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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Feb. 23, 2011

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

www.thrillpeddlers.com/press/press.html

"Best Underground Theater Company" - 7 X 7 Magazine (June '10)

"Pearls Over Shanghai, delivers more madcap invention in two hours than most theater companies manage in an entire season..." - Chris Jensen, S.F. Weekly

PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI

To Close after Record Breaking 22 Month Run

April 9, 2011 - Final Performance & Gala.

San Francisco's Longest-Running Cockettes Musical Hit

at Thrillpeddlers' Hypnodrome Theatre - <http://thrillpeddlers.com>

VICE PALACE: *The Last Cockettes Musical*

coming to Hypnodrome - April 22 - July 31, 2011

[Thrillpeddlers](http://thrillpeddlers.com) sadly announces that after an astounding record-breaking 22 month run, its award-winning production of PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI, San Francisco's longest-running Cockettes Musical Hit will close on **Sat. April 9, 2011** (remaining performance schedule- see below). What started as a two-month limited engagement in June 2009 will have played for almost TWO YEARS! PEARLS has unanimously received rave reviews from critics and audience alike. It's a phenomenon that keeps on growing. PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI plays Fri. and Sat. at 8 pm in February, March & April (thru April 9, 2011). Thrillpeddlers' Hypnodrome Theatre is located at 575 10th Street, in SF. (Bryant & Division Sts.) Tickets are \$30 gen. admission or \$35 for "Shock Boxes" and "Turkish Lounges"*** and are available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/139143> or by calling 800/ 838- 3006

The final performance (Sat. April 9) will be a special Gala with a post-performance reception with the Cast & Crew. Many performers who have been in Pearls will be in attendance. Tickets for the April 9 performance are \$100 each.

2011 Remaining dates for PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI are:

February	(Fri. 8 pm / Sat. 8 pm)	Feb. 25/26
March	(Fri. 8 pm / Sat. 8 pm)	March 4/5, 11/12, 18/19, 25/26
April	(Fri. 8 pm / Sat. 8 pm)	April 1/2, 8/9

Composer **Scrumby Koldewyn** plays piano for all PEARLS performances in the guise of Ilse, the proprietress of the whore house. San Francisco favorites **Veronica Klaus** and **Katya Smirnoff-Sky** are the local divas alternating in the role of Petrushka, first created by disco diva **Sylvester** in the original productions. Notable local performers in cast rotation are, **Arturo Galster**, **Steven Satyricon**, **Jef Valentine**, **Birdie-Bob Watt**, **Leigh Crow**, **Flynn DeMarco**, and director **Russell Blackwood** as the hilarious Mother Fu.

NEWS FLASH: VICE PALACE: *The Last Cockettes Musical* coming to Hypnodrome – April 22 – July 31, 2011.

Thrillpeddlers is in rehearsal with composer **Scrumby Koldewyn's** revival of the gothic horror extravaganza **VICE PALACE: The Last Cockettes Musical**. First performed during Halloween in 1972, **VICE PALACE: The Last Cockettes Musical** reunited **DIVINE** with other members of the recently disbanded troupe, **The Cockettes** and legions of their drug-crazed fans for a last hoorah on stage at The Palace Theatre in North Beach. **VICE PALACE: The Last Cockettes Musical** is based on Edgar Allen Poe's **THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH** (or more precisely the hallucinatory film version starring Vincent Price). In Thrillpeddlers full-length version of **VICE PALACE: The Last Cockettes Musical**, Scrumby has retained and expanded much of the original score and incorporated hits from The Cockette repertoire along with several new songs. **VICE PALACE: The Last Cockettes Musical** opens at The Hypnodrome **April 22 – July 31, 2011**.

PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI

An original musical by **Link Martin** (book/lyrics) and **Scrumby Koldewyn** (music), **PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI** is the centerpiece of Thrillpeddlers' 2nd annual Theatre of the Ridiculous Revival, and marks the 40th anniversary of the formation of The [Cockettes](#), a gender-bending theatrical troupe who not only originated this show, but exerted a profound influence on the culture of our times, from the phenomenon of midnight movies to glitter rock stars (such as David Bowie and the New York Dolls) and their outrageous fashions. **PEARLS** is a psychedelic musical inspired by sin-soaked Old Shanghai and Busby Berkeley movie musicals from Hollywood's Golden Age.

PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI is a comic mock-operetta about white slavery, opium dens, and miscegenation set in the colorful world of 1937 Shanghai. Link Martin parts the bamboo curtain, his politics swept aside by his love of the mystery and intrigue of the Orient. Placing his story at the crossroads of good and evil, his exotic "old sin town" is filled with singing sailors, humorous whores, foolish immortals, handmaidens and henchmen, all taking their places in streets teeming with a mix of foreign aristocrats, opium addicts, and gangland slave-trade czars.

Stage Director for **PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI** is Thrillpeddlers' **Russell Blackwood**, and original Cockette and composer **Scrumby Koldewyn** serves as Musical Director and accompanist. With a cast of over 20, costumes a-plenty, and a score of 24 original songs, this production is the most eye-popping and toe-tapping in the Hypnodrome's history, with the scent of intoxicating perfume, poisonous flowers, opium, and sex oozing from every scene.

Thrillpeddlers

Thrillpeddlers (www.thrillpeddlers.com) have been performing their unique brand of horror and fetish theatre in San Francisco since 1991. Under the direction of Russell Blackwood, Thrillpeddlers are continuously engaged in translating, adapting and producing classic plays from the infamous repertoire of Le Théâtre du Grand Guignol and producing other works inspired by the Grand Guignol. The company's SOMA performance venue, The Hypnodrome, is tailor-made for the specific needs of horror theatre, "lights-out" spook show spectacle, multi-act bills, and arts education programs for young people. Inaugurating The Hypnodrome with **WELCOME TO THE HYPNODROME** in 2004, Thrillpeddlers have gone on to produce wildly popular Grand Guignol bills including **BLOOD BUCKET BALLYHOO**, **HYPNODROME HEAD TRIPS**, **FLAMING SIN**, **AUDACIOUS ARTEFACTS**, **THE TORTURE GARDEN** (2009) **HOT GREEKS**, and **PEARLS OVER**

SHANGHAI in both SF and NYC's HOWL Festival. Shocktoberfest!!, Thrillpeddlers' annual pageant of terror and titillation, is now in its 11th year and has become a San Francisco Halloween favorite. Prior to that the company's production history includes the American premiere of Clive Barker's FRANKENSTEIN IN LOVE, MONDO ANDRONICUS (selected Best of the 1997 S.F. Fringe Festival), a double-bill of THE MEDIUM and A CRIME IN THE MADHOUSE (in Pretoria, South Africa). Thrillpeddlers has won the Guardian's "Best of the Bay" and, SF Weekly's "Best of San Francisco" Readers' Choice for "Best Theatre Company". **Thrillpeddlers Theatre Company received a coveted 2009 GOLDIE AWARD (Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery award) from the SF Bay Guardian!** <http://tiny.cc/Lafe5> Thrillpeddlers are also the purveyors of www.GrandGuignol.com the most complete source of Grand Guignol information on the Net.

*****About Seating:**

Pairs of patrons will surely enjoy Hypnodrome's Shock Box seats for two, which garnered SF Weekly's "Best of San Francisco 2008" for "Best Bonus Theater Experience." These themed seats include sumptuous Turkish Lounges, as well as private boxes including "Heaven and Hell," "The Pharaoh's Tomb," and "Padded Cell," which offer the same opportunity for illicit trysting that was once a feature of the Parisian Théâtre du Grand Guignol – with added special effects as a nod to the 1950s horror movie gimmicks of William Castle.

Calendar Editors:

**WHAT: PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI To Close
After Record Breaking 22 Month Run
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San Francisco's Longest-Running Cockettes Musical Hit
at Thrillpeddlers' Hypnodrome Theatre - <http://thrillpeddlers.com>**

The final performance (Sat. 4/9) will be a special Gala with a post performance reception with the Cast & Crew. Tickets for the April 9 performance are \$100 each.

**and... NEWS FLASH: VICE PALACE: *The Cockettes Last Musical*
coming to Hypnodrome – April 22 – July 31, 2011.**

WHEN: Remaining Performances for PEARLS OVER SHANGHAI are:

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TIX: Tickets available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/139143>
or by calling 800/ 838- 3006
\$30 general admission / \$35 for "Shock Boxes" and "Turkish Lounges"

VENUE: Thrillpeddlers' Hypnodrome - 575 10th Street, in SF. (Bryant & Division Sts.)

WEB PAGE: <http://thrillpeddlers.com>

PRESS INFO: For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
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VIDEO CLIP: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_f7VLY-R7M

The Hypnodrome Theatre is wheelchair accessible.

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