January 30, 2018

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Tara Wibrew, Associate Producer

Telephone: 541-684-6988 x204

Email: tara@octheatre.org

**Oregon Contemporary Theatre Presents World Premiere Comedy by Portland Playwright,**

**Andrea Stolowitz’s *Successful Strategies*, Starring Storm Kennedy & William Mark Hulings**

***February 23 – March 11, 2018***

**EUGENE, OREGON –** Oregon Contemporary Theatre starts spring early with the world premiere of ***Successful Strategies***, a romantic comedy by two-time Oregon Book Award-winner and Portland-area playwright Andrea Stolowitz, directed by Elizabeth Helman and starring William Mark Hulings and Storm Kennedy. ***Successful Strategies*** opens February 23rd, 2018, and runs through March 11th, 2018. All performances are at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, located at 194 W. Broadway in downtown Eugene. Tickets are available online at [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or by calling (541) 465-1506.

Inspired by the Marivaux farce of the same name, ***Successful Strategies*** follows seven characters who hilariously dismantle their love relationships while desperately trying to save them. Vineyard owners Susan (Storm Kennedy) and Hugh (William Mark Hulings) are no strangers to difficult grape harvests, but this year will be the most challenging yet. Their marriage is on the rocks; the neighboring land has been purchased by Silicon Valley transplants John and Misty (Shawn Bookey and Erica Towe), whose botched construction plans have blocked the only road to the winery; and their youngest daughter, Natasha (Sabrina Gross), is bringing her French exchange-student boyfriend (Joel Ibáñez) to meet the family. Emotions flow as freely as Willamette Valley pinot noir as they each attempt to figure out just how to make love stay. ***Successful Strategies*** explores the terroir of love and wine-making in a uniquely Oregonian way.

“Love, laughter, and pinot noir is a great antidote to the end of winter in the Willamette Valley. We hope OCT audiences will join us as we leap into spring with this world premiere farce,” said OCT Producing Artistic Director Craig Willis.

Storm Kennedy and William Mark Hulings star in ***Successful Strategies***, supported by an ensemble of OCT veterans: Shawn Bookey (*Middletown*), Sabrina Gross (*Middletown*), Joel Ibáñez (*Middletown*), Erica Towe (*Middletown, The Revolutionists*), and Al Villanueva (*A Christmas Carol*). The artistic team for ***Successful Strategies*** includes director Elizabeth Helman, scenic designer Steen V. Mitchell, sound and projection designer Gabe Carlin, props designer Taylor Freeman, costume designer Shelbi Wilkin, and lighting designer Justin Feimster. Jennifer Sandgathe is the production stage manager.

Andrea Stolowitz (*Playwright)* is a Portland-based playwright whose plays have been developed and presented nationally and internationally at theaters such as The Long Wharf, The Old Globe, The Cherry Lane, and New York Stage and Film. The*LA Times* calls her work “heartbreaking” and the *Orange County Register* characterizes her approach as a “brave refusal to sugarcoat issues and tough decisions.” Andrea’s play *Berlin Diary* premiered at English Theater Berlin/International Performing Arts Center in October 2016 and Portland’s Hand2Mouth Theatre Company in April 2017. The play was developed at PlayPenn/The National Museum of American Jewish History and the New Harmony Project. *Berlin Diary* is currently touring nationally and internationally. Her other plays include *Ithaka* (winner of the Oregon Book Award in drama 2015), *Antarktikos* (world premiere Pittsburgh Playhouse), and *Knowing Cairo* (world premiere Old Globe Theatre, San Diego). You can learn more about her work at [www.andreastolowitz.com](https://www.octheatre.org/www.andreastolowitz.com%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Andrea is the Lacroute Playwright-in-Residence at [Artists Repertory Theater](http://www.artistsrep.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) where she has just received a new play commission. She is a member of [New Dramatists](http://www.newdramatists.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) class of 2024 and a core member at [The Playwrights Center](https://pwcenter.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Andrea works as a collaborating writer with the award-winning devised theater company [Hand2Mouth](http://www.hand2mouththeatre.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). An MFA playwriting alumna of UC-San Diego, Andrea currently serves on the faculty at Willamette University and has previously held positions at The University of Portland, Duke University and UC-San Diego.

Pay-What-You-Can preview performances for ***Successful Strategies*** are February 21st and February 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now an Oregon Contemporary Theatre’s website, [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org). Tickets may also be purchased at (503) 465-1506 or by visiting the OCT Box Office at 194 W Broadway.

###

**Performance Calendar**

 Wednesday Feb. 21 7:30 pm – Preview Performance

(Pay-What-You-Can, suggested $15 – general admission)

Thursday Feb. 22 7:30 pm – Preview Performance

(Pay-What-You-Can, suggested $15 – general admission)

 Friday Feb. 23 7:30 pm – $35; Opening Night/Post-Show Reception

 Saturday Feb. 24 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

Thursday Mar. 1 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Friday Mar. 2 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Saturday Mar. 3 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Sunday Mar. 4 2:00 pm - Tickets starting at $20; Talk-Back After the Performance

 Thursday Mar. 8 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Friday Mar. 9 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Saturday Mar. 10 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Sunday Mar. 11 2:00 pm - Tickets starting at $20; Talk-Back After the Performance

Discounts are available for current students with student ID. For more information, visit [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org) or call the OCT Box Office at (541) 465-1506.