

ALLEY THEATRE

FOR RELEASE:

Alley Theatre Offers New Take on Shakespeare's Comedy Classic TWELFTH NIGHT

Alley Resident Company Actors join returning director Jonathan Moscone for the production, running October 5 – 28 in the Hubbard Theatre

HOUSTON, TX – The Alley Theatre and Interim Artistic Director James Black announce the cast and crew of the 2018-19 Hubbard Season opener, ***Twelfth Night*** by William Shakespeare, directed by Jonathan Moscone. The Alley presents an inventive, nontraditional, yet faithful production of *Twelfth Night* set in the 1930s that showcases not only the resident acting company, but also a diverse group of performers making their Alley debut. The play runs October 5–28, 2018 in the Hubbard Theatre. Tickets are available at alleytheatre.org or by calling the Box Office at 713.220.5700.

Shakespeare's hilarious tale of unrequited love, *Twelfth Night* crackles with quick wit and gender-bending hijinks. Stranded on the coast of Illyria, Viola assumes the disguise of a page boy for Duke Orsino and finds herself at the center of an explosive love triangle in which identity, passion, and gender all threaten to come undone. Bursting with vitality and romance, *Twelfth Night* gives us one of Shakespeare's most dynamic heroines, matching wits with a host of captivating characters.

The *Twelfth Night* cast includes Alley Resident Company members Elizabeth Bunch as Olivia, Dylan Godwin as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Chris Hutchison as Orsino, Melissa Pritchett as Maria, Jay Sullivan as Feste, and Todd Waite as Malvolio (Waite also appeared in the Alley's 2004 production of *Twelfth Night* as Orsino). Returning Alley actors include Mark Ivy, Melissa Molano, and Wesley Whitson. Cast members making their Alley debut include Kim Blanck as Viola, David Huynh as Sebastian, Michael Manuel as Sir Toby Belch, Cameron Khalil Stokes as Valentine, as well as Jason E. Carmichael, B. Connor Flynn, and Sydney Haygood.

Jonathan Moscone returns to the Alley after previously directing *Born Yesterday*; *Amadeus*; and *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*. The creative team also includes Scenic Designer Todd Rosenthal, Costume Designer Katherine Roth, Lighting Designer Christopher Akerlind, Sound Designers Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen, Composition by Gina Leishman, Voice and Text by Sara Becker, Fight Director Chris Hutchison, Movement Director Melissa Pritchett, Assistant Director Brandon Weinbrenner, and Stage Manager Kristen Larson.

Performances of *Twelfth Night* are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. There is one student matinee of *Twelfth Night* on October 18 at 10:00 a.m. (reservations are required through Group Sales). *Twelfth Night* is recommended for high school ages and up.

SPONSORS: The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2018-19 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre; Four Seasons Hotel Houston, the official hotel of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt.

TICKETS: Tickets to *Twelfth Night* are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

ALLEY IN CONTEXT: The Alley Theatre will present a post-show discussion following the Saturday, October 13 (2:30 p.m.) performance, which will feature civic leaders, distinguished academics, and area professionals discussing the themes of the play and how they are reflected in our lives today.

The *Twelfth Night* cast will be featured during a post-show discussion following the Tuesday, October 16 (7:30 p.m.) performance.

DESIGNER TALK: An hour before the Sunday, October 7 matinee preview performance (2:30 p.m.), a member of the artistic staff will lead a discussion with the production's creative team to give audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the

design process. These pre-show talks will offer audiences an exclusive opportunity to ask questions about the designer's work and learn how they brought the script to life. Designer Talks will take place in the Texas Room.

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ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Interim Artistic Director James Black 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 Alley's Hubbard Theatre was completed in October 2015 – and created a new 774-seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the newly renovated 296-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.

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