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Physical address:	84 N Wilson Ave
Name of show:	The Ash Girl
Playwright:	Timberlake Wertenbaker
Genre of show (comedy, musical, classical, etc.):	drama/fairy tale
Number of roles (male, female, either):	4m 8w 9either
(If known) Is the play under copyright, and if so, what do the rights cost to produce it?	\$75/show I think
Please provide a general description of the show (plot, themes, etc.):	<p>This is a Cinderella retelling for grown-ups. The characters are controlled by the addition of the seven deadly sins (all as different animals).</p> <p>From the back cover: In a big old house, Ashgirl lives huddled deep in the protection of an ashy hearth. With her mother dead and her father away, she lives with her stepmother and two stepsisters. When the invitation to the ball arrives from the prince, Ashgirl finds the strength to go with the help of her friends, some of whom come from expected places. When she gets home, Ashgirl realizes that in order to regain the fleeting happiness she found in the arms of the prince, she must fight the monsters who have slithered and insinuated their way into her heart and mind. She must believe in herself for others to do so.</p> <p>"...an ambitious play with hints of the Brothers Grim, medieval allegory and anthropomorphism...it has a quirky originality... [Ash Girl] is prey to self-doubt and is under the thumb of her stepmother, while her prince is an exiled Asian isolated and unhappy in his new country. Wertenbaker's biggest innovation is to suggest that the forest en route to the palace is populated by an animalized version of the Seven Deadly Sins, which are out to destroy humanity. She even adds a further allegorical figure, Sadness, who tries to tempt Ashgirl towards death, and battles with the Fairy in the Mirror for her soul. The result is like a mix of C.S. Lewis and Sondheim's Into the Woods: an eclectic fairy-tale anthology. Where Wertenbaker scores is in her eye for detail." (The</p>

	Guardian, London)
Why do you think this would make a good EXPLICIT summer show? (e.g. low cost, lots of characters, good ensemble play, particularly relevant, etc...)	There are many characters with room for doubling as needed and it can be very flexible in terms of casting. For example, the animal/sin characters can be played by any person who's willing to move and get a bit silly. There are large parts and small parts, but no one character takes over the show. The story is familiar to an audience, with enough changes to keep them engaged and interested. It's not a long play, 74 pages with a run time under 2 hours.
Please describe any ideas for technical aspects of the show (e.g. setting, indoor/outdoor venue, sets, costumes, lights, props...)	The play takes place in several locations, but they can all be suggested minimally. The costumes will be most difficult depending on how realistic we wanted to go with the animal characters. It would be possible to make them simple and suggestive of the animal instead of fully realistic. There is also a scene where Ash Girl's clothes transform for the ball which would require some creative theater magic, but is very doable.
(Not required) Do you have a potential director in mind? If so, please provide their name, Caltech affiliation, and email.	Myself