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**STAGEStheatre to Present Two New Original One Act Plays *The Paper Hangers* and *Deanna and Paul***

Fullerton, *CA--* STAGEStheatre is proud to present two one act original plays ***The Paper Hangers and Deanna and Paul*** written by Emily Brauer Rogers and Dagney Kerr and directed by Jill Cary Martin and Brenda Kenworthy opening March 7th and running through March 21st. In ***The Paper Hangers*** a new mother, Me, is overwhelmed. Brought to the countryside by her husband for rest and recuperation, the woman instead finds herself drawn to the verdant beauty beyond her window, yet is haunted within her isolated room by visions of who and what she might become. Based upon Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper,” The Paper Hangers takes a modern look at one woman’s struggle to deal with postpartum depression when society, her husband, and her mother expect the new mother to embrace motherhood and domesticity. Her attempt to reconcile this struggle may restore her, or may cost her everything. In ***Deanna and Paul,*** Deanna’s a quirky waitress with a strict no tipping policy. Paul’s a surly customer with a tight lid on his heart. Their lonely worlds collide one day in a small-town diner, where one cup of coffee can change everything.

Director Jill Cary Martin says of ***The Paper Hangers***, “I was both delighted, intrigued, and challenged by the material, which is based upon a rather well-known, oft-discussed short story that has been acclaimed as psychological horror, feminist tract, and literary condemnation of the treatment of women suffering and the societal norms that entangle women in damaging ways. That story, “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is decidedly interior, a single narrator secretly journaling her story as she descends into the cryptic pattern of the Yellow Wallpaper. Brauer Rogers’ choice is to create a character of the wallpaper, Yellow. Another character represents the countryside, and it is the interaction between them that traces the woman’s path toward recovery or ultimate madness. Staging her exchanges with Yellow present the greatest challenge to show those entanglements discerned in the patterns of the wallpaper.   
   
Ultimately, ***The Paper Hangers*** seeks to reconcile the disparate demands of society over a woman’s personhood, and if she will be the one who finally gets to determine the rules of her own existence. Hopefully our audience will contemplate a solution to the woman’s madness, or perhaps, the madness of society.

Emily Brauer Rogers hails from Indiana and graduated from USC for her MFA in Dramatic Writing. She's had five full-length plays produced as well as optioned ***Romeo, Juliet, and Rosaline*** to Amazon Studios with her writing partner, Koji Sakai. ***The Paper Hangers*** was developed at Project La Femme and the Curtis Theatre's Page to Stage, AboutFace's Newvember Playwrights Festival, and Woven's The Loom.

Brenda Kenworthy, director of ***Deanna and Paul***, says, “In these trying times, it’s Deanna’s optimism that captures my attention first. She encounters the closed-off Paul and, in her relentless hopefulness, she keeps banging on the door to his self-imposed imprisonment. Both characters, having hit a wall in attempting to communicate, ruminate on the nature of the other and try to piece together how they might fit into that opposing, yet tantalizing, world.

I find it bracing to watch these polar opposites reach out from their isolation to connect with one another. They each have a need to find a lost commonality and they bravely confront their own fears to do so. What better message for our world today?”

Dagney Kerr is a Los Angeles-based actress and writer who has guest-starred and recurred on countless TV shows, appeared in national commercials, and performed on LA stages from the Broadwater to the Geffen Playhouse.

Her plays have been featured in numerous national festivals and competitions, winning Best Original Script, Audience Favorite, and Excellence in Playwriting Awards, among others.

***Deanna and Paul*** recently received the Women Playwrights Initiative Award, by Ivoryton Playhouse (CT) and had its world premiere at the Gallery Players Theatre in Brooklyn.

Presented at the 2019 ***Page to Stage*** festival at the Curtis Theatre, in partnership with Project La Femme.

***The Paper Hangers and Deanna and Paul*** stars: Loralee Barlow Boyes, Heather Enriquez, Jeremy Krasovic, Holland Renton, and Carly S. Taylor.

Showtimes for ***The Paper Hangers and Deanna and Paul*** are Saturday March 7 at 5:00 p.m. Sunday March 8 at 2:00 p.m. Saturday March 14 at 5:00 and Sunday March 15th at 5:30, Saturday March 21st at 2:00 and 5:00. Tickets are $24.00, $22.00 for students and seniors. For reservations, visit our website at www.stagesoc.org

About STAGEStheatre: Celebrating its 28th 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).​

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