FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release Date: July 23, 2018
Kill Date: September 15, 2018

Move over, ‘Annie.’ There’s a new girl in town, and she’s ‘Ruthless!’

Olympia, WA – July 23, 2018 – Harlequin Productions will present Joel Paley and Marvin Laird’s smash off-Broadway musical Ruthless! – The Stage Mother of all Musicals, this August 16 through September 15 in at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Aaron Lamb, Associate Artistic Director, will direct. Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at 360-786-0151, or in-person at the Harlequin Productions Box Office, open 12-6pm Tues-Friday at the State Theater, 202 4th Ave E, Olympia WA, 98501.

Eight-year-old Tina Denmark was born to be a star. Nothing, and no one, is going to stand in her way… except maybe her mother. A send-up of high-camp classics like ‘Gypsy’, and a parody of ‘The Bad Seed’ and ‘All About Eve,’ this musical farce is fast, furious and loaded with charm. In Harlequin’s production, the cast of eight over-the-top female roles are played by six actors (five female and one male), many of whom are both Olympia locals and Harlequin first-timers.

Aaron Lamb. Associate Artistic Director for Harlequin Productions, will direct. This season, Lamb has directed Three Days of Rain and I Am My Own Wife. In ten seasons as an actor and director with Harlequin he has also directed August: Osage County, Hedda Gabler, Time Stands Still, Middletown, and Five Women Wearing the Same Dress. As an actor, he most recently appeared last season, as Gary Essendine in Noel Coward’s Present Laughter. Lamb has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He was awarded a Seattle Critics (Footlight) Award for his work as Lord Goring in An Ideal Husband at Taproot Theatre, and the Memphis Critics (Ostrander) Award for Best Actor for his work as Jerry in The Full Monty at Playhouse in the Square. He holds an MFA in acting from California State University, Fullerton and a BA from Washington State University.

The cast includes 11-year-old Aubrey Thomas (5th Avenue’s The Sound of Music, Seattle Children’s Theatre’s Shrek), Charlotte Darlington (Saint Martin’s University’s Urinetown), Eleise Moore (Harlequin Production’s First Date), Gregory Conn (Harlequin Productions’ Jesus Christ Superstar), Martha Kathryn Smith (ACT Theatre’s The Wolves), and Janette Oswald (Harlequin Productions’ August: Osage County).

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE
Post-show Talkback: Sunday, August 26, 2018 at 2:00pm
Pay-What-You-Can: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 8:00pm
Ladies’ Night Out: Friday, August 24, 2018 at 8:00pm
Pride Night: Friday, August 31, 2018 at 8:00pm
Move over, ‘Annie.’ There’s a new girl in town, and she’s ‘Ruthless!’

WHAT: Harlequin Productions will present Joel Paley and Marvin Laird’s smash off-Broadway musical *Ruthless! – The Stage Mother of all Musicals*, this August 16 through September 15 at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Eight-year-old Tina Denmark was born to be a star. Nothing, and no one, is going to stand in her way… except maybe her mother! Eleven-year-old Aubrey Thomas (5th Avenue’s *The Sound of Music*) leads the cast of this hilarious send-up of high-camp Broadway classics. A parody of the films ‘The Bad Seed’ and ‘All About Eve,’ this musical farce is fast, furious and loaded with charm. In Harlequin’s production, the cast of eight over-the-top female roles are played by six actors (five female; one male), many of whom are both Olympia locals and Harlequin first-timers.

WHEN: August 16 – September 15, 2018 · Thurs/Fri/Sat, 8:00pm; Sun matinees, 2:00pm; Pay-What-You-Can Wed August 22, 8:00pm

Dates to note:
Opening Night: Thursday, August 16, 8:00pm

WHERE: State Theatre, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at 360-786-0151, or in person 12-6pm, Tues-Friday at the Harlequin Box Office in the State Theater.

General admission tickets are $42.
Senior 60+/Military $38
Student/Youths Under 25 $25
Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) $20; $15 Senior/Military/Student/Under 25

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance.

CAST
Aubrey Thomas  Tina Denmark
Charlotte Darlington  Judy Denmark/Ginger del Marco
Gregory Conn  Sylvia St. Clair
Eleise Moore  Miss Thorn/Miss Block
Martha Kathryn Smith  Louise Lerman/Eve
Janette Oswald  Lita Encore

PR: Ashley Chandler, Box Office Manager, 306-786-0151 x101 or ashley@harlequinproductions.org