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**ANNOUNCING A NEW THEATRE COMPANY IN SAN DIEGO
THE ROUSTABOUTS THEATRE COMPANY
FOUNDERS PHIL JOHNSON, WILL COOPER & RUFF YEAGER
BRINGING NEW WORKS, REIMAGINING THE CLASSICS & WELL KNOWN
CONTEMPORARY PLAYS WITH THE BEST LOCAL TALENT IN SAN DIEGO**

San Diego, CA – Bringing together notable local actors, directors and playwrights, they have formed a new theatre company called THE ROUSTABOUTS. A non-profit San Diego theatre company dedicated to entertaining, educating, and inspiring audiences in southern California by producing fresh visions of classics, well-known contemporary plays and new works. Phil Johnson, one of the founders of the company states: “We celebrate the artist and honor the creative impulse by drawing from the rich, diverse talents of actors, directors, designers, and playwrights who live in our region. The best plays for you, matched up with the best local artists.” Mr. Johnson believes the new works they produce will have an important impact and deserves a prominent place on the American stage. The two other co-founders are actor/director/ playwright Ruff Yeager and Will Cooper, a playwright originally from Chicago whose play Jade Heart was last produced at Moxie Theatre. All three founders bring passion, excitement and dedication to making great theatre and sharing with the young and old residents of So. Cal and beyond. That is their mission.

In 2017, they launch their first season with the World premiere of MARGIN OF ERROR by Will Cooper directed by Rosina Reynolds and featuring Ruff Yeager playing at the Lyceum Theatre, Horton Plaza from April 15 to May 6. Over the course of an evening, two couples confront each other and themselves, caught in that margin of error where reason goes blind and passions ignite. MARGIN OF ERROR, a drama full of suspense, twists and turns, revealing that when the heart and truth shine together, they can dispel the dark. A brilliant new battle of will and wit: They have love and deceit down to a science.

Their next production is a comic retelling of Emily Bronte's most romantic English novel, now called WITHERING HEIGHTS by Omri Schein and Phil Johnson as they take on all fourteen roles in the play. It's an action packed tour de force of two character actors against the most famous romantic novel of all time. A love story with a very new twist. WITHERING HEIGHTS plays at the Diversionary Theatre from June 10 – July 9, 2017.

In rep with WITHERING HEIGHTS, is the one-woman comedic show by Jane Wagner, THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE featuring Monique Gaffney and directed by Rachel Hastings. Ms. Gaffney plays 12 unique characters including Trudy, a bag lady who advises extraterrestrials about life on earth. A one-woman tour-de-force that will launch the audience straight into the stratosphere. Runs June 22 – July 8, 2017 at the Diversionary Theatre.

The Roustabout Theatre Company will be doing talkbacks, readings and backstage events this coming Spring 2017 go to their website www.TheRoustabouts.org for updates and information.

FACTS:

MARGIN OF ERROR (April 15 – May 6)

Lyceum / San Diego Rep
79 Horton Plaza,
San Diego, CA 92101-6144
Box Office: 619.544.1000

WITHERING HEIGHTS (June 10 – July 9)
AND
THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT
LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE (June 22 – July 8)

Diversionary Theatre
4545 Park Boulevard #101
San Diego, California 92116
Box Office: 619.220.0097

BIOS:
FOUNDERS

Ruff Yeager – (Acting) Regional: Love’s Labour’s Lost, Anything Goes – Utah Shakespeare Festival; The Threepenny Opera, Romance, King Lear, A Christmas Carol - San Diego Repertory Theatre. Now You See It, What’s Wrong With This Picture – North Coast Repertory Theatre. San Diego: I Hate Hamlet, Much Ado About Nothing – Intrepid Shakespeare Company; Passion, Grey Gardens, Wonder Wounded Heroes – Ion Theatre; The Andree Expedition – City Opera; Lear on the 2nd Floor – Kallisti Vocal Ensemble, UCSD; The Man Who Came to Dinner – Coronado Playhouse; The Dream Play, Berzerker gang, The Frankenstein Project 2.0, Phaedra in Delirium – Sledgehammer Theatre. (Directing) Off-Broadway: New York Fringe (Lynn Redgrave Theater) - She-Rantulas from Outer Space – in 3-D! San Diego: Intrepid Theatre Company – Woody Guthrie’s American Song; Diversionary Theatre - She-Rantulas from Outer Space – in 3D!, Bent, Friends of Dorothy; Scripps Ranch Theatre – The Sunshine Boys, Brooklyn Boy; Coronado Playhouse - The Man Who Came to Dinner; Playwrights Project – Quarter Cup, Fronteras Hechas Del Dinero, Hallowed, Trevor, Prom Night, Stage Directions, A Man of His Word; Sledgehammer Theatre - [sic], Bronze; Vox Nova Theatre Company - The Tutor, Arrow to the Heart, The Waves; UCSD School of Music – The Threepenny Opera, Cuatro Corridos; Compass Theatre - American Buffalo, Medea, Come Back to the 5-and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean; Southwestern College – In the Heights, RENT, 12 Angry Men/Women, Balm in Gilead, The Laramie Project, Night of the Iguana, Macbeth, Simply Maria; Awards: San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Play; Playbill Award for Best New Play, KPBS/Patte awards for Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Acting Ensemble, and Outstanding Original Music for a Play; Aubrey Award for Best Direction of a Comedy; Invitee and attendee of The Lincoln Center Directors Lab West; Finalist and presenter in the Disney/ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop, directed by Stephen Schwartz.

Phil Johnson played in Les Miserables on Broadway & on tour; the Canadian production of Sunset Boulevard; & the first national company of Miss Saigon. Last year at the NY Fringe Festival he performed in his original comedy She-Rantulas from Outer Space in 3D!, co-written with Ruff Yeager for Diversionary Theatre, and since published by StageRightsLA. He is a two-time winner of the San Diego Critics Circle Craig Noel Award for acting, for Midsummer Night’s Dream at Intrepid Shakespeare Company, and The Man Who Came to Dinner at Coronado Playhouse. Theatres include: North Coast Rep (Spelling Bee, Don’t Dress for Dinner), Old Globe (How the Grinch...), Cygnet (Mistakes Were Made, Pageant), South Coast Rep, and San Diego Rep. Original works: Withering Heights (co-written with Omri Schein); Hound of the Baskervilles; Say Cheese (L.A. Dramalogue award, co-writer); Music, Mistletoe & Madness (co-written with Matt Thompson & Rayme Sciaroni); and ‘Casa del Haha with Señor Phil’, and A Jewish Joke (co-written with Marni Freedman), which is on tour this year in Chicago (Victory Gardens Theatre), New York (United Solo Fest), as well as several regional venues (info at www.ajewishjoke.com)
www.philjohnson.net

Will Cooper is a playwright based in San Diego and Chicago. His plays Book of Leaves and Jade Heart received positive reviews from critics and audiences alike. Jade

Heart was last produced at San Diego's Moxie Theatre in 2014. Will is a member of the Dramatists Guild and has been a Network Playwright at Chicago Dramatists since 2006. A founding partner of The Roustabouts, his drama Margin of Error will run in San Diego in the spring of 2017.

COMPANY ARTISTS

Omri Schein is a bicoastal writer and performer. With James Olmstead he has written the scores for Gary Goldfarb: Master Escapist (NYMF 2013 Winner for Excellence in Lyric Writing), the upcoming Mambo Italiano based on the film of the same name, and Bed Fellas!. Omri also wrote the lyrics for The Toxic Avenger: Christmas Chaos, a spin off of the off-broadway hit. As a performer Omri was most recently seen playing numerous roles for Jason Alexander in When You're In Love, The Whole World Is Jewish, and as Barfee for Intrepid Theatre Company's production of...Spelling Bee. MFA in Musical Theatre, SDSU. For more information: www.omri-schein.com.

Monique Gaffney was last seen as Wiletta in Trouble in Mind at MOXIE Theatre. San Diego credits: Hoodoo Love (Mo'olelo), Much Ado About Nothing, All's Well That Ends Well (Globe For All), The Tragedy of the Commons, The Piano Lesson, Man from Nebraska, Yellowman (Craig Noel Award) (Cygnet), Clybourne Park, In the Next Room, or the vibrator play, Doubt (San Diego REP), Heddatron, A Streetcar Named Desire, A Raisin in the Sun (ion theatre), Brownie Points (Lamb's Players), Medea (Craig Noel Award) and I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me By a Young Lady from Rwanda (Patté Award) (6th @ Penn Theatre), Gibson Girl, Blue Bonnet Court (MOXIE), and Gee's Bend, The African Company Presents Richard III (North Coast Rep). New York credits: Mamba's Daughters and American Silents. UCSD (BA), Columbia University (MFA). AEA, SAG-AFTRA

Rosina Reynolds (Director) - Directing Credits: North Coast Repertory Theatre: The Cocktail Hour, Fallen Angels; Broken Glass; Educating Rita; Glorious; Don't Dress For Dinner; Relatively Speaking; Importance of Being Earnest; Travesties; An American Daughter; The Sum of Us; Blithe Spirit; Corpse; Rough Crossing; Chekov in Yalta. San Diego Repertory Theatre: Bad Dates. Cygnet Theatre: Atwater, Fixin' to Die. Renaissance Theatre: Caretaker (San Diego Critics Circle Award). Compass Theatre: Three Days of Rain. Fritz Theatre: Vigil. Hahn Cosmopolitan Theatre: Marvin's Room. Diversionary Theatre: Marriage Bed; Happy Endings are Extra; Twilight of the Golds; Beautiful Thing; Wrinkles; Another American; Asking and Telling; Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde; Breaking The Code; Lot's Daughters. Chequamegon Children's Theatre: Founding Artistic Director. 28 years of Broadway musicals with more than 60 kids annually, rehearsed and presented in 3 weeks.

Melanie Chen (Sound Design) is a San Diego based freelance sound designer who has designed over 70 productions in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. This past summer, she assisted sound designer Sten Severson at The Old Globe in San Diego on Love's Labor's Lost and Macbeth on the Festival Stage. Recent regional credits include: Plays by Young Writers Festival 2015 with The Playwrights Projection at The Old Globe; Our Lady of Kibeho at Moxie Theatre; Now You See It, Way Downriver, Hedda Gabler, Ain't Misbehavin' and The Cocktail Hour at North Coast Repertory Theatre. Coming up, she will design The Cherry Orchard at Pomona College in Claremont, as well as returning to Cygnet Theatre for August Wilson's Seven Guitars

and King Hedley II. Later in the fall, she will be designing The Two Gentlemen of Verona with the USD/Old Globe MFA program, and La Jolla Playhouse's POP Tour in 2017. Melanie holds an M.F.A. in Sound Design for Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. www.melaniesound.com

Sean Fanning (Set Designs) is a San Diego-based set designer specializing in scenic design for the stage. Current & upcoming work: The Boy Who Danced on Air (Diversionary Theatre), Gypsy (Cygnet Theatre Company), The Little Mermaid, Rock of Ages, Titanic (Rocky Mountain Repertory), and Manifest Destinitis (San Diego Repertory Theatre). Recent designs: Full Gallop (The Old Globe), My Mañana Comes (Marin Theatre Company), The Oldest Boy (San Diego Repertory Theatre), Brownsville Song (b-side for tray) (Moxie Theatre), Hay Fever, The Vortex, The Whale, and Sons of the Prophet (Cygnet Theatre), Honky (San Diego Repertory Theatre, Onstage in America PBS Airing & 2014 Craig Noel Award Nomination), Menopause the Musical (Harrah's Las Vegas). Sean is a member of USA Local 829. He has taught at UC San Diego, and holds an MFA in Scenic Design for Theatre, Television, and Film from San Diego State University, as well as a B.A. in Technical Theatre from Sonoma State University.

Charmaine Reed (Production Stage Manager) started her love affair with theater over 30 years ago as an actor, but found her penchant for Stage Management in 2013. She has a B.A. in History, is a graduate of CSUSM's College of Education, and earned her Theatre Arts degree at Palomar College. In 2013 she completed a Stage Manager Internship at The Old Globe for How the Grinch Stole Christmas. SM credits include: Diversionary Theatre; Amazons and Their Men and Tru. Scripps Ranch Theatre; Beau Jest, The Dark at the Top of the Stairs, Murder at the Howard Johnson's, and Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. CSUSM; Twilight: Los Angeles 1992, Seussical the Musical, Good Kids, Stop Kiss. And Fiddler on the Roof with Pacco Arts. Charmaine is looking forward to being a part of Playwright's Project as PSM for their Plays by Young Writers festival which will return this January to the Old Globe's White Theatre.