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January 2, 2018

For Immediate Release

Salt Lake Acting Company Presents
A Two-Week Special Engagement:

STAG'S LEAP

By Sharon Olds

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC) honors its commitment to new work and theatrical experimentation with a special two-week run of **STAG'S LEAP by Sharon Olds January 18 – 28, 2018**. Derived from Olds' Pulitzer Prize winning book of poetry by the same title, SLAC's staged version is conceived and directed by **Nancy Borgenicht**. STAG'S LEAP blends Olds' gift for language with Borgenicht's theatrical imagination to create an evening of poetry not just out loud, but lived in. This two-week engagement serves as the next step in this project's continued development, with all proceeds going toward SLAC's new play programs, and is not meant to be reviewed.

After a reading in SLAC's New Play Sounding Series in the fall of 2015 and a developmental workshop in the summer of 2016, STAG'S LEAP will now be designed, staged, and presented to SLAC's thoughtful and savvy new play audience. Theatrically staging a book of poetry is uncharted artistic water and Salt Lake Acting Company is the perfect venue for this kind of exploration.

Borgenicht says: "Now, more than ever, we have faith in the quiet power of language. I want to create a theatrical experience for the audience that honors and respects the language of *Stag's Leap*. I want the experience to be as quiet, thoughtful and intimate as the poems themselves. Staged poetry in a theatrical setting is rare. It's certainly never been done with *Stag's Leap*. In fact, Sharon Olds has never heard her poems read aloud by anyone other than her students and herself. She supports this endeavor fully. We've respected her every comma, every dash, every word. We've trusted her and let her words show us the way. I've chosen to tell the story of this journey through five individual women, five separate voices. These women do not know each other. These women do not relate to each other in any way. It is each woman's separate journey through love, loss, memory, deep self-examination and healing. Every one of these poems belongs to every one of these five women, to Sharon Olds, and to the audience, which is why we are doing it. In terms of the development process, it's now time for an audience. It is the audience that will tell us everything."

Sharon Olds will attend the opening weekend with a special book signing following the matinee performance on January 21 (approximately 2:30pm). Contact Salt Lake Acting Company for more details.

SLAC is proud to partner with local bookstores The King's English and Weller Book Works, both of whom will have *Stag's Leap* in stock to purchase leading up to Ms. Olds' Salt Lake City visit.

Beginning at \$40, all ticket sales from this special engagement will benefit SLAC's intrepid new play development programs, which nurture and propel unique theatrical projects like STAG'S LEAP. Patrons may choose to deepen their contribution to SLAC's new play development programs by selecting a \$50 ticket (benefitting SLAC's commissioning programs), \$75 ticket (benefitting SLAC's New Play Sounding Series), or \$100 ticket (benefitting SLAC's Playwrights' Lab).

WHO:

Salt Lake Acting Company

WHAT:

STAG'S LEAP

By Sharon Olds

WHEN:

January 18 – 28, 2018

Thursdays – Saturdays @ 7:30 p.m., Sundays @ 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Salt Lake Acting Company – Chapel Theatre

168 West 500 North

Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

MORE INFO:

Salt Lake Acting Company

168 West 500 North, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103

Box Office: 801-363-7522

Open 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Mon – Fri

www.saltlakeactingcompany.org

Single tickets range from \$40 - \$100

Discounts are available for Students and people 30 years old & younger.

WHO'S WHO**PLAYWRIGHT**

Sharon Olds's most recent books are *Stag's Leap*, which received the T.S Eliot Prize (UK) and the Pulitzer Prize, and *Odes*. She teaches in the Graduate Program in Creative Writing at New York University. She helped found the original outreach program at Goldwater Hospital, a 900-bed state hospital for the physically challenged. These programs at NYU now include a writing workshop for Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. She lives in New York City.

DIRECTOR

Nancy Borgenicht has been part of The Salt Lake Acting Company since 1974. She served as Co-Executive Producer with Allen Nevins from 1993-2005 and as Interim Executive Producer from 2009-2010, proudly supporting Utah's community of artists and the development of new work. Her directing credits for SLAC include ANGELS IN AMERICA, WHITE MAN DANCING, OLEANNA, WOMEN AND WALLACE, CABBIES, COWBOYS & THE TREE OF THE WEeping VIRGIN, and SATURDAY'S VOYEUR from 1993-2003. She conceived and created SATURDAY'S VOYEUR in 1978.

CAST

Teri Cowan first appeared at SLAC approximately one hundred years ago in LA CAGE AUX FOLLES and has happily returned in two versions of NUNSENSE, FREEDOMLAND, INCORRUPTIBLE, THE MEMORY OF WATER, HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE, TOO MUCH MEMORY, as well as in several readings. She has also been seen onstage at Plan-B Theare Co., PYGmalion, The Grand, Park City Performances, in film & tv, and is a popular voice over talent. She is the marketing and development director for the Davis Arts Council and is thrilled to be surrounded onstage by these talented ladies.

Meg Gibson* NY credits include: Public / THE GABRIEL CYCLE, TALKING ABOUT RACE, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, (mobile unit), KING LEAR, THE RIDE DOWN MT. MORGAN, CASANOVA, FEN, TEMPTATION. The Atlantic / HUMAN ERROR. Rattlestick / SLIPPING, SUMMER SHORTS FESTIVAL / CLAP YOUR HANDS. EST / ROMAN FEVER. MTC / MESSIAH. BAM / THE GAMES. Regionally she's worked for Old Globe, ART, ATL, Mark Taper Forum, Long Wharf, Yale Rep, Huntington, Williamstown, Westport Playhouse, O'Neill Conference. At SLAC, Meg directed THE RIDE DOWN MT. MORGAN, HYSTERIA, TOO MUCH MEMORY, CHARM. TV: *Treme, The Americans, Rubicon, Zero Hour, Blue Bloods, Sex and the City, Third Watch, L and O, SVU, Criminal Intent*. FILM: *Noah, Wise, Phenom, Che, Dust, In*

the Cut, Amira and Sam, Multiple Sarcasms, Night Listener, Picture Perfect, Dottie, Stonewall. Upcoming: *It's Freezing Out There, Webseries.*

Tamara Howell is honored to return to SLAC and to revisit the transcendent, beautiful language of STAG'S LEAP. Recent roles include Abuela Claudia in IN THE HEIGHTS (Good Company), Emperor Saturninus in Pinnacle's all female TITUS ANDRONICUS, Fioon in WEYWARD SISTERS, Mary Todd Lincoln in MARY AND MYRA, Chris Remington in REMINGTON AND WEASEL and Mrs. Brooks in MOCKINGBIRD (Pygmalion). She also played the role of Bashira in TWO STORIES, here at SLAC. In addition to acting locally, Tamara teaches Jr. High Theatre where she routinely has the privilege of directing casts of 150+ young actors. It is always a thrill and an adventure. Tamara earned a BFA in theatre from the University of Utah.

Valerie Kittel is a founding member of the Salt Lake Acting Company, and the owner of ConsciousSpeaking - a public speaking and presentation skills consulting business that provides private speaker coaching, education & career training, and workshops on confident and creative communication. She is a presentation skills specialist (ad hoc) for Pathway Associates and holds a BFA Theatre, MFA Arts Administration, and ESL Linguistics from the University of Utah. www.valeriekittel.com

Shannon Musgrave* is delighted to be sharing the stage with these women and speaking the words of Sharon Olds, all under the magnificent guidance of Nancy Borgenicht. Shannon has been SLAC's Associate Artistic Director for three years. She recently directed the premiere of Steve Yockey's MERCURY, and has also directed readings of Yockey's BLEEDING HEARTS and Kate Tarker's LAURA AND THE SEA. At SLAC, Shannon has performed in SATURDAY'S VOYEUR (2009-2011), HOW I BECAME A PIRATE, and GO, DOG. GO! She has also been seen onstage at Pioneer, The Grand, and Pinnacle Acting Company. Other Salt Lake directing credits include GIDION'S KNOT (Pinnacle Acting Company) and HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE (Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival). In Washington DC, Shannon worked at Arena Stage and Flying V Theatre, and was a directing apprentice at the Kennedy Center. She holds her MA in Arts Management from American University and her BA in Musical Theatre from Weber State University.

DESIGN TEAM

Set Design – Erik Reichert

Lighting Design – William Peterson

Sound Advisor – Jennifer Jackson

Stage Manager – Kallie Erickson

Featured Artwork by Dennis Phillips

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

ABOUT SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC)'s mission is to engage and enrich community through brave contemporary theatre. Founded in 1970, SLAC is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 professional theatre dedicated to producing, commissioning, and developing new works and to supporting a community of professional artists. SLAC has been nationally recognized by the Shubert Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Edgerton Foundation, among others. SLAC operates under a SPT Actors Equity Association contract and is a Constituent Member of Theatre Communications Group (a national organization for non-profit professional regional theatres), and the National New Play Network (a national alliance of non-profit professional theatres that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays). www.saltlakeactingcompany.org

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