

ALLEY THEATRE

FOR RELEASE

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Alley Theatre Presents Garson Kanin's Famous Comedy Classic **Born Yesterday**

Garson Kanin's American comedy features Alley Company Members and showcases politics and the power of female persuasion

HOUSTON – Alley Theatre Artistic Director Gregory Boyd announces the cast and creative team for Garson Kanin's **Born Yesterday**, a delicious screwball classic, beginning performances June 3. Featuring Alley Company Members and directed by Jonathan Moscone, the play is the grand finale of the inaugural season in the newly renovated Hubbard Theatre.

The play is a great American comedy about politics and the power of female persuasion. Set in one of the finest hotels in Washington D.C., **Born Yesterday** tells the story of Harry Brock, a hot-tempered and corrupt tycoon, and Billie Dawn, his ex-showgirl mistress as they navigate the Washington political scene. Billie, possessing a brash and over-the-top personality, gets an extreme makeover from a political reporter hired by her bullying boyfriend. She receives more than a history lesson when she learns what Harry really is and what he wants.

"Garson Kanin's Broadway hit has, deservedly, become a classic of the American theatre. This endearing comedy about politics is as relevant today as it was in 1946," says Boyd.

The finale to the Alley's 2015-2016 season, **Born Yesterday** is directed by Jonathan Moscone, who directed the Alley's productions of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Amadeus*.

The **Born Yesterday** cast features Alley Company Members Melissa Pritchett (Alley: *The Christians, One Man, Two Guvnors*) as ex-chorus girl Billie Dawn; Jay Sullivan (Alley: *Around the World in 80 Days, The Foreigner*) as reporter Paul Verrall; John Tyson (Alley: *The Seafarer, Pygmalion*) as Eddie Brock, Harry's brother; Jeffrey Bean (Alley: *The Christians, Around the World in 80 Days*) as lawyer Ed Devery; Todd Waite (Alley: *Around the World in 80 Days, Dracula*) as Senator Norval Hedges; Elizabeth Bunch (Alley: *Grounded, Dracula*) as Mrs. Hedges; Emily Trask (Alley: *As You Like It, A Christmas Carol*) as Helen, the maid; and Chris Hutchison (Alley: *All the Way, As You Like It*) as the Assistant Manager.

Stephen Pelinski (Guthrie: *The Government Inspector, A Midsummer Night's Dream*), a founding member of the Resident Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware, makes his Alley debut as businessman Harry Brock.

Garson Kanin's **Born Yesterday** premiered on Broadway on February 4, 1946, and enjoyed one of the longest runs in history, completing 1,642 performances. Playwright/director Garson Kanin wrote the all-American comedy abroad to showcase the idea that one person has the power to bring change to an issue. Kanin acted in and directed theatrical productions in the 1930s, and in 1938 began directing films. His notable early films include the comedies *The Great Man Votes* (1938), *Bachelor Mother* (1939), and *Tom, Dick And Harry* (1941).

The play features scenic design by Hugh Landwehr (Alley: *One Man, Two Guvnor, Around the World in 80 Days*) with costume

design by Katherine Roth (Broadway: *Come Fly Away*), lighting design by Stephen Strawbridge (Shakespeare Theater Co.: *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*), and sound design by Cliff Caruthers (California Shakespeare Theater: *American Night, The Tempest*).

Born Yesterday begins preview performances at the Alley Theatre on June 3, opens June 8, and continues through July 3, 2016 in the Hubbard Theatre. Recommended for general audiences.

TICKETS

Tickets to **Born Yesterday** are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for \$16 for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone ([713.220.5700](tel:713.220.5700)). Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

The Alley Theatre will also present an Artist TalkBack following the June 11 (2:30 p.m.) and June 14 (7:30 p.m.) performances of **Born Yesterday**. These discussions will feature cast and artistic staff. Artist TalkBacks are free and open to the public.

2016-2017 SEASON:

Season Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone ([713.220.5700](tel:713.220.5700)). Subscribers can purchase a 5-play package containing **A Midsummer Night's Dream, Dry Powder, Let the Right One In, A View from the Bridge, and Freaky Friday**; prices range from \$125-\$440. An 8-play package is also available containing all the plays in the 5-play package plus **Hand to God, Syncing Ink and An Act of God**, with prices from \$198-\$629. Subscribers may purchase priority tickets for **Agatha Christie's Spider's Web, A Night With Janis Joplin, A Christmas Carol** and **The Santaland Diaries** before going on sale to the general public. Groups of 10 or more may reserve discounted tickets now by calling [713.315.3346](tel:713.315.3346).

ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company lead by Artistic Director Gregory Boyd and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley produces up to 16 plays each year in its newly renovated theatre, ranging from the best current work, to re-invigorated classic plays, to new plays by contemporary writers. The Alley is home to a Resident Company of actors. In addition, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as Visiting Artists.

The renovation of the Hubbard Theatre at the Alley was completed in October 2015 – and created a new 774 seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the 310-seat Neuhaus Theatre, the Alley offers nearly 500 performances each season. The Company reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance and education programs. Its audience enrichment programs include pre-show and post-performance talks, events, and workshops for audience members of all ages.

The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2016-2017 season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre.