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**Come choose how the West is won in *The Magnificent Revengers* at the University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance June 7-11, 2017**

**Gainesville, Fla., May 24, 2017** – Playwright **Matt Cox** and director **Kristin McCarthy Parker** will be returning to the University of Florida to premiere their latest collaboration, *The Magnificent Revengers in...A Choose Your Own Tragedy—A Comedy!* Set in the latter days of the Wild West, *The Magnificent Revengers* invites audiences to make decisions that steer the course of the play with implementation of new technology, called Panza, which will bring the audience face to face with choices that affect the play. Tony Award-winning producer and UF alumnus, **John Arthur Pinckard**, along with **David Carpenter** of Tilted Windmills Theatricals, will produce the play in collaboration with the UF School of Theatre + Dance. Pinckard, Parker, Cox, and the rest of the creative team return to UF for a five-week residency to develop the script and staging and gauge how audiences react to this innovative form of “interactive” theatre. Performances on campus will take place June 7-11, 2017 in the Black Box Theatre in the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. June 7-9, 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. June 10, and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, 2017.

“Using new interactive technology, we’re creating an experience in which the audience has an active hand in crafting the characters’ journey,” said Parker, the director of *The Magnificent Revengers*. “Taking inspiration from revenge tragedies and classic Westerns, this project is an exciting venture into a wholly unique theatrical experience.”

UF Business alumnus **Ed Cox**, CEO of EveryStory, and corporate partner and video game industry veteran **Dave Keene**, are working closely together with the *Revengers* creative team to create revolutionary technology called Panza, which will allow the audience to be a part of creating a unique theatrical experience.



School of Theatre + Dance actors (from left) Katie Haeuser, Nicole Cannon and Nick Bublitz. Photo by TF Guntrup.

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"Tilted Windmills was founded on the understanding that because the tradition, going back beyond the Greeks, of gathering in large groups to hear stories now exists in an increasingly digital and on-demand world, we have to meet our audiences 'where they are' in their lives, creating never before seen experiences that fully engage both the seasoned arts patron and the modern entertainment consumer," said Pinckard. "Bringing true interactivity for the first time into the traditional theatrical experience is a key milestone in that mission. After our incredibly successful collaboration with the team behind *Puffs* at UF last summer, we knew that they were the perfect team to bring this project to life, and UF was the perfect place to join them in creating an entirely new genre of theater."

*The Magnificent Revengers* centers on Dorothy Kelly, a young woman from a ranching family tasked with avenging the recent murder of her brother. Feeling ill-equipped for the job, Kelly enlists an unlikely group of misfits, including: the Mysterious Stranger, a gunslinger with an uncertain past and a propensity for drink; Big Frank, a lovable doofus; and Bonnie and Donnie McDonald, married performers smitten by the spotlight and in need of money. The Revengers set their sights on several dastardly villains, including: Mean-Mean Mozie Thompson, a rough and tumble cowboy; the Taggart twins—Dutch and Deborah--played by a single actress; and Solomon Sweet, a rich, fancy swindler out to steal other's land. As Dorothy and the others seek their revenge, the audience will be asked to make decisions to shape the course of the action, making for a new and distinctive experience for audience and cast members alike.

Other members of the creative team in residence at UF are Brooklyn- based actor, writer, and producer **Colin Waitt**, and Artistic Director of NYC's People's Improv Theatre **Stephen Stout**, both original producers of *Puffs*. Rounding out the creative team is our new faculty member, **Michael Clark**, who will be creating projection content to enhance the world of the play.

"The School of Theatre + Dance has formed an invaluable partnership with Tilted Windmills Theatricals," said **Jerry Dickey**, School of Theatre + Dance Director. "During the previous two summers, we have worked with John and David to bring new works in their latter stages of development to UF for an intensive rehearsal period and hugely popular performances. Our previous collaborations have included *Volleygirls*, a new musical about a women's high school volleyball team, and last summer's hit parody, *Puffs: or, Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*. The latter show featured the same creative team as this summer's *Magnificent Revengers*, and the play left Gainesville for Off-Broadway, where it has been running since last October. We are fortunate to offer such a valuable experience to our students to be part of developing new work for the commercial theatre."

Tickets for the UF production are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for UF faculty/staff and seniors, and \$13 for students. Season and group prices are also available. Tickets are available through the University Box Office located at Gate 1 of the Stephen C. O'Connell by calling 352-392-1653 or at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). The University Box Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Tickets can also be purchased at the Constans Theatre Box Office starting 45 minutes prior to the performance.

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# School of THEATRE + DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located at 687 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611. On-campus parking is available at the Reitz Union garage and the Museum Road parking lot. Guests are strongly encouraged to pick up tickets early, as shows run the risk of selling out.

## **About the School of Theatre + Dance**

The School of Theatre + Dance is one of the University of Florida College of the Arts' institutionally-accredited schools. Undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting, dance, musical theatre, theatre production—including costume design, lighting design and scenic design—or a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance studies or general theatre. Minors are also offered in dance and theatre as well as certificates in arts in medicine and dance in healthcare. Student organizations showcase programs and other intensives provide students with invaluable professional experiences. UF is home to three School of Theatre +

Dance performance venues, including the Constans Theatre, Black Box Theatre and G-6 Studio. To learn more about the School of Theatre + Dance, including upcoming performance dates and ticket information, visit [www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance).

## **About the College of the Arts**

The College of the Arts is one of the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The College of the Arts offers baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs in its three institutionally-accredited schools — the School of Art + Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre + Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for Arts and Public Policy, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute, University Galleries and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and approximately than 1,200 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 performances, exhibitions and events each year. Faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. To learn more, visit [www.arts.ufl.edu](http://www.arts.ufl.edu).

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