

**AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT
DAVID SISCO'S**



A comedy about men and the men they want to love them.

PREMIERES OCTOBER 13, 2011

at

STAGE LEFT STUDIO

STARRING

TOM GUALTIERI n' DAVID SISCO

DIRECTED BY

LAURA JOSEPHER

**What happens when two friends set out to find the perfect mate?
Gay speed dating, a trip to Boise and a slew of outrageous drag queens.**

In two brief, comic one-acts, Sisco chronicles the story of best friends Justin & Charlie as they navigate a series of hilarious situations which force them to confront their true feelings.

BAIT n' SWISH premieres THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 at STAGE LEFT STUDIO (214 West 30 Street – between Seventh & Eighth Avenues on the 6th Floor) where it will play through Friday, November 18.

Directed by Laura Josepher, both plays star Tom Gualtieri and Mr. Sisco, who play 49 characters at dazzling speed, assisted only by four hardworking folding chairs, a clever sound design, a whistle, a buzzer, and a few well-meaning props.

When BAIT premiered at the 2006 Columbus National Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival it garnered an unprecedented six awards including BEST ACTOR (Tom Gualtieri), BEST DIRECTOR (Laura Josepher), BEST SCRIPT, BEST COMEDY, AUDIENCE FAVORITE and BEST OF FESTIVAL. The show then played at the inaugural 2008 Left

Out Festival in New York at Stage Left Studio where its sold-out run was extended three times before being featured at the 2008 Philadelphia Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival.

BAIT takes place in a midtown Manhattan Howard Johnson's where Justin has dragged Charlie to an unfortunate, half-civilized event called "Gay Bait." Hosted by something called Quick Fix Speed Dating, Justin and Charlie quickly learn that the dating pool is very shallow.

Mr. Gualtieri and Mr. Sisco play all 32 men in BAIT's alarming parade of issue-ridden hopefuls.

SWISH, the second act on the hilarious double-bill, further explores Justin and Charlie's loving but seemingly impossible relationship. Looking for solitude, Charlie flees to his Aunt Meredith's home in Boise, Idaho, only to get sucked into creating a New York City style gay club.

In Boise, Idaho.

Mr. Sisco reprises his role as Charlie while Mr. Gualtieri spins around him as the denizens of Boise, playing the remaining 15 characters, including next-door neighbor Delores Kinney, who is a force of nature.

A force of nature.

And she leads Charlie on a journey of self-discovery that introduces him to a slew of outrageous drag queens and a host of colorful Boise locals.

ABOUT TOM GUALTIERI AND DAVID SISCO

Tom Gualtieri and David Sisco began their collaboration at the BMI Musical Theater Workshop in 2003. Their first musical Falling to Earth, has been developed through the Syracuse University New Play Workshop and The York Theatre Reading Series. They have provided material for We Are the Song, sponsored by the *After the Storm Foundation*, which offers assistance to the youth of post-Katrina New Orleans. Tom and David are the recipients of a grant from the *Anna Sosenko Assist Trust* and their songs have been featured in various cabarets and concerts. In addition to their writing partnership, they appear on stage together in David's multi-award-winning comedies BAIT n' SWISH. They have also led seminars and workshops on a variety of topics, and were featured lecturers and performers at the 2011 MTNA/NATS Conference.

ABOUT LAURA JOSEPHER

New York-based theatre director Laura Josepher has been directing professionally for the past twenty-five years. Most recently she was Scott Schwartz's Associate Director for Backwards In High Heels, a new musical about Ginger Rogers. Other recent credits include a workshop of Tom Gualtieri and David Sisco's new musical Falling To Earth at Syracuse University, David Sisco's BAIT for the Left Out Festival, Garth Wingfield's Dating Games at the Theatre Row Studio Theatre, NY and The Elephant Theatre in L.A., Dirty Blonde, The Turn Of The Screw and I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at Stages Repertory Theatre in Houston, ANNA CHRISTIE at Gallery Players, Hughie at Provincetown Rep. For Rattlestick Productions: Winning and the award winning Car Pool; and the operas La Boheme, Cosi Fan Tutte, Hansel And Gretel, Die Fledermaus and Gianni Schicchi at Quisisana Resort in Maine. Assistant Director for Laurie Anderson's Songs And Stories From Moby Dick (co-directed by Ms. Anderson and Anne Bogart). She is an Equity stage manager, a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. She lives in New York City with her husband, Juan, and two daughters, Chelsea & Sadie.

PLAYING SCHEDULE

Stage Left Studio

214 West 30th Street Sixth Floor
(between 7th & 8th Avenues)

Thursdays & Fridays

October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28
November 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18

TICKETS \$18

www.StageLeftStudio.net

All shows at 7:30pm