



**For Immediate Release**

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## **American Stage Releases Plans for Second Half of 2020-2021 Reimagine Season**

### ***2021 Brings a Return to In-Person Performances***

**St. Petersburg, FL** - One year after American Stage was forced to shutter its theatre in response to COVID-19, the 44-year old Tampa Bay professional theatre company is continuing to innovate to provide programming, community connection and arts education. The first half of American Stage's 2020-2021 Reimagine season has included a series of diverse digital productions delivered to audiences throughout Tampa Bay and around the country. As ongoing health and safety considerations evolve, the company is announcing programming plans for the remainder of the 20-21 Season. The season continues to look different than any other in American Stage's history, as programming is brought to audiences and the community in a new and reimaged way.

Onsite performances are planned for a return in 2021, beginning in May with unique outdoor, Pop-Up! entertainment. These events will employ the highest of safety standards, including masks and social distancing, to protect performers, staff, artists and audiences.

"This spring and summer, beginning with Pop-Up! Performances in May followed by 'Romeo & Juliet' in Williams Park and our annual Summer Theatre programs, the American Stage team is ready and very excited to begin to carefully return to onsite performances. By employing high safety standards to protect performers, staff, artists and audiences, and through creative approaches to content and staging, our goal is to begin to restore the joy of joining together for live performance experiences." said CEO/Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte.

The company's annual Tampa Bay area outdoor tradition American Stage in the Park and Gala Under the Stars will be postponed to Spring 2022. These are the largest events that American Stage produces each year, with a team of over 300 artists, technicians, staff, trustees, vendors and volunteers and more than 20,000 attendees coming together at Demens Landing.

"Postponing American Stage in the Park for one more year was a very tough decision for the staff and trustees," Gularte said. "While we are incredibly eager to move forward with 'Park' and 'Gala,' we feel confident that a return in the Spring of 2022 will provide American Stage and our community the opportunity to restore to something resembling normalcy and to celebrate this Tampa Bay tradition in its full glory."

American Stage is grateful for the community's support to sustain its position as Tampa Bay's leading professional theatre over the last 365 days, and has many more powerful stories to share in the coming year. To accomplish this goal, the company is launching the **365 Days of Innovation**

**& Resilience Campaign**, and is encouraging audiences to contribute at [americanstage.org](http://americanstage.org), or by texting REIMAGINE4ALL to 44-321.

**Scheduled programming for the remainder of the 20-21 REIMAGINE Season:**

**Limited Pre-Recorded Preview Performance of “The People Downstairs”**

**March 29 - April 4, 2021**

As American Stage announces their plans for the remainder of the 20-21 season, they also reflect on the last live performance presented on their stage. On March 12, 2020, audiences and artists joined together for the final preview performance of Natalie Symons’ poignant family comedy, “The People Downstairs.” Now, American Stage Members are invited to virtually step back into the theatre for this funny, heartwarming play that is still awaiting its world premiere opening. **This very special recorded performance of the last production presented to a live audience will be made available to American Stage Members only.** Patrons can still become Members by visiting [americanstage.org/membership](http://americanstage.org/membership)

**Adult Spring Classes**

**April 2021**

American Stage Education classes ignite artistry, cultivate community, and empower personal growth through improv training and theatre classes for adults. Whether curious about the artform, or interested in pursuing it professionally, classes are available for all levels. Outdoor sessions of “Improv Reboot” and “Live, Laugh, Improv!” are back this April, as well as more virtual course options.

**Pop-Up! Performances**

**May 2021**

American Stage’s Pop Up! Performances offer safe and socially-distanced live entertainment around the community, including at St. Pete’s exciting new creative arts destination, The Factory St. Pete. Digital and intimate members-only performances will also be offered on our Virtual Stage. These “Pop Ups!” will include talented performers taking the stage for a fun celebration of the joy of coming together through the magic of live performance.

**American Stage Summer Theatre Programs**

**June 21 - August 6, 2021**

American Stage camp sessions are now open for enrollment! Studying theatre not only helps students become accomplished and confident performers and communicators, it also strengthens creative, intellectual and emotional growth. Seven sessions run for seven weeks and include topics like “Hit Songs from Hamilton!”, “Around the World: Dance & Shout”, “Muppet Mayhem”, “Sketch Comedy” and more! All experience levels are welcome, and financial aid is available. Visit [americanstage.org/summer](http://americanstage.org/summer) to enroll.

## **“Romeo & Juliet (The One with The Happy Ending)”**

### **Summer 2021 at Williams Park**

This bold and modern retelling of Shakespeare’s most romantic tragedy imagines how two young lovers, caught in the middle of their feuding families, might meet a different fate. Through party crashing, street fights and clandestine encounters, the plot twists and turns toward a stunning new conclusion where love may just conquer all. **As part of American Stage’s ongoing accessibility and Next Generation initiatives, anyone under 20 years of age can watch this outdoor production for free.**

### **21-22 Season Announcement**

#### **Summer 2021**

American Stage will announce plans for the 21-22 Season as well as welcome the company’s new Producing Artistic Director.

### **American Stage Improv: Return of the Laughs!**

#### **August 2021**

American Stage Improv is back! Celebrate the joy of live comedy, creative collaboration, and impromptu storytelling in a day and night filled with fun and life-affirming laughter! This one-day, safe and socially-distanced extravaganza brings together favorite local long form, short form and musical improv talent. Attendees will enjoy workshops during the day, and a collection of lively performances in the evening.

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## **AMERICAN STAGE**

American Stage Theatre operates as a non-profit 501(C)(3) in the heart of St. Petersburg, Florida, providing live theatrical productions as a professional regional equity theatre since 1977. As Tampa Bay’s longest-running, most critically-acclaimed professional theatre company, our vision is to be a vital arts leader, connecting our community to world-class productions that celebrate the most powerful stories of the moment and the most defining stories from our past.

American Stage’s year-round accessible programming brings the power of quality live theatre to each generation. 2020 marked the launch of the Virtual Stage and Academy, providing continued community engagement and learning opportunities for audiences and students of all ages through live streaming performances and classes. American Stage believes that through the telling of dynamic stories, theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives.

**Powerful Stories. Boldly Told.**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**



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