

# THE GUN SHOW

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Performer Chuma Gault is at the top of his form in this play by EM Lewis that deals with Americans and guns. An unpredictable work that slowly and stealthily gathers steam, it begins as a discourse and gradually evolves into a personal account of tragedy and loss. The intimacy of the venue, a tiny theater on Hyperion Avenue, underscores the work's dramatic intensity. The show is an autobiographical, first-person narrative and unusual in that the writer is a woman – whose narrative references her courtship and marriage – while the performer is a man. Of course, much of the narrative is gender neutral. Lewis grew up on a farm in Oregon, where guns were commonplace and practical instruments and where the nearest law enforcement was an hour away. She practiced sharpshooting under the tutelage of her fiancé – an intimate and sensuous experience. But subsequent events tore away her confidence in firearms, and altered her life forever. Directed by Darin Anthony, Gault's charisma carries him beyond the fourth wall to draw his listeners in. The drama's life-changing moments evoke a here-and-now immediacy, not easily forgotten.

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