



POWERFUL STORIES. BOLDLY TOLD. 40 YEARS STRONG.

163 3RD ST N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For Immediate Release

December 7, 2017

Contact: The American Stage

Marketing Team

(727) 823-1600 x 209

marketing@americanstage.org

NEW YEAR, NEW VOICES

American Stage Announces 2018 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival

21st Century Voices: New Play Festival

January 11-14, 2018

Individual Tickets: \$10 per reading

All-Access Pass: \$40 General Public | \$30 American Stage Subscribers & Act 1 Club Members

St. Petersburg, FL – In the support of the next generation of American playwrights this American Stage program features new plays in development. A committee of 26 play readers comprised of a diverse cross-section of community members' work with our producing artistic director, Stephanie Gularte to read, evaluate and discuss hundreds of new play submissions from all over the United States. The five selected works will be featured in staged readings and workshops and will provide audiences the opportunity to contribute to the plays' development through audience talk-backs following each play reading.

Last season's New Play Festival hit, *STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR* (May 23 - June 17, 2018), was selected for a fully produced mainstage production in American Stage's 2017-18 season. The playwright, Andrea Lepcio, will be in residence during the play's rehearsal process to be involved with the director and the actors on the plays continued development.

"It is our hope," said Gularte "that our 21st Century Voices will develop into an impactful resource for playwrights and their new works to not only continue their development but to find an audience through quality readings and fully produced premieres."

The staged readings will be directed by local talents and will feature performers from throughout greater Tampa Bay. Each playwright will be in residence during the rehearsal and reading process and will have the opportunity to discuss their work with audiences.

21st Century Voices: 2018 New Play Festival Schedule:

Thursday, 1/11 at 8pm LENI & JOSEPH by Jacob Marx Rice

Friday, 1/12 at 8pm IF NOW WERE HENCE by Tess Light

Saturday, 1/13 at 3pm POSTLINGUAL by Brooke Downs

Saturday, 1/13 at 8pm GROUP by Alex Rubin

Sunday, 1/14 at 3pm GOOD BAD PEOPLE by Rachel Lynett

Thursday, January 11 at 8pm

LENI & JOSEPH

By Jacob Marx Rice

Leni Riefenstahl is a dancer, actor, and perhaps Germany's most influential director. Joseph Goebbels is the charmingly brutal Minister of Propaganda, intent on consolidating power for the Nazi Party. When the ambitious minister hires the

even more ambitious filmmaker to shoot the greatest propaganda movie ever made, it will pull two brilliant and dangerous minds into one of most productive, powerful, and deeply antagonistic relationships in the history of film. Leni & Joseph explores the wild true story of two giants as they flirt, fight, and shape the lives and deaths of millions.

Jacob Marx Rice

Jacob's work has been produced and developed at The Flea Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, The New Ohio, Atlantic Theatre Stage 2, and others. His play series THE SUICIDAL COMEDIES - consisting of CHEMISTRY, COPING, and CRACKS - has been produced around the country and has won the Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, the Excellence in Playwriting Award and FringeFAVE at the NY Fringe Festival, Producer's Pick at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival, and Producer's Encore Pick at the Hollywood Fringe. Jacob is a 2017 Playwright Observer at the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, a member of The Shelter, and an MFA candidate at NYU for Dramatic Writing.

Friday, January 12 at 8pm

IF NOW WERE HENCE

By Tess Light

21st century newlyweds Allie and Maggie have just moved into an old house that's been in the family for generations, where Vesta, a young bride-to-be (and frustrated intellectual) of the 19th century lives with her parents. Through the quantum vagaries of time, Allie and Vesta become visible to one another, past and future co-existing in a small parlor room. While multiple souls echo across time, resonating with alternate versions of themselves, Allie teaches Vesta of modern female emancipation, changing the lives of both women in the process.

Tess Light

Playwright Tess Light lives and works in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Distinctions include winner of the 2017 Julie Harris Playwriting Award (BILLY JOEL HOLDS THE KEY TO THE AFTERLIFE), semi-finalist for the 2015 Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's National Playwrights Conference (TO CONCEIVE GODS), Winner of the 2015 Arts & Letters prize for Drama (EXPECTANT PAUSE), and Winner of the 2012 New Play Contest at Theatre Conspiracy (TOWER OF MAGIC).

Saturday, January 13 at 3pm

POSTLINGUAL

By Brooke Downs

Alexa, a home shopping host, is at the top of her field and ready to take the leap into network broadcasting. After routine wisdom teeth extraction, she wakes up deaf. (It can happen—inspired by a true story.) Now Alexa faces many choices which will change—or end—her life. Does she get a cochlear implant when she's just reacted so drastically to surgery? Would it be better to learn American Sign Language? Can she continue her career in television or should she find another path? Everyone has a different opinion from her brother, who wants the implant right away for her network audition, to her more cautious husband. Alexa must sort through everyone's beliefs, including her own, as a speech pathologist leads her to see that silence is a wonderful way to learn to communicate.

Brooke Downs

Brooke Downs has an MFA in Creative Writing from Brigham Young University. She now teaches a variety of writing and literature courses there.

Saturday, January 13 at 8pm

GROUP

By Alex Rubin

In a quiet New Jersey beach town, four women are about to have a very unusual reunion. Kari, Rachel, Janet, and Joy are the 1988 graduates of Deena Boyd's Home for Disturbed Young Women, a center for teenagers with eating disorders. Thirty years later, the women are back at the house to speak to the current residents about life in remission...but there is still one secret that unites them.

Alex Rubin

Alex Rubin (playwright) is a New York-based writer for stage, TV, and film. Alex's plays and songs have been produced in readings and concerts at The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Theater for the New City, Primary Stages, The Steinhardt School at NYU, Temple University, Hofstra University, 54 Below, The Davenport Theater,

Peter Schneider Productions, Wide Eyed Productions, The Rep Group, Little Black Dress INK, Acadia University, Lama Theater Co.'s Fest of the Best, Samuel French OOB Festival, Renegade Theatre Festival, and more.

She has had residencies at SPACE on Ryder Farm and The National Winter Playwrights Retreat and is a BMI Musical Theatre Workshop lyricist. Alex was a semi-finalist for the 2015 Davenport Songwriting Competition, The O'Neill Summer Conference, and Red Women's Theatre Award. She was a finalist for ESPA Drills, Sanguine Theatre Co.'s Project Playwright, the Jane Chambers Award, Wide Eyed Productions' Reading Series, and AACT NewPlayFest. She is the 2013/14 Big Vision Empty Wallet Playwriting Fellow, a member of The Creators program and a member of the 2nd Annual Playwrights Collective Writers Group. Alex is the winner of the Francis Ford Coppola Award and The 85th Annual Writers Digest Award in Playwriting. This year, her work will be featured at The Drama League's Directorfest under the direction of fellow Ilana Ransom Toeplitz and in William Street Rep's Lab Series.
www.AlexRubinWrites.com.

Sunday, January 14 at 3pm

GOOD BAD PEOPLE

By Rachel Lynett

June returns to home to a family in crisis. Her brother, Amiri, has recently been shot and killed by a police officer. Her father is missing, her mother, Miriam, has locked herself in her bedroom as a response, and her sister, Audre, has gone into overdrive of "everything is fine, everything is fine." Now it's up to June to find a way to protect her brother's legacy while deciding whether she can finally confront long buried issues between herself and her surviving family.

Rachel Lynett BIO

Rachel Lynett holds an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Arkansas and a BA from the University of Notre Dame where she studied Theatre and Gender Studies.

Her recent playwriting credits include Downstage Left Residency with Stage Left for her play, WELL-INTENTIONED WHITE PEOPLE (2017), WELL-INTENTIONED WHITE PEOPLE as a part of 2017 Orlando Shakespeare New Play Festival, honorable mention for the 2017 Kilroys for her play, WELL-INTENTIONED WHITE PEOPLE, and a workshop production of ABORTION ROAD TRIP produced by Theatre Prometheus as part of Capital Fringe where it won Best Comedy. Her play, ABORTION ROAD TRIP, presented by Theatre Prometheus, was also a part of the 2017 Kennedy Center Page to Stage Festival. Other recent credits include her play ABORTION ROAD TRIP credited as a semifinalist for The Bridge Initiative 2017, CHOOSING YOU as part of the CulturalDC Source Festival 2016, BREATHE ME IN as a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference 2016, and BREATHE ME IN as a finalist for the Kernodle Play Award (2016). She currently works as the company manager at Arts Center of the Ozarks and is a AIE rostered teaching artist through Arkansas Arts Council.

For more information, visit americanstage.org/new-play-festival.

SERVICE & FACILITIES

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

*Displaying a 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).***

Large Print Program: Theatregoers may peruse large print programs for each Mainstage production.

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



AMERICAN STAGE | AS/40

American Stage celebrates **40 Years Strong** this season. Since 1977, American Stage, has contributed to the vitality of Tampa Bay as a regional professional theatre. American Stage's mission is to reinforce the power of live theatre with high quality productions that excite and challenge a diverse audience. Our year-round programming seeks to realize this through our Mainstage season, Spotlight Series, 21st Century Voices: New

Play Festival, American Stage in the Park and Improv. American Stage Education's offerings include award-winning Teaching Artist Outreach focused on bringing theatrical arts experiences to underserved populations, helping them to excel onstage & beyond.

We believe that through the telling of dynamic stories, live theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives. American Stage artists and stakeholders are responsible for helping a small theatre touring company blossom into a thriving world-class professional theatre providing nearly 70,000 Tampa Bay residents and tourists with accessible, relevant art and arts education annually.

Powerful Stories. Boldly Told. 40 Years Strong.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@americanstage.org

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

####