



SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: December 3, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Jim Torres - 617.529.1670

PRESS DATE: Sunday, January 6 – 3PM or by request. RSVP [here](#):

(BOSTON) – From January 4 through February 2, 2019, SpeakEasy Stage will proudly present the Boston Premiere of the hit Off-Broadway comedy **SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS** by Bess Wohl.

Heralded as one of the Top Ten Plays of 2015 by *The New York Times*, **SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS** follows six strangers on a spiritual retreat for what they hope will be a life-changing week. In the overwhelming quiet of the woods, they struggle to abandon technology and embrace silence under the tutelage of an unseen guru, who is having her own challenges with inner peace. Though it employs very little dialogue, there is definitely nothing quiet about **SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS**, a luminous and compassionate new play that asks how we address life's biggest questions when words fail us.

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS is the work of playwright Bess Wohl, a graduate of Harvard and the Yale School Drama whose roster of plays includes *American Hero*; *Barcelona*; *Touched*; *In*; *Cats Talk Back*; and the original musical *Pretty Filthy* (in collaboration with Michael Friedman and The Civilians). Her work has been produced or developed at Second Stage, Ars Nova, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Geffen Playhouse, and others. Bess also writes for film and television and has developed projects for HBO, ABC, USA, Disney, Paramount, and others.

M. Bevin O’Gara will return to Boston to direct the Boston Premiere of **SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS**. A former Associate Producer for the Huntington Theatre, Ms. O’Gara is currently the Producing Artistic Director of the Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, NY. Her many directing credits include: *The Bridges of Madison County*, *appropriate*, *A Future Perfect*, *Tribes* (Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards for Best Production), and *Clybourne Park* (SpeakEasy Stage); *Girlfriend*, *Ironbound*, the world premiere of *Brawler*, and *Brahman/i* (Kitchen Theatre); *The Who and The What*, *Milk Like Sugar* (Elliot Norton Award nomination for Best Production), and *Becoming Cuba* (Huntington Theatre); *You for Me for You*, *Love Person*, and *The Pain and the Itch* (Company One).

Norton Award-winners Barlow Adamson, Marianna Bassham, and Nael Nacer headline an all-star Boston cast that also includes Kerry A. Dowling, Celeste Oliva, Sam Simahk, and Gigi Watson.

The design team is Cristina Todesco (scenic); Mary Lauve (costumes); Annie Wiegand (lighting); and Elizabeth Cahill (sound).

Adele NadineTraub is the Production Stage Manager. John Meredith is the Assistant Stage Manager.

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS will run for five weeks, from January 4th through February 2, in the Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston’s South End.

Ticket prices start at \$25, with discounts for students, seniors, and persons aged 25 and under. For tickets or more information, the public is invited to call the box office at **617.933.8600** or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

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Show History

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS had its World Premiere at Ars Nova in New York City in March, 2015. The show then transferred to The Pershing Signature Center in July, 2016 for a successful three-month Off-Broadway run. The Ars Nova production then toured nationally from August 2017 – April 2018 showing in various cities including San Francisco, Dallas, Miami, and Philadelphia.

Playwright Information

BESS WOHL (Playwright) Bess Wohl's plays include *Small Mouth Sounds* (Top Ten of 2015 in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *New York Post*, and others, Best of 2016 in *New York Magazine* and others); *Continuity* (upcoming at The Goodman Theatre New Stages); *American Hero*, *Barcelona* (LA Ovation Award nomination); *Touched*; *In*; *Cats Talk Back*; and the original musical *Pretty Filthy* in collaboration with Michael Friedman and The Civilians (Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Musical). Her work has been produced or developed at Second Stage, Ars Nova, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Geffen Playhouse, and many others. She is the recipient of the Sam Norkin special Drama Desk Award for "establishing herself as an important voice in New York theater" and the John Gassner Outer Critics Circle Award. Bess also writes for film and television and has developed projects for HBO, ABC, USA, Disney, Paramount, and others.

Director Information

M. BEVIN O' GARA (Director) is the Producing Artistic Director of the Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, NY. Directing credits include: *The Bridges of Madison County*, *appropriate*, *A Future Perfect*, *Tribes* (Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards for Best Production), and *Clybourne Park* with SpeakEasy Stage Company; *Girlfriend*, *Ironbound*, the world premiere of *Brawler*, and *Brahman/i* for the Kitchen Theatre Company; *The Who and The What*, *Milk Like Sugar* (Elliot Norton Award nomination for Best Production), and *Becoming Cuba* at the Huntington Theatre Company; *Brahman/i*, *Chronicles of Kalki*, *You for Me for You*, *Love Person*, and *The Pain and the Itch* with Company One Theatre; *Phedre* with Actors' Shakespeare Project; *Fast Company* with the Lyric Stage Company; *Marjorie Prime* with the Nora Theatre Company; *How Soft the Lining* and *Translations* with Bad Habit Productions; *Brawler*, *Two Wives in India*, and *Gary* with Boston Playwrights' Theatre; *2.5 Minute Ride* with New Repertory Theatre; and *Melancholy Play* with Holland Productions.

Bevin has worked as the Associate Producer at the Huntington Theatre, the Artistic Associate at the New Repertory Theatre, at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Actor's Center of Australia and the Gaiety School in Dublin. Bevin is the proud recipient of the Lois Roach Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Boston Theatre Community and was recognized by the Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf for her commitment to D/deaf and hard of hearing artists. She holds a BFA from Boston University. mbevinogara.com

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Actor Information

BARLOW ADAMSON* (Jan) returns to SpeakEasy having previously appeared in *Kurt Vonnegut's Make Up Your Mind*; *Reckless*; *Almost, Maine*; and *Fuddy Meers*. He has performed on many other local stages including Merrimack Repertory Theatre (*The Villains' Supper Club*); Huntington Theatre Company (*The Maiden's Prayer*, *A Month In The Country*); Lyric Stage Company (*Chinglish*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Scene*, *Private Lives*, *Noises Off*); Underground Railway Theater (*Paradise*, *Yesterday Happened: Remembering H.M.*); Nora Theatre Company (*Marjorie Prime*, *Operation Epsilon*, *On The Verge*); Boston Playwrights' Theatre (*Elemeno Pea* – [Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Actor], *The Honey Trap*); Gloucester Stage Company (*The Norman Conquests*, *Dinner With Friends*).

MARIANNA BASSHAM* (The Teacher) returns to SpeakEasy having previously directed *Every Brilliant Thing* and appeared in *Hand To God*; *A Future Perfect*; *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*; *Reckless* [IRNE Award]; and *Blackbird* [Elliot Norton Award]. Marianna has worked with The Huntington, Commonwealth Shakespeare, The Nora, Underground Railway, The Lyric, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project (where she is a resident acting company member), and others. She made her Off-Broadway debut this past fall at Playwrights' Horizons in *I was Most Alive with You* by Craig Lucas.

KERRY A. DOWLING* (Joan) returns to SpeakEasy having previously performed in *The Bridges of Madison County*; *Casa Valentina*; *Carrie*; *Far From Heaven*; *Clybourne Park*; *Next to Normal*; *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *Nine*; *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*; *Reckless*; *Jerry Springer - the Opera*; *The New Century*; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; *Parade*; *The Women*; *Bat Boy*; *Company*; *Elegies*; *A New Brain*; *Triumph of Love*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; and *Songs for a New World*. Other local credits include *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Follies* (Lyric Stage); *A Man of No Importance* (Súgán/SpeakEasy); *Calendar Girls*; *Being Earnest*; *Steel Magnolias*; *Pal Joey* (Greater Boston Stage); *The Most Happy Fella*, *Dueling Divas* (Gloucester); *Distracted* (Underground Railway); *Gypsy* (Next Door Theatre). Kerry is the recipient of the 2010 SpeakEasy Stage Outstanding Artist Award.

NAEL NACER* (Ned) returns to SpeakEasy having previously appeared in *A Future Perfect* and *Tribes*. Select area credits include: *Constellations* (Central Square Theater); *A Doll's House*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Awake and Sing!*, *Our Town* [IRNE Award], *The Seagull*, and *Come Back, Little Sheba* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Calendar Girls* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *Shear Madness* (Charles Playhouse); *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* and *Intimate Apparel* (Elliot Norton Award) (Lyric Stage Company); *A Number*, *Pattern of Life*, *Lungs*, *The Kite Runner* (New Repertory Theatre); *The Flick* [IRNE Award] (Gloucester Stage Company).

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Actor Information (Cont.)

CELESTE OLIVA* (Judy). SpeakEasy: *Between Riverside and Crazy*. Select theatre credits: Barbara DeMarco, *Shear Madness* (Off B-way & Boston); *Abigail 1702*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, (Merrimack Rep); *The Revolutionists*, *Arcadia*, *Grounded* (The Nora Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *Stage Kiss*, *Becky's New Car*, *Rich Girl*, *Chinglish*, (Lyric Stage); *Reconsidering Hanna(h)* (Boston Playwright's Theatre). TV: *Thoroughbreds*, *November Criminals*, *Bleed for This*, *Olive Kitteridge* and the upcoming *Burning Woman*. Film: *The Company Men*, *Sex Tape*, *21*, *Gone Baby Gone*, *Mystic River*. Celeste received the 2013 Best Actress Award from Boston Magazine for her role in *Chinglish*, a role for which she also won an IRNE Award and Elliot Norton Award nomination. She also received a Best Actress IRNE in 2016 for *Arcadia*. www.celestejoliva.com

SAM SIMAHK* (Rodney) is thrilled to return to SpeakEasy, having last performed here as Will Bloom in *Big Fish!* Broadway/Tour: *Carousel*; *The King and I* (1st National); *Miss Saigon* (Midwest Tour). Regional: *Oklahoma!* (Theatre Under the Stars); *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Pittsburgh CLO); *The King and I* (Lyric Opera Chicago); *A Little Night Music* (Huntington Theatre); *She Loves Me* (Greater Boston Stage); *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Spelling Bee* (Lyric Stage); *Miss Saigon* (Ogunquit Playhouse). Originally from Ashburnham, MA, Sam is a proud graduate of Emerson College and a member of Actors' Equity Association. sam-simahk.com

GIGI WATSON (Alicia) gratefully returns to SpeakEasy Stage after appearing last season in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. Other Boston-area credits include *Brawler* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre/Kitchen Theatre Company); *Hamlet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth* (Brown Box Theatre Project); *Finish Line* (Boston Theater Company); *Billy Elliot* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *The T Party* (Company One); *Rent*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Fiddlehead Theatre Company); *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Coriolanus* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); and *Café Variations* (ArtsEmerson/SITI Company). Gigi holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Emerson College.

For tickets or more information on **SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS**, the public can call the BostonTheatreScene Box Office at 617.933.8600 or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

Press inquiries may be directed to **Marketing & Communications Director Jim Torres**:
Office: 617.482.3279 Cell: 617.529.1670 Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com

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Calendar Listing Information

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS by Bess Wohl

Presented by: SpeakEasy Stage Company, the Calderwood Pavilion Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts; Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS follows six strangers on a wellness retreat for what they hope will be a life-changing week. In the overwhelming quiet of the woods, they struggle to abandon technology and embrace silence under the tutelage of an unseen guru, who is having her own challenges with inner peace. Though it employs very little dialogue, there is definitely nothing quiet about **SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS**, a luminous and compassionate new play that asks how we address life's biggest questions when words fail us..

Cast: Barlow Adamson, Marianna Bassham, Kerry A. Dowling, Nael Nacer, Celeste Oliva, Sam Simahk, Gigi Watson

Director: M. Bevin O’Gara

Design Team: Scenic: Cristina Todesco**
Costumes: Mary Laune
Lighting: Annie Wiegand
Sound: Elizabeth Cahill

Production Stage Manager: Adele Nadine Traub
Assistant Stage Manager: John Meredith

Performing at: The Roberts Studio Theatre
in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts,
527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End

Performance Schedule: January 4-February 2, 2019
Wed. & Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri. at 8PM; Sat. at 4 & 8PM;
Sun. at 3PM. Additional performance Thursday, Jan. 31 at 2PM.

Run Time: One hour, forty minutes with no intermission

Ticket Prices: Tickets start at \$25. Seniors: \$5 off at all times except gallery seats. Age 25 and under: \$25 at all times.

Student Rush: \$15 with valid college ID, in person at the box-office only, two hours before curtain, subject to availability. Limit – one rush ticket per valid ID.

Box Office: 617.933.8600; www.SpeakEasyStage.com

Press Contact Only: Jim Torres – 617.529.1670 (cell – not for publication)

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