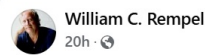


Investigative Reporter William Rempel's Groundbreaking 2006 Las Vegas Justice Series Inspires "Shangri-La-La" Musical

It is the story of Joshua, who is thrilled to become the assistant to Las Vegas royalty Siegfried & Roy, only to find out that not all that glitters is gold.

ARLINGTON, VA, UNITED STATES, July 7, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A hard-hitting investigative series by [William Rempel](#), a former long-time investigative reporter and editor for the Los Angeles Times, is now inspiring a raucous and irreverent comedy musical, "[Shangri-La-La](#)." The musical's inspiration stems from Rempel's 2006 Times collaboration with Michael J. Goodman, which exposed the corrupt and often biased judicial system of Las Vegas in the landmark three-part series, "Juice vs. Justice."

The Los Angeles Times investigation, which brought national attention to Las Vegas' controversial "hometown justice" practices, revealed how the city's judges were influenced by friends, business associates, and major donors, creating a stacked judicial deck. The investigation's explosive first part, titled "In Las Vegas, They're Playing with a Stacked Judicial Deck," sparked outrage, ultimately making the Times series one of the most significant exposes on judicial corruption in the country.



William C. Rempel

20h · 🌐

Musical Comedy Imitates Investigative Reporting!

Well, here's a first. It turns out that a new musical-comedy about to be staged in the Washington, D.C., area was drawn from a Los Angeles Times newspaper investigation I did with Michael J. Goodman in 2006. That's right: a one-time newspaper exposé about to be rendered in song and dance.

Our 3-part series titled "Juice vs. Justice" documented the widespread practice of Las Vegas judges taking on and deciding cases involving ... [See more](#)



William Rempel article about Shangri-La-La comedy musical on Facebook.



Event Description

Biography

Video

Shangri-La-La, A Comedy Musical (Previews)

Turns out that all that glitters IS gold! OK, no, wait a minute. It's not. At all. This is the story of the young German man Joshua, who fulfills his lifelong dream of moving to fabulous Las Vegas. But after getting a job as the assistant to the Vegas royalty known as Siegfried and Roy, he tragically finds out that the nickname "Sin City" has been very well earned.

Ever heard of the Hanging Judge, Roy Bean? Maybe Judge Isaac Parker? They were judges in the Wild West, and they handed down justice however they saw fit, laws be damned. Small wonder mobster Bugsy Siegel built the first casino on the Las Vegas strip, The Flamingo, in a town that still follows their cherished tradition where "Hometown Justice" goes to the highest bidder.

Tue, Jul 22, 2025
7:00 PM

Wed, Jul 23, 2025
7:00 PM

Thu, Jul 24, 2025
3:00 PM

Shangri-La-La Musical at Arlington Drafthouse.

In an unexpected turn, playwright-composer-lyricist [Mike Meier](#), who was practicing law at the time the series ran, has transformed the investigation's explosive findings into a comedic spectacle. Meier, who once found himself entrenched in the very Las Vegas justice system he now lampoons, drew inspiration from the investigative series in creating his new work, which culminates in the song "Hometown Justice," performed by the judge character in the musical.

Meier humorously reflects, "You could say I ripped this tale from the front pages of the newspaper. But trust me, I learned the painful lessons of 'hometown justice' the hard way." Meier's personal experience in Las Vegas' legal world was marked by his role as part of a legal team representing employees who sued Siegfried and Roy on charges of sexual and physical abuse. Despite the dramatic stakes of the case, the litigation was thwarted by an apparently biased judge who had ties to the Mirage Casino mogul, Steve Wynn (the "boss" of Siegfried & Roy), and the magicians themselves.

"It was one long train wreck. By the time I read the Times stories, it was too late," said Meier. "So, I've turned it into comedy and satire – and we would love for you to come see it."

“

... By the time I read the Times stories, it was too late," said Meier. "So, I've turned it into comedy and satire – and we would love for you to come see it."

Mike Meier, playwright-composer-lyricist Shangri-La-La comedy musical

Shangri-La-La will make its debut at the Arlington Drafthouse with a 3-day run from Tuesday, July 22 to Thursday, July 24, 2025. For tickets and more information, please visit <https://www.arlingtondrafthouse.com/events/115748>.

And here is a short trailer for that musical: <https://youtube.com/shorts/dzlnsbcc2RE>

About William Rempel

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Rempel: William Charles Rempel is an American author and investigative journalist. Rempel's reporting about Colombian drug lords for the Los Angeles Times and in his book *At the Devil's Table* have led to English and Spanish language television

See the comedy musical
SHANGRI-LA-LA
at the Arlington Drafthouse July 22-24!



After becoming an assistant to the iconic Las Vegas act "Siegfried & Roy," naive Joshua, a German immigrant, learns the hard way that "Sin City" is more than just a nickname. With raucous detours into crime, punishment, and Las Vegas' unique brand of "Hometown Justice," Shangri-La-La is a wild ride through the lives and times of the most successful magic act ever to grace the Vegas strip. A musical and sensorial extravaganza — you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll wonder why! Turns out all that glitters ain't gold!

Tickets at <https://www.arlingtondrafthouse.com/>

Scan this QR code with your phone to watch the trailer



More information: <https://themikemeier.com/>

Comedy Musical Shangri-La-La at the Arlington Drafthouse Theater, Arlington, Virginia.

productions. He served as a story consultant for season 3 of the Netflix TV series Narcos (2017). The 80-episode telenovela En la Boca del Lobo (Sony-Telest, 2014) was based on the Spanish version of his book. Rempel's latest book, released by Dey Street and HarperCollins in January 2018, was The Gambler: How Penniless Dropout Kirk Kerkorian Became the Greatest Deal Maker in Capitalist History. For most of his 40-year newspaper career, Rempel was an investigative reporter and editor at the Los Angeles Times. See his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/william.rempel/>

About Mike Meier

Mike Meier grew up in a blue-collar housing project in Germany. His grandfather was a 1920s traveling magician and fortune-teller known as Wladi-Kami. Incidentally, Mike's grandfather and Siegfried & Roy were members of the same Magicians' Circle. When he is not writing books, he's playing guitar somewhere... See <https://themikemeier.com/>

Mike Meier

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