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**STAGEStheatre Kicks Off Season With**

**JM Barrie’s *Dear Brutus* Jan 12th-Feb 11th**

Fullerton, CA—STAGEStheatre is proud to kick off our new season with JM Barrie’s ***Dear Brutus*** directed by Alexis Stary January 12th-February 11th. It’s 1917, and a group of strangers have been invited to a midsummer’s eve gathering at the estate of an elusive and mysterious man. The strangers all have something in common, but none know what that could be. When a magical wood miraculously appears just outside the sitting room window, the guests find themselves compelled to enter. What happens there has the power to change their lives forever. From J. M. Barrie, the celebrated writer of Peter Pan comes this haunting, darkly humorous, drama of self-revelation, ***Dear Brutus*** is Barrie at his most magical.

“***Dear Brutus*** has held a special place in my life,” says director Alexis Stary, “***Peter Pan*** was always one of my favorite stories as a child. I fell in love with the way Barrie described the worlds of his characters and his ability to inspire the same imagination in his readers. ***Dear Brutus*** captured my heart after doing a high school production of it where I became enamored with the characters. Each has flaws and strengths that make them unique and honest. One of my favorite things about the play is that there is no real "moral of the story." By the end, we don't walk out of the theater feeling like things were wrapped up in a neat little bow. We leave the characters in a state of limbo; we leave each of them to figure out what to do with the information they've gleaned through their experiences in the wood. That's life, though, isn't it? We don't often get to have our futures laid out perfectly. We learn about ourselves, and then it's up to us to make use of that information.”

Playwright JM Barrie was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland in 1860. He is best remembered today as the creator of Peter Pan, the boy who refused to grow up. The play ***Peter Pan; or, The Boy Who Wouldn’t Grow Up*** was first produced in December 1904 at the Duke of York’s Theatre. It triumphed, transferred to Broadway the following year, and has received frequent revivals and adaptations in a variety of media ever since. Many of Barrie’s other great plays have been eclipsed by its huge success – ***Quality Street*** (1901), ***The Admirable Crichton*** (1902), ***What Every Woman Knows*** (1908), and ***Dear Brutus*** ***(***1917) – are of indisputably high quality and remain ripe for revival.

Starring in ***Dear Brutus*** are: Paul Burt, Andy Clark, Scarlett Clark, Jason Cook, Georgia Davis, John Francis, Kerri Hellmuth, Stephen Kouri, Judy Mina-Ballard, Elizabeth Rodriguez and Jamie Sowers.

Tickets for ***Dear Brutus*** are $22.00, $20.00 for students and seniors.  Performances are January 12th- February 11th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.  There is no show Sunday February 4th. For reservations please visit our website at [www.stagesoc.org](http://www.stagesoc.org/)

*About* ***STAGEStheatre****: Celebrating its 25th  year in business, STAGEStheatre is one of Orange County’s most innovative community theaters.*  *It produces nearly 15 productions annually, showcasing local playwriting, acting, and directing talent.*  *STAGEStheatre is, and will continue to be, dedicated to the development of the artist.*   *It is located at 400 E. Commonwealth in Downtown Fullerton (between Lemon and Balcom).*