

For Immediate Release
Contact: Mo Aarii
Phone: (714) 900-9353 cell
STAGEStheatre: (714) 525-4484
Website: www.stagesoc.org
Email: publicity@stagesoc.org

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Superheroes and Sex Reign Supreme in the World Premiere of ***Suprema*** at **STAGES**theatre March 9-30th

Fullerton CA — Creating a legend takes discipline. **STAGES**theatre is proud to present the world premiere of Phil Keeling's new play ***Suprema***, directed by Chris Mertan, running March 9-30th. It's 1940, and celebrated psychologist William Moulton Marston has decided that he wants to create a comic book heroine who stands for valor and love in a world dominated by men and war. Over the course of a single evening, Marston, his wife Elizabeth, and their lover Olive must convince DC Comics executive Max Gaines of the value of such a heroine while downplaying their own unorthodox lifestyle.

"When was the last time you saw an honest-to-goodness new comedy?" director Chris Mertan asks. "These days, you look up the latest critically acclaimed funny stuff and it's all so...dour. Where are the sillies, the goof'ems, the chuckle clusters? Call them whatever you want, but we're starving for jokes. Take our current year and it seems to make sense. It often feels like the world is on fire, with our continued debates over gender and sexual norms, social propriety or lack thereof, and the inescapable glower of superhero blockbusters that dominate the cultural landscape. Our art reflects our serious times.

Playwright Phil Keeling takes our collected 21st century angst and dishes back something different — a refreshing comedy about superheroes, feminism, BDSM, polyamory, pie, and a paean for the unorthodox called *Suprema*. This fractured screwball farce winds the clock back to 1940, to another year the world was on fire, and the birth of the first female superheroine. Even then, we were having these same conversations. And filtered through screwball comedy, we find new appreciation and community in the struggle for progress.

Suprema also fulfills a critical function for the arts: new and original work. We long to experience the thrill of discovery again, without feeling the regurgitations of tired stories

and characters. **STAGES**theatre has long championed the new and burgeoning for the visceral sake of entertainment itself. It's the lifeblood on which new ideas perpetuate, commingle, and blossom into welcomed surprises.

This production comes to **STAGES**theatre with the ribald anarchy that celebrates our own times, reflected and refracted through the lens of pop culture history. And plenty of jokes. Don't forget the jokes!"

Phil Keeling is an Atlanta-based writer and comedian. After years focusing on standup comedy, he has returned to his roots as a playwright with a new outlook on humor, satire, and the importance of the absurd.

During his Army Brat childhood, Phil was carted from one country to another, from one side of the Mason-Dixon Line to the other, and from school to school to school. It was during these formative years that he developed several life rules that he lives by to this day: write everything down, always be ready to travel at a moment's notice, and never, *ever* offer to pick up a theatre person's tab.

Things were pretty good in young Phil's life. And then he decided that he'd like to be a writer. This adolescent misstep would lead to the publication of several works of fiction, poetry, and essays, and the production of several plays. All the same, he's very grateful for the opportunities that he's had throughout the years to share his words, and absolutely thrilled that STAGEStheatre has chosen to give *Suprema* its world premiere.

Phil Keeling has seen his plays produced by the 13th Street Repertory, the Theater by the Grove, and the Masquers Theatre Troupe of Armstrong.

Starring in ***Suprema*** are: Jessica Taylor Gable, Michael Kaye, Pat Mannion, and Mary Sherg.

Tickets for ***Suprema*** are \$24.00, \$22.00 for students and seniors. Performances are March 9th- March 30th, Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. For reservations please visit our website at www.stagesoc.org

About **STAGES**theatre: Celebrating its 27th year in business, **STAGES**theatre is one of Orange County's most innovative community theaters. It produces nearly 15 productions annually, showcasing local playwrighting, acting and directing talent. **STAGES**theatre is, and will continue to be, dedicated to the development of the artist. It is located at 400 E. Commonwealth in Downtown Fullerton (between Lemon and Balcom).

