

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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Humorous memoir of an eating disorder confronts identity issues

Last updated July 10, 2008 12:27 p.m. PT

The verbosity of Seattle poet Chad Goller-Sojourner's titles make it clear that the young man has a lot to say, and more than a few issues to work through.

The name of his first published volume of poetry, "One Thousand Years Too Early: Fat, Dark-Skinned, Gay and Adopted by White Folks. A Fragmentary Journey Towards Alignment" belies its slender size. It did, however, receive praise from Maya Angelou.

His performance memoir, "Sitting in Circles With Rich White Girls: Memoirs of a Bulimic Black Boy," premieres at Rainier Valley Cultural Center Friday for a two-weekend run.

Mixing playful humor with sharp observance, Goller-Sojourner's solo show tells of his 10-year struggle with an eating disorder and his lifelong battles with the scale. As does his other work, he confronts issues of identity as drawn from his own fractured sense of self.

Under the direction of Tyrone Brown, the show is produced by Brownbox African American Theater, one of a small set of emerging companies dedicated to creating contemporary and original African American works. The company's 2001 production, "Black to My Roots," a series of monologues about African American hair, won a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.

"Sitting in Circles With Rich White Girls: Memoirs of a Bulimic Black Boy" opens tonight and runs through July 20 at Rainier Valley Cultural Center, 3515 S. Alaska St. Tickets: \$10-\$12; 800-838-3006 or www.brownpapertickets.com.

-- Gianni Truzzi