



Media Contact:

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MEDIA ALERT

Name of Event: New Play Reading of APOLLO AND THE TRIALS OF HERCULES

Date: Streaming **September 11 – 13, 2020** on YouTube (www.youtube.com/firststage) with live online discussion on **Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 7 pm.**

Description: APOLLO AND THE TRIALS OF HERCULES is a new play by First Stage Resident Playwright **John Maclay** and **Joe Foust**. This reading is directed by First Stage alumni **Elyse Edelman** and **Hal Sansone**. Audiences can stream this new play reading anytime between September 11 – 13 for no cost on First Stage’s YouTube channel, and then participate in a live online discussion with the writers and directors on Sunday, September 13 at 7 pm, also on YouTube. Audiences must register for the live online discussion at www.firststage.org/foundry to receive the unique YouTube link.

Apollo’s father has gone missing and the 14-year-old is trying to find answers – to who they are, who they will become, but mostly what happened to their Mythology professor father? Suddenly Apollo is swept away on the adventure of a lifetime where all things become clear. OK to be honest, things get really confusing for a while – there’s the Underworld, different gods appearing, a Cyclops – but ultimately Apollo finds the path forward. From the writing team that brought you the rollicking adventure ROBIN HOOD comes another instant classic filled with mischief, mayhem, fighting, fury and just pure fun. For families with young people ages 9 – 18+.

This new play reading is part of First Stage’s **Foundry Stage Series**, a series of new play readings and productions that promises to spark conversations and deepen the shared theater experience, as well as showcase emerging plays and artists at First Stage. This new play reading is also one of several **Signature Theater Experiences** offered virtually at First Stage this season, through its new virtual performance series.

Cost: Free

Location: Online at www.youtube.com/firststage

Website: www.FirstStage.org/foundry

Phone: (414) 267-2961

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About First Stage

First Stage is one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families. First Stage touches hearts, engages minds and transforms lives by creating extraordinary theater experiences through professional theater productions that inspire, enlighten and entertain. Its Theater Academy, the nation's largest high-impact theater training program for young people, fosters life skills through stage skills and serves nearly 2,000 students each year. As Wisconsin's leader in arts-integrated education in schools, First Stage's dynamic Theater in Education programs promote literacy, character building and experiential learning throughout the curriculum, serving over 20,000 students each year. First Stage was selected to participate in the Partners in Education program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (2012), and was the recipient of the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* Eureka Award, recognizing creativity and innovation in business, education and the arts for its Next Steps program for students on the autism spectrum (2013, 2015). First Stage is a member of TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, Milwaukee Arts Partners and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). www.firststage.org.