



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **With humor and pathos, *This Flat Earth* traces the toll of gun violence on our country's youth**

**Olympia, WA** – August 1, 2022 – Harlequin Productions presents *This Flat Earth* by Lindsey Ferrentino, August 26 – September 17 at the State Theater. Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct. The play depicts the aftermath of a school shooting, as experienced by two students who witnessed it. Harlequin Productions is a participating theater with [#Enough: Plays to End Gun Violence](#), and two student matinees are open for this production, where educational material provided by #Enough will be available.

*At a middle school in a seaside town, the unthinkable has happened, placing a bewildered community in the national spotlight. Stuck at home in a state of shocked limbo, Julie and Zander, two thirteen-year-olds, try to make sense of the chaos they witnessed, their awkward crushes, and an infinitely more complicated future – but the grown-ups are no help at all. An urgent response to our times, This Flat Earth is a startling and deeply felt story of growing up in this confounding world.*

Originally programmed for the 2020 season, a play that highlights the emotional fallout of a school shooting is sadly more relevant than ever, following the events at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX on May 24. What sets this piece apart is its main character: 13-year-old Julie, a smart, funny, startlingly authentic tween full of hard questions without satisfying answers. The audience sees the weeks and months following the shooting from her and her best friend Zander's perspective rather than from the adults'. The result is a fresh, gripping take on this issue, giving audiences a different angle from which to see the toll of escalating gun violence in this country.

The roles of Julie and Zander will be played by three local child actors. As with the casting of *The Highest Tide*, Director Aaron Lamb determined that due to the size of the role of Julie, not to mention the ongoing threat of the COVID virus, it should be shared between two actors. Julie will be played by Annabeth Collett and Cosette Yanasak, who will alternate performances, each bringing their unique stamp to the role. Zander will be played by Jones Dillard-Disston. All three young actors live in Olympia and attend Olympia middle schools.

### **Production Information**

**Aaron Lamb** (he/him) - *Director* is the Producing Artistic Director of Harlequin Productions. As Artistic Director, he has directed *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Highest*

*Tide, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol, Man of La Mancha, A Doll's House, Love and Information, and The 1940s Radio Hour.* In eleven seasons as an actor and guest director with Harlequin he has also directed *I Am My Own Wife, Three Days of Rain, Ruthless!, August: Osage County, Hedda Gabler, Time Stands Still, Middletown, and Five Women Wearing the Same Dress.* As an actor, he most recently appeared in the 2021 production of *A Christmas Carol.* Aaron has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He holds an MFA in Acting from California State University, Fullerton, a BA from Washington State University, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Returning to Harlequin in the cast of six are **Enrique Bravo\*** (*Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*), **Jenny Vaughn Hall** (*A Doll's House*), and **Janet Spencer** (*Love and Information*), Making their Harlequin debuts are **Annabeth Collett** and **Cosette Yanasak**, both in the role of Julie, and **Jones Dillard-Disston**.

**WHAT:** Harlequin Productions presents *This Flat Earth* by Lindsey Ferrentino, a startling depiction of the weeks and months following a school shooting, as seen through the questioning eyes of two 13-year-old friends. Directed by Aaron Lamb.

**WHEN:** August 26 – September 17, 2022

**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 **12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Harlequin Productions Box Office in the State Theater** while Washington Center undergoes renovations, and **beginning 2 hours before performances at 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 \$17; Senior/Military \$16, Student/Under 25 \$10; Teens/Under 20 \$5

**SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:**

**Preview:** Thursday, August 25 at 7:30 pm

*Tickets to the Preview are \$20 General Admission*

**Opening Night:** Friday, August 26 at 7:30 pm

**Wednesday Matinee:** Wednesday, September 14 at 2:00pm

**Pay-What-You-Choose:** Three performances TBA prior to opening

**CATEGORY:** New Play

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 12 and over with guidance

**CAST:**

Annabeth Collett	<i>Julie</i>
Cosette Yanasak	<i>Julie</i>
Jones Dillard-Disston	<i>Zander</i>
Enrique Bravo*	<i>Dan</i>
Jenny Vaughn Hall	<i>Lisa</i>

Janet Spencer

*Cloris*

\* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.*

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