For Immediate Release February 1, 2018

Contact: Mo Arii

Phone: (714) 900-9353 cell

STAGEStheatre: (714) 525-4484

Website: [www.stagesoc.org](http://www.stagesoc.org)

Email: publicity@stagesoc.org

Superheroes And Sex Reign Supreme in the World Premiere of ***Suprema*** at **STAGEStheatre’s** March 9-30th

Fullerton CA—**STAGEStheatre** is proud to present the world premiere of Phil Keeling’s new play ***Suprema***, directed by Chris Mertan, running March 9-30th. It’s 1940, and celebrated psychologist William Moulton Marston has decided that he wants to create a comic book heroine who stands for valor and love in a world dominated by men and war. Over the course of a single evening, Marston, his wife Elizabeth, and their lover Olive must convince DC Comics executive Max Gaines of the value of such a heroine while downplaying their own unorthodox lifestyle.

“When was the last time you saw an honest-to-goodness new comedy?” director Chris Mertan asks. “These days, you look up the latest critically acclaimed funny stuff and it’s all so...dour. Where’s the sillies, the goof’ems, the chuckle clusters? Call them whatever you want, but we’re starving for jokes. Take our current year and it seems to make sense. It often feels like the world is on fire, with our continued debates over gender and sexual norms, social propriety or lack thereof, and the inescapable glower of superhero blockbusters that dominate the cultural landscape. Our art reflects our serious times.

Playwright Phil Keeling takes our collected 21st century angst and dishes back something different — a refreshing, silly comedy about superheroes, feminism, BDSM, polyamory, pie, and a paean for the unorthodox called Suprema. This fractured screwball farce winds the clock back to 1940, another year the world was on fire, and the birth of the first female superhero. Even then, we were having these same conversations. And filtered through screwball comedy, we find new appreciation and community in the struggle for progress.

***Suprema*** also fulfills a critical function for the arts: new and original work. We long to experience the thrill of discovery again, without feeling the regurgitations of tired stories and characters. **STAGEStheatre** has long championed the new and burgeoning for the visceral sake of entertainment itself. It’s the lifeblood on which new ideas perpetuate, commingle, and blossom into welcomed surprises.

This production comes to **STAGEStheatre** with the ribald anarchy that celebrates our own times, reflected and refracted through the lens of pop culture history. And plenty of jokes. Don’t forget the jokes!”

Playwright Phil Keeling is a writer and comedian from Savannah, Georgia. After years focusing on stand up comedy, he has returned to his roots as a playwright with a new outlook on humor, satire, and the importance of the absurd.

Phil Keeling has seen his plays produced by the 13th Street Repertory, the Theater By The Grove, and the Masquers Theatre Troupe Of Armstrong

Starring in ***Suprema*** are: Jessica Taylor Gable, Michael Kaye, Pat Minnion, and Mary Sherg.

Tickets for ***Suprema*** are $24.00, $22.00 for students and seniors. Performances are March 9th- March 30th, Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. For reservations please visit our website at [www.stagesoc.org](http://www.stagesoc.org)

About **STAGEStheatre**: Celebrating its 27th 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).

##