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SWEDISH GOLD-RECORD BAND BRAINPOOL TO LAUNCH FIRST STAGED PRODUCTION OF *JUNK: A ROCK OPERA* AT THE STEVE ALLEN THEATER

LOS ANGELES, CA (April 13, 2007) – Epic Megalopolis Productions (Shakina Nayfack, Artistic Director; Joseph Yoshitomi, Producer) announced today that it will produce a fully staged performance of *Junk: A Rock Opera*, by the Swedish band Brainpool, at the Steve Allen Theater in Hollywood. The production opens May 18 at 8 p.m. with performances also on May 19, 25, and 26, 2007 at 8 p.m. Additional performances are soon to be announced.

“Brainpool is excited to work across the pond with Epic Megalopolis. We look forward to seeing the material finally realized on stage,” says band manager, Justin Winokur, of JWC Artist Group. “With this project seven years in the making, we’re attracting international support, and *Junk* will bring Brainpool into the rapidly growing North American indie-music market with well-polished work.” Prior to the opening of *Junk* in Los Angeles, the work had only been performed in concert, most famously in partnership with Malmö Symphonic Orchestra, for a crowd of 10,000 fans.

These initial performances at the Steve Allen Theater will present the material to potential backers for future large-scale productions. Joseph Yoshitomi, *Junk*’s producer, hopes these relatively small-scale performances will eventually lead to Broadway. “Brainpool is a household name in Sweden,” he says, “Their televised *Junk* concert delayed the nightly news! We are taking progressive steps to develop the staged material for a larger venue. Even now, however, the show is epic musically and theatrically. We’re going to have to squeeze a big show into the space because there’s no other way to produce a rock opera!”

Junk’s director, Shakina Nayfack, developed the book over several years in correspondence with Brainpool, and has a very specific vision of the show, “*Junk* is the first piece of musical theatre to capture in story, sound, and character the zeitgeist of the 21st century. It is part social satire, part love story, and part existential allegory, answering to our times with a fresh call for rock and revolution.”

Funding for the production has come from a variety of different sources, including Brainpool fans from around the world and international groups interested in supporting *Junk*’s whimsical yet biting critiques of consumerism, addiction to fame, sexism, and environmental collapse. The talented and diverse cast includes Niketa Calame of Disney’s *The Lion King*, and Natalya Oliver, who headlines as the show’s female protagonist, Anna, a “riot grrrr!” in the corporate world, who fights for her dreams of rock stardom.

The Steve Allen Theater opened in the summer of 2004 and has quickly gained a reputation of hosting alternative and often satirical theatrical works such as *The Beastly Bombing* and *The Tribute* (starring Dave Foley from the Kids in the Hall). Joseph Yoshitomi and Shakina Nayfack, longtime collaborators and friends, formed Epic Megalopolis Productions earlier this year to produce socially relevant theatre in the tradition of Bertolt Brecht, Tadeusz Kantor, and other pioneers of intimate spectacle.

Tickets are on sale for \$30 each at the Steve Allen Theater box office:

www.SteveAllenTheater.com/Junk

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