

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE OF
DANCE/THEATRE HYBRID *SILENT DANCER***

Kathleen Cahill's Jazz Age romance features choreography by Christopher Ruud

[SALT LAKE CITY, UT, MARCH 20, 2019] - Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC), Utah's leading destination for brave, contemporary theatre, presents the world premiere of *SILENT DANCER* by Utah-based playwright, Kathleen Cahill. The play gets its premiere following several developmental workshops both at SLAC (including a New Play Sounding Series reading in March, 2017) and Sacramento's B Street Theatre.

Set in the tumultuous world of Manhattan in the 1920's, *SILENT DANCER* is being billed as a "groundbreaking dance/play/romance about dangerous love, secret identities, criminals, silent movies, and the most famous couple in New York." In it, Cahill populates an original story about an aspiring dancer with real-life historical figures—F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, as well as infamous gangster Jackie "Legs" Diamond.

"I don't have a dance background, but I'm one of those people with my nose pressed up against the window of the dance studio watching and thinking wow, it's all so wonderful," said Cahill. "You can express emotion in dance more directly than you can with words. Then about four years ago I started thinking about telling a story using dance and dialogue. I've always been interested in the twenties, a period of great social change in America, quite similar to our time. Issues around women, immigration, and marginalized groups were prominent. And the new technology of film was taking off."

To bring to life a world in which characters use not only words but movement to communicate, Fleming and Cahill looked to Ballet West Principal Dancer Christopher Ruud, who is currently in his 21st and final season with the dance company, to choreograph. *SILENT DANCER* marks his first major project outside of Ballet West since announcing his retirement.

"As a professional dancer I have always strived to communicate to the audience the meaning behind my dancing," said Ruud. "*Silent Dancer* has given me an unparalleled opportunity to 'write' a dance language that goes past that.... To try to give the actors, and Kathleen Cahill's vision, a way to communicate meaning beyond where even our cherished spoken words communicate our humanity."

Fleming adds, "SLAC audiences can look forward to an unprecedented theatrical experience—new to this or any theatre company in the nation."

SILENT DANCER runs April 10 through May 12. Tickets can be obtained via tickets.saltlakeactingcompany.org, in person at the SLAC box office, or by calling 801.363.7522.

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TICKETING INFORMATION

April 10 – May 12, 2019

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

Additional performances: April 20 @ 2pm, April 23 @ 7:30pm, April 30 @ 7:30pm, May 11 @ 2pm.

VENUE INFORMATION

Salt Lake Acting Company – Upstairs Theatre
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

PRESS CONTACT

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801.363.7522

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). For more information, visit saltlakeactingcompany.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[SILENT DANCER Press Kit](#)

Production photos available in early April

CAST & CREATIVE

CAST

Rosie Quinn: Mikki Reeve

Michael Quinn: William Richardson*

Perry Branfield: Darrell T. Joe*

Jackie “Legs” Diamond: Austin Archer*

Zelda Fitzgerald: Alice Ryan

F. Scott Fitzgerald: Noah Kershnik

Ensemble: McKenzie Barkdull, Makayla Cussen, Savannah Roberts, and Jorji Diaz

CREATIVE

Director: Cynthia Fleming
Playwright: Kathleen Cahill
Choreographer: Christopher Ruud
Assistant Choreographer: Loren Ruud
Set Design: Dennis Hassan
Costume Design: Nancy Hills
Light Design: Michael Horejsi
Sound Design & Composer: Jen Jackson
Projection Design: Joshua Roberts
Prop Design: Janice Jenson
Dialect Coach: Adrienne Moore
Dramaturg: Martine Kei Green-Rogers
Stage Manager: Justin Ivie*
Assistant Stage Manager: Katelyn Limber*

UPTP Assistant Set Designer: Stirling Brenna
UPTP Assistant Costume Design: Ally Thieme
UPTP Assistant Projection Design: Dwight Camillucci

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

PRODUCTION PARTNERS



ABOUT BALLET WEST

Ballet West inspires and empowers a broad community locally and globally through presentation, training, and education in the art form of ballet.

For more information, visit balletwest.org.



EQUALITYUTAH

ABOUT EQUALITY UTAH

Equality Utah's mission is to secure equal rights and protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Utahns and their families.

For more information, visit equalityutah.org.