



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 11, 2019

CONTACT:
Kelly Gaudet
Director of Marketing and PR
781-587-7901
kelly@greaterbostonstage.org

GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY ROUNDS OUT ITS 20th SEASON – COME PLAY WITH US!

Greater Boston Stage Company is proud to announce its sixth production of the Mainstage season. In March, the *Giving Voice Foundation Trust Drama Series* play, ***The Moors***, takes the stage. Two spinster sisters, their deeply eccentric maid, and a melancholy and philosophical mastiff spend their days and nights dreaming of love and power in a ruinous old estate on the fog-enshrouded English heath. When the arrival of a new governess and a crash-prone moor hen upset the already precarious balance of the household, romances bloom, alliances are formed, lies are unmasked, loyalties shift, and the tension mounts until finally someone reaches the breaking point!

Written by Jen Silverman, directed by Producing Artistic Director, Weylin Symes, and featuring Nancy E. Carroll and Josephine Elwood, this piece is the perfect match for **The Foundation Trust** whose funding enables Greater Boston Stage Company to fulfill its commitment to producing, over the next five years, an annual play that will feature playwrights from traditionally underrepresented communities within the theatre industry. These communities will include but are not limited to women, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and people with disabilities. These plays will have been written within the last 50 years or be contemporary adaptations or explorations of classic work.

Greater Boston Stage Company is thrilled to introduce the illustrator for Season 20, Young Company Alum, **Jules Talbot**. A longtime member of The Young Company, Jules performed in 11 productions at GBSC. Currently a sophomore at Gallatin, NYU's School of Individualized Study, Jules is designing her own completely personalized major. Right now, her major is tentatively titled "Shakespeare in Text and Performance," and is a hybrid English and theatre degree. Says Talbot, "I am, and have always been, a doodler. But *drawing*, not doodling, wasn't actually something I prioritized as a serious discipline until very recently. I identified first and foremost as a writer, second as an actor, with artist only as a distant third. Then, about halfway through high school a teacher recommended *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud, a totally revelatory guide to the art form, and I finally began to appreciate visual storytelling and its unique narrative and imaginative capabilities." She continues, "I've basically grown up with GBSC. Interns have turned into professionals; assistant directors into *director*-directors, camp counselors into actors in Mainstage productions, and Young Company alum into seasoned professionals. Working with GBSC is an opportunity to share in a community's growth, and that's really, really special."

To round out our concerts and special events, Greater Boston Stage Company welcomes back Austin Price, last season's Johnny Cash in *Million Dollar Quartet*. Austin, alongside his band **Not Fade Away**, creates the ultimate throwback to Buddy Holly and the legends of rock n roll. Not your typical Buddy Holly tribute, **Not Fade Away** will celebrate the unforgettable sounds of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper with hits by Bill Haley, The Beach Boys, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis, The Beatles and more.

The 2019-2020 Mainstage Season also includes Producing Artistic Director Weylin Symes' hilarious and heart-warming **Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes** featuring Nancy E. Carroll, Arthur Gomez, Paula Plum, Ceit Zweil, and Young Company member Isabella Tedesco; George Brandt's **Marie and Rosetta**, a look at two ground-breaking women of rock-n-roll in the 1940's, Co-produced with The Front Porch Arts Collective (who joined us for last season's *The Three Musketeers*) featuring Lovely Hoffman and Pier Lamia Porter; **Miracle on 34th Street**, based on the cherished Twentieth Century Fox film, featuring William Gardiner as Kris Kringle and directed by Associate Artistic Director, Ilyse Robbins; Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's glorious musical adaptation of **Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical** - a five-time Tony award winner including Best Book of a Musical also directed by Ilyse Robbins - will feature Christopher Chew, Steve Gagliastro, Ceit Zweil, and GBSC's up and coming shining stars from its Young Company; and Christopher M. Walsh's World Premiere of **Miss Holmes Returns**, based on the characters by Arthur Conan Doyle and a follow-up to the GBSC 2018 smash hit *Miss Holmes*. This season's *Don Fulton New Play Project* production, **Miss Holmes** will be directed by Producing Artistic Director Weylin Symes, will welcome Paul Melendy to the cast, and will herald the return of Marge Dunn as Miss Holmes, Brittany Rolfs as Dr. Watson, Alexander Platt as Mycroft, Shelley Bolman as Inspector Lestrade, and Cheryl McMahon as Mrs. Hudson.

Alongside the Mainstage productions, GBSC's Special Events include **The Calamari Sisters' Sausagefest** this summer, **Martha Reeves and the Vandellas** to ring in New Year's Eve, and **Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet**, created and composed by GBSC favorite Steve Bass and directed and choreographed by Ilyse Robbins.

Memberships and single tickets are now on sale for Greater Boston Stage Company's Season 20. All Access, Flex Pass, 6-Show, 4-Show, and Senior Matinee Memberships are available from \$125-\$375. For more information or to purchase a Membership, call GBSC's Box Office at 781-279-2200, or visit www.greaterbostonstage.org.

GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY'S SEASON 20 MAINSTAGE SHOWS:

LAST NIGHT AT BOWL-MOR LANES

September 5 - 29, 2019

By Weylin Symes

World Premiere

Directed by Bryn Boice

Featuring Nancy E. Carroll, Arthur Gomez, Paula Plum, Isabella Tedesco, and Ceit Zweil

What happens when a couple of old broads break into a bowling alley? Gutter. Ball. Gold.

Ruth and Maude are on a mission. After 49 years of "friendly competition" the score is tied. It all comes down to one final string before the Bowl-Mor... is No-Mor. Join us for an "unforgettable evening of drunkenness, debauchery ... and very bad bowling." There will be Cheetos.

MARIE AND ROSETTA

October 17 - November 10, 2019

By George Brandt

Co-produced with **The Front Porch Arts Collective**

Directed by Pascale Florestal

Featuring Lovely Hoffman and Pier Lamia Porter

Gospel, guitar and the godmother of rock-n-roll.

Celebrated for her ferocious guitar playing and swinging gospel music, Sister Rosetta Tharpe broke boundaries and influenced rock 'n' roll's earliest icons. Set in 1940's Mississippi, Marie and Rosetta shows the legendary icon rehearsing with her young protégée, Marie Knight as the two prepare to embark on a tour that will ultimately cement them as one of the greatest musical duos in history.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

November 29 - December 22, 2019

Adapted by Mountain Community Theater from the novel by Valentine Davies. Based upon the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Directed by Ilyse Robbins

Featuring William Gardiner and David Jiles, Jr.

If you really believe, anything can happen.

When Kris Kringle agrees to serve as a last-minute replacement for Santa in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, he is so convincing that he is offered a job as the Santa for Macy's Department store. He claims to be the real Santa Claus, but can he convince the doubters, including an 8-year-old girl longing to find something to believe in?

THE MOORS

March 12 - 29, 2020

By Jen Silverman

Giving Voice Foundation Trust Drama Series

Directed by Weylin Symes

Featuring Nancy E. Carroll and Josephine Elwood

A mash-up of Beckett, Bronte and Lizzie Borden.

Two spinster sisters, their deeply eccentric maid, and a melancholy and philosophical mastiff spend their days and nights dreaming of love and power in a ruinous old estate on the fog-enshrouded English heath. When the arrival of a new governess and a crash-prone moor hen upset the already precarious balance of the household, romances bloom, alliances are formed, lies are unmasked, loyalties shift, and the tension mounts until finally – someone reaches the breaking point!

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

April 23 - May 16, 2020

Book by Dennis Kelly

Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin

Directed and choreographed by Ilyse Robbins

Music Direction by Steve Bass

Featuring Christopher Chew, Steve Gagliastro, and Ceit Zweil

Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.

Based on the beloved novel by the brilliantly batty Roald Dahl, comes a larger than life Broadway musical about an extraordinary girl with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination whose talents are constantly belittled by her cruel parents and headmistress. Dreaming of a better life for herself, she dares to take a stand. With the help of her friends and kind-hearted teacher, this miraculous girl sparks a revolution!

MISS HOLMES RETURNS

June 4 - 28, 2020

By Christopher M. Walsh

Based on characters by Arthur Conan Doyle

Don Fulton New Play Project

Directed by Weylin Symes

Featuring Shelley Bolman, Marge Dunn, Cheryl McMahon, Paul Melendy, Alexander Platt, and Brittany Rolfs

The World's Greatest Detective is Back!

Sherlock and Watson are back on the case in this riveting follow-up to our 2018 smash hit *Miss Holmes*. Murder, mystery, betrayal, and a dose of social justice are all on the docket this time around for the unstoppable crime-fighting duo.

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY:

We bring vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. Within this setting, we uniquely foster the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to our company of current and former students. Now in its 20th Season of live theatre in Stoneham, MA, Greater Boston Stage Company produces six Mainstage shows, presents a series of Special Events, and runs year-round classes, lessons, and fully staged productions through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: (781) 279-2200

Box Office Hours: Mondays – Fridays, 11am to 6pm; Saturdays, 1pm to 6pm

Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Website: www.greaterbostonstage.org

Flagship Season Sponsors: StonehamBank and the Stoneham Savings/Salem Five Charitable Foundation

Thrifty Thursday Sponsor: Melrose Bank