PLAY PROPOSAL
“I Hate Hamlet”

GENERAL INFORMATION
I. General summary: I Hate Hamlet opened on Broadway in 1991 to great acclaim. Having worked on the show once before I feel it would be an exciting and relatively easy show to produce whether performed indoors or outdoors. Plus, given EXPLICIT’s history of doing Shakespeare it would be an excellent complementary piece.

II. Proposal submitted by
   - Matt Braaten
     - Caltech Affiliation: Worked on Alice last year
     - E-mail Address: mattbraaten1@gmail.com
     - Physical Address: 5301 Mt. Helena Ave, Los Angeles 90041

III. Project description
   - Name of the play: I Hate Hamlet by Paul Rudnick
   - Genre of show: Dramedy (though mostly a comedy), straight play
   - Number of characters (male, female): 3 men, 3 women
   - General description of the show – plot: It is a great ensemble piece set in John Barrymore's old apartment in New York City. The play follows successful television actor Andrew Rally as he struggles with taking on the dream role of Hamlet, dealing with a girlfriend who is keeping a firm grip on her chastity, and playing host to the ghost of John Barrymore, who, clothed as Hamlet, has come back to earth for the sole purpose of convincing Rally to play the part. Real estate agent Felicia Dantine convinces Rally to stay in the apartment and hold a seance. Barrymore proves to be very convincing (challenging Andrew to a sword fight in the middle of the New York loft), and finally Andrew decides to play Hamlet. But when a Hollywood friend shows up offering Andrew a new role in a television pilot, with a potentially large salary and fame, Andrew is forced to choose between Shakespeare, whom his girlfriend loves, or television, where he may be loved by millions.
   - Themes: Trust in self, trust in others/friends, love of Shakespeare/theater, tackling personal demons.

IV. Director
   - Name, Caltech affiliation, email address: Matt Braaten (info above)

DETAILED INFORMATION
I. Reasons for the proposed show
   - Six characters and a simple set (one main location) make for an inexpensive show yet a comical one rich in theater history and
Shakespeare references. There are an equal number of men and women, three of each, and only six characters to cast. All six roles are fun.

II. Technical Aspects
- Ideas for the show: The show could be pulled off either indoors or outdoors, but it may be best indoors. It would only need a simple space, and perhaps the simpler the better. I would propose that the play be presented as it were 1991. Thus, costumes and props would be from the early 90s. Think the TV show Friends.
- Sets, costumes, lights, props required: Again, one location (a New York apartment) is pretty easy to build. Costumes would be thrift-happy and borrowed from those who still have early 90s attire, and the same goes for the props. Lights would be a breeze. I would recommend songs and music used in the show to be taken from the late 80s through 1991 to really capture the time period such as: Extreme’s “More Than Words”, Chris Isaak’s “Wicked Game”, Bonnie Raitt’s “Something to Talk About” and other cheesy, fun, sweet and/or serious musical options.
- Other big bands/artists I would suggest from 1990-1991: Nirvana, Oasis, Divinyls, Sting, Madonna, etc.