



## FACT SHEET FOR PRESENTERS [www.PaintingMadameX.com](http://www.PaintingMadameX.com)

**THE PLAY:** "John Singer Sargent: Painting Madame X" is an original one-man show written and performed by artist Bob Diven. In a densely-packed 40 minutes, the famed Victorian painter John Sargent reveals to the audience the emotional story behind his most famous (and notorious) painting: the "Portrait of Madame X". The show is now on tour and available for performance anywhere in the United States.

**HISTORY:** This play premiered in March, 2005, and is a current selection of the New Mexico Humanities Council's new performance catalog (contact: [www.nmeh.org](http://www.nmeh.org)).

**PERFORMER/PLAYWRIGHT:** Bob Diven has been a professional artist for 25 years. He is an award-winning painter and internationally published illustrator, working as art director and designer in television, publishing, advertising, film, and stage.

**DIRECTOR:** Mark Medoff received a Tony Award for *Children of a Lesser God*. He was nominated for an Academy Award for the film script of *Children of a Lesser God* and for a Cable Ace Award for his HBO Premiere movie, *Apology*. He received an OBIE Award for *When You Comin Back, Red Ryder*. In 2001, Mark directed the feature film, *Children on their Birthdays*, based on the story by Truman Capote. His most recent play, *Prymate*, recently ran on Broadway. He is currently Artistic Director for the Creative Media Institute for Film & Digital Arts at New Mexico State University.

**THE PAINTING:** Sargent's "Portrait of Madame X" currently hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. This iconic image by the best-known portrait painter of his time was sold by the artist himself to the Met in 1916. Painted to be exhibited in the Paris Salon of 1884, the image became the centerpiece in a scandal that dominated the exhibition and Sargent's life and subsequent career. It remains his most recognizable creation and was listed as one of the top 10 portraits of all time in a recent issue of *Artist Magazine*.

**SYNOPSIS:** The play takes place in Sargent's London studio on the day the painter decides to sell the portrait he has kept hidden for more than 30 years. At first annoyed by having his work interrupted (by the audience), Sargent soon is enchanting his visitors with his drawing, singing and piano-and banjo-playing as he gradually reveals the internal truth of an event that injured him deeply. Following the play, the performer/playwright leads a discussion with the audience.

**TECHNICAL:** The show is self-contained, portable and technically simple and is ideal for small auditoriums in art museums, arts council venues, high schools and university settings in communities both large and small. Painting demonstrations and lectures are also available.

**SUPPORT MATERIALS:** Your hosting of this show will be fully supported with professional graphics, photos and video for your use in promoting the event.

**COST:** Most U.S. venues can expect to pay \$1,000, plus one or two nights commercial lodging to host the play. Multiple performance/demo/lecture, school and block-booking rates are available.

**REVIEWS:** "...Diven's acting is as good as his writing...all accomplished with a smooth skill I have seldom seen in any actor and never seen in an actor attempting so much." "This is a highly original, deep and entertaining work with particular appeal for those interested in art and artists..." (full reviews on website)

**MORE INFO:** [www.PaintingMadameX.com](http://www.PaintingMadameX.com) **CONTACT:** [info@PaintingMadameX.com](mailto:info@PaintingMadameX.com) **PH:** (505) 642-7445