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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Sacred Fools Kicks Off 23rd Season
With World Premiere Musical *Deadly***



Los Angeles, CA (September 3, 2019)- Sacred Fools Theater Company is launching its 23rd season with the World Premiere of *Deadly*, by Vanessa Claire Stewart, Music by Ryan Thomas Johnson and directed by Jaime Robledo. Opening Friday, September 13 and running through November 2 on the Main Stage at the Broadwater Theater Complex, the murderous musical will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sunday September 15th at 7pm and one performance on Monday, October 21 at 8pm.

About *Deadly*

They were intelligent, ambitious, independent women. It just wouldn't do.

1893. A time of hope and optimism as the World's Fair turns the globe's eyes toward Chicago. But within this cultural explosion of art and technology, a demon lurks beneath. Taking advantage of the modern woman's adventuresome spirit, H.H. Holmes builds a hotel - a murder castle - to entrap and kill unsuspecting ladies new to the big city.



From the team behind the critical and box-office hit *Stoneface*, playwright Vanessa Claire Stewart (*Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara*), composer Ryan Thomas Johnson (*Watson*), and director Jaime Robledo (*Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*), *Deadly* examines one of the most famous true crime cases in history, through the unlikely lens of the victims' experience.

"While the story may have happened over a hundred years ago, the play couldn't be more relevant to the struggle many women still face today," says author Vanessa Claire Stewart. "*Deadly* is not just about America's first documented serial killer. The play's heart centers on Holmes' forgotten victims – whose voices were never heard."

About the Production Team

Playwright **Vanessa Claire Stewart** is a veteran playwright and performer whose awards include an LA Weekly Award for Leading Female performance as Alex in Ark Theatre Company's production of *A Clockwork Orange*. She has also won Ovation, Garland and LA Weekly Awards for *Louis and Keely: Live at the Sahara*, which premiered at Sacred Fools and continues to have a long life with runs at the Geffen Playhouse, the Matrix Theatre and in Chicago at the Royal George Theatre.

Stewart also wrote *Stoneface*, *The Rise and Fall of Buster Keaton* (as a gift to her now-husband, actor French Stewart who also appears in *Deadly*). Premiering at Sacred Fools where its critical and box office success took it to a second run at the Pasadena Playhouse, *Stoneface* also racked up a slew of Ovation, LA Drama Critics Circle and LA Weekly nominations and awards.

Although *Deadly* is technically the first full musical by composer **Ryan Thomas Johnson**, his talents have been seen on the Sacred Fools stages for years. He served as the Musical Director and Band Leader for *Forbidden Zone: Live in the Sixth Dimension*, Music Director/Pianist for *Stoneface* and composed original music for shows including *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* and *Candide*.

Deadly is the 9th mainstage show directed by **Jaime Robledo** at Sacred Fools; past productions include *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (LA Drama Critic Circle and Stage Raw Awards), *Stoneface* (LA Weekly Award), *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* (LA Drama Critics Circle, Stage Raw Award nominations), *Watson: The Last Great Tale of Sherlock Holmes* (LA Weekly Award, Ovation nomination) and *Watson and the Dark Art of Harry Houdini*, both of which he also authored.



For Producer **Brian Wallis**, *Deadly* is the 8th show directed by Robledo that he has produced for Sacred Fools. Other shows at Sacred Fools produced by Wallis include the aforementioned *Stoneface*, *Astro Boy* and the *Watson* plays, as well as *Absolutely Filthy*, *Mr. Burns*, a post-electric play and *Skullduggery*.

The design team consists of Set Design by **Stephen Gifford**, Lighting Design by **Andrew Schmedake**, Sound Design by **Cricket S. Myers**, Projection Design by Corwin Evans, Prop Design by **Brandon Clark**, Hair and Makeup by **Kat Bardot** and Costume Design by **Linda Muggeridge**. The show's Choreographer is **Brin Hamblin** and Fight Choreography is by **Jo Ann Mendelson**. *Deadly* is produced for Sacred Fools by **Brian W. Wallis**, with Associate Producers **K.J. Middlebrooks** and **French Stewart**.

The live band for the show features **Brenda Varda** (Piano), **Zachary Bernstein** (Drums), **Lisa Davis** (Violin) and **Katt Newlon** (Cello).

About the Cast

Deadly features **Cj Merriman**, **Brittney S. Wheeler**, **Kristyn Evelyn**, **Erica Hanrahan-Ball**, **Ashley Diane**, **Rebecca Larsen**, **Samantha Barrios**, **Eric Curtis Johnson**, **French Stewart** and **Keith Allan**. The understudy cast includes **Angela Sauer**, **Lisa Dyson**, **Shaina Hammer**, **Sydney Hawes**, **Leigh Wulff**, **Alicia Reynolds**, **John Haegele**, **David LM McIntyre**, and **Eric Curtis Johnson**.

Sacred Fools Gives Back: DWYC Performance – Friday, September 20 at 8:00pm

It's "Pay What You Can" with a twist! Half of all proceeds for this performance will be donated to a local charity, still TBD. Since 2013, Sacred Fools has held a DWYC performance for each mainstage show, partnering with close to 20 different organizations, raising over \$6,000 for worthy causes.

Special Performance – Monday, October 21 at 8:00pm

New at Sacred Fools for the four Prime shows of the season is the addition of a special Monday night performance to give other theatre artists performing and working on shows Friday through Sunday the opportunity to see the show.

Quick Summary

WHAT: *Deadly*

WHEN: Friday, September 13th – November 2, 2019.

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, Sunday September 15 at 7:00pm
and

Monday, October 21 at 8:00pm.

WHERE: The Broadwater Main Stage, 1076 Lillian Way, LA CA 90038

TICKETS: \$15

Press RSVP: Publicity@sacredfools.org

Public RSVP: Reservations can be made by contacting
sfreservations@sacredfools.org or buy tickets online at www.sacredfools.org

MORE PRESS: Photos and EPK content (after opening) available soon at
www.sacredfools.org/publicity

No Patron will pay more than \$15 for a Sacred Fools show

We believe that theatre should be accessible to everyone. That's why we've made a pledge to lower our ticket prices so that anyone who wants to experience live theatre has the opportunity to do so.

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Sacred Fools Theater Company, the resident theater company of The Broadwater, 1078 Lillian Way (Santa Monica Blvd. and Lillian Way) on Theater Row, is a non-profit, ensemble-run theater company founded in 1997, committed to the development of new plays and projects that challenge traditional expectations of the theatrical experience.

For more information about any of our programming or the company itself, contact us at publicity@sacredfools.org and visit www.sacredfools.org.

For information regarding The Broadwater, please visit www.thebroadwaterla.com

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