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For Immediate Release

Salt Lake Acting Company Presents
HIR
By Taylor Mac

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC) is delighted to present the Utah premiere of **HIR by Taylor Mac**, a sensational dark comedy about a family in transition, playing **February 7 – March 11, 2018**.

Somewhere in the suburbs, Isaac has returned from the wars to help take care of his ailing father, only to discover a household in revolt. The insurgent: his mom. Liberated from an oppressive marriage, with Isaac's newly out transgender sibling as her ally, she's on a crusade to dismantle the patriarchy. But in Taylor Mac's sly, subversive comedy, annihilating the past doesn't always free you from it.

The New York Times hails HIR as "sensational—in all senses of the word...[an] audacious and uproarious black comedy" and asserts that "Mac has his own gloriously skewed vision of the toxins fouling the American family from within, and in its avowedly loopy way HIR reflects current concerns about the decline of the middle class, as well as the trauma war veterans endure."

SLAC is proud to bring this outrageous and utterly timely piece to life with an all-local cast and creative team. Director Tracy Callahan, from Weber State University, leads the ensemble of actors which includes Austin Archer, Liggera Edmonds-Allen, Richard Scott, and Christy Summerhays.

Callahan says: "This present moment in history and in these characters' lives is about transition. To think of America's present moment as a transgender character, as someone going through transition and redefining language and understanding feels right. To think of the American family and this American family drama as a reflection of where we may be headed if we don't open our minds and hearts to the changes and transformations that are filling our homes is, as Paige says in the play, ignoring a great 'paradigm shift.' Ultimately HIR is about family salvation and family escape. It is a tragedy wrapped up in Mac's unique view of the world, full of humor that makes us wonder if we should laugh or cry."

Utah audiences may be familiar with Mac's work **A 24-DECADE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC**, part of which was performed last year at Kingbury Hall through UtahPresents.

Throughout the run of HIR, SLAC is proud to partner with the **Utah Domestic Violence Coalition** and **Transgender Education Advocates of Utah**. A free panel discussion on the themes of the play will be presented on Sunday, March 11 following the 1pm (beginning around 3:30pm) and is open to the public.



WHO:
Salt Lake Acting Company

WHAT:
HIR
By Taylor Mac

WHEN:

February 7 – March 11, 2018

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

Additional performances:

Tuesday, February 27th & March 6th @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10th @ 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.



Cast Members & Director of HIR

(L to R) Liggera Edmonds-Allen, Austin Archer, Christy Summerhays*, Richard Scott*, Tracy Callahan*

WHO'S WHO

PLAYWRIGHT

Taylor Mac (who uses “judy”, lowercase sic, not as a name but as a gender pronoun) is a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, performance artist, director and producer. “A critical darling of the New York scene” (NY Magazine), TimeOut NY has called Mac “One of the most exciting theater artists of our time” (naming judy a future theater legend). Judy’s work has been performed at New York City’s Lincoln Center, The Public Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, Los Angeles’s Royce Hall, Minneapolis’s Guthrie Theater, Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, Boston’s American Repertory Theatre, Stockholm’s SodraTheatern, the Spoleto Festival, San Francisco’s Curran Theater and MOMA, and literally hundreds of other theaters, museums, music halls, opera houses, cabarets, and festivals around the globe. Judy is the author of seventeen full-length plays and performance pieces including HIR (placed on the top ten theater of 2015 lists of The New York Times, New York Magazine, and Time Out NY; published by North Western University Press and in American Theater Magazine), THE LILY’S REVENGE (Obie Award), THE WALK ACROSS AMERICA FOR MOTHER EARTH (named One of the Best Plays of 2011 by The New York Times), THE YOUNG LADIES OF (Chicago’s Jeff Award nomination for best solo), RED TIDE BLOOMING (Ethyl Eichelberger Award), THE BE(A)ST OF TAYLOR MAC (Edinburgh Festival’s Herald Angel Award) and in collaboration with Mandy Patinkin, Susan Stroman and Paul Ford, Mac created THE LAST TWO PEOPLE ON EARTH: AN APOCALYPTIC VAUDEVILLE. Mac is the recipient of multiple awards including the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Guggenheim Award, the Herb Alpert Award in Theater, the Peter Zeisler Memorial Award, the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award and an Obie. An alumnus of New Dramatists judy is currently a New York Theater Workshop Usual Suspect and the Resident playwright at the Here Arts Center.

DIRECTOR

Tracy Callahan is happy for the opportunity to direct Taylor Mac’s play HIR. Past directing projects at SLAC include last season’s WINTER by Playwright in Residence Julie Jensen, VENUS IN FUR, MANNING UP, COURSE 86B IN THE CATALOGUE, SIX YEARS and HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE. Tracy is a freelance director and actor in the Salt Lake area. She has been the Head of the Acting and Directing Program at Weber State University for the past 23 years where she has directed more than 40 productions. Tracy’s interests include new play development and working with young artists with disabilities through the VSA program at The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

CAST

Austin Archer* is thrilled to be back at SLAC for his 12th production with the company, having previously performed in five seasons of SATURDAY’S VOYEUR, as well as CLIMBING WITH TIGERS, THE CAT IN THE HAT, CLICK, CLACK MOO, HOW I BECAME A PIRATE, BLOODY, BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON, and TOO MUCH MEMORY. He has also been seen locally at Pioneer Theatre Company in NEWSIES, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, SPELLING BEE, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, and A FEW GOOD MEN. Television credits include Mindhunter (Netflix), Blood and Oil (ABC), Everwood (The WB), and Touched By an Angel (CBS). A playwright as well, his play JUMP will premier in April at Plan B theatre company as part of their 2017-18 season. All the love and thanks to my incredible family, and to SLAC for being such a wonderful artistic home away from home for me. Enjoy the show!

Liggera Edmonds-Allen is so excited to be performing on the SLAC stage! They have just returned to Utah from New York, where they worked as a theatrical consultant for Parity, designing youth theatre workshops for transgender teens. Their prior work includes the role of “Cassidy” in Good Company Theatre’s production of APPROPRIATE. They are also an Ogden based potter, playwright and poet. They would like to thank their moms, Alicia Washington, and Nicholas Maughan for their love and support.

Richard Scott* has worked as an actor, director, producer and instructor in the Utah theatre community for more than 30 years. He has worked with Pioneer Theatre Company, Grand Theatre, Park City’s Egyptian Theatre, Utah Opera and SLAC. Richard’s history as an actor with SLAC goes back to the 1990’s with THE GHOSTMAN, VOICE OF THE PRAIRIE, GUN SHY and RIDE DOWN MOUNT MORGAN. He directed THE MAN FROM NEBRASKA at SLAC. He was awarded the Salt Lake City Artist Mayor’s Award in 2010 and is a member of Actors Equity. Richard is currently Dean of the School of Arts, Communications & Media at Salt Lake Community College’s South City campus.

Christy Summerhays* is so happy to be back at SLAC! Her previous roles with the company include “Annette” in GOD OF CARNAGE and “Harper” in ANGELS IN AMERICA. Most recently Christy was seen in two world premier plays at Plan B Theatre Company – as “Hildegard von Bingen” in Tim Slover’s VIRTUE, and as “Astrid” in Eric

Samuelson's THE ICE FRONT. Christy is also an active member of the Utah film community and will be seen in the movie Hereditary starring Toni Collette and Gabrielle Byrne, filmed in Utah this year! Christy received her training at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

DESIGN TEAM

Set Design – Cara Pomeroy

Costume Design – Spencer Potter

Lighting Design – Jesse Portillo**

Composer/Sound Design – Jennifer Jackson

Fight Director – Adriana Lemke

Stage Manager – Jennie Sant*

Construction Supervisor – Erik Reichert

Master Electrician – William Peterson

Assistant Costume Design – Mauri Hefley

Assistant Sound Design – Emily Chung

Assistant Lighting Design – Martin C. Alcocer

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

**The Lighting Designer of HIR is represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 of the IATSE

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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