

NEWS RELEASE



Media & Public Relations contacts:

Perri Hubbard, phubbard@asf.net

Sarah Adkins, sadkins@asf.net

334.271.5300, ext. 332 (Perri); 334 (Sarah)

www.asf.net

PHOTOS: The online press kit for *Buzz* can be found [here](#). For access to ASF's full digital media kit, visit ASF.net/media-kit.

Announcing the cast of **BUZZ**

A new work exploring the fascinating, brief life of Mary Ann 'Buzz' Goodbody

MONTGOMERY, Ala., (August 16, 2019) — Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents the world premiere of *Buzz* by **Susan Ferrara**, on stage September 4 – 15, 2019. Directed by Emmy Award-winning actor **Carrie Preston**, the provocative new play will be performed in an alternative space, ensuring that every performance is a unique experience for the audience.

Buzz focuses on the charismatic, visionary director Mary Ann “Buzz” Goodbody, who was one of five women directing theatre in the UK in the 1970s and the first woman to direct at the Royal Shakespeare Company. During her tenure at RSC, she developed plays in The Other Place, a corrugated tin shack that lent itself to experimental productions. There, she famously directed a then-unknown Ben Kingsley in the title role of *Hamlet*, which was the *Hamlet* of their generation. Four days after it opened, *Buzz* was gone.

“Before we know who they are or what they’ve accomplished, women disappear. If we aren’t inspired to write their stories — all their stories — we risk erasing our own history,” said Ferrara. “*Buzz* isn’t a history play but a reminder to support one another; to elevate stories not being told and to demand our seat at the table.”

Tony Award- and Drama Desk Award-nominated actor **Elizabeth A. Davis** portrays *Buzz*. Her work has been seen on and off Broadway (*Once*, *King Lear*, *Dust Can’t Kill Me*, *Allegro*), on television, and in film.

Zuhdi Boueri takes on the role of *Hamlet* in his Alabama Shakespeare Festival debut. Career highlights include touring an original play by Hansol Jung titled *Double Think* in South Africa and studying Shakespeare in London for six weeks.

Television and film veteran **Sam McMurray** joins the cast as *Sidney*. Film credits include *Raising Arizona* and *L.A. Story*. TV audiences will remember his roles in *The King of Queens*, *Scandal*, *Breaking Bad*, and Netflix’s *Grace and Frankie*. His theatre credits include the original productions of *Translations*, *A Soldier’s Play*, *Savage in Limbo*, *The Taking of Miss Janie*, and *Kid Purple*.

ASF MFA graduate **Tarah Flanagan** appears as *Miss Soft*. Previous ASF credits include *Alice in Wonderland*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Recent credits include *An Iliad* at Cleveland Playhouse and *The Merchant of Venice* at Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Spencer Davis Milford plays *Mr. Right*. Spencer made his Broadway debut as the titular character in *The Winslow Boy*. Other credits include national tours of *Billy Elliot* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

The role of Ms. Cut is portrayed by ASF Associate Artistic Director **Greta Lambert**. As a company member for 33 years, she has appeared on stage at ASF in *Fair and Tender Ladies*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Death of Salesman*.

Rounding out the cast is **Christopher Gerson** as Mr. Babble (last seen in ASF's productions of *Our Town* and *Romeo + Juliet*); **Zack Calhoon** as Leonard (recent credits include *The Glass Menagerie* at Fulton Theatre and *Water by the Spoonful* at Premiere Stages); and Broadway actor **Robert Emmet Lunney** as Mentor (*A Delicate Balance*, *Born Yesterday*, *The Graduate*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*).

The *Buzz* creative team includes Assistant Director **Christopher Gerson**, Scenic and Costume Designer **Leslie Taylor**, Lighting Designer **Cat Starmer**, Sound Designer **Melanie Chen Cole**, Stage Manager **Victoria Broyles**, and Production Assistant **Madison Rutledge**.

Buzz is presented in the ASF Scene Shop (aka The Other Place). General admission tickets are \$50. To purchase, call 334.271.5353, visit the ASF Box Office (open Monday - Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.), or go online: ASF.net/buzz.

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.

About Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. As a beloved Alabama arts institution, ASF broadens the cultural identity of the South by producing Shakespeare, contemporary plays, musicals, and exciting new works that focus on the Southern experience. A leader in education and outreach, ASF serves 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.

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