

For Immediate Release:
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Saint Francis Protests the St. Francis Hotel

Theatre Artists Protest Theatre Conference in Boycotted Hotel

When: Thursday, July 28, 6:00pm

Where: In Front of the Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA

Who: Professors, Students and Theatre Artists who are Boycotting the 2005 Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference at the Westin St. Francis Hotel

Saint Francis, beloved patron saint of small animals and birds, and supporter of the oppressed in all communities, has descended from heaven to protest the unfair labor policies of the St. Francis Hotel.

“I don’t want to raise a fuss, but these guys are using my name,” explained the holy one as he laid hands on a wounded hummingbird and it took flight, completely healed. “If they’re going to exploit their workers with hardball tactics and the threat of another lockout, why can’t they just change it to the Moloch Hotel or something? Leave me out of it. I’m joining the boycott.” Saint Francis said he would be joined by performers, theatre scholars, hotel workers, and other “saints and sinners” at the rally outside the hotel at 6pm this Thursday.

The role of Saint Francis will be performed by one of the many theatre artists and academics who are protesting their own conference—The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), which is being held in the Westin St. Francis despite the ongoing workers’ boycott of that hotel. Many lay members of ATHE would rather support the boycott, and will be staying in other hotels and holding their sessions/workshops in alternative venues.

Anna Deavere Smith (“The West Wing”) and the **San Francisco Mime Troupe**, two key participants in the conference, have already successfully insisted on changing the venues of their scheduled events to labor-friendly sites.

For more information, please contact William McCandless at (415) 350-4713. ###