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Media Contact:

Allison Alsup, Public Relations and Partnerships Specialist
College of the Arts, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
Office: 352.273.1489
aalsup@arts.ufl.edu

**UF SOTD Mounts High-Energy Backstage Play *10 out of 12*
in the Constans Theatre, July 20-23, 2017**

Gainesville, Fla., July 5, 2017 — According to the Actors Equity Association, in the final seven days of a theatre production before opening, “rehearsals shall not exceed 10 out of 12 consecutive hours per day.” What happens during these hours? Anything goes. The University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance will display the mishaps and mayhem that come with moving a show from tech rehearsals to opening night in Anne Washburn’s backstage comedy *10 out of 12*. Director Russell Schultz (MFA ‘13) returns to UF to stage this play-within-a-play after recently mounting the sold-out run of *A Chorus Line* at Santa Fe College.

Described as a “master at assembling art out of shards” by Ben Brantley of the *New York Times*, Washburn’s plays have been performed Off Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, and in regional theatres throughout the United States. Gainesville audience members may be familiar with Washburn’s other notable work, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, which recently made its Florida premiere at the Hippodrome Theatre. *New York Magazine* describes *10 out of 12* as “exceptionally funny and moving,” while the *New York Times* called the play an “original love song to the maddening art of the theater.”

10 out of 12 is loosely based on notes taken by Washburn while sitting in various tech rehearsals as a playwright. Like in *Mr. Burns*, Washburn focuses on the rituals that accompany the human condition. In *10 out of 12*, Washburn addresses this idea by portraying the rituals actors, directors, designers, stage managers, and technicians establish as they prepare a new play for its first performance before a paying audience.

This production encourages audiences to be immersed in the world of the play, as the entire Constans Theatre space will be utilized throughout the evening. In addition to entering and exiting from backstage, actors will be seen entering from side stairwells, in the lighting balconies, and from the stage manager’s tech table.



School of Theatre + Dance actors, from left, Serah Bennett, Sara Girard and Jeff Drushal in *10 out of 12*.

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Similarly, audiences get to hear the various side conversations between technicians being made via headset, which will be transmitted throughout the theatre via monitors.

“Actors [will be] around you all the time...but in terms of an audio experience, the audience gets to listen in on conversations that normally take place over the headset in private,” said Schultz. “The audience, in this particular case, will actually get to see more of what a tech rehearsal is actually like than [just from one perspective].”

Dr. Jerry Dickey, director of UF’s School of Theatre + Dance, said that this play is an ideal selection in celebration of the Constans Theatre’s 50th year of operation, since it realistically depicts the inner workings of a theatrical production from multiple angles. Dickey also said this play is dedicated to the various students, faculty, actors, designers, and technicians who set foot in the Constans every day with the collective goal of creating productions that are both entertaining and artistically rewarding.

Performances on Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 22 will have a 7:30 pm curtain, while Sunday, July 23 will have a 2 pm matinee. Tickets are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for Seniors, \$15 for UF Faculty and Staff, and \$13 for Students. Tickets can be purchased at the University Box Office, located at Gate 1 of the Stephen C. O’Connell Center. The University Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, and can be reached at (352) 392-1653 or by email at scoc-info@ufl.edu. Tickets will also be available 45 minutes prior to every performance, and can also be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com. Group rates are available for parties of eight or more.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located on the UF campus at 1800 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32603. Parking is available across the street from the UF Bookstore & Welcome Center on the University of Florida located on Museum Road.

About the School of Theatre and Dance

The School of Theatre and Dance is one of the University of Florida College of Fine Arts’ three fully-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 and Dance theaters, including the Constans Theatre, Black Box and G-6 Studio. To learn more about the School of Theatre and Dance, including upcoming performance dates and ticket information, visit www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance.

About the About the College of the Arts

The College of Fine Arts is one the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla. The College of Fine Arts offers baccalaureate, master’s and Ph.D. degree programs in its three fully-accredited schools — the School of Art and Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre and Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and more than 1,220 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 events each year and faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. Guests are



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welcome to attend college events and visit the University Galleries, University Auditorium and Constans Theatre, among other on-campus arts venues. To learn more, visit www.arts.ufl.edu.

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