

ATHENA THEATRE COMPANY

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For Immediate Release:

Press/Media contact:

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**The Athena Theatre Company presents *Beirut*  
By Alan Bowne at the Elephant Lab Theatre, Hollywood**

***Beirut*** is Alan Bowne's stunner about love in the plague years. It's the near future: we're in a dump of a room on the Lower East Side, where a young man named Torch as been quarantined after testing positive for a nameless disease that sounds a lot like AIDS. His girlfriend, Blue, who has not been infected, makes the dangerous journey across the quarantine line to be with him. The human spirit faces the inevitable, and it is a spirit of hope, of logic, and of empathy.

The specific purpose of Athena Theatre is to educate by providing a supportive and creative environment for artists (actors and crew), where they take risks, try new things, consider new approaches; to provide theatre they are proud of and passionate about. Veronique Ory and Elizabeth Welsh are the founding members of Athena Theatre. The formation began coming together while working on *Two Encounters*, "*Birdbath*" and "*Ferryboat*" in November 2002. These plays, like the others, display the theme of people loving so much; they risk everything to conquer all odds.

Alan Bowne was the author of several plays that have been produced in New York and regional theatres. Other successes include: *Sharon and Billy*, *A snake in the Vein* and *Forty-Deuce*. He received the Arthur Foundation Prize in 1986 and was a member of the New Dramatists. ***Beirut*** was first produced in New York by the Manhattan Class Company. "*The marvel of Mr. Bowne's work is the richly raunchy language, tuned to the gritty rhythms of the street.*"-**Walter Goodman, The New York Times.**

Directing ***Beirut*** is Ty Donaldson. He received his BA in acting/directing from BARD College, NY. He's directed productions of *You Can't Take it with You*, *Rocks*, *Lone Star* and *Laundry and Bourbon*.

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Athena Theatre Company's previous productions have received strong critical response. *Crimes of the Heart* was called "Pure Joy"-NoHo LA. "The four women have great interaction between them"-reviewplays.com "After presenting a family show such as *Crimes*, we really wanted to do a play that forced audiences to be inspired, moved and leaving the theatre a bit uncomfortable."-Elizabeth Welsh, co-artistic director.

Beirut written by: Alan Bowne

Directed by: Ty Donaldson

The Elephant Lab Theatre  
6322 Santa Monica Blvd, Hollywood

February 6th through February 29th  
Friday, Saturday @ 8:00pm and Sunday Nights @7pm

Tickets: \$15

Reservations and Information: 818.754.1423 OR online at  
[www.athenatheatre.com](http://www.athenatheatre.com)

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