

PORTLAND STORY THEATER
503-793-5484
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT: SHACKLETON'S ANTARCTIC NIGHTMARE, by Lawrence Howard

WHEN: 8 PM Fridays and Saturdays,
January 23rd, 24th, 30th, and 31st, 2009
Doors at 7:30, Curtain at 8:00 pm

WHERE: Hipbone Studio, 1847 E Burnside, Portland
(Corner of NE 18th and Burnside, free parking)

TICKETS: \$12.00 includes complimentary snacks; beverages available for purchase

RESERVATIONS: 503-793-5484; reservations@portlandstorytheater.com
or purchase online through Brown Paper Tickets on our website
www.portlandstorytheater.com

SHACKLETON'S ANTARCTIC NIGHTMARE

Portland Story Theater is pleased to announce the return engagement of last year's sold-out, solo show, Shackleton's Antarctic Nightmare, opening for a run of two weekends later this month. PST co-founder Lawrence Howard will once again tell the true, epic story of British Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton and the 1914 voyage of The Endurance.

Twice defeated in his quest to attain the South Pole, once after having come within 97 miles of his goal, Shackleton ultimately lost that prize to both Amundsen and Scott. Not to be outdone, he conceived a scheme even grander: he would cross the Antarctic continent from one side to the other. But Shackleton's dream of being the first man to traverse Antarctica became a nightmare when his valiant ship was trapped in the pack ice of the Weddell Sea and crushed by the pressure of the ice. The tale of how he and the 27 men of the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition survived on the ice and eventually came to safety is one that has fascinated Howard for as long as he can remember.

"This is a story that is very near and dear to my heart because my dad and I shared a life-long interest and passion for the Shackleton saga," says Howard, "and I like to weave a few threads about my father into the telling."

An amateur polar historian and life-long Shackleton scholar, Howard's show is painstakingly researched and authentic down to the last detail, but it doesn't come across as a history lesson. This is pure theater; a rollicking good story told by a man who is passionate about his subject. In addition, Howard displays a large montage of photographs from the expedition, which takes up an entire wall of the Hipbone Studio space, and adds a visual element to the performance.

"The show is two and a half hours long," says Howard, "but people tell me it flies by. Last year, a woman in the audience told me that she and her daughter couldn't wait for the intermission to be over so they could get back to the story. Many audience members told me they were on the edge of their seats the entire time." Howard's favorite audience comment from last year's run came from a young man who told him "That was better than any book or movie or anything!"

Shackleton's Antarctic Nightmare is a show about courage and fortitude and determination. It's about a glorious, glorious failure. It's about the way human beings respond to hardship and adversity. It's about the indomitable power of the human spirit.

Hipbone Studio is an intimate venue with a maximum seating capacity of 75. Last year the entire run sold out, so reservations are highly recommended.