

STAGE PLOT for Veterans' Theater Presents: "EARLY CHRISTMAS PLAY" – authored by David Boje & Ernest Ramey



**Casting Call:**

**When:** 28 September Monday 5:15 at Reader's Theater on NMSU main campus.

**Where:** Casting Call is at Reader's Theater is located between Speech & English buildings on main NMSU campus

**What:** *We are auditioning actors, set construction people, ushers, backers, and so on. We also need help with marketing to fill the wonderful 422 theater seats at RIO GRANDE THEATER for Dec. 2nd 7PM performance. Actors should be on set by 6:30 PM; Ushers start at 6:15PM*

**Who:** *To work with the Veterans' Theater presents 'EARLY CHRISTMAS' a play to be performed at RIO GRANDE THEATER, downtown Main Street, Las Cruces, on December 2nd 7PM.*

**Why:** Support or veterans and families, and Veterans Theater ongoing work with the homeless of New Mexico

**More info:** <http://veteranstheater.com> or email [veteranstheater@gmail.com](mailto:veteranstheater@gmail.com)

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**ACT 1: Susie-Q song plays**

- Stage Plot: Red Curtain is closed. Ernest does his opener, and then Susi-Q song plays, as Ernest introduces the actors, as they dance, one at a time, in front of curtain, down-stage

Introduction of performers intended to start with humor and performance roles in front of the RED CURTAIN.

## **ACT 2: VIVA LAS VEGAS:**

*Opens with Dr. David Boje introducing the Subject of the Care and Treatment of Mental Patients in New Mexico. Act centers on the discharge process, and the options available of where they can choose to go when They leave the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute, Located in Las Vegas NM. The Institution has gone through two name changes, and I think it would be interesting if in your narration you list the first two names of the Institution. Originally it was called "the Territorial Insane Asylum", then it became the "New Mexico Hospital for the Insane", now it is called the "New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute". It is the only State owned mental institute in NM. The only way to get in is to be Court Ordered Commitment by a Judge in good standing in the state of New Mexico and transported there in a police car by a a court bailiff.*

**b. Treatments: With Bob playing the role of a Doctor who is handing out treatment options. The Patients will be introduced patient style with Bob dramatizing there Mental Illnesses, for example: " This is James Sassak who suffers from SCHIZOPHRENIA, He is plagued by voices in his head that just won't shut up" ( we will burst into song ' when the voices in your head say your better off dead TAKE ZYPREXA '. Arron will be Bipolar " Arron suffers from Manic Depressive mood swings that make his life unmanageble". Glenn will be Suicidal. the Patients will Spin a wheel of fortune that has different treatments on it. The treatments will consist of nice things like, Lobotomy, Electric Shock Therapy, and Drugged out your mind. More to come as Act develops. For the one who spins the wheel and it lands on Lobotomey we will use a drill to perform the Lobotomy. More to come as Act develops.**

c. Discharge: With Bob playing the role of a Doctor who is discharging several patients at once. The Patients take turns spinning a wheel of fortune that we will construct. On the Wheel there are destinations such as Hawaii and New York, but is rigged to always land on Las Cruces. So the Patients will spin the wheel and get excited only to be let down when the wheel constantly lands on Las Cruces. Patients will complain but take the only option open to them, all except for Glenn who will be the last one who is supposed to spin the wheel will instead grab a Knife and threaten to kill himself in a bid to stay a interned at the Institution rather than face homelessness in Las Cruces.

**ACT 3: CODE ENFORCEMENT IN LAS VEGAS NEW MEXICO, THOSE PEOPLE ARE NOT WELCOME**

**This act can be done just as you have written it, will follow Viva Las Vegas and continue the story.**

# Give Homeless Veterans more than a shopping cart to call 'home'?



Homeless Veterans, fastest growing segment of 3.5 million U.S. homeless (photo public use) - Captions by <http://veterantheater.com>

<http://veterantheater.com>

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Homeless Veterans, fastest growing segment of 3.5 million U.S. homeless ([photo public use](#)) – Captions by <http://veteranstheater.com>

Viva Las Vegas song Plays as Red curtain opens. Homeless veterans pushing shopping carts and one Tiny Home On Wheels in Las Vegas New Mexico. This is silent, except for the music, as the music stops, Enter the code enforcers. This can be cardboard version on wheels,

#### [Man Builds Tiny House For A Homeless Woman Sleeping In The Dirt!](#)

by [MassiveShows](#)

- NOTE: 2,123,656 views

; the CODE enforcers wearing CODES shirts and caps, confiscate their worldly goods, on each side of the TINY HOME is a sign, and an American Flag flies on it..

- Dramatizes the practice of sending released mental patients and homeless veterans, etc. away from the town; they were receiving treatment using Las Vegas, NM. This is based on actual practice throughout the State of New Mexico.

In the act we have as many people as we can fit into the tiny house, run into the tiny house to attempt to hide.



This can be cardboard version on wheels,

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The codes enforcer then harasses the people in a manner that mimics the Story of Three Little Pigs. This will very naturally follow the story of what happens when people are released from the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute. Will highlight the transport of homeless, many of them veterans from small cities to Las Cruces  
IS THIS A GOOD GIFT FOR THE HOMELESS – A TICKET OUT OF TOWN



- See related story - [Homeless Given One-Way Ticket Out Of Town on Bus](#)

In San Diego <http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2014/10/16/3580461/san-diego-homeless-tickets/> supporters framed the proposal as a win-win — homeless people would theoretically go somewhere else where they have family or a support network, and the Port of San Diego would be absolved of helping its struggling residents — this kind of plan is problematic for a number of reasons. 1. Who makes this decision? 2. What if they are from San Diego. 3. Does the ticket absolve the city of its answerability for services

#### **ACT 4: SPICEHEADS, RED CURTAIN IS CLOSED**

Ruth Rivas of <http://spiceisnotnice.org> - Guest speaker sharing a personal story about the true nature of spice.



PICTURE on the SMALL or LARGE SCREEN



- RED CURTAIN OPENS TO: Short video taken in Las Cruces by two of our very own Veteran Theater performers.

YouTube:



5:00

[final spice buy film sept 11 2015](#)

by [Veterans Theater](#)

We are Veterans Theater <http://veteranstheater.com> We did a buy of SPICE (k2) 2 days after the police raided the place, and ...



## ACT 5: Spice Head Falls Out – RED CURTAIN OPENS

- Image on small screen:
- Shows and explains the use of spice through the performers and experiences of members of Veterans Theater. Boje plays Professor John Huffman, inventor of spice, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_W.\\_Huffman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_W._Huffman)



Inventor of Spice is a University Professor, at Clemson, whose research with actual marijuana was rejected by Institutional Review Board. He published the Spice recipe in his journal articles, and the business people in Germany, then all around the world, began to manufacture Spice.

## ACT 6: Round Table Talk – Questions/Open Forum

- Takes the performers into an open discussion of the issues both above and beyond the stories shared in the performance. This can include a simulated campfire, or actual Round Table. Encourages real stories to be shared.  
CLOSE with Final Song playing, bows to the audience, Applause,  
We will be passing the Hat.

## QUESTION AND ANSWERS WITH AUDIENCE

- From the audience and questions for the performers about the issues we face as a community.