



For Immediate Release

February 16, 2015

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PLEASE NOTE: The Musical Director for this production who is also playing the role of Charles, the pianist was misspelled in the previous press release. The correct spelling is Philip King.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – American Stage Theatre Company is excited to present their next Mainstage production ***Gutenberg! The Musical*** by Scott Brown & Anthony King. **Previews are March 11 and 12.**

Opening Night is **March 13** and the production runs through **April 5, 2015.**

Opening Night Performance:

The opening will include a reception beginning at 6:30pm on Friday, March 13 catered by 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House with delicious delights, an open bar, and music. Then the Opening Night performance will begin at 8pm.

Special Performance:

“Pay What You Can” Night – Wednesday, March 11 @ 8pm

Spotlight Series: ENGAGE for *Gutenberg! The Musical*:

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Talk-back with the cast of *Gutenberg! The Musical*!

ENGAGE - Join us after select performances for an exciting and illuminating conversation with the actors about the play you just watched! For select ENGAGE talk-backs we will also have special guest speakers who can offer unique insights on the context of specific plays within our season. **All ENGAGE talk-back events are free and open to the public. They will begin 5-10 minutes after curtain at select performances.**

Gutenberg! The Musical is a two-man musical spoof, a pair of aspiring playwrights perform a backers’ audition for their new project - a big, splashy musical about printing press inventor Johann Gutenberg. With an unending supply of enthusiasm, Bud and Doug sing all the songs and play all the parts in their crass historical epic, with the hope that one of the producers in attendance will give them a Broadway contract – fulfilling their ill-advised dreams.

Setting: *Gutenberg! The Musical*! takes place in an off-off-off-Broadway theatre in NYC.

Time: Present day.

***Gutenberg! The Musical*!** will be presented in two acts with one intermission.

The total run-time is 2 hours with one 15 minute intermission.

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Steven Flaa* is directing for American Stage Theatre's production of ***Gutenberg! The Musical!*** This will be his ninth show directing here at American Stage. He has previously directed *Souvenir*, *Marvelous Party* and all three productions of *The Big Bang* on the mainstage, as well as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Altar Boyz* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* in the Park. Other directorial credits include *Man of LaMancha* at Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, *Spelling Bee* at Ozark Actors Theatre, *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Des Moines Playhouse, *Guys & Dolls*, *Carousel*, *Some Like it Hot*, *Mid-Life: The Crisis Musical* and *Crazy for You* at the Show Palace and fourteen productions of *Forever Plaid* across Florida.

The cast includes **Matthew McGee*** (Doug Simon), **Joey Panek*** (Bud Davenport) and **Philip King** (Charles, the pianist). All will be returning to American Stage. **Matthew McGee*** will be playing the role of Doug Simon. He won TTB Awards for "Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical" for Katisha in *The Mikado* (freeFall Theatre) and Frank 'N' Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show* (American Stage), Broadway World Nomination for "Best Actor in a Musical" for Pluto/Shaw in *The Frogs* (freeFall). Favorite Tampa Bay Credits: *The Divine Sister* (Stageworks), *Spelling Bee*, *Irma Vep* and *Around The World in 80 Days* (American Stage), *Into The Woods*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *An Empty Plate...*(freeFall Theatre), *Die Fledermaus*, *West Side Story* (St. Pete Opera). Proud member of AEA and Community Outreach/Marketing Director at freeFall. Matthew is also the other half of Tampa Bay's favorite (and only) mother/son nightclub act, The Scott & Patti Show. See Matthew playing Auntie Mame in *Mame* at freeFall Theatre this summer.

Joey Panek* will be playing the role of Bud Davenport. Joey is originally from Syracuse, NY, but now calls Sarasota, FL his home. He's performed at regional theaters throughout the country and with several national touring companies. He's thrilled to be back at American Stage where he appeared in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and numerous concerts and benefits. Joey is a web and media personality who can be found online at *WhatsUpJoey.com*, and on broadcast television as the Social Trends Correspondent for WWSB ABC-7 and the daytime talk show, *Suncoast View*. Joey is a producing member of Lazy Fairy Improv Troupe, as well as a frequent cabaret performer throughout Tampa Bay. While that's all great, his dog Lulu overshadowed him by being featured on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. In his spare time he plans to save the world through entertainment and martinis. JoeyPanek.com

Philip King will be playing the role of Charles, the pianist and the Musical Director for this production. Philip is an active bass-baritone, pianist, and composer. He studied voice and piano performance at Drake University where his principal teachers were Bruce Perry, Edward Corpus, and Nicholas Roth. Philip has appeared on stage and served as music director for numerous musical theatre productions. His most recently work includes: *Dreamgirls* (Theatre Winter Haven), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Theatre Winter Haven), James Joyce's *The Dead* (Mad CowTheatre), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Montverde Academy), *Mary Poppins* (Theatre Winter Haven), *Hair* (Eight O'Clock Theatre), *Hair* (Mad CowTheatre), The 12th Annual Orlando Cabaret Festival (Mad Cow Theatre), *Les Misérables* (Theatre Winter Haven), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lake Highland Prep), and *A Marvelous Party: The Noël Coward Celebration* (American Stage). In addition to theatrical work, Mr. King has appeared in concert with Gloria Musicae, Encore! Cast Performing Arts, the Drake University Choirs, Drake University students, faculty, and guest artists, the Fort Dodge Choral Society, and the Des Moines Metro Opera.

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In addition to **Steven Flaa's** Directing, the Artistic Staff also includes; **Philip King** as Musical Director, **Jerid Fox** as Set Designer and Properties Master, **Chris Baldwin** as Lighting Designer, **Mike and Kathy Buck Designs** as Costume Designers, **Stephen M. Ray, Jr.*** as Production Stage Manager, **Timon Brown** as Technical Director and **Zachary Sutton** as Crew/Acting Intern.

* = a member of Actors' Equity Association; # = a member of the United Scenic Artists union;

+ = a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers

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

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanstage/sets/>

Photo credit is Chad Jacobs. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact Roman Black for immediate needs.

2014-2015 Season

Mainstage Ticket Prices and Performance Times:

**Performances are Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 8pm.
Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 3pm**

2014-2015 Performance Pricing:

\$29 Thursday Previews

\$39 Wednesday, Thursday Evenings and Saturday and Sunday Matinees

\$49 Friday and Saturday Evenings

\$59 Opening Night - includes pre-performance reception

Additional Information

Student Advance tickets are \$20.

Student Rush tickets are \$10, 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Senior (adults age 65 and up) and Retired Military Discount - Receive \$2 off single tickets.

Artist Discount - Tickets are \$20

Active military tickets are FREE with valid I.D. 20% off additional tickets for friends and family.

To receive one of the above discounts, you must go through our box office. Valid I.D. must be presented to our box office. Only one discount can be used per ticket.

Please contact the box office for further details or questions.

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We want to fill our house!

In the event that you are unable to use your tickets, please call our box office 24 hours in advance of scheduled performance. You can exchange your tickets for another performance of the same production. *Thank you in advance for your communication so that we can allow as many people as possible to enjoy the show.*

American Stage Theatre Company is located at the Raymond James Theatre,
163 3rd Street North in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.

For tickets, please call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-PLAY (7529) or visit americanstage.org.

Services and Facilities

Physical Accessibility: The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating.

Benefits of a Valid Disabled Parking Permit: Displaying your valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs).

Please note: this does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).

Listening System: Theatregoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat.



Group Ticket Pricing Packages are also available. For tickets, please call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

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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. Their 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 Series in its, 182-seat Raymond James Theatre each year.

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