



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS "THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, CHARLES DICKENS AND COUNT LEO TOLSTOY: DISCORD," MAY 5-29**

*Smart, witty new play by Scott Carter, Executive Producer of "Real Time With Bill Maher"*

PHOENIX, Ariz. (April 20, 2016): ***The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord***, a blistering comedy battle of wits from Scott Carter, Executive Producer of HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*, that examines what happens when great men of history are forced to repeat it, comes to the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe, May 5-29. I. Michael and Beth Kasser are Arizona Theatre Company's 2015-16 Season Sponsors.

The final show of the 2015-16 season, ***Discord*** is a laugh-out-loud, whip-smart new comedy that takes the third U.S. President, the author of *A Christmas Carol*, and the author of *War and Peace*, locks them in a room with 'no exit', and has them hash out their views of scripture and the true meaning of existence.

"How delightful to welcome Scott Carter back to his home in Arizona with this real firecracker of a new play," said Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein. "***Discord*** is a play of rare wit and intelligence, wrapped in a package of sheer tightrope-walking theatricality. It is a play of real depth, dealing as it does with life-and-death issues of

faith and belief, but it is also a sparkling entertainment as three icons of history spar, preen, debate and engage in a cage-match for the ages.”

Directed by Matt August, and starring Armin Shimerman. Larry Cedar and Mark Gagliardi, *The Los Angeles Times* called ***Discord*** “funny and thought-provoking... Hilariously theatrical...Carefully compiled references and biographical details whiz by in Matt August’s finely tuned staging, with superb performances illuminating the clashing personalities.”

Tickets for ***The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*** start at \$28 and are available at the Herberger Theater Center box office by calling [\(602\) 256-6995](tel:6022566995) or by visiting [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

Tickets are also now on sale for Arizona Theatre Company’s lineup for the 2016-17 season which includes: ***King Charles III***. By Mike Bartlett. Tucson: Sept. 10-30. Phoenix: Oct. 6-23; ***An Act of God***. By David Javerbaum. Tucson: Oct. 22-Nov. 12. Phoenix: Nov. 17-Dec. 4; ***Fiddler on the Roof***. Music by Jerry Bock; Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick; Book by Joseph Stein; Tucson: Dec. 3-31. Phoenix: Jan. 6-29; ***The River Bride***. By Marisela Treviño Orta. Tucson: Jan. 14-Feb. 4, 201. Phoenix: Feb. 9-26; ***Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash***. Created by Richard Maltby, Jr., conceived by William Meade. Tucson: March 4-25. Phoenix: March 30-April 16; and ***Holmes and Watson***. By Jeffrey Hatcher, Tucson: April 15-May 6. Phoenix: May 11-28.

For more information call [\(602\) 256-6995](tel:6022566995) or visit [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Scott Carter (Playwright):** Scott Carter has served as Executive Producer for *Real Time with Bill Maher* since it debuted on HBO in 2003. He produced the first 1,100 episodes of *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher* from its 1993 Comedy Central debut to its 1997 move to ABC. While at *P.I.*, Mr. Carter received eight Emmy nominations and three consecutive CableAce Awards for Best Talk Series. He has served as creator, producer, and/or writer for, among others, *Curb the Discussion with Susie Essman* (TV Guide, 2010), *Root of All Evil with Lewis Black* (Comedy Central, 2008), *Earth to America* (TBS, 2005), *The Conspiracy Zone with Kevin Nealon* (Spike, 2002-3), and *Exhale with Candice Bergen* (Oxygen, 2000-1). In 2007, he was a co-recipient of the Producer’s Guild of America’s Johnny Carson Award for *Real Time*. A former stand-up comedian, Mr. Carter has written and performed two full-length monologues at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Aspen Comedy Arts Festival, The Kilkenny (Ireland) Murphy’s Cats Laugh Festival, Primary Stages, Manhattan Punchline, and others. He is former Producing Director and a founding member of The Invisible Theatre, now in its

44th season in Tucson, Arizona.

**Matt August (Director):** Broadway: *Dr. Suess' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (also ten National Tours, Madison Square Garden, etc). Regional Theatre: Geffen Playhouse, Pioneer , Ford's Theatre, Falcon Theatre , LA Theatre Works, Hanger Theatre, TheatreWorks (Palo Alto), The Acting Company , NoHo Arts Center, Long Wharf. Mr. August has received fellowships and residencies from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Old Globe Theatre, Drama League, Robert Wilson's Watermill Center, the Juilliard School, San Francisco's Zen Center; received the Panavision New Filmmaker's Grant; and mentored upcoming directors through the SDC Observership Program and Drama League Fellowship. His productions have been recognized by the Ovation, Helen Hayes, Broadway World, Bay Area Critics, and Australia's Helpmann Award Nominations.

**Armin Shimerman (Count Leo Tolstoy)** is well known as Quark on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. Broadway: *Three Penny Opera*, *St. Joan*, *I Remember Mama*, and *Broadway*. Selected regional theatre: *Lear's Fool*, Marius in Fugard's *Road to Mecca*, Richard in *Seafarer* (San Diego Critics Circle Award for Best Actor) (San Diego Repertory Theater); *Henry V* (American Shakespeare Festival); *Hoagy, Bix, Wolfgang Beethoven Bunkhaus* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Three Penny Opera*, *Camille*, *Wild Oats* (Guthrie Theatre). Selected Los Angeles theatre: *The Birthday Party* (LA Drama Critics Circle nomination for Lead Performance, Matrix Theatre); *Misalliance*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *Standup Shakespeare* (Odyssey Theatre); *Richard II* (Mark Taper Forum). Associate Artistic Director at Antaeus Theater where he teaches Shakespeare, co-directed *The Crucible*, and performed *Seagull*, *Macbeth*, and many classic fests. TV: 80 different guest star roles, including *Stargate*, Principal Snyder on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Judge Hooper on *Boston Legal*, *CSI*, *Castle*, *Franklin & Bash*. Voiceover: General Skarr for three animated shows, and many game voices, acclaimed for Dr. Nefarious in *Ratchet and Clank* franchise and Andrew Ryan in *Bioshock*.

**Larry Cedar (Thomas Jefferson)** Theatre: *Discord* (Geffen Playhouse), *American Misfit* (Boston Court); Lear in *King Lear* (Porters of Hellsgate). Colony Theatre Productions: *Best of Enemies*, *American Fiesta*, *Celadine*, *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. Musicals: *Nightmare Alley* (Geffen Playhouse); *She Loves Me* (Ovation Award – Best Featured Actor in a Musical) and *1776* (Reprise!); and as *Hoagy Carmichael* in *Hoagy, Bix and Wolfgang Beethoven Bunkhaus* (Mark Taper Forum). Larry played the opium addict "Leon" for three seasons on the critically acclaimed HBO series, *Deadwood*, and starred for six seasons on PBS's *Square One TV*. Other television: *Mad Men*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Community*, *House*, *Terminator*, *NCIS*, *Enterprise*, *Alias*, *The Closer*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Boston Legal*. Film: *The Crazies*, *Midnight Son*, *Towelhead*, *Hollywoodland*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, and a starring role in the upcoming independent feature *She Sings to the Stars*.

**Mark Gagliardi (Charles Dickens)** is making his ATC debut. Theatre: Croach theTracker in *The Thrilling Adventure Hour* (Largo at the Coronet), Genie in *Aladdin: A*

*Musical Spectacular* (Disneyland), *Strider in Fellowship: The Musical* (Steve Allen Theatre), *Welcome to Night Vale* (tour), *National Lampoon Lemmings* (tour), *Around the World in 80 Days* (ICT), *The Illusion* (El Portal). Television: *Drunk History* (original narrator), *The League*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Life with Bonnie*, *According to Jim*, *Austin & Ally*, *Sam & Cat*, *Gamer's Guide*, *I'm in the Band*, *Venture Bros*, *Star vs. The Forces of Evil*, voice of Batman on *DC Super Friends*. Proud graduate of The Theatre School, DePaul University, and The Second City Training Center.

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**Scenic Design:** Takeshi Kata

**Lighting Design:** Luke Moyer

**Costume Design:** Ann Closs-Farley

**Sound Design:** Cricket S. Myers

**Projection Designer:** Jeffrey Elias Teeter

**Stage Manager:** Maggie Swing

**Production Stage Manager:** Glenn Bruner

Tickets for *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord* start at \$23 and are subject to change depending on time, date and section, and are available at [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org) or by calling the box office at (520) 622-2823. Discounts are available for seniors and active military. A \$10 student ticket pricing is now available for all performances. Half-price rush tickets are available for balcony seating for all performances one hour prior to curtain at the ATC box office (subject to availability). **Pay What You Can** performance tickets are available for a suggested \$10 donation on Sunday, May 8 at 7 p.m. (Tickets must be purchased at the Herberger Theater Center starting one hour prior to curtain. Tickets are first-come, first served. *Cash only*. Two tickets maximum per person.) For discounts for groups of 10 or more, call (602) 256-6995.

**Arizona Theatre Company offers accessibility services for patrons with disabilities for select performances. American Sign Language Interpretation** is presented by professional, theatrically-trained ASL-interpreters for people who have deafness or hearing impairment. An ASL-interpreted performance is offered on Saturday, May 21 at 4 p.m. on an LED screen as the play progresses. An open captioned performance is offered on Sunday, May 15 at 1 p.m. For open-captioned or ASL-interpreted performances, patrons should request seats best suited to ASL interpretation or captioning when purchasing tickets. Large print and Braille playbills and infrared listening amplification devices are also available at every ATC performance with reservation. TTY access for the box office is available in Phoenix at (602) 256-6995 or via Arizona Relay at (800) 367-8939 (TTY/ASCII).

## **Fact Sheet:**

*The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*

Written by Scott Carter

Directed by Matt August

**Venue:**

Herberger Theater Center  
222 E. Monroe St.  
Phoenix

**Previews Begin:** Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

**Opening Night:** Saturday, May 7 at 8 p.m.

**Closing Performance:** Friday, May 29 at 4 p.m.

**Ticket Info:**

Ticket prices currently start at \$28 and are available in-person at the Herberger Theater Center at 602) 256-6995 or online at [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

**Contact:**

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 317-3040

**About Arizona Theatre Company:**

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is the preeminent fully professional theatre in the state of Arizona committed to inspiring, engaging, and entertaining - one moment, one production, and one audience at a time. Boasting the largest seasonal subscriber base in the performing arts in Arizona, ATC is the only resident company in the U.S. that is fully based in two cities providing its wide array of programming and community outreach across the region. Now in its 49th season, more than 130,000 people a year attend our performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Each season of home-grown productions reflects the rich variety of world drama—from classics to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works—along with a wide array of community outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives and new play programs. Designated The State Theatre of Arizona, ATC is led by Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein, and a dedicated Board of Trustees.