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163 3RD ST N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For Immediate Release

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Contact: The American Stage

Marketing Team

(727) 823-1600 x 209

[marketing@americanstage.org](mailto:marketing@americanstage.org)

## American Stage presents **MARJORIE PRIME**, a co-production with Capital Stage in Sacramento, California.

The 2017-18 Season continues with this captivating drama exploring the mysteries of human identity and artificial intelligence. March 7-April 1 #asMARJORIE

### GET IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

#### 1. **The Sunshine State and the Golden State join forces for an American Stage/Capital Stage Co-Production**

American Stage and Capital Stage come together to share resources, artists, and talent for this production of **MARJORIE PRIME** starring Janis Stevens (American Stage's 4000 MILES & Capital Stage Associate Artist). American Stage Producing Artistic Director, and Director for **MARJORIE PRIME**, Stephanie Gularte founded Capital Stage in 2004, and served as their Artistic Director for 9 years. She has now put together a creative team including both American Stage and Capital Stage artists for this production, which will have a run both in St. Pete (March 7 – April 1), as well as in Sacramento at Capital Stage (May 2 – June 3).

#### 2. **A Tampa Bay Area Premiere.**

A finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama — playwright Jordan Harrison (writer on *Orange is the New Black*) brings us this new captivating sci-fi drama.

*"The age of Artificial Intelligence is not ahead of us, it is upon us. The magic of MARJORIE PRIME is the way in which it uses the evolution of technology to delicately, achingly and humorously expose the vagaries of the human heart and mind."* -Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director/Director

#### 3. **Pulled from today's headlines - MARJORIE PRIME explores the future of artificial intelligence.**

This new play explores the timeless mysteries of human identity, artificial intelligence, and the limits of what technology can replace. **MARJORIE PRIME** was also recently adapted for the screen as a major motion picture starring Jon Hamm.

**St. Petersburg, FL** – American Stage continues its 2017-18 Season 'WE THE PEOPLE' with **MARJORIE PRIME** written by Jordan Harrison and directed by Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte. This Tampa Bay Area premiere marks the first co-production with Capital Stage in California and asks *what would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance?* **MARJORIE PRIME** will have 4 cast members featuring Janis Stevens\* (4000 MILES), Steven Sean Garland\* (THE PITMEN PAINTERS), Brock D. Vickers\* (MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING), and Jamie Jones\*.

*"American Stage and Capital Stage have been central to my evolution as a theatre artist. It's thrilling to bring these two companies together to collaborate, to share talent and resources, and to promote thought-provoking, powerful story-telling."* -Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director/Director

**"We're thrilled to be part of this co-production with American Stage. For Capital Stage it's not only a bridge to a new theatre community, but it's also a connection to our past. We'll be bringing new theatre artists and designers to Sacramento, sending our own actors and designers out to St. Petersburg, as well as bringing Stephanie Gularte, our Founding Artistic Director, back to Sacramento to direct - completing an artistic circle that started 12 years ago when Capital Stage was founded."** -Michael Stevenson, Producing Artistic Director, Capital Stage

It's the age of artificial intelligence and 86-year-old Marjorie is worried that her memory is fading. But when a mysterious and charming young visitor appears to help, questions emerge about the limits of technology and the possibility that memory might be a purely human invention. **COME TOGETHER** as **WE THE PEOPLE...DEFY OUR OWN MORTALITY.**

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

## **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

**JORDAN HARRISON** was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist for *MARJORIE PRIME*. The play had its New York premiere at Playwrights Horizons and its Chicago premiere at Writers Theatre after premiering at the Mark Taper Forum/CTG in Los Angeles. His play *Maple and Vine* premiered in the 2011 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville and went on to productions at American Conservatory Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, among others. Harrison's other plays include *THE GROWN-UP* (2014 Humana Festival), *DORIS TO DARLENE* (Playwrights Horizons), *AMAZONS AND THEIR MEN* (Clubbed Thumb), *ACT A LADY* (2006 Humana Festival), *FINN IN THE UNDERWORLD* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *FUTURA* (Portland Center Stage, NAATCO), *KID-SIMPLE* (2004 Humana Festival), *STANDING ON CEREMONY* (Minetta Lane), *THE MUSEUM PLAY* (Washington Ensemble Theatre), and a musical, *SUPREMA* (O'Neill Music Theatre Conference). Harrison is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Hodder Fellowship, the Kesselring Prize, the Roe Green Award from Cleveland Play House, the Heideman Award, a Theater Masters Innovative Playwright Award, the Loewe Award for Musical Theater, Jerome and McKnight Fellowships, a NYSCA grant, and a NEA/TCG Residency with The Empty Space Theater. His children's musical, *THE FLEA AND THE PROFESSOR*, won the Barrymore Award for Best Production after premiering at the Arden Theatre. A graduate of Stanford University and the Brown MFA program, Harrison is an alumnus of New Dramatists. He is an Affiliated Artist with Clubbed Thumb, The Civilians, and The Playwrights' Center. Harrison writes for the Netflix original series *Orange is the New Black*.

## **CAST**

**Janis Stevens\*** (Marjorie)

**Jamie Jones\*** (Tess)

**Brock D. Vickers\*** (Walter)

**Steven Sean Garland\*** (Jon)

## **CREATIVE**

**Stephanie Gularte** (Director/Sound Designer)

**Gail Russell** (Costume Designer)

**Christopher Baldwin** (Lighting Designer)

**Jerid Fox** (Scenic Designer & Properties Master)

**Rachel Harrison\*** (Production Stage Manager)

**Scott Daniel** (Hair Designer)

**Allison Davis** (Scenic Artist)

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

For Cast Bios please visit [americanstage.org/MARJORIE](http://americanstage.org/MARJORIE)

LINK to press releases: [AmericanStage.org/media](http://AmericanStage.org/media)

LINK to promotional photos: [Flickr American Stage](https://www.flickr.com/photos/americanstage/)

\*Photo credit: Joey Clay Photography. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact [marketing@americanstage.org](mailto:marketing@americanstage.org) for immediate needs.

## FEATURED EVENTS

**Spotlight Series: BEHIND-THE-SCENES:** Sun, February 25, 1pm

**Opening Night + Signature Art Unveiled:** Fri, March 9, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

**Spotlight Series: CHATBACK:** Thursday, March 15, & Sunday, March 18 & 25\* (Post-Performance)

**WE THE PEOPLE – PRELUDE TO PARK: Artist Meet & Greet Reception with Chad Mize & Young**

**Professionals Night:** Fri, March 16 | Happy Hour 7PM | Performance at 8PM

**LADIES Night:** Fri, March 23 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

**Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:** Sun, March 25\* | Directly following the matinee performance.

**PRIDE PLUS Night:** Fri, March 30 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

\*The chatback scheduled for 3/25 has been changed to a Community Conversation directly following the matinee performance.

## FEATURED VISUAL ARTIST

**Chad Mize, featured artist for PRELUDE TO PARK, will unveil his Signature Original Artwork on Opening Night which will kick-off a gallery show that will be up through May 13.** Our 2017-18 Season, 'WE THE PEOPLE', celebrates a partnership with local talents of seven visual artists and one photographer to create elements of the 2017-18 season selections. For American Stage in the Park's THE PRODUCERS, American Stage is collaborating with Chad Mize.

Chad Mize will be invited to attend rehearsals, interact with the development of the set, lighting and costume designers which will further inform his artistic perspective. Inspired by the collaborative creative process of theatre-making, he will create a Signature Original Artwork that will be donated as a fundraiser for the American Stage 40FORWARD fund campaign.

Going one step further in this process, American Stage will donate the use of their gallery space to further highlight the impact of artists of all disciplines within the community. Chad Mize will present a **Gallery Show & Artist Reception, sponsored by Creative Loafing**, at American Stage on Friday, March 16th. This exhibit will run concurrently with MARJORIE PRIME, inspired by themes from the upcoming American Stage in the Park production of THE PRODUCERS. This season American Stage asks the community to be a part of the WE THE PEOPLE movement and celebrate the arts in the Tampa Bay area!

*"I love that American Stage approached local artists to work on their 2018 season art – each with a different style. It's nice to compliment a production through your art and style."* –Chad Mize, Featured Visual Artist for PRELUDE TO PARK with THE PRODUCERS

## BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of MARJORIE PRIME, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by select American Stage apprentice Kody Hopkins 30 minutes prior to each performance.

American Stage is also excited to present **TGIF!** where guests can kick off their weekend in style and join us for fancy, fun, fierce, and fabulous nights out at the theatre with Happy Hour drink specials prior to the performance the first four Fridays of every mainstage production.

Also, enjoy drink specials every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night post-show. Stick around after the show for lively café conversations. You never know what special guest may arrive.

## TALKS & EVENTS – FULL DETAILS

American Stage has also programmed several audience experience opportunities surrounding the production of MARJORIE PRIME. Visit [americanstage.org/MARJORIE](http://americanstage.org/MARJORIE) and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

**Sunday, February 25 at 1pm**

**Spotlight Series: BEHIND-THE-SCENES – MARJORIE PRIME**

*Featuring Stephanie Gularte (Director/Producing Artistic Director), Jerid Fox (Scenic Designer), & Chris Baldwin (Lighting Designer).*

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of MARJORIE PRIME with this informative and entertaining presentation about the play, the playwright, and the American Stage artists who bring it all to life. Professor Emerita Dedee Aleccia will provide relevant details about the history and central themes of the play, while members of the artistic team will give an insider's perspective on their process.

**Pricing: \$10 for General Public**

**Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members**

**Friday, March 9 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm**

**Opening Night**

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by Callaloo with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, rub elbows with the cast & creative team, witness the unveiling of an original piece of art inspired by American Stage in the Park's THE PRODUCERS for PRELUDE TO PARK, and be among the first to see one of our first-class productions. There will also be a post-show dessert reception with the cast.

**Thursday, March 15 | Sunday March 18 & 25\* (Post-Performance)**

**Spotlight Series: CHATBACK – MARJORIE PRIME**

Stick around immediately following select performances to talk with the cast and other audience members while the experience of the play is fresh! Ask questions about the play, the characters, and the process, plus respond to the story and ideas aroused by the production. Free for ticket holders to the performance. *\*The chatback scheduled for 3/25 has been changed to a Community Conversation directly following the matinee performance.*

**Friday, March 16 | Happy Hour 7-8PM | Performance at 8PM**

**WE THE PEOPLE – PRELUDE TO PARK: Artist Meet and Greet Reception with Chad Mize & Young Professionals Night**

On the second Friday, stop by our lobby to celebrate the visual artwork of **Chad Mize**. American Stage will host a gallery show through May 13 and will also display an original work inspired by the upcoming American Stage in the Park production, THE PRODUCERS. **Community Engagement Sponsor: Creative Loafing**

**PLUS - Young Professionals Night:** Young professionals under 40 can enjoy drink specials and conversation with the artists. YOUNG AMERICANS under 30 can access our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month. Under20 Passport holders can attend our Mainstage productions for FREE. Call the Box Office at [727-823-7529](tel:727-823-7529) or email [youngamericans@americanstage.org](mailto:youngamericans@americanstage.org).

**Friday, March 23 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM**

**LADIES Night:** Grab friends, bring a date and turn your ordinary Friday evening into a one-of-a-kind night out highlighting some really awesome local women.

**Sunday March 25\* | Directly following the matinee performance.**

**Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

Great theatre inspires contemplation and challenges our assumptions while inviting us to come together for conversation and a deeper connection. From social and political hot-button issues to ethical dilemmas, American Stage's COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS dig deeper into the intriguing and sometimes provocative topics explored by our mainstage productions. Join a panel of local experts as they guide us through a lively discussion, and answer questions about the relevancy of the subject matter explored in the play.

**Pricing: \$10 for General Public. Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members**

*\*The chatback scheduled for 3/25 has been changed to a Community Conversation directly following the matinee performance.*

**Friday, March 30 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM**

**PRIDE PLUS Night**

**Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM**

Enjoy a night OUT at the theatre, with Happy Hour drink specials, and meet some local LGBTQ+ trendsetters and change-makers.

## **AT A GLANCE**

**WHAT:** American Stage presents MARJORIE PRIME by Jordan Harrison

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

**WHEN:** March 7 through April 1, 2018

Preview Wednesday, March 7, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"

Preview Thursday, March 8, 8pm, \$29 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, March 9, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through April 1, 2018

Arrive 30 minutes early to get the inside scoop on the play.

### **TIMES & PRICES**

Wednesdays 7pm, \$39 tickets

Thursdays 8pm, \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm, \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm, \$39 tickets

**Under 30 years of age (UNDER 30 PASS):** Our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month.

**Under 20 years of age (UNDER 20 PASSPORT - suggested 12-19):** FREE tickets to American Stage's mainstage season. A bold experiment in 2018.

**Contact the box office about our Young Americans Initiative. Visit [americanstage.org/ya](http://americanstage.org/ya) for details.**

## 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.



## ABOUT OUR CO-PRODUCTION PARTNER

### CAPITAL STAGE

Capital Stage is a professional non-profit theatre company in Sacramento whose mission is to entertain, engage and challenge its audience with bold, thought provoking theatre. Founded in 2005, Capital Stage presents seven full theatre productions each year, as well as various concerts and special events in its Midtown Sacramento home at 2215 J Street. Capital Stage also offers apprenticeships and internships to individuals seeking experience in professional theatre, performing arts classes to the public, and educational theatrical opportunities in association with The Crocker Art Museum and McGeorge School of Law. Named by The Sacramento Bee as "One of the most respected arts organizations in the region", Capital Stage continues to grow as a leader of cutting-edge quality theatre in Northern California. [Capstage.org](http://Capstage.org)

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### 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](mailto:BoxOffice@americanstage.org)

**Location:** 163 3<sup>rd</sup> St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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