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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD PREMIERE OF AWARD WINNING PLAY PRODUCED AT THE VORTEX THEATRE

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is pleased to announce The Vortex Theatre is producing the AACT NewPlayFest winning play, *Mynx and Savage* by Rebecca Gorman O'Neill. The world premiere will open April 27 and run through May 13, 2018. Tickets are available at vortexabq.org or by calling the box office at 505-247-8600.

The Vortex Theatre is located at 2900 Carlisle Avenue NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Founded in 1976, The Vortex Theatre is New Mexico's oldest continually producing black box theatre, producing an average of ten plays per year, and a pioneering venue for classic, contemporary, and cutting-edge theatre. The theatre entertains audiences with some of the city's finest stage productions, from local and national premieres to new interpretations of classic works.



Rebecca Gorman O'Neill

In *Mynx and Savage*, Adam, a comic book writer, is torn between the superheroes that make him money and a dark, true story that he is afraid to tell. Ket is an artist-assistant sent by Adam's publisher to make sure he hits his deadlines. As Adam learns to trust Ket as a colleague and not a corporate tool, Adam's characters start bleeding through: both the bright and glossy Mynx and Savage, and the sweet, quiet, and true story of Adam's troubled past. In the end, Ket makes Adam realize that his stories – no matter what form they take - will always betray his truth.

The Vortex Theatre production is directed by Ray Rey Griego and Caitlyn Jones, and the cast includes Aleah Montano, Heather Donovan, Chris Hughes, and Hector Colunga. Set design is by Mary Rossman and costume design is by Louisa O'Neill.

AACT NewPlayFest is an initiative by AACT to address the critical need for new, high-quality plays for community theatre audiences around the globe. This AACT playwriting competition is unique with the guarantee that an established theatre will produce each play as a world premiere. Another facet that sets AACT NewPlayFest apart from other competitions is that Dramatic Publishing

Company will publish an anthology of the winning plays. They will also include the plays in their catalog and license the performance rights. Dramatic Publishing is one of the major licensors of plays and musicals in the United States and beyond.

Rebecca Gorman O'Neill was born in Akron, Ohio; she left at age 17 to attend Dartmouth College. When she won the Eleanor Frost playwriting award her Junior year, she was relieved to have an excuse to stop acting. Rebecca went on to earn her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University. Rebecca's original plays have been produced in the U.S. and in Canada. Her plays *Tell-Tale* and *The Greater Good* are published through Eldridge Publishing and Next Stage Press, respectively. Rebecca is a Professor of English at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she teaches playwriting, screenwriting, cinema studies, and the graphic novel.

The AACT NewPlayFest world premiere production of *Mynx and Savage* by Rebecca Gorman O'Neill at The Vortex Theatre is made possible in part by a grant from the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation. The Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation was created by the children of Frank Ayre Lee as a tribute to their father, and a legacy for the creative endeavors of his cousin Jack. Mr. Lee participated in theatre productions at Drew University in New Jersey and at a community theatre in Connecticut in his younger years and continued that interest when he moved to California. He was also an avid aficionado of theatre and had dabbled in playwriting. The family is pleased to honor both men through a lasting legacy promoting new works for theatre through AACT NewPlayFest.

AACT provides networking, resources, and support for America's theatres. AACT represents the interests of more than 7,000 theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the U.S. Armed Services overseas.

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