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October 6, 2015

For Immediate Release

Salt Lake Acting Company Presents

TRIBES

By Nina Raine

"When I learnt sign and Sylvia took me and I met people – I didn't want to leave. I fit. I belong with them. When I leave – I'm alone again. I'm not hearing, so stop pretending I am."

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC) proudly presents the winner of the 2012 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, **TRIBES by Nina Raine, running October 21 – November 15, 2015.**

Billy, born deaf into a hearing family, has adapted brilliantly to his family's unconventional ways. Unfortunately, they've never returned the favor. Home from university, Billy finds himself once again under the roof of his boisterous parents, alongside his brother Daniel who is suffering from depression, and his sister Ruth, an aspiring opera singer. Billy is constantly fighting to be heard in his family's unending battle of wit. When he meets Sylvia, a young woman on the brink of deafness, Billy embarks on a journey to define his voice, finally understanding what it means to be understood. As Billy grapples with discovering who he is and what tribe he belongs to, the audience is faced with questions about the meaning of belonging, community and family.

Director Andra Harbold says: "Raine's choice of TRIBES as the title evokes an ancient and primal sense of territory and beliefs: who you belong to, who protects you from "them," and who and what belongs to you. Add to that a modern, idiosyncratic family who pride themselves on not falling into step with the common horde. TRIBES wrestles with huge questions of communication, identity, and empathy in such a personal way – it can be at once intensely funny and intensely painful. There are also moments that take your breath away. At its core, TRIBES is about love – both its ties that bind and its power to transform us."

Salt Lake Acting Company has the pleasure of welcoming Stephen Drabicki, a hard-of-hearing actor from New York City who has played the character Billy in many theaters across North America. Having been part of so many productions of TRIBES, Stephen says of SLAC's production: "Salt Lake Acting Company has welcomed me with open arms and has shown me what a tight-knit, professional, yet enjoyable group they are. Their resolve to cast authentically serves the play and its intent, and it is great to see theatre practitioners going out of their way to hire interpreters and seek to include the deaf and hard-of-hearing in their work, both onstage and off."

SLAC is proud to be working with local ASL specialists Britton Aumon and Carol MacNicholl, and interpreters Maggie Smith and Emily Longshore.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Art Access

SLAC maintains an active gallery to showcase and sell the work of local visual artists in rotating exhibitions inspired by productions on our stage. This season, SLAC is proud to partner with Art Access for our Green Room exhibitions. Art Access provides equal opportunities to inclusive arts programming for Utahans with disabilities and those with limited access to the arts. During the run of TRIBES, audiences will have the chance to enjoy artwork created by local deaf artists: Benjamin Davis, Jennifer Deily, and Dawn Oughton.

WHO'S WHO

DIRECTOR

Alexandra Harbold earned her Masters at the University of London Goldsmiths College and her Bachelors in Theatre at Middlebury College. Previously at SLAC, Harbold acted in TWO STORIES, CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION, SIX YEARS, and ICE GLEN; and directed (A MAN ENTERS) and THE PERSIAN QUARTER. Most recently, she directed TWELFTH NIGHT for Salt Lake Shakespeare; upcoming projects include: directing CLIMBING WITH TIGERS, SLAC's partnership with Flying Bobcat Theatrical Laboratory and the Red Fred Project; The Grand Theatre's PICNIC; dramaturging PTC's AN INSPECTOR CALLS; and acting in Pygmalion's REMINGTON & WEASEL. Harbold is Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Flying Bobcat and an Adjunct Instructor of Theatre at the University of Utah. She is thankful to & for the whole tribe of TRIBES.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Austin Archer is happily returning to Salt Lake having recently moved to NYC because he's a crazy person. Previous SLAC credits: Haemon in TOO MUCH MEMORY, James Monroe in BLOODY, BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON, The Cat in THE CAT IN THE HAT, Duck in CLICK CLACK MOO, Sharktooth in HOW I BECAME A PIRATE, five seasons with SATURDAY'S VOYEUR as Nephi Jensen (and other characters), and several appearances in the NPSS. Other Utah credits include Pioneer Theatre: Leaf Coneybear in THE 25TH... SPELLING BEE, Prentiss in PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, Loudon Downey in A FEW GOOD MEN, Phantom in THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, Utah Rep: Mark in RENT, Hunter in (title of show). This, as always, is for my family.

CAST

Stephen Drabicki* (Billy) is thrilled to join Salt Lake Acting Company for this production of Nina Raine's award-winning Tribes. He received critical acclaim as Billy in the Canadian premiere at Canadian Stage in Toronto, and has since also performed the role with Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, ON, Capital Stage in Sacramento, CA, and Artist's Repertory Theater in Portland, OR. Off-Broadway: According to Goldman (TBTB), The Merchant of Venice (TBTB), the premiere of A.R. Gurney's The Interview (Theatre Row, The Kennedy Center) and The Public Theater's reading of Sound is Vibration opposite Uzo Aduba. Other New York City credits include The Lincoln Center Songbook Series, New York Deaf Theater, Blessed Unrest, The Drilling Company, and The Association of Musicians with Hearing Loss. Regional: Signstage on Tour, Flat Rock Playhouse, Goodtimes Theater. A native of Asheville, NC, he holds a double B.A. in Theatre and Studio Art from Berea College (KY) and is an alumnus of the ABC/Disney Television Diversity Casting Showcase. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association and is represented by Abrams Artists Agency and KPA. Stephen sends his love to family and friends, and is excited to hike Utah's gorgeous mountains!

Paul Kiernan* (Christopher) is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association. He received his MFA in acting/directing from Brandeis University in Boston. He is an actor, writer, director with over 30 years experience. He has worked in regional theaters and classical theater companies all over the country as well as film, television, radio, theme parks, (writer, performer, director for Walt Disney World for ten years). He has taught acting and stage combat at Yale University, Boston College, Harvard University, Brandeis University, The University of Utah and the University of Las Vegas, Reno.

Alison Lente (Ruth) is thrilled to be working with Salt Lake Acting Company on TRIBES. She graduated from Westminster College in 2012 with a degree in Arts Administration and currently lives and works in Salt Lake City. Her latest projects were BEHOLD, ZEBULON with Open Crate Productions and THE WEYWARD SISTERS with PYGmalion Theater Company as part of the first Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival. Other recent credits

include: Becca in RABBIT HOLE (Utah Repertory Theatre Company), Mandy in TIME STANDS STILL (Pinnacle Acting Company), Shelby in STEEL MAGNOLIAS (WJTA), Tricia in DOG SEES GOD (Silver Summit Theatre Company), and The Page-to-Stage Festival (Wasatch Theatre Company). Collegiate credits include: Elizabeth-SPEAKING YOUR PIECE: A MOSAIC OF SURVIVAL, Ronda-ALMOST MAINE, Claire-RUMORS, Hannah-THE SPITFIRE GRILL, Bridget-CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL, and Mother-HANDS OF SODOM.

Sarah Shippobotham (Beth) is a Professor in Acting, Dialects and Voice at the University of Utah as well as the Head of the Actor Training Program there. Sarah trained as an actor at The Welsh College of Music and Drama in Wales before gaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Voice Studies from The Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Recent acting credits include: Ann Putnam and Sarah Good in THE CRUCIBLE for Pioneer Theatre Company; the Adult Women in SPRING AWAKENING at the U of U; THE SYRINGA TREE for Utah Contemporary Theatre, and Vivian Bearing in W;T for the U of U. Dialect and Voice coaching credits include fourteen seasons with the renowned Shaw Festival (Canada) and Pioneer Theatre Company where she has coached shows including ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER and THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA. 2011/12 Sarah spent 7 months in New Zealand working as Additional Dialect Coach on The Hobbit films. Sarah has directed many shows for the U of U Theatre Department including: ROMEO & JULIET, 'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE, HAY FEVER, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, RING ROUND THE MOON AND THE DUCHESS OF MALFI.

Matthew Sincell* (Daniel) is delighted to be making his SLAC (and Utah) debut with TRIBES. After 10 years in New York City, he made his way westward and hasn't looked back. He has worked regionally and internationally in both theatre and film. Some past experiences include a UK premier and London West End transfer of Shakespeare's R & J, an international artistic residency with The Globe Theatre, three seasons with The American Shakespeare Center, guest artist and teacher at West Virginia University, a handful of independent films, and a former member of Blessed Unrest, one of NYC's longest running Off-Broadway companies.

Amy Ware (Sylvia) is a recent graduate of Westminster College with her degree in Arts Administration. She is very excited and honored to be performing in such an amazing piece of work here at Salt Lake Acting Company. Previous performances she has been in include: STRANGERS, LOVERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS as part of the Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival as Annie/Joan; GODSPELL at Westminster College as Amy (Learn Your Lessons Well); TEMPEST at Westminster College as Spirit; HECUBA with the Classical Greek Festival as Polyxena; THREE SISTERS at Westminster Collage as Irina; FAME at the Grand Theater as a dancer; and the one-act POST-ITS at Westminster College as the Actress. She sends much thanks and love to her family and friends for always supporting her through all her endeavors.

DESIGN TEAM

Set Design – Shawn Fisher
Costume Design – Phil Lowe
Lighting Design - James M. Craig
Sound Design – Shea Madson
Projections – Alex Thedell
Dialect Coach – Adrienne Moore
ASL Specialists – Britton Aumon, Carol MacNicholl
Dramaturg – David Kranes
Stage Manager – Janice Jenson*
Assistant Stage Manager – Trevor Wilson

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

WHO:

Salt Lake Acting Company

WHAT:

TRIBES

By Nina Raine

WHEN:

October 21 – November 15, 2015

Wednesdays – Saturdays @ 7:30 p.m., Sundays @ 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Additional performances:

Tuesday, November 3rd & November 10th @ 7:30 p.m.Saturday, November 7th & November 14th @ 2:00 p.m.**WHERE:**

168 West 500 North

Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

MORE INFO:

Salt Lake Acting Company

168 West 500 North, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103

Box Office: 801-363-7522

Open 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Mon – Fri

www.saltlakeactingcompany.org

Single tickets range from \$15 – \$42, depending on the performance.

Student, Senior and 30 & Under discounts are available.

Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more.

Subscribers always pay the lowest price.

ABOUT SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC)'s mission is to engage and enrich community through brave contemporary theatre. Founded in 1970, SLAC is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 professional theatre dedicated to producing, commissioning, and developing new works and to supporting a community of professional artists. SLAC has been nationally recognized by the Shubert Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Edgerton Foundation, among others. SLAC operates under a SPT Actors Equity Association contract and is a Constituent Member of Theatre Communications Group (a national organization for non-profit professional regional theatres), and the National New Play Network (a national alliance of non-profit professional theatres that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays).