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## **AMERICAN STAGE ANNOUNCES NEW PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL** – American Stage Theatre Company is excited to announce and welcome **Stephanie Gularte** as the company's next Producing Artistic Director. Ms. Gularte will begin her role as Producing Artistic Director on February 24, 2015.

The Board of Trustees and staff of American Stage are excited to have Stephanie Gularte accept this position and they are confident she will successfully lead American Stage into the theater's next era. "Stephanie brings an extraordinary combination of leadership, talent, energy, and vision to American Stage and the Tampa Bay region," said Matthew Conigliaro, chair of the Board of Trustees at American Stage. "She will thrive here, continuing the traditions of excellence at American Stage while taking this theatre to new heights and expanding our ability to bring the magic of live theatre to growing audiences from all around the bay area."

Gularte has 14 years of experience as a producing artistic director, including 10 years as the executive artistic director of Capital Stage Company, an acclaimed professional, nonprofit theatre company in Sacramento, California. Gularte was the Founding Artistic Director of Capital Stage Company and successfully led the theater while developing a strong reputation as an arts leader and creating a legacy of excellence that has brought her to the Tampa Bay region, where she will guide American Stage into an exciting new era.

Gularte brings an impressive range of experience to American Stage. She has produced over 80 plays, including several regional and world premieres, and has consistently received strong acclaim for her work as a theatre director. She has pursued bold, high quality programming from new plays to adaptations of classic works. Her leadership at Capital Stage brought the company critical acclaim while creating a stable and forward-thinking business model with a tremendous presence in a vibrant arts scene. In 2014, she was recognized with a special proclamation from the City of Sacramento honoring her contribution to the arts in the region.

Gularte said this about her new position as Producing Artistic Director: "I am thrilled to be joining the team at American Stage. Together with the company's talented staff and dedicated board of trustees, I look forward to building on American Stage's impressive history and am eager to become a part of the dynamic Tampa Bay community."

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Gularte holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees, in theatre arts and government, from California State University at Sacramento, and she will be awarded a Master of Fine Arts in directing from the University of Idaho in 2015. For seven years, she has taught as an adjunct professor at a community college in California, leading classes on theatre, acting, and film studies. Gularte is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Union, Actors' Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, and the National New Playwrights Network.

Meg Heimstead, American Stage's Interim Artistic Director, will resume her role as Director of Education upon Gularte's arrival. Heimstead served as Interim Artistic Director during American Stage's national search for the new Producing Artistic Director. "I am thrilled to welcome Stephanie Gularte to the American Stage team. She brings with her a wealth of management and directing experience, having led Capital Stage in Sacramento, CA successfully for over 10 years. I look forward to the infusion of new energy she will bring to American Stage. Her unique perspective will lead us into the next chapter of our creative story. The board made an excellent choice with Stephanie and I can't wait to work with her," said Heimstead.

### **Stephanie Gularte Bio**

Stephanie is a theatre producer, writer, director and actor. She has produced over 80 plays and musicals and performed in more than 70 productions primarily in Northern California's Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Area communities. From 1999 to 2004 she was the Producing Artistic Director for the Delta King Theatre, a commercial division of the Riverboat Delta King. She guided the company through its transformation into the nonprofit, professional theatre company, Capital Stage. For the past ten years Stephanie has led the company in an Executive Artistic Director capacity, recruiting a respected and active board of directors and steadily building the company's capacity to impact the arts in the Sacramento region. She spearheaded Capital Stage's move from the Delta King to its Midtown performance space, working with community leaders and individuals to raise the capital needed for major renovations. Over the years Stephanie has received critical acclaim for her directing work in productions such as ENRON, TRUE WEST, GOOD PEOPLE, and ANNA KARENINA and for her acting work in productions such as HEDDA GABLER and HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE. In 2009, Sacramento Magazine named Stephanie one of "Forty Under Forty: The Next Generation of Power Players" for her work as the Founding Artistic Director of Capital Stage. She has been recognized with the Arts Innovation Award from the Sacramento Community Regional Foundation, the Arts Management Excellence Award from the Arts & Business Council, and, in 2014, Stephanie was presented with a proclamation from the City of Sacramento, honoring her many years of service to the arts in the region. As a strong supporter of the development of new works for the theatre Stephanie established Capital Stage's Playwrights' Revolution program for which the company was awarded two major grants from the James Irvine Foundation and she initiated Capital Stage's partnership with the National New Plays Network. Stephanie is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild. She served on the Board of Directors for the League of Sacramento Theatres and on the California State University Community Council. She holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theatre and Government from CSU Sacramento and is currently an MFA candidate in directing at the University of Idaho.

### **Production History: Stephanie Gularte, Artistic Director**

\*Denotes productions directed by Stephanie Gularte

Capital Stage Company (2004-present)

\*Good People by David Lindsay-Abaire

\*Macbeth Adapted & Directed by Stephanie Gularte

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Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris  
The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity by Kristoffer Diaz  
Hedda Gabler by H. Ibsen, Adapted by Stephanie Gularte  
The Mountaintop by Katori Hall  
The North Plan by Jason Wells  
Mistakes Were Made by Craig Wright  
\*Enron by Lucy Prebble  
Dying City by Christopher Shinn  
How I Learned to Drive by Paula Vogel  
\*True West by Sam Shepard  
In the Next Room or the vibrator play by Sarah Ruhl  
\*Superior Donuts by Tracy Letts  
Or, by Liz Duffy Adams  
\*Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train by Stephen Adly Guirgis  
Master Class by Terrence McNally  
reasons to be pretty by Neil LaBute  
It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Adapted by Joe Landry  
Mauritius by Theresa Rebeck  
Hunter Gatherers by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb  
\*Someone Who'll Watch Over Me by Frank McGuinness  
Fiction by Steven Dietz  
Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris  
\*Speech & Debate by Stephen Karam  
\*The Scene by Theresa Rebeck  
American Buffalo by David Mamet  
\*The Complete History of America (abridged) by The Reduced Shakespeare Co  
Erratica, An Academic Farce World Premiere by Reina Hardy  
First Person Shooter by Aaron Loeb  
Dinner With Friends by Donald Margulies  
Fool For Love by Sam Shepard  
\*A Number by Caryl Churchill  
\*The Typographer's Dream by Adam Bock  
Boy Gets Girl by Rebecca Gilman  
Dirty Story by John Patrick Shanley  
Every Christmas Story Ever Told!! by Carleton, Alvarez & Chicon  
Les Liaison Dangereuses adapted by Christopher Hampton  
Three Days of Rain by Richard Greenberg  
\*Fat Pig by Neil LaBute  
Relatively Speaking by Alan Ayckbourn  
Proof by David Auburn  
\*Humble Boy by Charlotte Jones  
Stones in His Pockets by Marion Jones  
The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute  
Delta King Theatre (1999-2004)  
Jack and Jill by Jane Martin  
Bad Dates by Theresa Rebeck  
Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare  
\*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change by Joe DiPietro  
Deathtrap by Ira Levin  
\*Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol by Tom Mula  
The Memory of Water by Shelagh Stephenson  
\*Art by Yasmina Reza  
Over the River and Through the Woods by Joe DiPietro

**-MORE-**

Woman in Black by Stephen Malatrat  
A Christmas Carol (Commissioned, Richard Broadhurst)  
Misery Adapted for the stage by Simon Moore  
\*Ravenscroft by Don Nigro  
How the Other Half Lives by Alan Ayckbourn  
Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson  
\*Vanities by Jack Heifner  
Turn of Screw by Jeffrey Hatcher  
\*First Night by Jack Neary  
A Texas Romance by Ellsworth Schave  
\*Lovespeak One-Acts by David Ives, Harold Pinter  
Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley

**Follow this link <http://www.americanstage.org/mediapage.php> to American Stage Theatre's Media Resource Page.**

American Stage Theatre Company is located at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida. American Stage Theatre Company is a not-for-profit professional theatre founded in 1977. The company's mission is to create the most satisfying live theatre in the Tampa Bay area, accessible to all members of the community. Its vision is to preserve the greatest human stories from our past, while creating the most defining stories and storytelling of our time. American Stage presents its Mainstage Productions in their 182-seat Raymond James Theatre. The theatre's other programming includes: American Stage in the Park, "After Hours" Series, Educational programming includes Acting Camps and Classes for youth and adults. The Hough Family Foundation is the Season Sponsor, Raymond James is the Mainstage Sponsor, Tampa Bay Times is the Newspaper Media Sponsor, WEDU is the Media Sponsor and WUSF 89.7 is the Radio Sponsor of American Stage.

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