

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**“ALBATROSS:” A SPELLBINDING PERFORMANCE OF A
RIVETING SAGA PRESENTED BY ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY AT THE
HERBERGER THEATER, MARCH 16-26**

Playwright, Actor, Producer Have Strong Ties to Arizona Theatre Company

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Feb. 1, 2017): **Albatross**, a high-octane, adventure story and multi-media extravaganza, comes to Stage West at the Herberger Theater Center, March 16-26.

Inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s epic poem, *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, **Albatross** blends multimedia technology with a fast-paced rollicking sea yarn to explore the themes of regret, isolation and the interconnected relationship between human beings and the natural world we inhabit. **Albatross** delivers a profound and relevant message about mindfulness and the effect of our thoughtless actions on all living things.

Albatross won two prestigious Elliot Norton Awards from the Boston Drama Critics Association and is currently on stage at one of New York City’s top off-Broadway theater, 59E59 Theater.

The show is produced by Valley resident Michael Seiden and Poet’s Theatre of Cambridge, Mass. and presented by Arizona Theatre Company. Seiden is past chair of the ATC board of trustees. **Albatross** had its initial reading through ATC’s Café Bohemia in Tucson and Phoenix.

Like Seiden, co-playwrights Matthew Spangler (***Kite Runner, Tortilla Curtain***) and star Benjamin Evett have ATC connections. ATC produced and premiered Spangler’s ***Kite Runner*** and Evett performed in the ATC production of ***Freud’s Last Session***, as well as other ATC productions.

“The fact is: Arizona Theatre Company brought us together and the eventual outcome was **Albatross** becoming a reality,” Seiden said.

WBUR (National Public Radio) in Boston wrote that “Evett’s performance (in **Albatross**) is spellbinding, Rick Lombardo’s direction is dynamic and focused,

and the finely attuned production design serves as a living argument for the poetic possibilities of the theatrical form.”

The story follows an 18th-century sailor, cursed with immortality, who is thrust into the modern world. The audience sets sail in a spare but visually thrilling stagecraft. Immersed in this sensory otherworld, audiences come to find out who the Mariner is, why he must forever tell his story, and what he is searching for as he roams the earth.

Spangler describes the play as “very relevant” in light of the today’s world events. “The play asks that we be keenly present and cultivate an awareness of how nearly everything we do affects other people,” he said. “This idea, that all our fates are interconnected, provides something of a balance to an era of environmental degradation, increasing income disparity and radical individuality.”

Ticket prices begin at \$40 and can be purchased through the Arizona Theatre Company website at www.arizonatheatre.org or the Herberger Theater Box office at (602) 252-8497. For more information about ***Albatross***, visit www.albatrosstheplay.net.

-30-

Fact Sheet: *Albatross*

Based on the Poem, “Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Co-Written by: Matthew Spangler and Benjamin Evett,

Directed by: Rick Lombardo

Produced by: Michael Seiden and Poet’s Theater, Cambridge, Mass.

Presented by: Arizona Theatre Company

Projection Design: Garrett Herzog

Lighting Design: Franklin Meissner, Jr.

Set Design: Cristina Tedesco

Costume Design: Frances McSherry

Stage Manager: Leslie Sears

Venue: Herberger Theater Center Stage West, 222 E. Monroe St. Phoenix.

Previews Begin: Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Closing Performance: Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Contact:

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., [\(602\) 317-3040](tel:6023173040)