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***EDGEFEST 2004...UNDERWRAPZ ANNOUNCES EVENTS  
PLANS FOR 2005 UNDERWAY***

Since its grassroots inception in 1999, EdgeFest® has brought Los Angeles theater audiences exciting, cutting-edge theatrical productions under one Big Tent. The annual Edge of the World Theater Festival™ has hosted 285 productions, including more than 100 world premieres and the work of over 1,000 Los Angeles-based theater artists. In 2003, the Festival featured 53 productions (34 world premieres) over 16 days in almost 350 performances. Audience attendance was a record 12,000. Many EdgeFest productions were acclaimed as some of the year's best.

Now EdgeFest has set its sights on creating an internationally recognized event, transforming the Edge of the World Theater Festival, Los Angeles and its environs into a cultural tourism destination in the tradition of Edinburgh and Spoleto. Beginning in 2005, the Festival will create itself anew and undergo some remarkable changes.

While the Festival will continue as the largest festival of its kind dedicated to the work of regionally based artists, it's expanding to feature co-productions partnering Los Angeles artists with some of the world's most innovative and thought-provoking theatermakers.

The Edge of the World Theater Festival is also becoming "geographically specific." No more racing to venues scattered across the city! EdgeFest-goers will find most productions within comfortable walking distance of each other, and conveniently located near public transit, bars and restaurants.

In addition to the Special Events produced by EdgeFest for the Edge of the World Theater Festival (including eight newly commissioned works for the Los Angeles Future Project and the Los Angeles History Project), all of the productions created for the 2005 Festival will premiere during the sixteen days of EdgeFest, making it a truly unique celebration of theater in Los Angeles.

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But bringing this new vision of the Edge of the World Theater Festival to fruition requires careful planning and fundraising. In order to focus on the restructuring process, EdgeFest will present a much smaller Festival in 2004. The 2004 “mini-Fest”, dubbed “EdgeFest 2004... UnderWrapz” will consist of three special events over three weekends, October 2-17:

- The LA Future Project™ - Part 2 – New works for young audiences, commissioned by EdgeFest and created by some of L.A.’s most imaginative theater companies. October 2-3.
- The Fifth Annual LA History Project™ - A co-production with the Museum of the American West. New plays about L.A.’s colorful and controversial peoples, places and events. October 9-10.
- “EdgeFetish” – a 24-hour marathon presentation of highlights and excerpts from productions presented during the first five years of the Edge of the World Theater Festival™. October 16-17.

The EdgeFest staff is very excited about the evolution of the Festival, and look forward to spreading the word to theater fans about the changes. Please let me know if I can arrange interviews for you, or provide any other information about plans for 2004 and 2005.

Best wishes,

Janis Hashe  
Betty PR/For EdgeFest

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