

CAYCE: The Psychic on Stage

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, September 18, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Wouldn't it be great to be a psychic? To be able to see the future, to communicate with the deceased, to understand the hidden realms of life and death might seem like a blessing. But before you envy those who have been given that unique ability, ponder the consequences. For Edgar Cayce, whose mystical abilities earned him the renown of his peers and have also inspired the Journal of the American Medical Association to name him "The Father of Holistic Medicine." his clairvoyance was as much a burden placed upon him as it was a gift to those who benefitted from it. Playwright George Schwimmer has written CAYCE, a play that's over 20 years in the making. In order to produce the play, Schwimmer is seeking the support of the Kickstarter crowdfunding community to fund a campaign to raise \$12,000.

Many people are aware that Edgar Cayce had extraordinary gifts. In his early years, he saved the infant son of





his wife's aunt. The baby was convulsing and death seemed imminent. Cayce's unlikely prescription—a dose of belladonna—aroused protests from the conventional medical establishment, but his wife's aunt administered the drug. Immediately, the infant's convulsions ceased. The child grew into a healthy adulthood.

Cayce went on to develop his abilities. His readings for clients, which involved entering a trance, were able to solve murders and cure physical ailments. He was an early advocate of natural remedies, something which is gaining adherents in our own times as well. In 1925, he began to deliver past-life readings. The Association for Research and Enlightenment in Virginia, incorporated in 1931, carries on his work today and has a collection of over 14,000 transcripts of his readings.

For George Schwimmer, who was first introduced to Cayce's teachings while in his twenties, the spiritualist came to have a personal connection to a tragedy that struck when his son David was lost at sea while kayaking. For Schwimmer, Cayce was a spiritual lifeline, giving Schwimmer a foundation

for belief when his world had toppled. Schwimmer says, "What I learned from Cayce probably saved my sanity."

For more than two decades after that, Schwimmer wanted to write a screenplay about Cayce. During his career in the theater, he's directed 40 plays, and it was when he realized that his research on Cayce's life had the makings of a terrific stage play that CAYCE evolved from a screenplay into a stage play.

Schwimmer's determination to produce a play about Cayce is reflective of his personal connection to the mystic but is also indicative of his <u>love of the theater</u>. During the 30 years that he's been a theater director, he's watched as new American plays have relied on a linear format and a narrow scope, shrinking rather than expanding the theater. "American drama," explains Schwimmer, must once again concern itself with larger issues, as the ancient Greeks and Shakespeare did, without limiting cast sizes." Schwimmer practices what he preaches; CAYCE has 53 characters.

His inspirational breakthrough for the play came when he realized that he didn't need to be confined to linear time in order to relate the episodes of Cayce's life. CAYCE takes up 37 years of the mystic's life, rearranging the timeline to tell the story in a deeper context by shifting back and forth in years.

<u>Crowdfunding support</u> will help to fund the \$12,000 needed for the production of the stage play, including expenses which range from theater rental to set design to actor remuneration. Thanks to Schwimmer, the life of a remarkable American will be seen by audiences who will learn more about a spiritual pioneer whose truths continue to transform darkness into light for new generations.

About George Schwimmer, PhD

Playwright George Schwimmer (www.georgeschwimmer.com) has three plays, ten screenplays, two paperbacks, and twenty eBooks to his writing credit. His theater background includes directing forty plays, producing twenty of them. He's taught in two colleges, serving as the head of the theater department in one, and was associate artistic director at a professional university resident theatre. He's produced and directed off-Broadway in New York City, Los Angeles, and Dublin, Ireland, as well as performing forty roles.

Schwimmer's latest work, CAYCE, a play about psychic Edgar Cayce, arose from a personal connection to Cayce, whose spiritual direction provided Schwimmer with the emotional fortitude he needed after his son David was lost at sea. Schwimmer came through the devastating loss of his son due to the spiritual truths he learned from Edgar Cayce, and for more than twenty years, he wanted to write a play about the psychic, whose reputation still resonates seventy years after Cayce's death. Schwimmer was finally able to commit the life of Edgar Cayce into a dramatic format, and the reviews have been enthusiastic. Now Schwimmer is seeking Kickstarter support to begin the process of producing the play for the stage.

George Schwimmer Phoenix Shakti Enterprises www.phoenixshaktiproductions.com email us here

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