenty of girls and weed. Over time, however, the damage to himself and others caused by his own addiction as well as the loss of a brother, pained Curtis terribly.

Observers may credit his intelligence, resilience, street sense, and the gift of spoken word artistry for Curtis's ability to overcome the fates of both victim and perpetrator status. Curtis, however, gives thanks to God, his sobriety, and the love of all his family and friends. Let's hope for more gifts shared by Mr. Shepard in the coming seasons.

Sincerely,

Ms. Karla K. Imbus,
Physician Asst.
MCPHD

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My name is Greg Stallworth, Author/Playwright and Founder of Stallworth Productions.

My association with Curtis Drake Shepard extends over twenty years. Curtis was in my first staged performance as the lead actor. His onstage characterization was truly phenomenal. In fact, so much so that it allowed me to take the production to the Aronoff Center, one of the largest theatrical venues in Cincinnati, Ohio. Because of CURTIS' prior performance, we were able to sell out.

Throughout the years Curtis has successfully performed in other stage plays that I have produced. He is at his very artistic best when performing solo, onstage, in his one man show, "UnMasked", which he wrote and produced and brings to life eight distinctly different personalities.

I had the extreme pleasure of accompanying him to Chicago, Illinois for eleven days at the Chicago Fringe Festival where he performed "UnMasked", to a sold-out audience. The post-performance feedback and reviews were very positive.

In addition to "Unmasked", Curtis introduced his most recent one man show, "Sidewaze Rain", to an awestruck audience at the Indianapolis Onyx Festival with a strong and powerful message. Amazingly, in this full, two act performance, he plays over SEVENTEEN characters! In my professional, theatrical opinion, I highly recommend Curtis' involvement and participation with any theatrical organization/company across the country. I promise, you will not be disappointed with his superb talent and dedication to his craft. Respectfully,

Greg Stallworth

Author/Playwright

Stallworth Productions

www.stallworthproductions.com