



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hope, redemption and heart: *I Ought to be in Pictures* is a comedy for our times**

**Olympia, WA** – December 18, 2018 – Harlequin Productions presents Neil Simon's *I Ought to be in Pictures*, January 17<sup>th</sup> through February 9<sup>th</sup> at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Actor, director and producer Corey McDaniel will direct.

*Harlequin veterans Jason Haws, Ann Flannigan and Elex Hill star in this bittersweet comedy by Neil Simon. Written in 1980, the work represents a transitional moment for Simon, who was moving from the light comedy of his earlier plays to the more humanistic, autobiographical productions that would eventually win him the Pulitzer Prize.*

*Hollywood scriptwriter Herb is living a relatively quiet life with his on-again-off-again love Steffy, until the teenage daughter he hasn't seen for 16 years knocks on his bungalow door. Libby has trekked from Brooklyn for two reasons: to understand her father's departure, and to be a movie star. With humor and pathos, Neil Simon unwinds the tangled emotions and sometimes-painful humanity of this unlikely trio, as Herb decides to take another stab at fatherhood and hopefully this time, get it right.*

*The challenge of taking on one of America's great playwrights aside, director Corey McDaniel (Harlequin's [I Am My Own Wife](#)) has a great passion for plays about hope and redemption. His own theater company, Seattle-based [Theatre22](#), was founded on those same ideals. Says McDaniel, "I'm attracted to plays offering redemption and closure, and this is the best example of that that I've seen in a long time."*

*Having worked in Los Angeles as an actor, dancer and choreographer for over 10 years, McDaniel finds both to the setting and Herb's professional challenges instantly relatable, and hopes to bring that humanity and relatability to the production. As he says, "One of the most important things we do as directors is to find the truth and honesty in what's occurring. That's what the audience will latch onto; that's what will bring them in."*

**Corey McDaniel** is the founder and producing artistic director of [Theatre22](#) as well as a freelance director, actor and teaching artist. Originally from Texas, his career began as a dancer with the Lone Star Ballet. As an actor, he has worked throughout the US and internationally, with credits ranging from stage to television to the big screen. His performance experiences have placed him the Fox Theatres, the Hollywood Bowl, Teatro Sistina in Rome, and the Metropolitan Opera House of NYC. As a director, McDaniel has staged a wide variety of productions throughout Southern California, Japan, and the Puget Sound Region. Last seen on the Harlequin stage as Charlotte van Mahlsdorf in *I Am My Own Wife*, his most recent directorial credits include *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with WoodenO/Seattle Shakespeare Company, *Treasure Island* with Book-It Repertory Theatre, *Naomi Izuka's Good Kids* at Cornish

College of the Arts, and *Burn This*, *The Pride*, *Wizzer Pizzer*, and *The Hours of Life* for Theatre22.

The cast of three includes **Jason Haws** (30 Harlequin shows over 19 seasons, including *The Elephant Man*, *The Seafarer*, *Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*, and *August: Osage County*), **Ann Flannigan** (19 Harlequin shows over 16 seasons, including *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Present Laughter* and *August: Osage County*), and **Elex Hill** (6 Harlequin shows over 4 seasons, including *Middletown* and *The Art of Racing in the Rain*)

**WHAT:** Harlequin Productions presents *I Ought to be in Pictures*, a bittersweet comedy about hope, redemption and the ties that bind, written by Neil Simon and directed by Corey McDaniel.

**WHEN:** January 17 – February 9, 2019

**WHERE:** State Theater, 202 4<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [harlequinproductions.org](http://harlequinproductions.org), by phone at **360-786-0151**, or in person 12-6pm, Tuesday-Friday and 2 hours before performances at the Harlequin Box Office in the State Theater.

General admission tickets are \$35

Senior 60+/Military \$32

Student/Youths Under 25 \$20

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) General \$15; Senior/Military/Student/Under 25 \$12

**SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:**

**Opening Night:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 8:00pm

**Pay-What-You-Can:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 8:00pm

**Ladies' Night Out:** Friday, January 25, 2019 at 8:00pm

**Post-show Talkback:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 2:00pm

**Pride Night:** Friday, February 1, 2019 at 8:00pm

**CATEGORY:** Comedy

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** All ages: under 13 with guidance

**CAST:**

Jason Haws	<i>Herb</i>
Ann Flannigan	<i>Steffy</i>
Elex Hill	<i>Libby</i>

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