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## Second Thought Theatre Announces 2020 Season and Leadership Transition

**DALLAS (September 30, 2019)** – Along with the announcement of the shows comprising their 16<sup>th</sup> season, Second Thought Theatre announced this morning that Artistic Director (AD) Alex Organ will transition out of his leadership position at the end of 2020. Organ's sixth season as AD will include one world premiere, one area premiere, and two classics. Season subscription and ticket information for STT's 2020 season is available online at [secondthoughttheatre.com](http://secondthoughttheatre.com).

Prior to Organ's promotion to AD in late 2014, STT's previous leadership structure included artistic ensembles and dual artistic directors. As the only single Artistic Director in Second Thought's fifteen-year history, Organ led the organization through tremendous artistic success and financial growth. Major initiatives launched under his leadership include the adoption of Actors Equity Association (AEA) "Small Professional Theatre" status, which allows STT to provide increased wages and health insurance eligibility to AEA members. In 2018, the company also returned to producing four-show seasons. With a focus on producing new and challenging work, his six-year term will see the production of 22 plays, including 15 regional premieres and four world premieres by Dallas-based playwrights.

"I am incredibly proud of the work we've produced over the last five seasons and the strides we've taken toward cultivating local artists," said Organ. "Second Thought has provided me with an artistic home for over half a decade – a rare and remarkable privilege in this business. A tenure of six years feels right, and I am pleased to leave STT in a position of strong artistic and financial health. Second Thought has a bright and vital future in our artistic community, and I'll be excited to continue my work here as a visiting director, actor, or designer. I can't wait to see what the new Artistic Director brings to the table."

Joshua D. Terry, STT's Board President also sees a bright future for the organization. "We have made tremendous strides under Alex's leadership and will always be grateful for his exceptional vision and talent. Because of the artistic and financial strengths that we have built with him, STT will continue to grow and make meaningful, impactful art for years to come," said Terry. Plans are already in motion to identify Organ's replacement. Additional details on that and the future of the company will be available in 2020.

The 2020 season begins with *Mlima's Tale* by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage (*Sweat, Ruined*). Ancient and legendary African elephant, Mlima, is struck down and his massive tusks stolen as trophies. His ghost is ever-present as the tusks change hands many times and travel the world from Kenya, to Vietnam, to Beijing. Set against the backdrop of the black market ivory trade, the play explores complex questions of global consumerism, ancestral history, and human greed. Tiana Kaye Blair will direct in her STT debut.

After three immensely successful world premieres of his plays in as many years, STT Artistic Associate Blake Hackler returns to direct the Tennessee Williams classic *A Streetcar Named Desire*. When Blanche Dubois suddenly arrives in the French Quarter of New Orleans to visit her sister, Stella, she appears to be running from something. The power struggle that unfolds between Blanche and her brother-in-law, Stanley, threatens to reveal dark secrets in her past and shatter the illusions she's created around her life. Widely considered to be among the top tier of great American plays, *A Streetcar Named Desire* maintains its poignancy seventy years after its groundbreaking premiere. The role of Stella will be performed by STT Artistic Associate Jenny Ledel.

Next, **Sweetpea** by Janielle Kastner marks the company's fourth world premiere by a Dallas-based playwright since 2016. A couple moves back in together. They fall apart. Their pet birds move into separate cages. They fall in love. Pecking, nesting, and mating ensue. Sweet until it's dark, funny until it's sinister, cozy until it's incestuous, *Sweetpea* explores the (im)possibility of intimacy and the absurdity of sharing space. Rising director Carson McCain (*Empathitrax*, *The Great God Pan*) returns to direct.

The fourth and final show of the season is Samuel Beckett's classic absurdist tragicomedy **Endgame**. In the wake of some unexplained apocalyptic and catastrophic event, Hamm and his servant, Clov, continue the same impotent and stale routine from day to day. Yet Beckett invites us to discover humor and comedy in the face of their hopelessness, despair, and even certain death. Directed by Alex Organ and featuring Blake Hackler and STT Director of Operations Drew Wall, *Endgame* dares us to stare into the abyss at what it means to simply exist... and perhaps what it means to *not*.

Second Thought Theatre's 2020 season will be presented as follows: **Mlima's Tale** (Feb. 19 – March 14); **A Streetcar Named Desire** (May 20 – June 13); **Sweetpea** (July 22 – August 15); and **Endgame** (Sept. 16 – October 10). All performances will take place at Bryant Hall next door to the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3400 Blackburn Ave.

To learn more about STT's 2020 season or how to purchase season subscriptions or single tickets when they go on sale, please visit [secondthoughttheatre.com](http://secondthoughttheatre.com). 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.

# 2020 Season Lineup

Production information subject to change

## ***Mlima's Tale***

by Lynn Nottage

Directed by Tiana Kaye Blair

Feb. 19 – March 14, 2020

Ancient and legendary African elephant, Mlima, is struck down and his massive tusks stolen as trophies. His ghost is ever-present as the tusks change hands many times and travel the world from Kenya, to Vietnam, to Beijing. Set against the backdrop of the black market ivory trade, and written by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner, Lynn Nottage (*Sweat; Ruined*), ***Mlima's Tale*** explores complex questions of global consumerism, ancestral history, and human greed. Tiana Kaye Blair directs, in her STT debut.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews – Wednesday 2/19 and Thursday 2/20*

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 2/21**

*Regular Performances – Saturday 2/22, 2/29, 3/7; Thursday 2/27, 3/5, 3/12; Friday 2/28, 3/6, 3/13*

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances – Monday 2/24, 3/3, 3/9*

*Closing Performance – Saturday 3/14*

## ***A Streetcar Named Desire***

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by STT Artistic Associate Blake Hackler

May 20 – June 13, 2020

Blanche Dubois suddenly arrives in the French Quarter of New Orleans to visit her sister, Stella, but she appears to be running from something. The power struggle that unfolds between Blanche and her brother-in-law, Stanley, threatens to reveal dark secrets in her past and shatter the illusions she's created around her life. Directed by STT Artistic Associate, Blake Hackler, and widely considered to be among the top tier of great American plays, ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** maintains its poignancy seventy years after its groundbreaking premiere. Featuring STT Artistic Associate Jenny Ledel as Stella.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews – Wednesday 5/20; Thursday 5/21*

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 5/22**

*Regular Performances – Saturday 5/23, 5/30, 6/6; Thursday 5/28, 6/4, 6/11; Friday 5/29, 6/5, 6/12*

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances – Monday 5/25, 6/1, 6/8*

*Closing Performance – Saturday 6/13*

## ***Sweetpea***

A World Premiere by Janielle Kastner

Directed by Carson McCain

July 22 – August 15, 2020

A couple moves back in together. They fall apart. Their pet birds move into separate cages. They fall in love. Pecking, nesting, and mating ensue. Sweet until it's dark, funny until it's sinister, cozy until it's incestuous, ***Sweetpea*** explores the (im)possibility of intimacy and the absurdity of sharing space. Carson McCain (*Empathitrax; The Great God Pan*) returns to direct this world premiere production from Dallas playwright, Janielle Kastner.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews – Wednesday 7/22 and Thursday 7/23*

**PRESS OPENING – Friday 7/24**

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

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances – Monday 7/27, 8/3, 8/10*

*Closing Performance – Saturday 8/15*

# ***Endgame***

Sept. 16 – Oct. 10, 2018

By Samuel Beckett

Directed by STT Artistic Director Alex Organ

In the wake of some unexplained apocalyptic and catastrophic event, Hamm and his servant, Clov, continue the same impotent and stale routine from day to day. Yet master absurdist Samuel Beckett invites us to discover humor and comedy in the face of their hopelessness, despair, and even certain death. Directed by Artistic Director, Alex Organ, and starring STT mainstays Blake Hackler and Drew Wall, ***Endgame*** dares us to stare into the abyss at what it means to simply exist... and perhaps what it means to *not*.

*Pay-What-You-Can Previews – Wednesday 9/16 and Thursday 9/17*

***PRESS OPENING – Friday 9/18***

*Regular Performances – Saturday 9/19, 9/26, 10/3; Thursday 9/24, 10/1, 10/8; Friday 9/25, 10/2, 10/9*

*Additional Pay-What-You-Can Performances – Monday 9/21, 9/28, 10/5*

*Closing Performance – Saturday 10/10*