

The Gun Show

by E.M. Lewis

Starring Vin Shambry
Directed by Shawn Lee

Touring and
Project Information





WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING IN AMERICA?

In an America growing increasingly divided along political and ideological lines, *The Gun Show* steps into the center of a deadly and divisive issue. Playwright E.M. Lewis sits with the audience while Performer Vin Shambry shares her stories – just five gun stories in a country full of gun stories. **Her words. His voice. Our story.**

She grew up in rural Oregon, where everyone has guns. She learned to shoot on a date. She worked at Jackson's Bookstore during an armed robbery, and once encountered a threatening cop in New York. And then there's the fifth story: the one that doesn't let go, **the story that triggered this show.**

The Gun Show takes aim at America's most dangerous past-time with brutal honesty and poignant humor. **Leaning neither right nor left**, it jumps into the middle of the gun control debate and asks: *Can we have this conversation?*

"Like a lot of people, I've had a variety of experiences with guns and am conflicted about guns. This is not a far-right or a far-left play. This is a grappling with guns in American society, and trying to figure out if there's some way to come to terms with their presence, or some way in which we can make them a little bit safer for us. It's not an all-or-nothing proposition." -E.M. Lewis, playwright

VENUE SPECS

The Gun Show is performed in a three-quarter thrust but would work in any configuration. Previous performances' venue sizes have varied from 60-200 seat theatres. Alternative spaces (converted church spaces, community buildings, schools) could also be considered.

TECH SPECS

Two performers and touring technician on the road
Simple lighting plan
Sound operated on Qlab (company-provided laptop)
Projector

Load in: 1 day
Load out: Minutes

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Prior to Edinburgh, *The Gun Show* CoHo co-production was the Pacific Northwest premiere, and more significantly, a "coming home" show for local playwright, EM Lewis, to her home-state of Oregon: September 9-October 1, 2016, [CoHo Productions](#), Portland, OR.

Following a sold-out run of the show in Portland, this production of *The Gun Show* traveled to Washington, D.C., for the Logan Festival of Solo Performance at 1st Stage. Currently, *The Gun Show* is enjoying a one-month-long run at SpaceTriplex during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Gun Show premiered in July 2014 in Chicago at the 16th Street Theatre. This critically acclaimed production was extended and eventually received a Jeff Award Nomination for Best Solo Show. *The Gun Show* subsequently became a critical hit in Los Angeles in the fall of 2014 and was nominated for 2015 Stage Raw Los Angeles Theatre Award Best Solo Show. It received an East Coast Premiere in Trenton, New Jersey at Passage Theatre. Recent productions have been in Berkeley, California at Impact Theatre and Santa Barbara at Center Stage Theatre.

TOUR SCHEDULE 2016-17

July 1, 2017: [Artists Repertory Theatre](#), Portland, OR

July 6-16, 2017: [Logan Festival of Solo Performance](#); 1st Stage Theatre, Tysons, VA

August 4-28, 2017: [Edinburgh Fringe Festival](#), presented by theSpace UK at SpaceTriplex Studio Theatre, 19 Hill Place, Edinburgh, EH8, UK

December 1-2, 2017: [Willamette University Theatre](#), Salem, OR

ARTIST PROFILES

E.M. Lewis (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright, librettist, and teacher of playwriting. She was a finalist for the 2014 Shakespeare's Sister Fellowship. She received the Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University in 2010-2011, and a fellowship from the New Jersey State Arts Commission in 2012. She won the ATCA/Steinberg Award for her play "Song of Extinction," which also received the Ted Schmitt Award for Outstanding Writing of a World Premiere Play from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle. She won the Primus Prize for her play "Heads." Her work has been produced around the world, and is published by Samuel French. <http://emlewisplaywright.com/>

Shawn Lee (Director) has 20 years of experience producing theatre, including 25 productions as co-founder and co-artistic director with Furious Theatre in LA. Recently he relocated to Portland to become the Artistic Producer at Artists Repertory Theatre, producing 11 shows to date, as well as coordinating and producing shows for Profile Theatre, Portland Shakespeare Project, Risk/Reward, Hand2Mouth, Tiempo Libre concerts, Corrib Theatre, Phame, and many other solo projects.

Vin Shambry (Performer) is honored to be part of this important and powerful show, as well as to work with CoHo for the first time. As a local Portlander himself, it is especially meaningful to tell this story of rural Oregon, particularly during this time in our nation, and as a black man. Vin is a resident artist at Artist Repertory Theater and has performed in numerous local shows at Portland Center Stage, Portland Playhouse, Oregon Children's Theater, Staged, Portland Opera, and Artists Repertory Theater. Before returning home to Portland, Vin performed on Broadway as Tom Collins in *Rent* and John in *Miss Saigon*, and toured nationally with *Rent*, *Miss Saigon*, *Honk* and *Big River*. Vin was recently voted **Portland's Best Actor** by Willamette Weekly reader's poll (2016), has won three Portland Drammys (2011), and an Audelco Award for Best Actor in a Play for *Black Man Rising* (2006). Vin has a BFA in Musical Theatre from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC (2005). Vin also moonlights as a live storyteller at the Moth, Back Fence PDX and Entertainment for People, and is working on a collection of short stories about his childhood. In his day jobs, Vin directs and choreographs youth performances in local schools. *"Having the opportunity to step into E.M. Lewis's words is truly breathtaking. She so eloquently captures her own truth, while simultaneously leading us to confront our own."*

SUPPORT FOR THE GUN SHOW

The Gun Show is proud to be supported by Ronni Lacroute, Harold Goldstein and Carol Streeter, as well as through grants from the Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Culture Council, and a special thanks to CoHo Productions, and Artists Repertory Theatre.

VIDEO

[Click here](#) to see *The Gun Show* trailer. Please inquire for longer clips. Full show is available.

PRESS



[British Theatre Guide](#)

"...you will be greatly moved by what you have seen and remember much of it for some time to come."



[Is/Ought](#)

"Go see it."



[Broadway Baby](#)

"Beautifully executed...an outstanding masterclass in theatrical storytelling."



[Edinburgh49](#)

"Vin Shambry is one of the most powerful and talented performers at this year's Fringe."

[DC Metro Theatre Arts](#)

Review by John Stoltenberg

"...Whatever line there is between life and art completely blurs, and we ourselves are witness to something far more than theater."

[BroadwayWorld](#)

Review by Krista Garver

"...a powerful show, an important show, and a show everyone should see."

[American Theatre Magazine - 19 Political Shows to See This Fall](#)

[Oregon ArtsWatch](#)

Review by Marty Hughley

“It’s a remarkably committed and affecting performance, intense yet with a quality like a set of shifting transparencies, a convincing illusion pulled off even as he explains the trick to you.”

[Portland Mercury](#)

Preview by Megan Burbank

“...it’s downright essential.”

Portland Monthly Magazine

CRITIC’S PICK

Willamette Week

PORTLAND’S BEST ACTOR, 2016 (Vin Shambry)

Oregon Public Broadcasting, *State of Wonder*

[Click here to listen to the full story.](#)

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