



For Immediate Release

February 23, 2017

Contact: The American Stage

Marketing Team

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American Stage presents INFORMED CONSENT

The 2016/17 Season continues and celebrates “new voices” with this Tampa Bay area premiere, along with exciting March events.

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage continues its 2016-17 Season - “In Search of...America” with the Tampa Bay area premiere of **INFORMED CONSENT** by Deborah Zoe Laufer, winner of the 2009 Helen Merrill Playwriting Award. This powerful drama takes us into the personal and national debate about science v. belief, and whether genetics defines our fate. Inspired by a landmark court case between one of the country’s largest universities and a Native American tribe based in the Grand Canyon, **INFORMED CONSENT** goes “in search of... A CURE” while asking the question, **“is your DNA your destiny?”**

*“When I first read **INFORMED CONSENT** it struck me on both an emotional and intellectual level. It’s both a compelling exploration of the role of ethics in science and a tremendously moving human story that touches on themes that touch all of our lives.”* – **Stephanie Gularte, Artistic Producing Director**

TALKS & EVENTS

American Stage has selected several complementary audience experiences surrounding the production of **INFORMED CONSENT** beginning with **March 5th’s SPOTLIGHT ON INFORMED CONSENT: FOREWORD**, an exclusive conversation with Director Benjamin T. Ismail and Scenic Designer Jerid Fox.

Beginning on **March 22nd**, following select performances, join us as American Stage’s 2016/2017 Young American Apprentice’s showcase their brand new one act play **“AMERICA: A Mosaic.”**

Visit americanstage.org/INFORMED and click the TALKS & EVENTS tab for a full listing of ways to enhance your experience.

INFORMED CONSENT runs from March 15th through April 9th, 2017. **Opening night is Friday, March 17th, 2017 with a reception at 7PM, performance at 8PM, and a dessert reception with the cast to follow.**

The following includes information on the cast, production, performance dates, and ticketing information, as well as a listing of special events surrounding the production.

-MORE-

ABOUT THE PLAY

With genomic breakthroughs happening at breakneck speed, we can learn more about what our futures may hold than ever before. But how much should we know? And who gets to decide? An electrifying new play by one of the most exciting voices in American theater, *INFORMED CONSENT* is a powerful drama about one woman's quest to answer the mysteries of science and her own life. Inspired by a landmark court case between one of the country's largest universities and a Native American tribe based in the Grand Canyon *INFORMED CONSENT* takes us into the personal and national debate about science v. belief, and whether our genetics defines our fate.

"A thoughtful and engrossing play...that raises questions about the potential conflicts between scientific discovery and religious beliefs." -The Cleveland Plain Dealer

"...urgent, challenging, and of the moment, grappling with concepts that scare us and intrigue us."
– The Cleveland Plain Dealer

CAST

Juliana Davis* - Jillian (ONE)
Jacobi Howard - Graham (TWO)
Dana Segal* - Arella & Others (THREE)
Richard B. Watson* - Ken & Others (FOUR)
Melanie Souza* - Dean Hagan & Others (FIVE)

CREATIVE

Benjamin T. Ismail (Director)
Jerid Fox (Scenic Designer)
Jerid Fox (Properties Master)
Dan Covey# (Lighting Designer)
Scott Daniel (Costume Designer)
Benjamin T. Ismail (Sound Designer)
Rachel Harrison* (Production Stage Manager)
Shelby Smotherman (Scenic Artist)

* = Member of Actors' Equity Association; # = Member of the United Scenic Artists Union

For Cast Bios please visit <http://www.AmericanStage.org/INFORMED/>

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: www.AmericanStage.org/in-the-media/

**Photo credit is Joey Clay. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact Zachary Hines for immediate needs.*

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Deborah Zoe Laufer's plays have been produced at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Cleveland Playhouse, Geva Theatre Center, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Portland Stage, and eighty other theaters around the country, in Germany, Russia and Canada. Her play **END DAYS** was awarded The ATCA Steinberg citation and appeared at Ensemble Studio Theatre through an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant. **INFORMED CONSENT**, which was a Sloan commission, was produced in 2015 by Primary Stages and EST. Other plays include **LEVELING UP**, **SIRENS**, **OUT OF STERNO**, **THE LAST SCHWARTZ**, **META**, **THE THREE SISTERS OF WEEHAWKEN**, **FORTUNE**, **THE GULF OF WESTCHESTER**, **MINIATURES**, and **RANDOM ACTS**. Deb is a recipient of the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award and the Lilly Award and grants and commissions from The Edgerton Foundation, the NEA and NNPN. Her plays have been developed at PlayPenn, The Eugene O'Neill NPC, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Ojai, The Missoula Colony, The Cherry Lane Alternative, The Dramatists Guild, New Georges, The Lark, Asolo Rep. and the Baltic Playwrights Conference. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and a member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and The Dramatists Guild.

TALKS & EVENTS - Full Details

Visit americanstage.org/INFORMED and click the TALKS & EVENTS tab for a full listing of events.

Sunday, March 5 at 1PM

Spotlight Series: FOREWORD

**GUEST SPEAKERS: Director Benjamin T. Ismail
and Scenic Designer Jerid Fox**

Take your theatre going experience to the next level through an informative and entertaining lecture. Professor Emerita, Dedee Aleccia, will speak on the history, context, and characters of **INFORMED CONSENT**. Director, Benjamin T Ismail, and Set & Projections Designer, Jerid Fox, also join us to explore the design and technical elements that capture the imaginative underscore of the main character's mind as she conjures imagery and a soundscape to tell her story.

March 22 – April 2, 2017

AMERICA: A Mosaic

Following select performances of INFORMED CONSENT | Free

Six Questions. Five Voices. One Generation. Join the inaugural class of apprentices at American Stage as they go "In search of..." America. This original one act play dares to ask the questions from the current mainstage season and answers them with the voice of another generation. **AMERICA: A Mosaic** paints a picture of our world's difficulties and divisiveness, while inspiring us to come together as a force for change.

Featuring:

Matt Acquard
Tori Baird
Alexandria Crawford
Whitaker Gardner
Sadie Lockhart

Performance Schedule:

Wednesdays, 3/22 & 3/29
Thursdays, 3/23* & 3/30
Fridays, 3/24 & 3/31
Saturdays, 3/25 & 4/1

*Young American Night - chatback with performers after the performance.

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Wednesday, March 22

PRIDE Night

Mixer at 6PM | Performance at 7PM

Spend a night OUT at American Stage! Before the performance, mix and mingle with friends old and new, and enjoy a BOGO special on our signature cocktail.

Thursday, March 23

Young American Night

Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Young Americans are invited to enjoy **INFORMED CONSENT** and **AMERICA: A Mosaic** with BOGO Specialty Drinks plus a special chatback following the evening's performances.

YOUNG AMERICANS between the ages of 21-29 can access \$15 tickets with promo code UNDER30. Code can only be used for one ticket per order when purchased online. Otherwise you can call the Box Office at 727-823-7529 or email youngamerican@americanstage.org. Tickets can be converted to a Young American Pass before or after the evening's performance.

Thursday, March 23*

Sunday, March 26

Sunday, April 2

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK

Post-Performance conversation with the cast of INFORMED CONSENT

*Young American Night featuring a performance of Young American Apprentice Showcase - AMERICA: A Mosaic with chatback after the performance.

Monday, March 27, 2017

Spotlight On... INFORMED CONSENT: FORUM

\$5 for general public | Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members

Join a lively conversation with a panel of special guests to discuss play themes of INFORMED CONSENT as they relate to societal context in our community.

Spotlight Series: PROLOGUE

Arrive early and enjoy our new interactive prologue series. This discussion will explore fascinating details about the play and the artists prior to each performance. The prologue will take place 30 minutes prior to each INFORMED CONSENT performance, presented by American Stage Apprentice Ally Thomas.

2017/2018 SEASON AT A GLANCE

This presentation by Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte will take listeners through the upcoming 2017/2018 Season at American Stage. The presentation will take place following each INFORMED CONSENT PROLOGUE, prior to each performance.

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AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents INFORMED CONSENT by Deborah Zoe Laufer

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

WHEN: March 15 – April 9, 2017
Preview Wednesday, March 15, 7pm, “Pay What You Can”
Preview Thursday, March 16, 8pm, \$29 tickets
Opening Night: Friday, March 17, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast to follow the performance.)
Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through April 9, 2017.

TIMES & PRICES:

Wednesdays 7pm \$39 tickets – NEW TIME THIS SEASON
Thursdays 8pm \$39 tickets
Fridays & Saturdays 8pm \$49 tickets
Saturdays & Sundays 3pm \$39 tickets

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

Spotlight Series: FOREWORD: Sun., March 5 at 1 PM

AMERICA: A Mosaic: Following select performances of INFORMED CONSENT

PRIDE Night: Wed, March 22 | Mixer at 6PM | Performance at 7PM

Young American Night: Thurs, March 23 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK: Thurs, Mar 23, Sun, Mar 26, & Sun, Apr 2 (Post-Performance)

Spotlight Series: PROLOGUE: 30 minutes prior to each INFORMED CONSENT performance

17/18 SEASON AT A GLANCE: 15 minutes prior to each INFORMED CONSENT performance

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SERVICE & 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).

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.



AMERICAN STAGE

Since 1977 American Stage has been dedicated to telling meaningful, compelling stories with integrity and professionalism. As the Tampa Bay area's longest-running, most critically-acclaimed professional theatre company, we seek to bring the power of quality live theatre to each generation in our community.

American Stage invites you to lean forward and experience the most captivating stories of the moment and the most relevant stories of the past. All told with passion and a commitment to excellence.

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/americanstage

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www.twitter.com/americanstage

www.flickr.com/americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@AmericanStage.org

Location: 163 3rd St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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