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Award-winning playwright Ben Clawson premieres his new play

Luna Summer Stage and StrangeDog Theatre will present a new dark comedy "Bootstraps" by Ben Clawson, Wednesdays through Saturdays, from Aug. 6 through Aug. 16, on the Main Stage at Luna Stage, 695 Bloomfield Ave. The production is directed by Artem Yatsunov.

"Bootstraps" tells the story of a night in the lives of four employees of the Branchhill Industrial Supply Co., a firm with the motto "Nothing We Can't Get," guaranteeing to retrieve and supply whatever you need, even when all the ethical options have been exhausted. On this particular night, the mythic and lauded position of Corporate Representative may have finally opened up. The two main heroes, Mike and Loudjack, fight to secure their places for this cushy job with all its perks. But there can be only one Corporate Rep. What won't they do to get it fuels this dark comedy about ambition, trust, and antique ice machines.

Ben Clawson is the author of numerous full-length and one-act plays that have had professional readings and workshop productions in New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and New Orleans. His first play, "Spilling Stuff and Breaking Things," premiered in December 2006 at Montclair State University. Soon after, an evening of his short plays titled "Attention Span of a Fly" reopened the historic Paramount Theater in Asbury Park in the summer of 2007.

Clawson has been an evening winner and finalist in the Samuel French Short Play Festival; a national finalist for the American College Theater Festival's John Cauble One-Act Award; a finalist for the Princess Grace Award in playwriting; and a recipient of the Kennedy Center's David Mark Cohen Award.

"Bootstraps," starring David Murgittroyd, Scott Cagney, Tim Artz, and Malachy Orozco, will be performed Wednesdays through Saturdays, Aug. 6, through Aug. 16, at Luna Summer Stage, 695 Bloomfield Ave.

Tickets are \$20, general admission; \$15 for students and Luna subscribers. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 908-273-0363, or by visiting the Web site at www.strangedogtheatre.com.

For more information, call David Hoffman at 908-403-1838.

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