



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Harlequin honors Stardust legacy, restages first Holiday show 'The 1940s Radio Hour'**

**Olympia, WA** – November 7, 2018 – Harlequin Productions has changed the first show of its 2019 season to remount the first Holiday show ever produced by the theater, Walter Jones' *The 1940s Radio Hour*, November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Acting Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct and music direct, with Maggie Doyle as assistant director.

*Join us as we return to the 1940s, to the show that inspired and launched the Stardust series. Performed at Harlequin in 1993, The 1940s Radio Hour was the first Holiday show produced on our stage. Grab the family and join us for a holiday tradition that is sure to invoke many memories from our 22 years of Stardust!*

*The time: Monday, December 21, 1941*

*The place: The studios of WOV, a 5,000-watt local New York City radio station in the Hotel Astor*

*The people: A rag-tag band of working-class entertainers - these are real people with second jobs and real stories to tell*

*The story: A live broadcast of "The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade," a weekly variety show*

*Immerse yourself in the spirit of that bygone era when the world was at war and pop music meant "Strike Up the Band" and "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy." A harassed producer copes with his drunk lead singer, the delivery boy wants a chance in front of the mike, the second banana dreams of singing a ballad, and the percussion player must choose between a fighter plane and Glenn Miller.*

*In a twist on the standard format, the show begins before the curtain rises. The audience will see the pre-show process, giving them a chance to meet the actors as well as the characters they play on the radio.*

*Says Lamb, "What's so fun about watching radio theater is that you get to hear the story being told, but you also get to see what's actually happening. If you close your eyes in the audience, you'll get a completely different experience. Imagine hearing a Pepsi commercial, then opening your eyes to see that the actress is drinking a Coke. Radio is about what you hear, but what you hear isn't necessarily what's really happening. So try closing your eyes for 5 minutes when you come to see the show."*

*Assistant Director Maggie Doyle is a Stardust veteran who has played Joy Higgsby in Stardust shows for the past 6 seasons. Of the opportunity to assistant direct this show, she*

says, "Stardust is a Christmas tradition cherished by the Olympian community and one I hold closely to my heart. I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of Stardust than to go back to the story that inspired it all. Having performed in Stardust for the past 6 seasons at Harlequin Productions, I am excited to bring the "Stardust magic" we have all fallen in love with to The 1940s Radio Hour."

**Aaron Lamb**, Acting Artistic Director for Harlequin Productions, will direct and music direct. This season, Lamb has directed *Three Days of Rain*, *I Am My Own Wife* and *Ruthless!* 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 holds an MFA in acting from California State University, Fullerton and a BA from Washington State University.

The cast includes **Bruce Haas** (4 Stardust productions including *The Stardust Christmas Fandango*), **Xander Layden** (*The Art of Racing in the Rain*; 2 Stardust productions), **Miguel Pineda** (*The Stardust Christmas Fandango*; *Rock N' Roll Twelfth Night*), **Edsonya Charles** (*The Stardust Christmas Commotion*), **James Dean** (*The Stardust Christmas Enchantment*), **Christie Murphy-Oldright** (*The Stardust Christmas Fandango*; *First Date*), **Nathan Rice** (*Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*), **Carolyn Willems Van Dijk\*** (*First Date*), **Gerald Browning** (*The Love List*), and **Andy Garness** (5 Stardust productions including *The Stardust Christmas Fandango*)

**WHAT:** Harlequin presents *The 1940s Radio Hour*, Harlequin's first Holiday show and the inspiration for the *Stardust* series, written by Walter Jones and directed by Aaron Lamb.

**WHEN:** November 29 – December 31, 2018

**WHERE:** State Theater, 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 and 2 hours before performances at the Harlequin Box Office in the State Theater.

General admission tickets are \$49

Senior 60+/Military \$45

Student/Youths Under 25 \$25

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) General \$30; Senior/Military/Student/Under 25 \$20

**SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:**

**Opening Night:** Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 8:00pm

**Pay-What-You-Can:** Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 8:00pm

**Ladies' Night Out:** Friday, December 7, 2018 at 8:00pm

**Post-show Talkback:** Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 2:00pm

**Pride Night:** Friday, December 14, 2018 at 8:00pm

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** All Ages

**CAST:**

Gerald Browning	<i>"Pops" Bailey</i>
Nathan Rice	<i>Lou Cohn</i>
Bruce Haasl	<i>Clifton Feddington</i>
Edsonya Charles	<i>Ann Collier</i>
Andy Garness	<i>Bif Baker</i>
Carolyn Willems Van Dijk*	<i>Connie Miller</i>
James Dean	<i>Johnny Cantone</i>
Christie Murphy-Oldright	<i>Ginger Brooks</i>
Miguel Pineda	<i>B.J. Gibson</i>
Xander Layden	<i>Wally Fergusson</i>

**PR:** Ashley Chandler, Box Office Manager, 306-786-0151 x103  
or [ashley@harlequinproductions.org](mailto:ashley@harlequinproductions.org)

\* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association.

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