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Celebrate Your Valentine's Weekend in Italy Yet Close to Home

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For Immediate Release

Celebrate Your Valentine's Weekend in Italy Yet Close to Home

(University Park, IL): January 27, 2015 – An Italian piazza. A blossoming romance. A six-time Tony-Award-winning musical masterpiece. What more could you ask for in a Valentine's weekend experience? Add wine and dessert and an up close and personal view of the actors from your seat on the stage, and you have the perfect Valentine's evening out.

The Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) presents *The Light in the Piazza* from **February 13-15** at GSU's Center for Performing Arts. **Friday and Saturday show times are 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee is offered at 2 p.m.** Seating is limited on the stage so reserve your tickets in advance for guaranteed seating. **Tickets are \$25 each and adults 65+ will save \$5.** Wine and dessert are available for purchase.

Since its world premiere in 2004 at the Goodman Theatre and subsequent transfer to Broadway's Lincoln Center, *The Light in the Piazza* has captured the hearts of Broadway and musical theatre fans with a stunning score by Adam Guettel and engaging storytelling by book writer Craig Lucas.

Based on the 1960 novella by Elizabeth Spencer made into a film in 1962, *The Light in the Piazza* follows the awakening of young Clara Johnson and her mother, Margaret, as an Italian vacation uncovers unexpected hopes, regrets and a chance at a new life. A handsome Fabrizio may offer love for Clara, but will her mother allow it? Secrets are revealed in this charming musical of love and consequence.

SLATE's production of *The Light in the Piazza* will be its 11th production, since the organization's inception in 2008, and patrons are in for a very special experience thanks to seasoned Director Scott Sowinski, making his directorial debut at GSU.

Scott Sowinski is a native of southern Chicago from the Beverly-Mount Greenwood area. He recently performed Bob Wallace in *White Christmas* in Honolulu, Hawaii. An active performer and director, Scott recently assisted directed *Sweeney Todd* with Porchlight Music Theatre in Chicago. His NYC Directorial credits include: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Wild Party*, *Rapunzel*, *Ovation & Oration* and *The Magician*. Regionally, he has directed: *Die Fledermaus*, *Amahl*, *HONK!*, *Les Miserables*, *Charlie Brown*, *Last Five Years*, *Into the Woods*, *Gypsy*, *Passion Play* and many readings and presentations throughout the nation.

About his debut, Scott says "I am honored to bring this fascinating production to our GSU theatrical community. *The Light in the Piazza* is a musical of extraordinary depth and an extraordinary love. I am fortunate to have an exemplary crew and cast confident in bringing you the brightness that is *The Light in the Piazza*."

Musical Direction is by Brad Senffner. Choreographer Nicole Bowles returns for her second year with SLATE. Her recent Chicago appearances include Helen in *Musical of the Living Dead* (Stage 773), Sally in *Reefer Madness* (Mayne Stage), *Texas in Cabaret* (Citadel), and Susan in *Company* (SLATE).

How to Buy Tickets:

Online: CenterTickets.net

By Phone: 708.235.2222

In Person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

Box Office Hours: Monday – Saturday; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and two hours prior to show time.

Download the Center's App: goo.gl/nqy4ul

A portion of The Center's programming is supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Cast List

Rosalind Hurwitz (Chicago, IL) as Margaret John

Lindsay Foreman (Chicago, IL) as Clara Johnson

Iah Bearden-Vrai (Chicago, IL) as Fabrizio Naccarelli

Nathan Krug (Crete, IL) as Giuseppe Naccarelli

Nicole Hager (Chicago, IL) as Franca Naccarelli

John Hillman (New Lenox, IL) as Signor Naccarelli

Mary Kooy Pniewski (Evergreen Park, IL) as Signora Naccarelli

Talented Ensemble Members include: Jayde Al-Angary (St. John, IN), Kevin Kohn (Clifton, IL), Alfonso Villa (Chicago, IL) and Courtney Edwards (Chicago, IL)