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## Second Thought Theatre Announces 2018 Season with Three Area Premieres

**DALLAS (August 8, 2017)** – On the heels of closing a successful 13<sup>th</sup> season, Second Thought Theatre Artistic Director Alex Organ announced details for the company’s 2018 season today. The new season adds a fourth production for the first time since 2013 and is comprised of three area premieres and one world premiere. Play selections include “a work of total fiction” taking place during the 2008 New Hampshire Democratic primary, a committed couple resorting to a miracle drug to regain their capacity for empathy, a city planner fighting for the safety of a town that doesn’t want his help, and a provocative ensemble piece that exposes the incongruities of being a woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Season subscription and ticket information for STT’s 2018 season is available online at [2TT.co](http://2TT.co).

The 2017 season saw STT tackle several new initiatives, beginning with initiating the transition to becoming an Actors Equity Association (AEA) “Small Professional Theatre” (SPT). This transition increased weekly compensation rates for union artists and allowed STT to begin offering health insurance eligibility to AEA members. “2017 was a year of exciting growth for STT,” said Organ. “I’m enormously proud of the three plays we produced, and we continue to be encouraged by fruitful discussions during our talkback series. We were particularly honored to partner with Community Conversation Dallas for the first time for some of those talkbacks. We were also thrilled to carry on our tradition of offering “pay-what-you-can” ticketing for 30% of our performances – something that remains very important to us.”

Their successful season was also reflected in fundraising efforts, leading to the increase in programming for the 2018 season.

The season begins with Lucas Hnath’s *Hillary and Clinton*, the story of a woman named Hillary trying to become president of the United States. Set during the 2008 New Hampshire primary, audiences may think they know what happens next, but in Hnath’s play these characters aren’t necessarily the people you’ve seen on the news, and the outcome isn’t necessarily what you might expect. STT alum Lee Trull (*Belleville*, *The Midwest Trilogy*) will direct.

Following *Hillary and Clinton*, Carson McCain (*The Great God Pan*) returns to direct *Empathitrax* by Ana Nogueira. In an unnamed city in the not-so-distant future, two unnamed people are struggling to make their 10-year relationship work, so they decide to give new miracle drug Empathitrax a try. Now able to experience their partner’s feelings through touch, they seem to be back on track – until one of them stops taking their Zoloft. STT alum Jenny Ledel and Director of Operations Drew Wall are back together on stage for the first time since 2015’s *Belleville* in this compelling look at what happens when big pharma tries its hand at empathy.

Next is the world premiere of *Enemies/People*, a new play by local playwright/actor/director and SMU professor Blake Hackler. A loose, modern adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s *An Enemy of the People*, *Enemies/People* tells the story of Tom Stockmann, an urban planner determined to shut down his town’s new hot springs attraction because he believes the water has been poisoned by fracking. But the town Mayor – who is also Tom’s brother – has the people on his side and will let nothing – not even facts – get in the way of the town’s monetary success, even if it means silencing his brother for good. Hackler’s play *The Necessities* closed STT’s 2017 to critical and audience acclaim. STT Artistic Director Alex Organ takes the stage as Tom, and Hackler will direct.

The fourth and final show of the season is Alice Birch's subversive new play ***Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.*** Birch's play explores how language and other forces have influenced the modern day female experience through a series of short conversations between women and men and women and other women. Led by Tiffany Nichole Greene, making her STT directorial debut, an ensemble of actors to probe into what happens when rebellious women take over the conversation and do what's least expected of them.

Second Thought Theatre's 2018 season will be presented as follows: ***Hillary and Clinton*** (Jan. 10 – Feb. 3); ***Empathitrax*** (March 28 – April 21); ***Enemies/People*** (June 13 – July 7); and ***Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.*** (Aug. 22 – Sept. 15). All performances will take place at Bryant Hall next door to the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.

To learn more about STT's 2018 season or how to purchase season subscriptions or single tickets, please visit [2tt.co](http://2tt.co). Season subscriptions can also be purchased by phone at 1-866-811-4111.

**ABOUT SECOND THOUGHT THEATRE:**

Second Thought Theatre (STT) provides an intimate and unique theatrical experience by empowering top local theater artists to take risks, and by showcasing writers who boldly tackle the difficult and demanding questions of our rapidly changing world.

## 2018 Season Lineup

Production information subject to change

### ***Hillary and Clinton***

by Lucas Hnath

Directed by Lee Trull

Jan. 10 – Feb. 3, 2018

She was destined for this. She had prepared her entire life for this. And yet, one fateful New Hampshire evening in January 2008, she sees it all beginning to slip through her fingers. Exhausted but not yet discouraged, with spirits, funds, and poll numbers all on the decline, the woman who would be president finds herself questioning, for the first time, whether her dream will ever become her reality. Director Lee Trull (*Belleville*) returns for *Hillary and Clinton*, "a work of total fiction" about a woman named Hillary, a man named Bill, and the distance between who we are and who we're meant to be.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews – Wednesday 1/10 and Thursday 1/11*

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 1/12**

*Regular Performances – Saturday 1/13, 1/20, 1/27; Thursday 1/18, 1/25, 2/1; Friday 1/19, 1/26, 2/2*

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances – Monday 1/15, 1/22, 1/29*

*Closing Performance – Saturday 2/3*

### ***Empathitrax***

by Ana Nogueira

Directed by Carson McCain

Featuring STT Alum Jenny Ledel and Director of Operations Drew Wall

March 28 – April 21, 2018

What if repairing a broken relationship was as easy as taking a pill? For one couple, a new drug that allows them to experience exactly what the other is feeling could be their miracle cure. However, complications arise when medical advice is ignored, secrets are revealed, and one person's struggle with depression threatens to consume two people. Directed by Carson McCain (*The Great God Pan*) and featuring STT artists Jenny Ledel

and Drew Wall, *Empathitrax* is a compassionate, humorous, and unflinchingly honest portrait of a relationship that dares to test the limits of intimacy.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews* – Wednesday 3/28; Thursday 3/29

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 3/30**

*Regular Performances* – Saturday 3/31, 4/7, 4/14; Thursday 4/5, 4/12, 4/19; Friday 4/6, 4/13, 4/20

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances* – Monday 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

*Closing Performance* – Saturday 4/21

## ***Enemies/People***

June 13 – July 7, 2018

a world premiere written and directed by Blake Hackler

Loosely adapted from *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen

Tom, an intrepid urban planner, suspects that a new city-sponsored hot springs project may be more dangerous than the local government is willing to admit. But when Tom speaks out against the project, he is met with resistance from several unexpected sources. The divide between right and wrong proves to be anything but black and white, and Tom finds himself risking everything for a town that doesn't seem to want his help. Second Thought continues its commitment to local playwrights with this thrilling world premiere play, written and directed by Blake Hackler (*The Necessities*). Loosely adapted from Ibsen's classic political drama, *An Enemy of the People*, and starring STT Artistic Director Alex Organ, *Enemies/People* is a timely world-premiere about the search for truth in the age of alternative facts.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews* – Wednesday 6/13 and Thursday 6/14

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 6/15**

*Regular Performances* – Saturday 6/16, 6/23, 6/30; Thursday 6/21, 6/28, 7/5; Friday 6/22, 6/29, 7/6

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances* – Monday 6/18, 6/25, 7/2

*Closing Performance* – Saturday 7/7

## ***Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.***

Aug. 22 – Sept. 15, 2018

by Alice Birch

Directed by Tiffany Nichole Greene

To be a woman in the twenty-first century is to experience - and to embody - a world of contradictions. To express them all in one play is impossible. But, we're going to do it anyway! Work, relationships, family, sex, and power intersect as one daring group of actors turns everything you thought you knew directly on its head. Language is inverted, bodies are distorted, men are banished, and nothing is sacred in a bold, provocative, riotous play like nothing Dallas has ever seen before. Helmed by Tiffany Nichole Greene, making her STT directorial debut, *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* is nothing short of revolutionary.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews* – Wednesday 8/22 and Thursday 8/23

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 8/24**

*Regular Performances* – Saturday 8/25, 9/1, 9/8; Thursday 8/30, 9/6, 9/13; Friday 8/31, 9/7, 9/14

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances* – Monday 8/27, 9/3, 9/10

*Closing Performance* – Saturday 9/15