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SON OF SEMELE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS
A WORKSHOP PRODUCTION OF ITS
LATEST NEW PLAY AT THE AUTRY MUSEUM

Award-winning theatre company Son of Semele Ensemble (SOSE) is presenting a workshop production of "Record Storm Spreads Ruin!," a new play written by company member Aaron Henne and created in collaboration with the ensemble. The workshop production of "Record Storm..." will be presented at the Autry Museum on July 13, 2008.

"Record Storm Spreads Ruin!" is part of the Los Angeles History Project, a highly selective commissioning program produced annually by the Edge of the World Theater Festival. This year six new works about Los Angeles history were commissioned. SOSE's "Record Storm Spreads Ruin!" will open the festival of presentations at the Autry Museum.

Using the 1938 Los Angeles flood as its backdrop, "Record Storm Spreads Ruin!" explores the political atmosphere in Los Angeles in the late 1930's. Central to the play's story is the recall of Los Angeles Mayor Frank Shaw and his public feud with businessman and activist Clifford Clinton, known today as the founder of Clifton's Cafeteria in downtown. The 1938 Los Angeles flood became one of many incidents during Mayor Shaw's term that contributed to his eventual recall and the creation of what is today the city's concrete river.

In "Record Storm..." Shaw is visited by several Los Angeles residents as they try to escape a massive rain storm surging outside city hall. Some living and some dead, the visitors offer him one last chance at salvation from his past deeds before he too is overtaken by the record storm. Many of the play's storylines as well as the title were extracted from headlines and reports on the front page of the Los Angeles Times on the morning after the storm in 1938.

The playwright of "Record Storm..." SOSE company member Aaron Henne, claimed the LA Weekly Award for Playwriting last year. This is the fourth play Henne has written for SOSE. His last SOSE production "King Cat Calico Finally Flies Free!" was published by Original Works Online earlier this month. Reunited with Henne for the first time since the "King Cat..." is director Edgar Landa, who received the 2003 Ovation Award for Best Director for SOSE's musical production of "Animal Farm."

The cast includes Elizabeth Clemmons, Michael Dunn, Daniel Getzoff, Natalie Hall,

Matthew McCray, Ray Paolantonio, Erica Rice and Alex Wells. The workshop features sound by Ryan Poulson, costumes by Erica Rice, video by Greg Young, and scenic props by Noelle Leiblic.

SOSE was profiled as one of the “hippest, hottest, most innovative theatre troupes in the U.S.” by American Theatre Magazine, and featured on the magazine’s cover. Over the past seven years the company’s work has received 17 regional awards and award nominations including the Ovation Award, the LA Weekly Theatre Award and the NAACP Theatre Award. For additional information on SOSE visit www.sonofsemele.org.

The workshop presentation of “Record Storm Spreads Ruin!” will take place at the Autry Museum, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027 on Sunday, July 13 at 11:00 a.m. Admission is free. For more information on this event visit www.sonofsemele.org

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