



NEWS RELEASE

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[EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: Members of the Press are invited to all seminars, showcases, cabarets, symposia and work sessions. All events except rehearsals are available to the general public. For press reservations, please contact Elisa Hale at 860.873.8664, ext. 323 or Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org.]

GOODSPEED'S 14th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS COME IN FROM THE COLD – CHECK OUT WHAT'S HOT

January 18-20: Staged readings of three brand-new musicals plus several special events celebrating the best and brightest in musical theatre from across the nation

EAST HADDAM, CONN., DECEMBER 7, 2018: The 14th Annual **Goodspeed Festival of New Musicals**, produced by **Goodspeed Musicals' Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical Theatre**, kicks off its much-anticipated three-day festival of brand-new works on Friday, January 18 at The Goodspeed with a staged reading of ***The Peculiar Tale Of The Prince Of Bohemia And The Society Of Desperate Victorians***. Based on a series of short stories by **Robert Louis Stevenson**, this darkly hilarious musical is written by **Julian Blackmore, Becca Anderson** and **Dan Marshall**. Saturday, January 19 will be highlighted by a staged reading of the heartwarming new musical ***The Proxy Marriage*** by **Adam Gwon** and **Michele Lowe**. The final day of the festival features the bittersweet musical journey ***Devotion*** written by **Mark Sonnenblick**. Members of all three writing teams have developed works during the **Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed**. Additional festival events including seminars, two symposiums and exclusive cabarets will round out this exciting weekend. Single tickets are \$25 for each staged reading, \$15 each for students. Single show tickets and festival packages are available through the Goodspeed Box Office 860.873.8668 or online at www.goodspeed.org. This year's Festival is sponsored in part by lead corporate sponsor **RisCassi & Davis, P.C.** with support from the **Burry Fredrik Foundation**, the **Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation**, **Nöel Coward Foundation** and **Webster Private Bank**.

Goodspeed's ever-popular Festival **GOLD Package** will offer patrons a weekend full of special events. The \$149 package includes admission to all three staged readings; three Festival seminar sessions; two Festival Symposiums; a Saturday evening pre-show dinner at either the Gelston House or La Vita; and a Meet the Writers Q&A, which will complete the weekend's festivities. Also included in the Festival **GOLD Package** is admittance to either the Friday Night or Saturday Night Cabarets – informal gatherings showcasing new songs by new and established artists. A special **SILVER Package** highlighting the three staged readings, both Festival Symposiums and the Meet the Writers Q&A is also available for only \$80.

"This winter we are thrilled to celebrate the 14th Anniversary of our Festival of New Musicals – one of the cornerstones of Goodspeed's new works development program and the source of countless hours of discovery and entertainment for our new works audience," said Goodspeed's Executive Director Michael Gennaro. "The village of East Haddam will be filled with vitality and exhilaration as hundreds of musical theatre fans from across the country come together to celebrate Goodspeed and the best and brightest writers and performers in musical theatre," he added.

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Information about the three staged readings and the schedule of special events for Festival Package holders includes:

Friday, January 18

The Peculiar Tale Of The Prince Of Bohemia And The Society Of Desperate Victorians

7:30 p.m., The Goodspeed

Book and Lyrics by **Becca Anderson** and **Dan Marshall**

Music by **Julian Blackmore**

When Prince Florizel learns that his father the King of Bohemia is dead, he seeks to escape the throne. He and his chaperone Colonel Geraldine are invited to join a secret society - The Suicide Club. Club members play a deadly card game nightly with higher stakes than the Prince has ever known. Realizing the deck is stacked against them, the Prince and Geraldine become inextricably linked to the club's members in this darkly hilarious new musical.

Festival Cabaret

10:00 p.m., Gelston House

DOUGLAS WATERBURY-TIEMAN is an actor, musician and writer from Lexington, KY. Douglas graduated from Belmont University in 2012 with a BM in musical theatre performance. Off Broadway: ***The Robber Bridegroom*** (Roundabout) and Charles Mee's ***soot and spit***. Regional: ***Once*** (John Engeman Theatre), ***SeaWife*** (White Heron Theatre), ***A Christmas Carol*** (Actor's Theatre of Louisville), ***Lost Highway*** and ***The Cotton Patch Gospel*** (Flat Rock Playhouse), ***Fiddler on the Roof*** (Studio Tenn). He is also a professional fiddle player in NYC and recently returned from playing aboard the Disney Magic cruise ship. Douglas' writing for the stage was seen at Penn State as part of their Nu Musical Theatre Summer Festival with a staged reading of his script for ***Deep Water Ballad***. He has also been selected to return to Goodspeed Musicals for a writing residency as he develops his new musical ***Johnny and the Devil's Box***. Douglas is a proud collaborative member of The Lobbyists, who asked him to join their troupe after hearing him busk at Penn Station. www.douglaswaterburytieman.com

Saturday, January 19

Seminars

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Gelston House / La Vita

Backstage Pass to Broadway

Veteran Broadway press agent **Susan L. Schulman** shares true tales from her new book that turns the spotlight on what goes on behind the show curtain. Book signing to follow.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in Theatre Today

Get a deeper understanding of the industry's latest efforts to include and encourage all people to be a part of it.

Making Things Happen: The Next Generation of Broadway Producers

It's a long road to becoming a successful producer. Our panel of future A-listers discusses how they got there, where they're going and what they're working on.

Career Leap: From Actor to Director

Some of our favorite directors gather to share stories about what it takes to make the transition from successful performer to sought-after director.

Singing Like the Stars

Celebrated vocal coach **Liz Caplan** helps everyone from Broadway hopefuls to Hugh Jackman find their best voice and keep it healthy. She'll discuss her career and give a live demonstration of a vocal coaching.

Additional Seminar titles and schedule TBA

***Symposium I:**

3:00 p.m., *The Goodspeed*

The Art of Adaptation: Fact to Fiction

Goodspeed Artistic Associate and dramaturg **Anika Chapin** is joined by a lively panel of writers to discuss the process and the pitfalls of adapting sources from history, memoir, and short story into musical theatre fiction.

***Symposium II:**

4:00 p.m., *The Goodspeed*

Interview with a special guest – More info TBA

***These events are free and open to the public.**

Festival Dinner

5:30 p.m., *Gelston House - OR - La Vita*

Enjoy a three course meal with fellow festival goers.

The Proxy Marriage

7:30 p.m., *The Goodspeed*

Book and Lyrics by **Michele Lowe**

Music and Lyrics by **Adam Gwon**

In Montana, a lawyer performs proxy marriages –primarily of military couples, in which both parties are not physically present. The lawyer's popular teenage daughter Bridey and her awkward friend William stand in for the bride and groom. When senior year is done, they leave Montana to pursue their separate dreams. Over the next 13 years, life pulls them apart and then together again, and as the world changes, so do William and Bridey. In time they realize that perhaps what they were longing for all along was each other.

Festival Cabaret

10:00 p.m., *Gelston House*

SHAINA TAUB is a songwriter and performer. She has won the Jonathan Larson Grant, the Fred Ebb Award and the Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award, and has an ongoing concert residency at Joe's Pub. She starred in her musical adaptation of ***Twelfth Night*** in the Public Theater's Free Shakespeare in the Park this past summer, featuring the Public Works community. She's currently writing a musical about the American women's suffrage movement and she's writing lyrics for the upcoming musical of ***The Devil Wears Prada***, with music by **Sir Elton John** and book by **Paul Rudnick**. Her albums are available at www.shainataub.com

Sunday, January 20

Devotion

1:00 p.m., *The Goodspeed*

Music, Lyrics and Book by **Mark Sonnenblick**

Wanda Lee, a young woman in the fictional town of Braxton, Ohio, feels totally lost. Paul, a football star who became addicted to painkillers after a career-ending injury, feels much the same. When Wanda Lee's ten-year-old brother tells both of them he's been recruited for a divine mission, Paul and Wanda Lee must decide whether to bring him to his senses or join him on the journey. A story about addiction (not just to drugs) and belief (not just in religion), *Devotion* is a heartfelt, uplifting musical set against an American crisis of community.

Meet the Writers Reception

3:30 p.m., *The Goodspeed*

Gain insight into the inspirations and processes of the writers during this lively festival wrap-up discussion.

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Lodging and dining information for Festival attendees as well as up-to-date information on the weekend's events can be found at www.goodspeed.org

The Festival of New Musicals is produced by Goodspeed Musicals' Max Showalter for Education in Musical Theatre. Created in 2002, Goodspeed's Showalter Center inspires and nurtures musical theatre artists and students by providing a unique and comprehensive range of training and educational programs to serve both the national and local academic communities. The Goodspeed Festival program offers new and established artists the rare opportunity to thoroughly work on their projects with the help of Goodspeed's renowned resources and artistic environment. At the same time, the Festival affords senior students from prominent conservatory programs real-world experience in new musical development and performing new musicals.

Preparations for the Festival begin the second week of January. The three teams of writers and composers dedicate their time to further writing and composing their musicals in development. They are joined by musical theater students from The Hartt School and Boston Conservatory, who take part in rehearsals and continued development of the material. The intensive retreat culminates with Goodspeed's Festival of New Musicals, which showcases staged readings of the new musicals developed during the two-week long program, one of the Showalter Center's major endeavors.

Under the leadership of Executive Director, Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the preservation, development and advancement of musical theatre and is the first theatre in the nation to receive two Tony Awards (for outstanding achievement). Goodspeed produces three musicals each season at The Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn., and additional productions at The Terris Theatre in Chester, Conn., which was opened in 1984 for the development of new musicals. Goodspeed also maintains The Scherer Library of Musical Theatre and The Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical Theatre. Goodspeed gratefully acknowledges the support from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts.

[FOR BIOS SEE "ABOUT THE WRITERS" INCLUDED BELOW]

For more information, to schedule an interview, or to receive stock art, please contact Elisa Hale, at 860.873.8664 (ext. 323) ehale@goodspeed.org or Dan McMahon (ext. 324) dmcmahon@goodspeed.org

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ABOUT THE WRITERS

The Peculiar Tale Of The Prince Of Bohemia And The Society Of Desperate Victorians

Book and Lyrics by Becca Anderson and Dan Marshall
Music by Julian Blackmore

Julian Blackmore is an Englishman in New York. He writes and produces music for film, media and theatre. Theatre credits include: **Snow Way Out** (Composer, York Theatre Developmental Reading Series); **Academia Nuts** (Composer, Winner: Best New Musical, 2014 New York Musical Theatre Festival); **Spandex** (Composer) (777 Theatre, New York); **A Year With.... Veronica Sexton** (Composer, R.A.W Theatrical Duct Tape and A Dream Festival, New York); *The Peculiar Tale Of The Prince Of Bohemia And The Society Of Desperate Victorians* (Composer, NYU, New York). His dog, Parsley, tends to ghostwrite a lot of his music. www.julianblackmore.com

Becca Anderson co-wrote the musicals *Academia Nuts* (Best New Musical, NYMF 2014), *Snow Way Out* (MicroMusical Podcast), *The Peculiar Tale of the Prince of Bohemia and the Society of Desperate Victorians* and **Hatter** (Indiana University). She wrote the plays **President Mom** (with Dan Marshall, Notre Dame, Caryl Crane Youth Theatre), **Bedtime** (Blank Theatre LRS) and **Dead Behind the Eyes** (Vintage Theatre). Her works have been finalists for the Leah Ryan Prize, the NuVoices Playwriting Prize and the Trustus Playwrights Festival. **President Mom** won the Ronald M. Ruble New Play prize. Becca held the 2015 Tam & Young Arts Chair Visiting Artist Residency in Honolulu

Dan Marshall is co-author (with Anderson and Blackmore) of *Academia Nuts*, which won Best New Musical at the 2014 New York Musicals Festival. Additionally: *Snow Way Out* (MicroMusical Podcast) and *The Peculiar Tale of the Prince of Bohemia and the Society of Desperate Victorians* (both with Anderson and Blackmore), **Swish** (with **Joel Derfner** and **Tim Acito**) and **#NoFilter: The Story of Tori Anne Gray** and *President Mom*, co-authored with Ms. Anderson, won the Ronald M. Ruble Prize for young audiences. He was the 2015 Tam & Young Visiting Arts Chair at the 'Iolani School. 2017 Johnny Mercer Songwriters Colony at Goodspeed. MFA: GMTWP, Tisch.

The Proxy Marriage

Book and Lyrics by Michele Lowe
Music and Lyrics by Adam Gwon

Michele Lowe Current projects: **The Greatest** (Sundance Theatre Lab, Artist in Residence) and **Split** a commission for Transport Group with composer **Zoe Sarnak**. Broadway: **The Smell of the Kill**. Off Broadway: **String of Pearls** (Outer Critics nom for best play, Primary Stages); **A Thousand Words Come to Mind** with composer **Scott Davenport Richards** (Joe's Pub); Regional: **Inana** (Francesca Primus Prize, Edgerton New Play Award, Susan Blackburn finalist, Denver Center Theatre), **Map of Heaven** (Edgerton New Play Award, Denver Center Theatre), **Victoria Musica** (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), **Mezzulah 1946** (City Theatre), **Backsliding in the Promised Land** (Syracuse Stage). Michele is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. www.michelelowe.net

Adam Gwon Off-Broadway: **Ordinary Days** (Roundabout Theatre, Keen Company revival), **Old Jews Telling Jokes** (Westside Theatre). Regional: **String** (Village Theatre), **Cake Off** (Signature Theatre, Helen Hayes Award nomination, Bucks County Playhouse), **Cloudlands** (South Coast Rep), **The Boy Detective Fails** (Signature Theatre), **Bernice Bobs Her Hair** (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma). West End: *Ordinary Days* (Trafalgar Studios). Honors include the Kleban, Ebb, Loewe and Richard Rodgers Awards, Second Stage Theatre's Donna Perret Rosen Award, Weston Playhouse New Musical Award, ASCAP Harold Adamson Award, MAC John Wallowitch Award. Recordings include: **Ordinary Days** (Ghostlight Records), **Audra McDonald's Go Back Home** (Nonesuch), **The Essential Liz Callaway** (Working Girl Records), **Over the Moon: The Broadway Lullaby Album**.

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Devotion

Music, Lyrics and Book by Mark Sonnenblick

Mark Sonnenblick is a composer, lyricist and scriptwriter, although not always at the same time. Collaborations include **Midnight at The Never Get** (York Theatre Company, Bistro Award, MAC Award nominee "Show of the Year"), **Independents** ("Best Production" FringeNYC), **Dragons Love Tacos** (TheatreworksUSA), **Twenty Minutes Or Less** (Washington National Opera), **Stompcat in Lawndale** (Ars Nova Ant Fest), **Ship Show** (Yale Institute for Music Theatre), and **Bunkerville** (Yale DRAMAT, BSU Discovery Festival winner). He won a 2018 Jonathan Larson Grant and is a three-time finalist for the Kleban Award. Mark has developed work at The Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Musicals, UCross Foundation, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, The John Duffy Institute (Virginia Arts Festival), Composers and the Voice (American Opera Projects) and The Johnny Mercer Songwriting Project.

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