



INVISIBLE THEATRE - PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Invisible Theatre continues its 48th Anniversary Season

with the Arizona premiere of

DANCING LESSONS

by

Mark St. Germain

February 5* – 17, 2019

***Tuesday low cost preview**

(January 17, 2019, Tucson, Arizona); Invisible Theatre continues its 48th Anniversary Season with **DANCING LESSONS** by Mark St. Germain. This romantic comedy features Tucson favorites Samantha Cormier and Damian Garcia who are both making their Invisible Theatre debut. Directed by Susan Claassen, **DANCING LESSONS** tells the story of two people who live in the same NYC building two floors apart and have never exchanged a word or a nod. Ever, a young man and professor with Asperger's Syndrome, seeks the instruction of a Broadway dancer to learn enough dancing to survive an awards dinner. The dancer, Senga, however, is recovering from an injury that may stop her dancing career permanently. As their relationship unfolds, they are both caught off-guard by the discoveries that they make about each other and about themselves. This unlikely duo finds a connection that is filled with heart and humanity.

**This production is made possible in part through
the generous support of Mary Ann Stubbs**

"DANCING LESSONS goes beyond the conventions of a romantic comedy
To an enthralling evening ... totally absorbing ... brilliantly conceived ..."

-BroadwayWorld.com



DANCING LESSONS by Mark St. Germain will play from February 5* - 17, 2019 with the official press opening on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30 PM. A low cost preview (\$20) takes place on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:30 PM. The Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman), Tucson, AZ 85719.

The single show ticket price for **DANCING LESSONS** is \$35. 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 on-line through OvationTix at www.invisibletheatre.com.

The running time is 90 minutes without an intermission.

DANCING LESSONS is appropriate for ages high school and up (mature audiences).

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 48th 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 PEOPLE

MARK ST. GERMAIN (*Playwright*); Mark St. Germain's play FREUD'S LAST SESSION ran for two years Off-Broadway, closing July 24, 2012. The play has been open in Argentina since January 2012 and in repertory in Sweden, Australia, and Denmark. His play BECOMING DR, RUTH premiered in July 2012 at the Barrington Stage Company in the Berkshires, played at Hartford Theaterworks, and was brought to NYC to the Westside Theatre. SCOTT AND HEM IN THE GARDEN OF ALLAH co-premiered in the summer of 2013 at the Contemporary American Theater Festival and Barrington Stage Company. His play THE BEST OF ENEMIES, first produced by the Barrington Stage Company, is now being produced throughout the country. THE FABULOUS LIPITONES, a musical comedy co-written with John Markus, premiered at the Theatrical Outfit in 2013, and then at Goodspeed Playhouse. Mark's other plays include CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM (Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Awards), EARS ON A BEATLE, THE GOD COMMITTEE, OUT OF GAS ON LOVER'S LEAP, and DANCING LESSONS (premiered at the Barrington Stage Festival). Mark wrote the Tammy Wynette musical STAND BY YOUR MAN, which began at the Ryman Theater in Nashville. With composer Charles Strouse, he co-wrote the book for his adaptation of Dreiser's AMERICAN TRAGEDY. With composer Randy Courts, Mark has written the perennial musical THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI as well as JOHNNY PYE AND THE FOOL KILLER (AT&T Award Grant) and JACK'S HOLIDAY (Playwrights Horizons). Television work includes Writer/Creative Consultant for *The Cosby Show* and Dick Wolf's *Crime and Punishment*. He co-wrote director Carroll Ballard's film *Duma* and produced and directed the documentary *My Dog, An Unconditional Love Story* with Richard Gere, Glenn Close, Edward Albee and others. Mark also wrote the award winning children's book "Three Cups". Mark is an Associate Artist of the Barrington Stage Company, a recipient of the William Inge Festival's New Voices Award, and a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Writer's Guild East. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists.

DAMIAN GARCIA (*Ever*) is thrilled to be making his IT debut and IT is thrilled to have him! Tucson born and bred, Damian developed a passion for theatre from a young age and went on to graduate from Pima Community College with his Associate's in Fine Arts: Theatre Concentration. While at Pima, Damian performed in 13 shows including; THE MANDRAKE, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, THE LARAMIE PROJECT, THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, THE JUNGLE BOOK, INHERIT THE WIND and CURTAINS. More recently, Damian has worked with Roadrunner Theatre Company, The Community Players, Winding Road Theatre Ensemble and Something Something Theatre Company. Some of Damian's favorite roles include Roland in CONSTELLATIONS, Gerard Castle in PERFECT TIMING, Matt/The Boy in THE FANTASTICS, Billy Bibbit in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST and Male Ensemble in BE MY BABY. When not on stage, Damian works as a barista, enjoys reading, movies and researching whatever's on his mind. He hopes to continue to pursue a professional career in acting. He can next be seen in Something Something's upcoming production of SWITZERLAND.

SAMANTHA CORMIER (*Senga*) is making her long overdue Invisible Theatre debut and IT is delighted to have her! She holds an M.F.A. in Performing Arts from SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) and a B.F.A. in Directing/Theatre Production from the University of Arizona. She has performed and directed in theatres from New York to Savannah to your favorite theatres in Tucson including The Gaslight Theatre/Music Hall, Live Theatre Workshop, Arizona Onstage Productions and The Rogue Theatre. Favorite shows directed/choreographed: FOREVER PLAID, YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN, GODSPELL, NUNSENSE, THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES and SNOOPY!!! THE MUSICAL (MAC Award Nomination, Best Director). Favorite roles include: Babette in (sic), Princess Fiona in SHREK THE MUSICAL, Corrie in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, Winnifred in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, Columbia in THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (MAC Award Nomination, Best Actress), and Frankie in VOICE OF THE PRAIRIE (MAC Award Winner, Best Actress). She has been a theatre instructor for over 12 years including Stagedoor Manor in New York.

SUSAN CLAASSEN (*Director/Producer/Designer*) continues her 44th anniversary with IT. As Managing Artistic Director, she has produced well over 400 productions and directed over 90 including SHEAR MADNESS (MAC award Nominee for comedy director), BLACK PEARL SINGS and most recently, THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKY. 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 seen as Olive in IT's OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS (MAC Award Winner) and last season as Hettie in MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON. Suz was selected as one of Arizona's "48 Most Intriguing Women", is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women, was a "Notable Person" for Tucson Lifestyle, 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.

FACTS ABOUT DANCING LESSONS

WHO:

Written by Mark St. Germain

Director: Susan Claassen

Cast: Samantha Cormier and Damian Garcia

WHAT:

The Arizona Premiere

WHERE:

The Invisible Theatre

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

WHEN:

Season Ticket Holders are seated first, followed by general admission.

Tuesday	February 5, 2019 at 7:30 PM	<i>(Preview)</i>
Wednesday	February 6, 2019 at 7:30 PM	<i>(Opening)</i>
Thursday	February 7, 2019 at 7:30 PM	<i>(Seminar)</i>
Friday	February 8, 2019 at 7:30 PM	
Saturday	February 9, 2019 at 3:00 PM	
Sunday	February 10, 2019 at 3:00 PM	
Wednesday	February 13, 2019 at 7:30 PM	
Thursday	February 14, 2019 at 7:30 PM	
Friday	February 15, 2019 at 7:30 PM	
Saturday	February 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM	
Saturday	February 16, 2019 at 7:30 PM	
Sunday	February 17, 2019 at 3:00 PM	

RUNNING TIME:

90 minutes with no intermission

AGE RECOMMENDATION:

High School and up (mature audiences)

PRODUCTION STAFF:

DIRECTOR: Susan Claassen

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: James Blair

SET AND DESIGN: Susan Claassen and James Blair

PROP DESIGN: James Blair

LIGHT DESIGN: James Blair

SOUND DESIGN: Rob Boone, Gail Fitzhugh and Susan Claassen

COSTUME DESIGN: Maryann Trombino

CHOREOGRAPHER: Katherine Byrnes

STAGE MANAGER: Diana Knoepfle

GRAPHIC & PROGRAM DESIGN: Karen Scott - 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:

Production photos will be available after January 24, 2019 at www.invisibletheatre.com (Press).

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