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September 22, 2017
For Immediate Release

Salt Lake Acting Company Presents the Co-World Premiere of
MERCURY
By Steve Yockey

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC) is proud to present **MERCURY by Steve Yockey**, a co-world premiere production in association with Stray Cat Theater (Phoenix, Arizona), running **October 11th – November 12th**.

Three stories cross outside of Portland, OR in this pitch-black comedy with an illicit affair, a couple hanging on by a thread, bears at the window, the worst curiosity shop on the west coast, and an adorable missing dog named Mr. Bundles. No one is happy, people stop being nice, and blood spills. This mash up of myth, missing empathy, and "good neighbors" explores what happens when the mercury rises.

Playwright Steve Yockey is no stranger to SLAC audiences. His play **BLACKBERRY WINTER** premiered at SLAC in 2015 as part of the National New Play Network's Rolling World Premiere program, and his plays **BLEEDING HEARTS** and **MERCURY** have both received readings in SLAC's New Play Sounding Series.

MERCURY is a horror comedy of outrageous proportions, just in time for Halloween (and with its official opening night, appropriately, on Friday the 13th of October). SLAC's audiences will be delighted and horrified at its thrilling theatricality, as the play brings things to SLAC's stage that have never been seen or done before.

The production is directed by SLAC Associate Artistic Director Shannon Musgrave, who says: "MERCURY is a bloody valentine for theatre lovers. The demands of the script are an exciting challenge for directors, designers, and actors, and we have assembled a team that is tackling every single one with bold creativity. I am thrilled for audiences to see this play, which is as funny as it is sinister."

WHO:

Salt Lake Acting Company

WHAT:

MERCURY

By Steve Yockey

WHEN:

October 11 – November 12, 2017

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

Additional performances:

Tuesday, October 31st @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 11th @ 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Salt Lake Acting Company – Main 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 \$24 - \$43 depending on the performance.
Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more, Students, Seniors, and people 30 years old & younger.
Subscribers always pay the lowest price.



Members of MERCURY cast and creative team

*Back row (L to R) Justin Ivie, Aaron Adams, Max Huftalin, Tito Livas, Lily Hye Soo Dixon
Front row (L to R) Shannon Musgrave, April Fossen, Brighton Hertford, Dee-Dee Darby-Duffin*

WHO'S WHO

PLAYWRIGHT

Steve Yockey is a Los Angeles-based writer with work produced throughout the US, Europe, and Asia. His plays *Bellwether*, *Pluto*, *Afterlife*, *Octopus*, *Large Animal Games*, *CARTOON*, *Subculture*, *Very Still & Hard to See*, *The Fisherman's Wife*, *Wolves*, *Disassembly*, and *Niagara Falls & Other Plays* are published and available from Samuel French. Additionally, his play *Joshua Consumed an Unfortunate Pear* (originally commissioned by Miami's City Theatre) was included in the 2015 Humana Festival of New American Plays and the subsequent published anthology. Other plays include *Blackberry Winter*, *The Thrush & The Woodpecker*, *Bleeding Hearts*, and *Bliss*. His new play *Mercury* will open this season at Salt Lake Acting Company in Salt Lake City, Utah and Stray Cat Theatre in Phoenix, AZ. Steve is an artistic associate at Forum Theatre in Washington, DC and a company member of Out of Hand Theater in Atlanta, GA. He holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and currently writes for the television series *Supernatural*.

DIRECTOR

Shannon Musgrave is thrilled to bring Steve Yockey's mad and magical *MERCURY* to life on SLAC's stage. Shannon has called SLAC her artistic home since 2008 and has been Associate Artistic Director since 2014. Local directing credits include *GIDION'S KNOT* (Pinnacle Acting Company), *HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE* (Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival), and SLAC's readings of *BLEEDING HEARTS* by Steve Yockey and *LAURA AND THE SEA* by Kate Tarker. Shannon also assistant directs *SATURDAY'S VOYEUR* each year and assistant directed SLAC's production of *STUPID F**KING BIRD*. Shannon holds her BA in Musical Theatre from Weber State University and her MA in Arts Management from American University in Washington D.C. In her time there, she worked in the Artistic Development department of Arena Stage, as a directing apprentice for the Kennedy Center's Directing Intensive: Developing the New Play, and as the Executive Chair for American University's Emerging Arts Leaders Symposium – a day-long conference for young arts leaders from around the country, produced in conjunction with National Arts Advocacy Day. Shannon is looking forward to participating in the Berkshires Leadership Summit this fall in Massachusetts, and to directing a reading of Winter Miller's *NO ONE IS FORGOTTEN* at the National New Play Network Showcase in Orlando this December. Many thanks to Steve, SLAC, and all of the creative warriors who helped build this beast.

CAST

Aaron Adams (Sam) holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Utah and lives in Salt Lake City. He has appeared on stage at the Grand Theatre, Plan B Theatre Company, Shakespeare & Company, Radical Hospitality Theater, Westminster Players, Pinnacle Acting Company, and Black Dog Productions. His favorite roles include: Michael in *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*, Howard in *PICNIC*, and the title role of William Shakespeare's *RICHARD III*. He was most recently seen playing Xuthus in the Classical Greek Theatre Festival's production of *ION* by Euripides.

April Fossen (Olive) has recently been seen at SLAC in *BULL SHARK ATTACK* and *BLACKBERRY WINTER*. She has also appeared locally in *ONE BIG UNION*, *BOOKSMART*, *PILOT PROGRAM*, *NOTHING PERSONAL*, *SUFFRAGE*, *MESA VERDE*, *SHE WAS MY BROTHER*, and *MIASMA* (Plan-B Theatre Company); *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* and *RINGS* (The Grand Theatre); *STAGE KISS* (Wasatch Theatre Company); *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY* (Silver Summit/Utah Rep); *THE RIGHTEOUS AND VERY REAL HOUSEWIVES OF UTAH COUNTY* (Alligator Press Productions); *TITUS ANDRONICUS*, *COMEDY OF ERRORS*, *THREE DAYS OF RAIN*, *AN IDEAL HUSBAND*, and *ROMEO AND JULIET* (Pinnacle Acting Company); and *LIVING OUT* (Pygmalion Theatre Company). Regional credits include work with Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the California Shakespeare Festival. April holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from UC Berkeley.

Brighton Hertford (Heather) is thrilled to be making her SLAC debut in a Steve Yockey play! She was last seen on stage in *RIOT ACT*'s sold out production of *POOR BASTARD* as Sasha. She has had the opportunity to play the beloved role of Molly Astor in *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER* at both the Orem and West Valley Hale (Best Actress in a play winner Broadway World Salt Lake City). Other theatre credits include *THE CRUCIBLE* (PTC), *THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE* (HALE), *MACBETH* (BYU), *KISS AND TELL* (HALE). Brighton has a BFA in Acting from BYU and a long list of IMDB credits. She spent 8 years of her childhood as B.J. Jones on *General Hospital* and had a string of guest star appearances. She's now a working stiff and works full time as an ed-tech consultant. Thank you to Shannon, Steve, Cynthia and the SLAC team for this wonderful opportunity to play in the kooky world of *MERCURY*!

Dee-Dee Darby-Duffin (Pamela) Recently completing my first full length assistant director gig for *SURELY GOODNESS & MERCY*, Dee-Dee was last seen acting at SLAC in the reading of *LAURA BY THE SEA*. Other SLAC performances include *THE OVERWHELMING*, and *SATURDAY'S VOYEUR 2001*. Recent performances include *ECLIPSED*, which became the first play with an all-black and female creative cast and team to premiere on Broadway. Past stage credits include [TITLE OF SHOW], *DOUBT*, *MAMA* (2015 Best of Utah Arts Award), *NOTHING PERSONAL*, *THE THIRD CROSSING* (winner of the 2012 Arty Award for Best Local Production), *SLAM MESSIAH*, *CROWNS*, *1940'S RADIO HOUR*, *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU*, *WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE*, *LADY DAY AT EMERSON BAR AND GRILL*, *WELL*, *HOLIDAY TIME WITH THE ODETTE'S*, *FENCES*, *VAGINA MONOLOGUES*, *FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF*, *THE EXONERATED*, *HAIRSPRAY*, *CIVIL WAR*, *ANNIE*, *BIG RIVER*. Dee-Dee has acted in the Sundance Lab Workshop and is also a writer, producer and performer of several sold out Jazz concerts including *I SING WHAT I WANT: a tribute to Jazz Divas*, *AND I'M FEELING GOOD: a tribute to Etta and Nina* and *TO BILLIE AND ELLA WITH LOVE*. Action Cures Fear is her mantra for 2017 and she is very happy to be back on this side of the stage.

Lily Hye Soo Dixon (Alicia) is thrilled to be back at Salt Lake Acting Company. Her previous work at SLAC includes *LAURA AND THE SEA* with the New Play Sounding Series, *WILD GOOSE DREAMS* with the Playwrights' Lab and as

Amanda in 4000 MILES. Additional credits include (IN)DIVISIBLE at Plan-B Theatre Company, Leah/ Margaret Fung in YELLOW FACE at People Productions, Christmas Eve in AVENUE Q at the University of Utah, Cornwall in KING LEAR and Lady Macduff in MACBETH with The Grassroots Shakespeare Company. She graduated with her BFA in Classical Acting from Southern Utah University. Hye Soo currently teaches Performing Arts at Park City Day School. Last but not least, she is lucky to be mother to one amazing son named Lennon.

Max Huftalin (Nick) is thrilled to be making his SLAC debut, with such an incredible group of performers and crew. Past productions include THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, (Algernon) with Pinnacle Acting Company, STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (Doctor) and OLIVER (Artful Dodger) with the Grand Theatre, REMINGTON AND WEASEL (VT Winn) with Pygmalion Productions, PUNXSUTAWNEY (Richard) and RESOLVED (Cole) at the Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival, STRANGERS, LOVERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS (Nathan/Kipling) at the San Diego Fringe Festival, ELECTRA (Orestes) with The Classical Greek Theatre Festival, and OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD (Ralph), DON JUAN COMES BACK FROM THE WAR (Don Juan), CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD (James), and CURTAINS (Lt. Cioffi) with Westminster College Theatre.

Tito Livas (Brian) is thrilled to be debuting this amazing work by Steve Yokey at SLAC! He has just returned from debuting the world premiere of Emmy winner Mark Saltzman's and Grammy winner Frank Loesser's new musical ANOTHER ROLL OF THE DICE, and just prior to that played the role of "Tyler" in the movie *Secret Angel*, airing this winter on Lifetime. Other credits at SLAC include "Ned" in SATURDAY'S VOYEUR 2016 and "Amir" in TWO STORIES. Additional credits outside SLC include productions with Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Alaska Shakespeare Festival, The National Theatre for Children, TheatreWorks, and NYC's The Public Theatre where he was lucky enough to work with Tony nominated director Alex Timbers and Grammy winner David Byrnes on their musical HERE LIES LOVE. He has also been a principal singer for Princess Cruises and Resorts, Walt Disney World, and Holland America.

DESIGN TEAM

Set Design – Gage Williams
Costume Design – Phillip R. Lowe
Lighting Design – Jim Craig
Sound Design – Cynthia L. Kehr Rees
Puppet Designers – Glenn Brown & Linda L. Brown
Projection Designer – Michael Horejsi
Fight Choreographer – Ava Kostia
Stage Manager – Justin Ivie*
Construction Supervisor – Erik Reichert
Master Electrician – William Peterson

*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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