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SOUTHERN REP THEATRE ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF ORPHEUS DESCENDING

Todd d'Amour joins the cast of Tennessee Williams play presented at UNO

NEW ORLEANS (March 4, 2016) – Southern Rep Theatre is pleased to announce further details for its upcoming production of ORPHEUS DESCENDING by Tennessee Williams, directed by Jef Hall-Flavin, opening March 12. New Orleans native Todd d'Amour, who recently appeared on Broadway in AIRLINE HIGHWAY, will play the role of Val Xavier. Additional cast members include Irene Glezos, Beth Bartley, Brenda Currin, Carl Palmer, and award-winning singer-performer Dorian Rush.

Additional details are also available regarding pre-performance panel discussions, shuttle service to the University of New Orleans from the French Quarter during the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, and pre-matinee brunch service at Southern Rep restaurant partner Susan Spicer's Mondo.

TODD D'AMOUR AS VAL XAVIER

"We are thrilled to have Todd d'Amour return to the Southern Rep stage after his Broadway debut in AIRLINE HIGHWAY," says Southern Rep Theatre producing artistic director Aimée Hayes. "Our audiences will recognize him from his thrilling performances in our productions of VENUS IN FUR and THE LILY'S REVENGE."

PRE-PERFORMANCE PANELS

Southern Rep Theatre will present pre-performance panel discussions at 7 PM before every Saturday performance of ORPHEUS DESCENDING:

March 12: "Designing ORPHEUS DESCENDING: A Conversation with the Production Team"

March 19: "Fifty Percent Illusion: The Heroines of Tennessee Williams"

March 26: "The Fugitives of Tennessee Williams: Stanley, Val, and Beyond"
Presented in partnership with the New Orleans Film Society.

April 2: "Directing Tennessee Williams: A Conversation with Jef Hall-Flavin"

Additional engagement opportunities include talkbacks following every Sunday matinee. Special preview performance events include a UNO Night on Thursday, March 10 with discounts for students and faculty, and a benefit for the New Orleans Film Society on Friday, March 11, with \$5 of every ticket sold



going to the local non-profit organization.

SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR THE FINAL WEEKEND OF PERFORMANCES

To accommodate visitors to the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, Southern Rep Theatre is offering a round-trip shuttle service out of the French Quarter during the final week of performances: March 31 – April 3. The shuttle will pick patrons up one hour before curtain in front of the Hotel Monteleone at 214 Royal Street, New Orleans and transport them to the performance at the University of New Orleans Performing Arts Center, with return service after the performance. Shuttle reservations are \$20 (round-trip per person) and can be purchased only by calling the Southern Rep Box Office at 504-522-6545 in advance.

PRE-MATINEE BRUNCH AT SUSAN SPICER'S MONDO

Susan Spicer's Mondo, located at 900 Harrison Avenue, is offering Southern Rep Theatre patrons a special \$35, three-course prix fixe menu before performances. In addition to pre-theatre dinner, Mondo is now offering pre-matinee brunch.

Limited reservations are available for Thursdays through Saturdays from 5:30 – 6:30 PM and Sundays from 11 AM – 1:30 PM by calling 504-224-2633. Mondo also accepts guests on a walk-in basis.

INTERVIEWS & PRESS TICKETS

For interviews with director Jef Hall-Flavin, actors Irene Glezos and Todd d'Amour, or other cast members, or to reserve reviewer tickets, please contact pr@southernrep.com or 504-523-9857. **Preview performances are not available for review.**

LISTING INFORMATION

ORPHEUS DESCENDING

by Tennessee Williams

Presented in partnership with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival

In collaboration with Beth Bartley/Irene Glezos Productions

Directed by Jef Hall-Flavin

Featuring Irene Glezos, Todd d'Amour, Beth Bartley, Brenda Currin, Carl Palmer, Dorian Rush, Donald Lewis, Cammie West, Michael Sullivan, Morrey McElroy, Lisa Shattuck, Lin Gathright, Jordan Kaplan, Roger Magendie, James Wright, Jr, Meghan Shea, Sarah Beth James, Matthew Rigdon

In Tennessee Williams' re-imagining of the Orpheus myth, enigmatic young musician Val arrives in a backwards Southern town with his guitar, a snakeskin jacket, and a mysterious past. His fiery romance with Lady, a passionate older woman with a dying husband and secrets of her own, ignites a chain of events that reveals the hypocrisy and brutality of the community. ORPHEUS DESCENDING is a Southern Gothic fable that stands with the author's greatest work.



March 12 – April 3, 2016

Previews: March 9 – 11

Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00 PM

Sundays at 3 PM

University of New Orleans Performing Arts Center

Robert E. Nims Theatre

2000 Lakeshore Drive, 70148

There is ample and free parking available at the corner of Alumni Drive and Milneburg Road.

TICKETS:

Individual tickets are currently \$40 and are on sale now. Prices are subject to increase based on demand. Discounts are available for teachers; young professionals; military personnel, families, and veterans;* seniors; and theatre professionals. Preview performances (March 9 – 11) are \$25.

**Southern Rep Theatre is a proud member of the Blue Star Theatre network.*

\$10 Student Rush tickets can be purchased (based on availability) 10 minutes before each performance with a valid student ID. Cash is appreciated.

Discounted group sales available - call 504-522-6545

Tickets and more information at www.southernrep.com or 504-522-6545

About Todd d'Amour

Todd d'Amour is from New Orleans and attended Syracuse University (B.A. Psych) and AADA (NY - 2000). Todd was Horace Wells in NUMB, an original piece created with his company, Goat in the Road. Todd was also Thomas in Southern Rep's VENUS IN FUR, opening in New Orleans (first regional production) then touring to GEVA Theatre (Rochester). He made his Broadway debut in 2015 in Manhattan Theatre Club's production of Lisa D'Amour's AIRLINE HIGHWAY. NYC credits: EMPIRE TRAVEL AGENCY (The Woodshed Collective), THE VERGE (PL115/Ontological), ETHER STEEDS (Fringe; Best Ensemble); THE CONFIDENCE MAN (The Woodshed Collective), SPAIN (dir. Shana Gold), SYPHON (dir. Shana Gold), Orpheus - ORPHEUS & EURYDICE, Jake - LIE OF THE MIND, Heracles - WOMEN OF TRACHIS (Target Margin), Stanley - STANLEY (dir./co-created Lisa D'Amour), Colin Clement in RED TIDE BLOOMING (dir. Taylor Mac), Bill - MAJOR BARBARA (Company OBIE), Mr. Interviewer - NITA & ZITA (OBIE). Regional: DETROIT (Kenny - TheatreWorks - Colorado Springs), AIRLINE HIGHWAY (Steppenwolf Work Shop - dir. Joe Mantello), Stanley - A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (SMT), A PERFECT GANESH (NET), Charlie Chaplin - SILENT LIVES (NET). Todd starred in the feature film Wendell and the Lemon, which premiered at Slamdance Film Festival in 2015 and just recently showed at San Fran Indie Fest this month. He won the Best Actor Award for this role in NYC VisionFest in 2015. He also starred in the short film The Heart Wants What it Wants (dir. Paavo Hanninen), which premiered at the New Orleans Film Festival in 2014. Todd just wrapped production of his first film as producer, Get Out Fast. The film was shot in and around Southern Louisiana and New Orleans and will premiere in NYC in May.



About Southern Rep Theatre

Now entering its 29th Season, Southern Rep Theatre produces award-winning productions that are engaging, educational, and accessible for audiences of every socioeconomic background. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Aimée Hayes and Managing Director Jenny Windstrup, Southern Rep Theatre's Mainstage Season work includes bold World and Regional Premieres as well as the best of Broadway, off-Broadway, and classic plays. Southern Rep Theatre's Lagniappe Series and "School to Stage Pipeline" of Arts Education Programs reflect the company's ongoing commitment to new play development by providing resources for students and burgeoning theatre professionals and supporting a more diverse theatre community. A mainstay of New Orleans' arts community, Southern Rep Theatre continues to build on its unique position as a sector leader, creative force, and important resource for contemporary American theatre.

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