http://www.buzzinearts.com/columns/arts-column-reverend-billy-project-...



Co-written by Savitri D and Bill Talen, the book was edited by <u>Alisa Solomon</u>, who got involved in the project at the invitation of a series editor at the University of Michigan Press. Solomon, the director of the arts journalism program at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, explains that the series pairs a scholar/critic with a playwright/performance artist to put together a volume of the artist's text with an intro and commentary by the critic. Solomon was invited

In response to: TV INTERVIEW: TJ MILLER

perspective but thinks...

"[...] TJ Miller talks about stand-up from an academic

because she had written about the Reverend Billy from his early days (in The Village Voice) and because she had included his work in a special issue of the journal, Theater, that was devoted to theater and social change that she guest-edited in 2001.

When the three of them got together to discuss plans for the book, Solomon says that they all agreed that, "rather than publish Billy's performance texts — his sermons (which don't read as well as they play) -- it would be better for them to write narrative/analytical accounts of their performances and actions."

In the end, Billy and Savitri each wrote half of the book, and Solomon wrote the intro and conducted some lengthy Q &As that close the volume. Converting the story to a book was challenging. But, says the Reverend Billy, "writing the narrative and preaching the sermon are related, of course. Trying to read my own writing or Savitri's writing and imagining the experience of the phantom reader was always nerve-wracking. I'd rather face a basement full of Episcopalians."

The Reverend Billy has no idea whether the book will reach a different or wider audience, but he does hope that it "will affect younger people who are inheriting this Earth so completely controlled by cynical mediocrities to the point of actually degrading the physical life of the planet."

It would be great, he added, "if the book could be of some use to the upcoming political prankster generation."

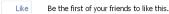




Thursday. Yall cant come but I'll take pictures **@buzzine @DOPEITSDOM** 14 hours ago ' reply ' retweet ' favorite



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