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163 3RD ST N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2018

Contact: The American Stage
Marketing Team

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American Stage presents the Florida premiere, STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR.

The 2017-18 Season continues with this powerful new play that explores love, trust, privacy and prejudice in the age of the Patriot Act. American Stage is proud to present the first play discovered through our 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival. May 23 - June 17 #asGIBRALTAR

GET IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

1. First Mainstage Selection from American Stage's 21st Century Voices.

A Florida premiere of a new play discovered through American Stage's 21st Century Voices: New Plays Festival. STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR was selected from more than 300 national submissions of new plays.

2. An American Stage/Playwright Collaboration.

Playwright Andrea Lepcio will be involved with the American Stage creative team on the continued development of the play throughout the rehearsal process.

3. Sexy, smart and suspenseful.

A powerful play that explores love, trust, privacy & prejudice in the age of the Patriot Act.

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage continues its 2017-18 Season 'WE THE PEOPLE' with STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR written by Andrea Lepcio and directed by Jim Sorensen (directorial debut in St. Petersburg). This Florida premiere is the first play discovered through American Stage's 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival. STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR will have 5 cast members featuring Jordan Mann, Joe Joseph*, Chris Jackson, Mari Vial-Golden*, and Angela Bond*.

"Andrea Lepcio's play was selected out of hundreds of new play submissions. As part of our WE THE PEOPLE season theme, the story explores questions about the increasingly high stakes as we struggle to balance our personal freedoms with our fear for the safety of ourselves and our country." - Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director

"I'm excited to helm this brand-new work for American Stage for so many reasons: It will be the first production to come out of our 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival, along with my first time being a director here in St. Pete. It's also an exhilarating piece of theatre with the feel of a great indie film - an unlikely romance turned political thriller that feels so timely and relevant." - Jim Sorensen, Director

In this sexy romance turned thriller, Miriam, a young American woman, and Sameer, a Muslim man from Morocco, meet at a party and fall in love at first sight. When Sameer tells Miriam he's undocumented, she offers to help, but is everything as it seems? **A smart, riveting play that looks at love, truth, prejudice, and civil rights in the age of the Patriot Act.**

Playwright, Andrea Lepcia said this about how she came about to write this play, "I felt stupid in 2013 when an NPR report suddenly made me realize how much the Patriot Act had taken away our liberties. How had I missed that? I wrote the play to come to understand what this law has done to our society."

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

ANDREA LEPCIO is best known for *Looking for the Pony*, a finalist for the Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award and for the NEA Outstanding New American Play Award. It was presented in a "Rolling World Premiere" Off-Broadway at Vital Theatre Company in New York and Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta and subsequent productions. Recent productions include *Strait of Gibraltar* at Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta, *Tunnel Vision* at Off the Wall in Pittsburgh and Venus Theatre in Maryland, and *Dinner at Home between Deaths* at Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles. Andrea is a member of the Dramatists Guild, was a Dramatists Guild Fellow and served as the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program Director for ten years. M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing, Carnegie Mellon University. B.A. Human Ecology, College of the Atlantic.

CAST

Jordan Mann (Miriam Rosenberg)

Joe Joseph* (Sameer Fakhoury)

Chris Jackson (Tripp Bacon/Agent/Guard)

Mari Vial-Golden* (Amina/Agent/Denise/Waitress)

Angela Bond* (Selma/Guard)

CREATIVE

Jim Sorensen (Director)

Katrina Stevenson (Costume Designer)

Christopher Baldwin (Lighting Designer)

Stephen Jones (Scenic Designer)

Jerid Fox (Properties Master)

Allison Davis (Scenic Painter)

Rachel Harrison* (Production Stage Manager)

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

For Cast Bios please visit americanstage.org/STRAIT

LINK to press releases: AmericanStage.org/media

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

*Publicity photo credit: Joey Clay Photography. Archival photo credit: Kara Goldberg. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact marketing@americanstage.org for immediate needs.

BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by select American Stage apprentice Tato Castillo 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 STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR. Visit americanstage.org/STRAIT and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

Sunday, May 13 at 1pm

Spotlight Series: BEHIND-THE-SCENES –STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

Featuring Director - Jim Sorensen and Producing Artistic Director - Stephanie Gularte.

PLUS a special SKYPE interview with the playwright, Andrea Lepcio.

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR 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, May 25 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm

Opening Night

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House 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 STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, 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, May 31 | Sunday, June 3 & 10*, 2018

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK – STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

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 6/10 has been changed to a Community Conversation directly following the matinee performance.*

Friday, June 1 | Happy Hour 7-8PM | Performance at 8PM

Artist Meet and Greet Reception with Coralette Damme & Young Professionals Night

On the second Friday, stop by our lobby to celebrate the visual artwork of **Coralette Damme**. American Stage will host a gallery show through the run of the show and will also display an original work inspired by STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR. **Community Engagement Sponsor: Creative Loafing**

PLUS - Young Professionals Night: Young professionals under 40 can enjoy drink specials and conversation with the artists. Young people under 30 can access our UNDER 30 PASS, our 'Netflix-style' subscription,

offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month. UNDER 20 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.

Friday, June 8 | 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 June 10* | 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 us for a lively discussion, and answer questions about the relevancy of the subject matter explored in the play.

Pricing: FREE

**The chatback scheduled for 6/10 has been changed to a Community Conversation directly following the matinee performance.*

Friday, June 15 | 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 LGBT+ trendsetters and change-makers.

FEATURED VISUAL ARTIST

Coralette Damme, featured artist for STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, will unveil her Signature Original Artwork on Opening Night which will kick-off a gallery show that will be up through the close of the production. This 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 STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, American Stage is collaborating with Coralette Damme.

Coralette 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, she 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. Coralette will present a **Gallery Show & Artist Reception, sponsored by Creative Loafing**, at American Stage on Friday, June 1st. This exhibit will run concurrently with STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, inspired by themes from the play. 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!

"In order to promote social understanding we need to talk to each other and engage more. We're all hidden behind screens and more isolated with algorithms determining what ideas we're exposed to. This makes it all that much more vital to be involved directly with people around you who may have differing backgrounds." - Coralette Damme, Featured Visual Artist for STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR by Andrea Lepcio

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

WHEN: May 23 through June 17, 2018
Preview Wednesday, May 23, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"
Preview Thursday, May 24, 8pm, \$29 tickets
Opening Night: Friday, May 25, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)
Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through June 17, 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 UNDER 30 PASS & UNDER 20 PASSPORT. Visit 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.



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

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