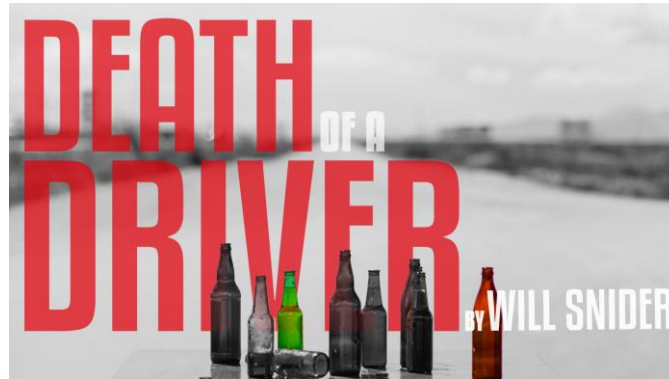


For Immediate Release



**SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY LAUNCHES HISTORIC 49TH SEASON WITH UTAH
PREMIERE OF DEATH OF A DRIVER**

Prior to an acclaimed Off-Broadway debut, Will Snider's politically-charged drama was originally workshopped through the 2018 SLAC Playwrights' Lab

[SALT LAKE CITY, UT, AUGUST 27, 2019] - Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC), Utah's leading destination for brave, contemporary theatre, presents the Utah premiere of **DEATH OF A DRIVER** by **Will Snider**. The political thriller, helmed by **Alexandra Harbold** (THE WOLVES, HAND TO GOD), runs in SLAC's Chapel Theatre September 11 – October 20, 2019.

When Sarah, an American engineer, moves to Kenya to build a road that will shape the country's future, her charismatic African driver, Kennedy, becomes her first employee and trusted friend. But when a dispute over a local election lands him in jail, she questions the integrity of their alliance. DEATH OF A DRIVER is a sharp political drama about the complexities of "doing good" abroad.

DEATH OF A DRIVER receives a full production after being selected by SLAC for its 2018 Playwrights' Lab. "By 2017 *Death of a Driver* was dead. I wrote the first draft three years earlier and sent it to theaters hoping it would get a production. It didn't. So I moved on..." explains playwright Will Snider. "Then, just before Christmas 2017, I got an email from [Salt Lake Acting Company] inviting me to Utah. SLAC was hosting writers to work on plays without the pressure of a final presentation. They called it the Playwrights' Lab."

Snider continues, "We were given a week in a room with a team of collaborators to do whatever we thought the play needed...We worked through the script scene-by-scene and staged it in several configurations. All the while I got feedback from [SLAC's Executive Artistic Director] **Cynthia Fleming**, [Utah-based playwright] David Kranes, and other Lab artists and made adjustments to the final scenes. By the end of the week, the play was back to life - it went on to have a world premiere starring Patrick in New York earlier this year. And now it's come home to Utah, to the place responsible for its rebirth."

Reprising their roles from the lab production are **Cassandra Stokes-Wylie** (Sarah) and **Patrick J. Ssenjovu** (Kennedy/Man). Stokes-Wylie appeared most recently in SLAC's Chapel Theatre during last season's A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY UNIT AT MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER OF NEW YORK CITY and Ssenjovu makes his official SLAC debut after appearing in DEATH OF A DRIVER'S world premiere at Urban Stages.

"*Death of a Driver* spans nearly twenty years through storytelling that moves with an electric connection and velocity. We're drawn into the bond of trust and friendship at the play's heart, as it's influenced by the political forces surrounding the two characters," said the production's director Alexandra Harbold. "It is thrilling to have Cassie and Patrick reuniting in *Death of a Driver*, and I am so thankful that we have the opportunity to build on the foundational work they created in the 2018 Playwrights' Lab."

Joining Harbold on the creative team are **Shawn Fisher** (set design), **Kerstin Hallows** (costume design), **William Peterson** (light design), **Jason Jensen** (sound design) and **William Richardson** (stage manager)

DEATH OF A DRIVER runs September 11 through October 20. Tickets can be obtained via tickets.saltlakeactingcompany.org, in person at the SLAC box office, or by calling 801.363.7522.

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TICKETING INFORMATION

September 11 through October 20, 2019

Wednesdays – Saturdays @ 7:30 p.m., Sundays @ 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Additional performances: September 21 @ 2pm, September 24 @ 7:30pm, October 1 @ 7:30pm, October 12 @ 2pm

Ticket cost: \$15-46

Group, student, and 30 & under discounts are available by calling or visiting the SLAC box office.

VENUE INFORMATION

Salt Lake Acting Company – Chapel Theatre
168 West 500 North, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103

Box Office: 801-363-7522

Open 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Mon – Fri

www.saltlakeactingcompany.org

PRESS CONTACT

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801.363.7522

ABOUT SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY

Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC)'s mission is to engage and enrich community through brave contemporary theatre. Founded in 1970, SLAC is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 professional theatre dedicated to producing, commissioning, and developing new works and to supporting a community of professional artists. SLAC has been nationally recognized by the Shubert Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Edgerton Foundation, among others. SLAC operates under a SPT Actors Equity Association contract and is a Constituent Member of Theatre Communications Group (a national organization for non-profit professional regional theatres), and the National New Play Network (a national alliance of non-profit professional theatres that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays). For more information, visit saltlakeactingcompany.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DEATH OF A DRIVER Press Kit

Production photos available in early September

CAST & CREATIVE

CAST

Sarah – Cassandra Stokes-Wylie*

Kennedy/Man – Patrick Ssenjovu*

CREATIVE

Director: Alexandra Harbold

Scenic Design: Shawn Fisher**

Costume Design: Kerstin Hallows

Lighting Design: Jason Jensen

Assistant Scenic Designer: Tommy Jennings

Stage Manager: William Richardson*

***Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States**

****The set designer of DEATH OF A DRIVER is represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 of the IATSE.**