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**Contact:**

Katie Perkowski  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
[kperkowski@asf.net](mailto:kperkowski@asf.net)  
334.271.5326



## **New Comedy Joins ASF's Spring Repertory Season** ***Into the Breeches* runs April 4 through May 4**

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.,** (April 2, 2019) — Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents George Brant's new 1940s wartime comedy, *Into the Breeches*, on the Octagon Stage April 4 through May 4.

Tickets start at \$26 and are available by calling 334.271.5353 or visiting the ASF Box Office, open Monday through Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., or anytime at [asf.net](http://asf.net). Evening performances begin at 7:00 p.m.; matinees start at 2:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays and at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Directed by Shana Gozansky, *Into the Breeches* is a charming comedy about the transformative power of friendship, community, and theatre. Set in Montgomery in 1942, the Oberon Play House's director and actors are off at war, so the director's wife takes the helm to produce an all-female version of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* and *Henry V*.

Since *Into the Breeches* runs in repertory with *Steel Magnolias* until May 4, the productions share a core cast of talented actors. Longtime ASF company member and Associate Artistic Director Greta Lambert takes the stage as Maggie Dalton, who continues the season her husband had planned to direct at Oberon Play House before he shipped out.

Allison Briner Dardenne appears as Celeste Fielding, resident star and diva. Allison's previous credits include *Ring of Fire* at ASF, as well as *Bright Star* and *Mamma Mia!* (Broadway) and national tours of *Les Miserables*, *Titanic*, and *White Christmas*. Marcy McGuigan plays Winifred Snow, wife of the playhouse's board president. Marcy's recent credits include *Ring of Fire* (Stages Repertory Theatre) and *Red Herring* (Portland Stage).

ASF MFA alum Sarah Walker Thornton portrays Grace Richards, a newcomer who turns to drama for a distraction until her husband returns from the war. Sarah most recently appeared in the reading of *A Sudden Spontaneous Event* during ASF's Southern Writers Festival. Her NYC and regional credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Armless*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Anthem* (Off-Broadway).

Last seen in *Sweat* at Pittsburgh Public Theater, Tracey Conyer Lee plays Ida Green, the hardworking Oberon Play House costume designer. Her recent works include *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at Yale Rep, and Paula Vogel's *Civil War Christmas* at Baltimore Center Stage. Gracie Winchester appears as the ingénue, June Bennett, who enthusiastically joins any effort to support the war her husband is fighting. Gracie most recently worked Off-Broadway as Ophelia in the Drilling Company's production of *Hamlet*.

Rounding out the cast, James Judy plays Ellsworth Snow, the stern president of Oberon's board of directors who will do anything for his wife. His credits include *Into the Woods* and *Jekyll & Hyde* on Broadway, as well as *La Boheme* (Off-Broadway) and national tours of *Newsies* and *South Pacific*. Making his ASF debut, Grant Chapman steps into the role of the devoted stage manager, Stuart Lasker. Grant is a company member of The Williams Project and has appeared on stage at the Guthrie Theater, Alliance Theatre, and Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Both James Judy and Grant Chapman are also appearing in ASF's current production of *Our Town* on the Festival Stage.

The *Into the Breeches* creative team includes Scenic Designer Scott Neale, Costume Designer Olivera Gajic, Lighting Designer Annie Wiegand, Sound Designer Pornchanok Kanchanabanca, Wig Master/Makeup Artist Matthew Reeves Oliver, Stage Manager Rebecca C. Monroe, Assistant Stage Manager Hannah-Jean Farris, Production Assistant Catherine Ranieri, Assistant Lighting Designer Gifford Williams, and Assistant Scenic Designer Robert Ashurst.

Special events presented in conjunction with this production include [Conversations at Kress: Agents of Change](#) on April 6 at 10:00 a.m., which will be a panel discussion hosted by ASF about the importance of women supporting women in their friendships and in the workplace. On April 20, ASF's technical director and artisans invite the public to experience a Narrated Changeover on the Octagon Stage, which will allow the audience to watch the stage crew transition the set from *Into the Breches* to *Steel Magnolias* while the crew shares details about developing the designs for each play.

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**EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY – ONE STORY AT A TIME.**

***Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF is a leader in education and outreach, serving more than 40,000 students annually with artistic programming. ASF is supported by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.***