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JUNK: A ROCK OPERA TO HOST SWEDISH GOLD-RECORD BAND BRAINPOOL FOR SECOND WEEKEND OF PERFORMANCES MAY 25 AND 26, 2007.

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 1, 2007) – Epic Megalopolis Productions (Shakina Nayfack, Artistic Director; Joseph Yoshitomi, Producer) announced today that it will host and hopes to include a concert featuring the Swedish gold-record band Brainpool during the second weekend of performances of *Junk: A Rock Opera*. The production opens at the Steve Allen Theater on May 18 at 8 p.m. with performances also on May 19, 25, and 26, 2007 at 8 p.m. Additional performances are soon to be announced.

“We’ve been asking the band to come out since the production was on the books, but it didn’t seem feasible, with the challenge of coordinating schedules, and various other issues. I’m amazed and excited that the band will be coming out to see their musical work developed into a fully staged rock opera,” says Shakina Nayfack, the director and co-owner of Epic Megalopolis Productions, the production company developing the work. “I’ve been developing the work with the band for years and can’t wait to get their input.”

“I know Brainpool isn’t a household name in the U.S.,” says Joseph Yoshitomi, Junk’s producer, “but their popularity in Sweden, the interest we have received from foundations and individuals in the U.S. and in Sweden, and the palpable excitement of the cast and musicians working with Brainpool’s material makes me think we’re developing work that strikes a chord with a wide range of the population. Our lead is 19 years old, so the work resonates with a young crowd, but at the same time we have more mature representatives from foundations and the Artistic Director for the Steve Allen Theater excited about the work. The music is really compelling, really catchy and really good!”

Justin Winokur, the band’s U.S. manager, believes rock operas allow bands to not only explore their work musically, but also theatrically, “This work is so dangerous in a lot of ways. It’s a production across the Atlantic, performed by Americans who might not be familiar with the band’s work and it is a significant investment of time, money and artistry to produce such an epic work. But with that risk comes great opportunity for reward. We’re hosting the band for a post-performance concert at the Steve Allen Theater on May 25th and we are exploring additional gigs around town. We’re looking at Spaceland, The Echo and some other clubs. Ultimately, we’re looking to build excitement for the show – musically or theatrically – just as long as it comes in!”

The Steve Allen Theater opened in the summer of 2004 and has quickly gained a reputation of hosting alternative and often satirical theatrical works such as *The Beastly Bombing* and *The Tribute* (starring Dave Foley from the *Kids in the Hall*). A recent article in Los Angeles’ premier alternative publication, the L.A. Weekly, featured the theater’s artistic director, Amit Atelman. Joseph Yoshitomi and Shakina Nayfack, longtime collaborators and friends, formed Epic Megalopolis Productions earlier this year to produce socially relevant theatre and to support the development of new works for the stage.

Tickets are on sale for \$30 each at the Steve Allen Theater box office:
www.SteveAllenTheater.com/Junk
4773 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(800) 595-4TIX

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For photos, song samples, video clips or additional information, contact Joseph Yoshitomi at Joseph@EpicMegalopolisProductions.com or (323) 841-1735