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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Grand Concourse***  
***Comic-drama with heart comes to Horizon Theatre***  
**March 27 – April 26, 2015**

**ATLANTA – Written by one of the writers of Emmy Award winning Nurse Jackie, Horizon Theatre opens the Atlanta premiere of Heidi Schreck’s *Grand Concourse* – a comic-drama with heart set in an urban soup kitchen.** This startling, compassionate Off-Broadway hit runs March 27 through April 26 at Horizon Theatre in Little Five Points (Euclid and Austin Avenues in Little Five Points, 1083 Austin Avenue NE). Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8:30pm and Sundays at 5pm. Tickets start at \$20 and are available at [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com) or 404-584-7450.

“Having worked in soup kitchens and for social justice organizations both in my hometown and here in the city, I was interested in writing about the provisional families that spring up in places where people gather explicitly to care for one another—to help and to seek help. There is a great deal of affection and humor and... well, love in these situations, which also means that so much can go horribly wrong. Emma, Oscar, Frog, and Shelley become a weird little family during the course of this play, and, like any real family, they have the power to both heal and harm one another,” said playwright, Heidi Schreck during the premiere of *Grand Concourse* at Playwrights Horizons.

“Insightful, with a moving, even shocking epiphany” (Huffington Post), *Grand Concourse* “may well break your heart” (NY Post).

**STORY**

Shelley is the devoted manager of a church soup kitchen, but lately her heart’s not quite in it. Enter Emma: an idealistic but confused young volunteer, who unexpectedly ignites and alters the kitchen and its regulars. Will Emma be their ruin or salvation?

**With keen humor, Heidi Schreck (writer *Nurse Jackie*) navigates the mystery of faith, the limits of forgiveness, and the pursuit of something resembling joy.**

**PLAYWRIGHT**

Heidi Schreck is a playwright and two-time Obie Award-winning actor. Her first play *Creature* was produced in New York by New Georges and Page 73 in a well-received production directed by Leigh Silverman; her second *There Are No More Big Secrets*, directed by Kip Fagan, premiered at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, and was a New York Magazine and Time Out New York's Critic's pick. Most recently, The Long Wharf produced her dark recession-era comedy, *The Consultant*, which was developed at Playwrights Horizons and also directed by Fagan. A former Page 73 Playwriting Fellow and Sundance artist, Heidi is currently working on commissions for South Coast Repertory Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan Foundation, and True Love Productions. *Grand Concourse* premiered at Playwrights Horizons in 2014. She has also performed extensively at theaters such as The Public (Shakespeare in the Park), Manhattan Theatre Club, Two-Headed Calf, The Foundry, Clubbed Thumb, The Women's Project, The Roundabout, Williamstown, Berkeley Rep and Center Theatre Group. On television, Heidi has appeared on *The Good Wife*, *SVU*, and Showtimes' *Nurse Jackie*, where she has also worked as a writer.

#### **DIRECTOR**

Jeff Adler has directed numerous productions for Horizon Theatre, beginning with Horizon's first production *Bonjour, la, Bonjour* in 1983. Most recently he directed the Suzi Award-nominated, Atlanta Premiere of *The Book Club Play* which will return to the Horizon stage in January. Other Horizon favorites include *Shooting Star*, *Altar Boyz*, *Madame Melville*, *The Lonesome West*, *Racing Demon*, *Voir Dire*, *Marvin's Room*, *The Film Society*, *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *Heathen Valley*, *The Secret Rapture*, *Full Moon*, *Mere Mortals*, *All in the Timing*, *Wonder of the World*, *Time Flies*, *Charm School*, and *Almost, Maine*. He has also directed at other theatres and colleges including LaGrange College, Gainesville Theatre Alliance and GMT Productions. He is a 1999 recipient of a Lexus Leaders in the Arts Award and the Arts and Business Council's Abby Award for Outstanding Arts Professional. As Founding Co-Artistic/Technical Director, Jeff has been behind the scenes of every set build for Horizon.

#### **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

The ensemble cast features two Horizon Theatre favorites fresh from *The Waffle Palace*: Maria Rodriguez-Sager (Shelley) and Allan Edwards (Frog). Rodriguez-Sager is a five time Suzi Bass Award nominee whose past Horizon credits include *The Book Club Play*. Edwards won the Suzi Bass Award for Best Actor in 2013 and his Horizon credits include *Legacy of Light* and *Algae Eaters*. Evan Cleaver (Oscar) and Alexandra Ficken (Emma) are both making their Horizon Theatre Debut with their roles in *Grand Concourse*, both also starred together in *In Love and Warcraft* at Alliance Theatre. Ficken was most recently seen in *FML: How How Carson McCullers Saved My Life at 7 Stages*, and her recent film credits include *The Duff*, which is in theatres now. Cleaver's most recent stage credits include *Macbeth* at Theater Emory, and was last seen on the screen in *The Host*.

**Multiple Suzi Award winning set designers Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay** (*Time Stands Still*, *The Waffle Palace*, *Avenue Q*, *Right On*, *Detroit*) are back at Horizon to create the inner workings of a church soup kitchen and also design the costumes. Also returning are Suzi Award winning resident lighting designer **Mark Parker** (*The Waffle Palace*, *Avenue Q*, *Detroit*), sound **Angie Bryant**, and props designer **Heather Cap** (*Detroit*, *The Waffle Palace*).

#### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

The show runs March 27 – April 26, 2015. Performances are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday at 5 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$20 - \$30, and ticket prices are subject to change based on availability. Order early to get the best prices. Eight percent sales tax will be added to all ticket orders. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more – call for more information. Internet convenience fee added to all online orders. No refunds, exchanges, or late seating.

This play contains strong language and adult content, and is recommended for ages 18 and up.

Tickets may be ordered by phone at 404.584.7450 or online at [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com).

#### **CAST**

Shelley	Maria Rodriguez-Sager
Emma	Alexandra Ficken
Oscar	Evan Cleaver*
Frog	Allan Edwards*
U/S	Ryan LaMotte

\*Member of Actors Equity Association

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Director	Jeff Adler
Playwright	Heidi Schreck
Scenic Design	Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay
Costume Design	Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay
Lighting Design	Mary Parker
Props Design	Heather Capp
Sound Design	Angie Bryant
Stage Manager	Julianna M. Lee
Asst. Stage Manager	Kayla Zinke

#### **ABOUT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY**

Horizon Theatre Company, 1083 Austin Avenue, connects people, inspires hope and promotes positive change through the stories of our times. We produce professional area and world premieres of smart, funny and provocative contemporary plays. For more information about tickets, group sales, or to receive a season brochure, call 404.584.7450 or visit [horizontheatre.com](http://horizontheatre.com).

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