

MARCH 20, 2009

MORONGO VALLEY, CA

GROVES CABIN THEATRE RELEASE

**Original Drama By Local Playwright “*Vincent Van Gogh*” Opening at  
Groves Cabin Theatre in Morongo Valley Saturday, April 4,  
To Play Four Weekends Plus An Encore Performance  
At The Blak Box Theatre in Joshua Tree**

**Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley will present Dolores Trost-Becker’s original drama “*Vincent Van Gogh*” for four weekends beginning Saturday, April 4. There will be a special encore performance at the **Blak Box Theatre** at the Hi-Desert Cultural Center in Joshua Tree on Saturday, May 2.

This original drama on the life of the renowned Dutch painter has been a six or seven year labor of love for playwright Trost-Becker. Long an admirer of Van Gogh’s paintings—and an artist herself—she has done extensive research into his history, and her play, based on information recorded in his journals and letters to his brother Theo, reflects many facets of his life—his passion for art, his love of God, his quest for the love of a woman, his rejections and disappointments, his loss of faith in the God he so desperately wished to serve, and ultimately, the loss of his sanity and will to live. “I have always been touched by his sadness and his continual attempts to follow his preacher father into the clergy,” declares the playwright, who also directs the production.

Dan Graff, last seen at Groves as a juror in “*12 Angry Men*,” is featured in the role of Vincent. Cast members Marcel Becker, Joy Groves, Anja Homburg, Krista Kanuch, Rebecca T. Tenish, and Jeff Wood ably support his demanding performance. Joi Becker has created Vincent’s makeup, Wendy Cohen the sound design, and Linney Gillam is in charge of lights and sound. The set is embellished by copies of several paintings from the Impressionist era painted by playwright/director Trost-Becker.

**Groves Cabin Theatre** (<http://www.grovescabintheatre.org/>) has won multiple Desert Theatre League awards for its high-quality productions. The 21-seat theater offers one of the most intimate theatrical experiences available anywhere in the world—that experience having been described as being “like a fly on the wall, witnessing life happening before my eyes.” **The limited seating means early reservations are a must.**

“*Vincent Van Gogh*” will be performed each Saturday evening at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoon at 2:30 PM from Saturday, April 4, through Sunday, April 26. **Groves Cabin Theatre** is located at 8768 Desert Willow Trail in Morongo Valley north of Highway 62 (look for the large red, white, and blue stone on the north side of the highway). Tickets for all seats are \$10. For additional information and reservations call! (760) 365-4523.

There will be a special encore performance of “*Vincent Van Gogh*” at the **Blak Box Theatre** at the Hi-Desert Cultural Center, 61231 Twentynine Palms Hwy. in Joshua Tree on Saturday, May 2. Reservations for the **Blak Box Theatre** performance may be made at [www.hidesertculturalcenter.com](http://www.hidesertculturalcenter.com) or by calling (760) 366-3777.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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