

## ***Nelly Boy*: A New Work About Gender Identity**

VANCOUVER, BC: Managing Artistic Director Seán Cummings is pleased to present the final instalment of Queerly Canadian 2009 and an association with Zee Zee Theatre to present their sophomore production: ***Nelly Boy***. A brand-new piece written by Vancouver playwright Dave Deveau, ***Nelly Boy***, explores the grey world of gender and identity through the eyes of a troubled teen.

An unknown man (Allan Zinyk) sits in a non-descript room trying to discover how Nelly (Amitai Marmorstein) came to be running naked along the side of a six-lane highway. Nelly's world slowly unfolds. Following Nelly's epic journey through suburbia, we discover the inner workings of a brilliant teenage mind trying to grapple with the greater picture. Caught in the middle of opposing gender ideals, Nelly is forced to confront hatred and his/her own perceptions of the world in order to survive.

"I'm fascinated by this North American notion that only two sexes exist," says playwright Dave Deveau. "That we need to identify one way or the other. What is it to be male or female? Why are we not allowed to choose how the world perceives us? Nelly is the manifestation of that choice, and (s)he grapples with these issues in a really in-your-face way."

"Like so many of us," adds director Cameron Mackenzie, "Nelly is an outsider. As we watch Nelly's story and world unfold, we can't help but see an element of the rebel teen in all of us who just wanted to carve out a place in the world that wasn't dictated by social constructs. That is the power of this play."

Screaming Weenie Productions has been producing theatre works in Vancouver since 2000 with a mission to produce and promote queer and sex-positive performance, to support a strong queer cultural community, and to create greater positive public awareness and acceptance of queer individuals and groups outside of sex and gender norms.

Queerly Canadian is a theatre series focusing on new Canadian plays. The series is anchored by Canada's new play workshop and reading series, Clean Sheets. In August 2009, four playwrights from across Canada were teamed up with local directors and actors for workshops and public readings of their new work. *Nelly Boy* was part of Screaming Weenie's new development workshops in 2009 prior to Clean Sheets.

***Nelly Boy*** previews Thursday, October 22, then has its world premiere Friday, October 23 at 8 pm. It then runs nightly (except Mondays) through until October 31. There will be 2 pm matinees on October 25, 31 and November 1. All performances take place at the PAL Theatre, 581 Cardero St. Tickets are \$21.50/25.50, and are available through [Tickets Tonight](http://www.ticketstoday.com) (604.684.2787).

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<http://www.screamingweenie.com>



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