



INVISIBLE THEATRE - PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Invisible Theatre kicks off its 46th Anniversary Season
with the Arizona Premiere of**

COMING APART

by

Fred Carmichael

A Comedy of Love and Marriage!

September 6 - 18, 2016

(August 12, 2016, Tucson, Arizona); IT kicks off its 46th Anniversary Season with **COMING APART** by Fred Carmichael. This heartfelt comedy directed by James Blair and Fred Rodriguez features Susan Claassen, David Alexander Johnston, Susan Kovitz, and Jack Neubeck. Colin, a successful humor columnist, and his wife Frances, an equally successful romance novelist, simultaneously declare "I want a divorce". Although they are still in love, each is too stubborn to give an inch. Hilarity ensues as they try to continue living together in a divided space while Frances writes a book entitled "How to Survive a Marriage".

This production is made possible in part through the generous support of
Dr. Bella Eibensteiner

"Warm and mirthful ..."
- Stageplays.com



COMING APART will play from September 6 - September 18, 2016 with the official press opening on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman), Tucson, AZ 85719.

The single show ticket price for **COMING APART** is \$32. A low cost preview (\$20) takes place on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Additional discounts are available for groups, seniors, active military and students. Rush tickets are available for purchase at half-price one half hour prior to performance time and are subject to availability.

Tickets are available for purchase by calling the Invisible Theatre Box Office at (520) 882-9721 and are also available 24/7 online through OvationTix at www.invisibletheatre.com.

The running time is two hours with an intermission.

THE INVISIBLE THEATRE

The Invisible Theatre (IT) of Tucson, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to producing quality theatre and arts education experiences for all facets of the community in an intimate setting that showcases local professional talent and guest artists. IT takes its name from the invisible energy that flows between a performer and audience, creating the magic of theatre. Started in 1971 as an arena for local playwrights, the theatre has expanded its programs to include adaptations of classics and recent Off-Broadway plays and musicals, while continuing to encourage new playwrights through both full productions and staged readings.

Under the leadership of Managing Artistic Director Susan Claassen, Associate Artistic Director James Blair, and PR Director Cathy Johnson, IT is strongly committed to community service and outreach programs. The company's current season includes a six play Main Stage season, many special events, a world class cabaret series, organizational collaborations, educational tours, seminars that encourage community dialogue and Project Pastime – an educational theatre program for mentally challenged youth.

The Invisible Theatre, the recipient of the first Arizona Theatre Association Award for Best Producing Theatre Company, is a member of the Theatre Communications Group and has long enjoyed both local and national recognition for its strong leadership role in the arts community. Productions take place in an intimate 80-seat converted laundry building. IT celebrates its 46th season with an even greater commitment to professionalism, artistic excellence, accessibility, freedom of expression, diverse programming and creative challenge – thus making the Invisible Theatre a very visible force in Tucson's cultural community.

ABOUT THE CAST

DAVID ALEXANDER JOHNSTON (*Colin*) made his IT debut in IT's DON'T TALK TO THE ACTORS and then appeared in LEAVING IOWA, AN EMPTY PLATE IN THE CAFÉ DU GRAND BOEUF, 2 ACROSS, MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD, OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS and I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES. He has been seen in ATC's TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING and MY FAIR LADY. David appeared in AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY and CABARET with Winding Road Theater Ensemble. He then joined the ensemble and appeared in ROUGH MAGIC, UNITED, SAINT JOAN and SOVEREIGN BODY. He proudly played Willy Loman in Winding Road's DEATH OF A SALESMAN and won a Tucson MAC award for playing Mr. Green in VISITING MR. GREEN at Live Theatre Workshop. David has been seen in multiple other shows since coming to Tucson in 1990. His television and movie credits include *Day of Redemption*, *Spin*, *The Unflyable Plane for BBC*, *Fast Getaway II*, and *Tank Girl* as well as regional and national commercials and industrial films.

SUSAN KOVITZ (*Fran*) made her long overdue IT debut in the 2009 LEAVING IOWA and followed it with the world premiere of LOOK MA WE'RE DANCING, MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD, and BAKERSFIELD MIST. She was most recently seen in the critically acclaimed I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES and SHEAR MADNESS. Some of Susan's favorite productions include OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS, THE FIFTH OF JULY, LEND ME A TENOR, 6 RMS RVR VU, and DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER. A former high school drama and art teacher, she has also appeared in nearly 100 interactive murder mysteries where she variously died, killed someone, or brought a murderer to justice. A B.F.A. graduate of Rockford College, Susan also studied at Regents College in London. When not on stage, Susan is... on stage - teaching aerobics and fitness classes at Canyon Ranch.

SUSAN CLAASSEN (*Sylvia*) is kicking off her 42nd anniversary with IT. As Managing Artistic Director, she has produced over 400 productions and directed over 90 including SHEAR MADNESS (MAC award Nominee for comedy director) and most recently I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES. Suz was nominated for the 2011 LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award and BroadwayWorld LA Award as Best Actress for her portrayal of Edith Head in A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD (www.edithhead.biz). She was most recently seen as Olive in IT's OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS (MAC Award Winner). Suz was selected as one of Arizona's "48 Most Intriguing Women", is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women and has been a clown in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade since 2001. She has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 1969 and dedicates her work to the living memory of her beloved mother, Goldie.

JACK NEUBECK (*Bert*) is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. After nearly 20 years in and around New York City, and over 2500 performances on Broadway, including the original Broadway casts of EVITA and LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, Jack moved to Tucson in 1986 and became part of the IT family in 1989 playing El Gallo in THE FANTASTICKS. He has been a treasured member of the IT family ever since, performing in such favorites as LOST IN YONKERS, COOKIN' WITH GUS, THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND, IN THE MOOD, THE FOX ON THE FAIRWAY, OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS, SHEAR MADNESS and most recently DEELMAYKER. Two of his proudest IT highlights were his collaborations with Susan Claassen and Jeffrey Haskell in ONCE AND FOREVER, a musical tribute to Irving Berlin, and the startup of SIZZLING SUMMER SOUNDS.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

FRED RODRIGUEZ is a graduate of the University of Arizona. His background is in Stage Management, but he did direct the highly successful, MAC Award nominated STEEL MAGNOLIAS for Arizona Onstage Productions. IT is thrilled to have Fred back as he is a treasured member of the ensemble having stage managed PAGEANT, FOREVER PLAID, WHEN PIGS FLY, ALWAYS...PASTY CLINE and LOST IN YONKERS. Some other memorable stage management work includes: AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY with Winding Road Theater Ensemble, LES MISERABLES, with Arizona Onstage Productions, A TUCSON PASTORELA with Borderlands Theater and VISITING MR. GREEN with Live Theater Workshop. Fred most recently directed IT's LOOKING FOR MAGIC and co-directed DEELMAYKER and I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES.

JAMES BLAIR (*Director/Set/Light Design*) is IT's appreciated Associate Artistic Director and "Renaissance Man". Some of his most memorable performances were in THE IMMIGRANT, ACCOMPLICE, COOKIN' WITH GUS, CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM, MIRACLES and LOOK MA WE'RE DANCING. Some favorite set and light designs were ACCOMPLICE, MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS, LETTERS TO SALA, IN THE MOOD, THE FOX ON THE FAIRWAY, SHEAR MADNESS and DEELMAYKER. In addition, James recently directed OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS and has designed for Desert Voices, The Waterfront Playhouse, The Red Barn Theatre in Key West and The University of Arizona. James is technical director for the national and international touring company of A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

FRED CARMICHAEL

With his wife Patricia, Fred Carmichael owned and operated the Caravan Theatre at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vermont, for twenty-seven seasons from 1949 to 1975. The Playhouse saw the premier performances of several of his plays. When Fred and Patricia Carmichael retired in 1975, the Dorset Playhouse became the home of the American Theatre Workshop led by Jill St. Charles. Fred began his career in the theatre as an actor in his teens with the Clare Tree Major performing group where he performed in PETER PAN. Throughout his career Fred performed as an actor in many plays. He soon became a playwright, and his work is handled by Samuel French publisher. He wrote over 50 plays, including ANY NUMBER CAN DIE, and DOUBLE IN DIAMONDS. It was once said about his plays that "No play by Fred Carmichael is ever what it appears for longer than 30 seconds or until the laughter starts to die on the last joke." After years of touring and summer stock theatre, Fred and Pat decided to have their own theatre. They were active year round in the entertainment business doing Off Broadway and television and produced several seasons of winter stock in Pinehurst, N.C. Fred also wrote historical dramas for Old Sturbridge Village.

FACTS ABOUT COMING APART

WHO:

Written by: Fred Carmichael

Directors: James Blair and Fred Rodriguez

Starring: David Alexander Johnston (Colin), Susan Kovitz (Fran), Susan Claassen* (Sylvia), and Jack Neubeck* (Bert)

* Members of Actors' Equity Association

WHAT:

The Arizona Premiere of COMING APART

WHERE:

The Invisible Theatre

1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman), Tucson, AZ. 85719

WHEN:

Season Ticket Holders will be seated first and then general admission.

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:30 pm (Preview)

Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm (Opening)

Thursday, September 8, 2016, at 7:30 pm

Friday, September 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 3:00 pm

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Friday, September 16, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 3:00 pm

Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 3:00 pm

RUNNING TIME:

2 hours with an intermission

PRODUCTION STAFF:

DIRECTORS: James Blair and Fred Rodriguez

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: James Blair

SET DESIGN: Susan Claassen and James Blair

LIGHT DESIGN: James Blair

PROP DESIGN: Dea Young-Smith

COSTUME DESIGN: Maryann Trombino

STAGE MANAGER: Fred Rodriguez and James Blair

GRAPHIC & PROGRAM DESIGN: Karen Scott & Christine Simpson, Great Scott Design, Inc

TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR INFORMATION:

To charge tickets by phone, call our Box Office at (520) 882-9721.

You may also visit the Box Office in the Invisible Theatre Lobby (1400 N First Avenue at Drachman).

To buy tickets online 24/7, go to www.invisibletheatre.com and click on the Ovationtix logo.

Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS:

The Invisible Theatre is fully accessible to patrons using wheelchairs or with other mobility challenges.

Seating areas to accommodate persons using wheelchairs are located in the theatre. If patrons require special seating they should inform the Box Office at (520) 882-9721.

ABOUT THIS PRESS RELEASE:

This mailing list is for members of the professional media and allied organizations who have requested e-mail press releases from The Invisible Theatre. If you no longer wish to receive e-mail press releases or if there is someone else with your organization that should be added to our list, send a message to cathy@invisibletheatre.com or phone Alayna at (520) 884-0672 with your request.

ONLINE MEDIA MATERIALS:

Photos will be available August 19, 2016 at www.invisibletheatre.com (Press).

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