



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beloved local director Kathryn Dorgan brings Harlequin to the Washington Center with *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*

Olympia, WA – March 3, 2020 – Harlequin Productions presents Sarah Ruhl's *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*, April 3rd through April 19th at the Washington Center Black Box in downtown Olympia. Kathryn Dorgan will direct.

When Ann thinks of her father, she remembers playing Peter Pan in her hometown theater in Iowa, when he used to bring her flowers after performances. His death sparks a conversational wake that includes everything from arguments over politics to when each of her siblings realized that they grew up. A loving look at a family coming to terms with mortality, loss, and the ageless allure of Neverland.

Artistic Director Aaron Lamb chose *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday* for Season 2020 because, "It's one of those plays that I finished reading and immediately knew I had to produce. It's a beautiful piece. It's a story that isn't told or heard very often. It's also very funny! A mix of humor and beauty."

Recently retired after 22 years teaching Theater Arts for Olympia High School, Kathryn Dorgan makes her Harlequin directorial debut with *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*. Says Lamb, "I've had many conversations with Kathy about directing a show at Harlequin. She is eminently qualified. When I gave her the season's plays to read, she came back with a real interest in *For Peter Pan...*, which I felt was very important. This play needs a director who connects to and understands the work. It's very lyrical. There are moments that step out of the expected, which requires a larger contribution from the director to figure out how those moments should be staged. It requires someone capable of broad and beautiful storytelling."

Asked for her thoughts about the production and working with Harlequin, Dorgan writes, "I believe that theatre makers have a responsibility to present work that entertains and challenges audiences -- theatre that presents a diversity of experiences and viewpoints, and offers new ways to understand our common human experience. And I believe we have that kind of theatre in Olympia at Harlequin...I'm looking forward to bringing this work to life in the Black Box at the Washington Center where both Neverland and the real world can coexist in the same, intimate space, and to the support of a creative artistic staff that is so collaborative."

For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday is the first production in Harlequin's 2020 Season to be performed at the Washington Center Black Box. It is also actor and best-selling author Stephanie Kallos' first acting role since 1994. Lamb had known Ms. Kallos through the industry and by reputation for many years, and was aware of her resume as an actor as well as an author. "I thought she would be perfect [in the role of Ann]. She has the right sensibilities to understand and be

eager to tackle this role. I recommended her to Kathy, who then met with her in New York and was immediately on board!" Writes Kallos, "*Peter Pan* resonates with me in many deeply personal ways: I grew up in the Midwest and still identify strongly with those roots, even though I haven't lived there for many years; I was at both my father and mother's bedsides when they died; my dad was in a medical profession (dentistry) and, like George, was dedicated to his work, and spent many hours on the road paying house calls to farm families in southeastern Nebraska; I played Mrs. Darling in a production of *Peter Pan* at Intiman back in 1993; and I'm an avid consumer of The New York Times - like Ann, I can rarely manage to complete any crossword puzzles beyond Tuesday's."

Join us in welcoming Kathy and Stevie to the Harlequin family, and in celebrating Harlequin's return to the Black Box!

Kathryn Dorgan recently retired from teaching after 22 years as Theatre Arts teacher at Olympia High School, and has served as Artistic Director for Creative Theatre Experience since 2003. She has directed local productions at St. Martin's University, South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia Little Theatre and Olympia Family Theatre. Kathy received her BFA in theatre at Pacific Lutheran University and an MFA from the University of Portland. She has trained at the Teaching Artist Lab at Seattle Repertory Theater and is a 2014 Juilliard School Directing Fellow.

Stephanie (Stevie) Kallos* was born in Idaho and grew up in Nebraska. Before coming out of the closet as a writer, she had a varied work history which included many years as a musician and a long career in the theater as an actress and teacher of voice, speech, and dialects. Her short fiction has received two Raymond Carver Awards and a Pushcart Prize nomination. Her first novel, *Broken for You*, was published in 2004; it was chosen by Sue Monk Kidd as a "Today Show" book club selection, and received the Washington State and PNBA Book Awards. Her second novel, *Sing Them Home*, was published in 2009; a Pacific NW Independent Booksellers bestseller, it was selected for Iowa's "All Iowa Reads" program and named by *Entertainment Weekly* as one of the 10 Best Books of 2009. Her third novel, *Language Arts*, was published in 2015 and was adapted as a feature film by Kairos Productions in 2018. Stephanie divides her time between Seattle and New York City. www.stephaniekallos.com

Returning to Harlequin in the cast of six are **Bill Johns** (*August: Osage County*), **Russ Holm** (*Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*), **Keith Eisner** (*The Winter's Tale*) and **Jana Tyrrell** (*The Women*). Making their Harlequin debuts are **Stevie Kallos*** and **Chris Fawcett**.

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*, Sara Ruhl's lyric comedy about a family coming to terms with mortality, loss, and the allure of never growing up.

WHEN: April 3 – April 19, 2020

WHERE: The Washington Center Black Box, 512 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at **360-786-0151**, or in person 12-6 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Harlequin Box Office and 2 hours before performances at the Washington Center Box Office.

General admission tickets are \$36

Senior 60+/Military \$34

Student/Youths Under 25 \$20

Rush Tickets (half-hour to showtime) General \$18; Senior/Military \$17; Student/Youth 25-20 \$10; Teens (19 and under) \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Previews: Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Tickets to the Previews are \$20 General Admission

Opening Night: Friday, April 3, 2020 at 7:30 pm

CATEGORY: Lyric Comedy

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance (adult themes)

CAST:

Stevie Kallos*	<i>Ann</i>
Chris Fawcett	<i>John</i>
Bill Johns	<i>Michael</i>
Russ Holm	<i>Jim</i>
Jana Tyrrell	<i>Wendy</i>
Keith Eisner	<i>George</i>

* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

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