



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TONY AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER BRINGS NEW MUSICAL TO ATLANTIC STAGE

Opening Night Performance: Benefit for Horry County Literacy Council and post-show reception hosted by TBonz Restaurant Group

(Myrtle Beach, S.C.) January 10, 2012 - Atlantic Stage, the only nonprofit, professional theatre in the Myrtle Beach area, in conjunction with Coastal Carolina University's Professional Theatre Training Program, is producing the first professional workshop production of Tony Award-winner Mark Hollmann's new musical entitled *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls*. Presented at the 79th Avenue Theatre in the Coastal Carolina University Myrtle Beach Higher Education Center, 900 79th Ave N., Myrtle Beach, the musical will hold a preview performance on Thursday, Jan. 26, open on Friday, Jan. 27 and run through Sunday, Feb. 12.

A workshop production means the music and script is undergoing revisions right up until opening night. Plays are developed through a progressive process that begins with readings and rewrites, staged readings and rewrites, staged workshop productions and rewrites and then typically culminates in a series of regional productions and rewrites until the work is declared finished.

Hollmann, composer of the 2002 Broadway hit *Urinetown*, has been in development with book writer Adrien Royce to bring to the stage an original story of young journalist Bernie Bernstein, whose life takes an amazing turn within 24 hours of accepting an assignment to write a story on the elusive Sasquatch, Bigfoot. While encountering a slew of tabloid-sized characters, Bernie discovers the truth not only about the creature but herself as well.

The complete performance schedule is as follows:

Thursday, January 26 @ 7:30 p.m. (Preview Night, Media are invited to attend)

Friday, January 27 @ 7:30 p.m. (Opening Night**)

**All ticket proceeds donated to Horry County Literacy Council, post-show reception hosted by TBonz Restaurant Group

Week 1: Thursday, January 26 – Saturday, January 28 @ 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, Jan. 29 @ 3 p.m.

Week 2: Thursday, February 2 – Saturday, February 4 @ 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, Feb. 5 @ 3 p.m.

Week 3: Thursday, February 9 – Saturday, February 11 @ 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, Feb 12 @ 3 p.m.

This play is recommended for young adults 16 years of age and older.

Guest artist Art Rotch is designing lights for the production. Rotch is coming in from Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska, where *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls* will have its world premiere production after the Atlantic Stage workshop production concludes.

The cast includes local professional actress Monica Bell, founding member of Atlantic Stage and faculty member at CCU Theatre Department, and David Bankston, associate professor of music at CCU who just concluded directing a CCU production of the opera *Hansel and Gretel*. CCU BFA student Shannon Burke, who was last seen on the Atlantic Stage as Echo in the 2010 production of *Eleemosynary*, stars in the role of Bernie Bernstein.

Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls is directed by John Woodson. Musical Director and orchestrator is Steven Gross. Choreography by Barbara Hartwig. Set Design by Ken Martin. Lighting Design by Art Rotch. Costume Design by Eric Hall. Sound Design by Jennifer Hebda.

All ticket proceeds from the opening night of *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls* will benefit the Horry County Literacy Council and the post-show reception is being sponsored by TBonz Restaurant Group. "Horry County Literacy Council is delighted to be part of the Atlantic Stage family and be a beneficiary of this production. Atlantic Stage has shown itself to be a truly unselfish partner in the community as well as a source of great entertainment. We want to thank everyone involved in the Company for using their abundance of talent for the benefit of the entire Myrtle Beach area," said John Eroszonak, Board Chairman, HCLC.

The Horry County Literacy Council's mission is to promote literacy throughout Horry County and provide the services necessary to the residents who wish to improve their basic literacy skills, learn to speak English, or overcome a learning difficulty such as dyslexia. They provide one-on-one tutorial services, as well as classroom and workshop settings. Originating in 1976, HCLC is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Services are free and confidential. Visit www.horrycountyliteracycouncil.org or call 843-839-1695 for more information.

New patrons and subscribers can purchase the new Flex Subscription or single tickets by calling the Atlantic Stage box office at 1-877-287-8587 or online at www.atlanticstage.com.

Single tickets range from \$15-\$25 at the door. Discounts are available for students, seniors (55+), the military and groups.

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Photo Attached: Shannon Burke as Echo in *Eleemosynary* who will star as Bernie Bernstein in *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls*

Photo Credit: Louis Keiner and Lesley Etherson

Working members of the press are invited to all preview nights and may contact Kimberly Miles at Kimberly.Miles2@gmail.com to reserve tickets.

About Atlantic Stage

In partnership with Coastal Carolina University, Atlantic Stage is the first and only professional nonprofit theatre company in the Myrtle Beach area. Formed in August 2008, Atlantic Stage is comprised of professional directors and designers, as well as professional actors and stage managers who are members of the Actors Equity Association. Atlantic Stage is committed to bringing the Myrtle Beach area the best in Broadway, Off-Broadway and new plays from regional theatre across the United States. Atlantic Stage is funded through ticket sales, private donations and in-kind donations from Coastal Carolina University, the Department of Theatre and individuals. For more information, visit www.atlanticstage.com.

The website, designed by graphic design artist Daryl Fazio of www.DarylFazio.com is an easy to navigate informational tool as well as a hands-on space where visitors can book tickets, become subscribers or learn about upcoming events.