



**For Immediate Release**

June 11, 2015

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**Lewis Black's ONE SLIGHT HITCH Opens at American Stage**

**St. Petersburg, FL** – American Stage Theatre Company concludes its 2014-15 season with big laughs from the pen of comedian and *Daily Show* commentator Lewis Black. *ONE SLIGHT HITCH* is a romantic comedy about a couple's wedding day chaos that grows increasingly outrageous. Directed by American Stage improv artist, Gavin Hawk and featuring a talented cast of local and regional favorites, *ONE SLIGHT HITCH* runs July 8 through August 2, 2015. **Opening Night is Friday, July 10, 2015.**

Performances for *ONE SLIGHT HITCH* will begin with two preview performances on Wednesday, July 8 at 8pm and Thursday, July 9 at 8pm. The production will open on Friday, July 10 at 8pm. Performances continue for four-weeks through August 2, 2015. Showtimes will be Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 3pm. General tickets range from \$29-\$59. Discount tickets are available as follows: Wednesday preview tickets are "Pay What You Can" and Thursday preview tickets are \$29; Student Advance Tickets are \$20; Seniors and Retired Military Members receive \$2 off; and Group Rates are available for parties of 12 or more. Tickets are currently available at the American Stage Box Office, by phone at (727) 823-PLAY (7529) or online at [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org).

**THE PLAY**

Life in suburban Cincinnati circa 1981 is good for Doc and Delia Coleman on the morning they plan to throw their eldest daughter the lavish wedding they never had, until her ex shows up and begins to wreak glorious havoc on the big day. A zany, door-slamming farce, *ONE SLIGHT HITCH* delivers a riotous and strangely romantic ride through the deconstruction of one family's equilibrium.

"If you think of Lewis Black solely as a curmudgeonly comedian whose default setting is a state of apoplexy at the imbecility of his fellow man, you might be surprised by *ONE SLIGHT HITCH*. It's not unexpected that *HITCH* should abound in snappy wisecracks and keen social observation. Those, after all, are hallmarks of Black's stand-up act and his appearances on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. But what is that we detect on Black's sleeve at the end of his play? Is that his...heart?" —*Boston Globe*.

"If sustained laughter is the best measure of a comedy, *ONE SLIGHT HITCH* makes the grade." —*Asbury Park Press*.

*ONE SLIGHT HITCH* will be presented in two acts with one 15-minute intermission.

**ABOUT LEWIS BLACK**

Lewis Black has written *THE LAUNDRY HOUR* (The Public), *THE CZAR OF ROCK AND ROLL*, *NIGHTFALL*, and *THE DEAL* to name a few. His television appearances include his regular "Back in Black" segment on

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*The Daily Show*, host of his own show *The Root of All Evil* and *The Big Bang Theory*. He's been in the films *Man of the Year*, *Unaccompanied Minors*, and *Accepted*. A published author, he has written three *New York Times* best sellers: *Nothing's Sacred*, *Me of Little Faith*, and *I'm Dreaming of a Black Christmas*. As a stand-up, he performs in theaters throughout the country and the world. Most recently, he appeared on Broadway in his newest stand-up show: *RUNNING ON EMPTY*. His comedy CDs have won two Grammys and his comedy show *RED, WHITE AND SCREWED* received an Emmy Award.

## **THE PRODUCTION**

Gavin Hawk, half of the improv duo Hawk & Wayne, directs this summer farce featuring Jordan Foote (Ryan), Jonelle Marie Meyer (Melanie), Regan Moore (P.B.), Jennifer Christa Palmer\* (Courtney), Brian Webb Russell\* (Doc Coleman), Brian Shea\* (Harper) and Karel Wright\* (Delia Coleman). The design team includes Gavin Hawk (sound), Greg Bierce (scenic), Trish Kelley (costumes), and Mike Wood (lighting).

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

**Gavin Hawk** (Director) is honored to be directing for American Stage for the first time. American Stage audiences may know him from his acting at American Stage in *ART*, *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK*, and *THE FOREIGNER*, or as one half of the long running improv group Hawk and Wayne, which plays every first Sunday of the month. Previous directing credits include: *MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET* (A Simple Theatre), *THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO* (Jobsite Theater), *GOOD EGG* (A Simple Theatre), *CONGRATULATIONS, JOE!* (A Simple Theatre), *CLOSETLAND* (Jobsite Theater), *DEATH AND THE MAIDEN* (A Simple Theatre), as well as numerous shows for Eckerd College, where he is an Associate Professor of Theatre. Gavin is also the Artistic Director of A Simple Theatre ([asimpletheatre.org](http://asimpletheatre.org)). He holds a Diploma in Acting from The Juilliard School Drama Division, and an M.F.A. in Acting/Directing from California State University in Long Beach, California. He is a proud member of the Actors Equity Association.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**Jordan Foote** (Ryan) is excited to be making his American Stage Debut! He was recently seen in the Tampa Area with Jobsite Theater as Van Gogh in *INVENTING VAN GOGH* and Peachy in *THE LAST NIGHT AT BALLYHOO*. He is a Tampa transplant originally from Kansas City. He earned his BA in Theatre from the University of Kansas and his Masters in Theatre Education from Kansas State University. He is also a teaching artist for Drama Kids International. Other production highlights include *BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO* (Uday Hussein), *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* (Lysander), *GROSS INDECENCY...* (Oscar Wilde), *ANNA IN THE TROPICS* (Palomo), and *THE PILLOWMAN* (Director). Jordan is a theatre educator and hopes to teach high school theatre in the area.

**Jonelle Marie Meyer** (Melanie) is delighted to be performing in her third production with American Stage! Previously she was seen here in *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS* and *7 HOMELESS MAMMOTHS WANDER NEW ENGLAND*. Some of her other recent credits in the Bay area include: *ORLANDO* (Jobsite Theatre), *DIVINE SISTER* (Stageworks) and *ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW* (M.A.D. Theatre).

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**Regan Moore** (P.B.) is a recent graduate of Howard W. Blake School of the Arts in Tampa, where she majored first in Musical Theatre and eventually transferred into the Acting program due to a growing love of classical theatre. While at Blake, she appeared in several productions including: COMPANY (Amy), THE TEMPEST (Miranda), and THE LORD OF THE FLIES: FEMALE VERSION (Jack). ONE SLIGHT HITCH is her second professional experience, having appeared earlier this year in the Tampa Shakespeare Company's inaugural season, both in ROMEO AND JULIET (Juliet) and MACBETH (Fleance/Daughter).

**Jennifer Christa Palmer\*** (Courtney) is thrilled to make her American Stage debut with such an amazing cast & crew. She originally hails from Hatboro, PA, earned her BA in Theatre from Penn State University and currently resides in Orlando, FL, training at Class Act Studios with Lauren O'Quinn. Recent credits: PHOTOGRAPH 51 (Dr. Rosalind Franklin), and THE LETTERS (Anna Borisovna), both at Mad Cow Theatre. Other stage credits include: ROMEO + JULIET (Tybalt) at freeFall Theatre where she won "Outstanding Featured Actress" by Theatre Tampa Bay, SCOTT AND HEM (Miss Eve Montaigne) at Actors' Playhouse in Coral Gables, FL, PRIVATE LIVES (Amanda Prynne) at Mad Cow Theatre where she won "Best Performance by a Female Actor" by [thedailycity.com](http://thedailycity.com), and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Helena) at freeFall Theatre. Television credits include: *Homeland* & *Army Wives*. JCP is a grateful member of Actors' Equity Association [www.jenniferchristapalmer.com](http://www.jenniferchristapalmer.com)

**Brian Shea\*** (Harper) was most recently seen here at American Stage as Crumplet in THE SANTALAND DIARIES. Other American Stage credits include: GOD OF CARNAGE, AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, ART, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, OTHELLO, THREE DAYS OF RAIN, PROOF, WAR OF THE WORLDS, DIAL M FOR MURDER, VISITING MR. GREEN, MERE MORTALS, MACBETH, CANDIDA, AS YOU LIKE IT, LONELY PLANET and more. Brian has appeared in HARVEY, THE BUFFALO KINGS, IN THE NEXT ROOM OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY (freeFall Theater); THE LONESOME WEST, THE 39 STEPS, MINDGAME, DRACULA, TITUS ANDRONICUS, and THE BOYS NEXT DOOR (Jobsite Theater); TWELFTH NIGHT (Eckerd Theater Company); WAITING FOR GODOT (Stageworks); and A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS (Alley Cat Players). Brian is the co-producer and lead actor in the new independent feature film, WAITING ON MARY (please visit and "like" the Facebook page for more info). Brian is a recipient of *Creative Loafing's* Best of the Bay Award for "Best Actor" and is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a B.A. in Theater Performance.

**Brian Webb Russell\*** (Doc Coleman) ONE SLIGHT HITCH proudly marks Brian's twelfth show with American Stage. His most recent role here was as the follicle-ly challenged Brian Doyle in last winter's LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR; however, audiences may also remember his work in THE SEAFARER, THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP, STONES IN HIS POCKETS, CHAPTER TWO, JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL, and American Stage's last Shakespeare in the Park play, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. He won a Jeff Norton award as "Best Supporting Actor" for his role as Victor Velasco in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK and was nominated alongside his cast mates for Theatre Tampa Bay awards in the category of "Best Ensemble" for the productions of AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS and MY NAME IS ASHER LEV,

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winning that prize with the latter show. An Equity actor currently residing in Nashville, Brian has worked extensively in regional theatre, including shows with Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Nashville Children's Theatre and the Nashville Shakespeare Festival and will be performing next with the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival in ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. St Pete audiences should also be looking out for his cameo role in Brian Shea's upcoming film release of WAITING ON MARY.

**Karel K. Wright\*** (Delia Coleman) is thrilled to be returning to St. Petersburg. American Stage audience members may remember Karel in AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (Mattie Fae) when it was performed at the Palladium Theatre. This past March, Karel made her West Coast debut in Santa Cruz at the Jewel Theatre in HARPER REAGAN (Alison). Karel's previous roles at Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando have been THE DEAD (Aunt Kate), CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF (Big Mama), COLLECTED STORIES (Ruth Steiner), ENCHANTED APRIL (Mrs. Graves), SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER (Mrs. Hardcastle), THE HEIRESS (Lavinia). Sarasota audiences may remember Karel in KISS THE MOON, KISS THE SUN (Clair Castle) at the Banyan Theatre, while audiences in Naples may remember Karel in HIGH SPIRITS (Mrs. Bradman) at TheatreZone. Karel is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and received her BFA from the University of Minnesota and MFA from the University of Illinois with additional training at The American Conservatory of Theatre in San Francisco. For more information on Karel, visit her website at [www.karelkwright.com](http://www.karelkwright.com).

\*= member, Actor's Equity Association

### **ONE SLIGHT HITCH**

#### **Fact Sheet**

**WHAT:** American Stage presents ONE SLIGHT HITCH by Lewis Black

**WHERE:** Raymond James Theatre  
163 3rd Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**WHEN:** July 8 – August 2, 2015

Previews Wednesday, July 8, 8pm ("Pay What You Can"), and Thursday, July 9, 8pm (\$29 tickets)

Opening Night: Friday, July 10, 2015, 8pm (\$59 tickets - includes opening night reception at 6:30pm)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through August 2, 2015.

#### **PERFORMANCE TIMES & PRICES:**

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8pm (\$39 tickets)

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm (\$49 tickets)

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm (\$39 tickets)

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**TICKET PURCHASES:**

**Box Office:** (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

**Online:** [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org)

**Walk-up:** 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**PLAY DESCRIPTION:**

Life in suburban Cincinnati circa 1981 is good for Doc and Delia Coleman on the morning they plan to throw their eldest daughter the lavish wedding they never had, until her ex shows up and begins to wreak glorious havoc on the big day. A zany, door-slamming farce, *One Slight Hitch* delivers a riotous and strangely romantic ride through the deconstruction of one family's equilibrium.

**WHO:**

Playwright: Lewis Black

Director/Sound Design: Gavin Hawk

Cast: Jordan Foote, Jonelle Marie Meyer, Regan Moore, Jennifer Christa Palmer\*, Brian Webb Russell\*, Brian Shea\* and Karel Wright\*

Scenic Design: Greg Bierce

Lighting Design: Mike Wood

Costume Design: Trish Kelley

Production Stage Manager: Rachel Harrison\*

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

Follow this link <http://www.americanstage.org/mediapage.php> to American Stage'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.*

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**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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**MISSION**

Founded in 1977, American Stage's mission is to create the most satisfying professional live theatre in the Tampa Bay area, and to make it accessible to all members of the community. The 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 the 182-seat Raymond James Theatre year round and the annual American Stage in the Park each Spring. The theatre's other programming includes: "After Hours" Series, School Tour, Youth/Adult Classes, Summer Camp, and Teen Summer Institute.

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