



**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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> 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** (5<sup>th</sup> 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** (5<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [harlequinproductions.org](http://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	<i>Tina Denmark</i>
Charlotte Darlington	<i>Judy Denmark/Ginger del Marco</i>
Gregory Conn	<i>Sylvia St. Clair</i>
Eleise Moore	<i>Miss Thorn/Miss Block</i>
Martha Kathryn Smith	<i>Louise Lerman/Eve</i>
Janette Oswald	<i>Lita Encore</i>

**PR:** Ashley Chandler, Box Office Manager, 306-786-0151 x101 or [ashley@harlequinproductions.org](mailto:ashley@harlequinproductions.org)