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MANATEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER PRODUCES AWARD-WINNING WORLD PREMIERE

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is pleased to announce that Manatee Performing Arts Center is producing the AACT NewPlayFest winning play, *Goat Song Revel* by Dan Borengasser. The world premiere will open February 6 and run through February 23, 2020. Tickets are available at Manateeperformingartscenter.com or by calling the box office at 941-748-587.

In *Goat Song Revel*, a one-person Greek Chorus named Doris shows up at the biblical Job's house and lets him know that her arrival most likely means they're in a Greek drama, but whether it's a tragedy or comedy isn't clear. And since this is a Greek drama, Dionysus also stops by. To complicate matters, God and Satan meet at Job's house for their periodic cribbage game, where Satan announces that he wants to play a new game, one he made up, called "Job." Lord Byron once said, "All tragedies are finished by a death; all comedies are ended by a marriage." Dionysus realizes that they're heading for a tragedy unless he can create a second act that ends with a marriage. When he finally figures out exactly what's going on, he begins his plan to turn this tragedy into a comedy.

Manatee Performing Arts Center is located at 502 3rd Ave W, Bradenton, Florida. Founded in late 1947, when several aspiring actors who also were members of the Bradenton Junior Women's Club organized a community theatre group known as Manatee Players. Continuously operating for 70 years, The Manatee Players have grown into a beautiful new performing arts facility with two stages, The Manatee Performing Arts Center, which opened in 2013.

Kathy Pingel directs Manatee Performing Arts Center's world premiere production of *Goat Song Revel*. The cast features Catherine Burke, Jason Lipton, Daniel Pelissier, Joseph Smith, Carolyn Zaput, and Michael Herring. The production crew includes Artistic Director Rick Kerby, Production Manager Kristin Ribble, Stage Manager Sophia Coscia, with set design by Ralph Nurmela, light design by Nick Jones, sound design by Mark Toebben, costume design by Susan Sajec, and mask design by Larry Engler.
AACT NewPlayFest addresses 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, and that Dramatic Publishing Company will publish the script in an anthology of winning plays. Dramatic Publishing, one of the major licensors of plays and musicals in the United States and beyond, includes the winning plays in their catalog and licenses the performance rights.

Playwright Dan Borengasser lives in Springdale, Arkansas, and most of his plays have been produced or have received staged readings. Three plays – *A.R@Uni. Gov, The Kindness of Strangers,* and *Sense & Insensitivity* – have been published. His plays have been produced in theatres across the country from New York to Los Angeles, as well as in Canada, Mexico, India, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Several short screenplays have been produced as well as a feature-length film he helped write, titled *The Donor Conspiracy.* Three radio plays have been produced and broadcast nationally. In addition to stage plays, Borengasser has written science fiction stories, screenplays, radio plays, and children’s fiction, and was a syndicated humor columnist.

The AACT NewPlayFest world premiere production of *Goat Song Revel* by Dan Borengasser at Manatee Performing Arts Center is made possible in part by a grant from the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation, 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, who participated in theatre productions at Drew University in New Jersey and at a community theatre in Connecticut in his younger years. Mr. Lee 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’s mission is to help theatres thrive by providing networking, resources, and support for America’s theatres. It represents the interests of thousands of theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the U.S. Military Services overseas.

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