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**DIVERSIONARY THEATRE ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR  
BIRDS OF A FEATHER**

**STEVE GUNDERSON, KEVIN KOPPMAN-GUE  
MIKE SEARS AND RACHAEL VANWORMER**

**FEATURED IN  
AN LGPT COMEDY ABOUT FAMILY**

**BY MARC ACITO  
DIRECTED BY JAMES VÁSQUEZ**

January 3, 2013 (San Diego, CA) – Diversionsary Theatre announced complete casting for its production of ***Birds of a Feather***, an LGPT comedy about family by Marc Acito and directed by James Vásquez. Performances begin at Diversionsary Theatre (4545 Park Blvd San Diego, CA 92116) on January 31.

The cast includes **Steve Gunderson** as Roy/Pale Male, **Kevin Koppman-Gue** as Birdwatcher, **Mike Sears** as Silo/Lola and **Rachael VanWormer** as Zookeeper.

*Birds of a Feather* is a smart and surprisingly human comedy about two bird families – a pair of male penguins at the Central Park Zoo who hatch and adopt a chick and two hawks living and raising their own brood on a Central Park rooftop. Based on the true events that inspired the famously banned children’s book, *And Tango Makes Three*, and which kept all of New York City looking up at a luxury apartment building in rapt fascination, families of every breed - whether in captivity or in their natural habitat, conventional or not, gay or straight - are celebrated in this heart-warming play. Audiences will surely be atwitter with laughter, but really what’s new at the zoo is the wildly uplifting exploration of psychology, zoology and what it is that truly defines a family.

The creative team for Diversionsary Theatre’s production of *Birds of a Feather* includes **Sean Fanning** (Scenic Design), **Michelle Caron** (Lighting Design),

**Kevin Anthenill** (Sound Design), **Jeannie Galioto** (Costume Design), **David Medina** (Prop Master), **Bret Young** (Producer) and **John E. Alexander** (Executive Director).

Previews begin January 31 with an official opening of February 9. The production is scheduled to run through March 3. Tickets are now available online at [www.diversionary.org](http://www.diversionary.org), by calling 619-220-0097 or by visiting 4545 Park Boulevard San Diego, CA 92116. Single ticket prices ranges from \$25-51 (Prices are subject to change).

## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

**STEVE GUNDERSON** (Roy/Pale Male) previously appeared at Diversionary Theatre in the benefit performance of *Standing On Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* directed by Christopher Ashley. Recently he appeared with Richard Dreyfuss in the benefit reading of *8* at the Birch Theatre, and as Benjamin Franklin in *1776* at Cabrillo Music Theatre. National Tour: *The Grapes of Wrath*. Off Broadway: *Suds* (co-wrote and original cast), *Back To Bacharach & David* (co-created and original cast), *Butley*, *Street Scene*, *Forever Plaid*. Elsewhere: *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, *A Trip To Chinatown*, *Hadrian VII* (Old Globe Theatre). *Memphis*, *The Nightingale* (La Jolla Playhouse). *Parade*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Sweeney Todd* (Cygnet Theatre). *Romance*, *Mad Dancers*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Hairspray* (San Diego Rep), *Into The Woods* (New Village Arts). Major roles in productions at Pasadena Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Alliance Theatre, La Mirada Theatre. Film: *29th and Gay*, *Ready? Okay!*, *Ca\$hino*. Television: Multiple voices on *King of the Hill* and *(The New) Beavis & Butthead*.

**KEVIN KOPPMAN-GUE** (Birdwatcher). Diversionary: *Speech and Debate* and *Moscow*. Elsewhere: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Intrepid Shakespeare) *Zoot Suit* (San Diego Rep); *Henry IV Part I*, *King O' the Moon*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Mistletoe*, *Music and Mayhem*, *Becky's New Car* (North Coast Rep); *Spring Awakening* (American Rose Theatre); *Deathtrap* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Doubt*, *Into the Woods* (SDSU Theatre); *The History Boys* (Cygnet Theatre); *How I Learned to Drive*, *Everything Will Be Different* (Lynx Performance) and *The Winslow Boy* (Lamb's Players Theatre). Kevin has also performed with ion theatre company, 6th @ Penn, Fritz Theatre, Starlight Musical Theatre, and Sledgehammer. Education: B.A. in Theatre Arts (SDSU) and British American Drama Academy at Oxford University.

**MIKE SEARS** (Silo/Lola) La Jolla Playhouse: *Hands on a Hard Body* (u/s), *Bonnie and Clyde*. Off-Broadway: *When Words Fail* (Houseman Theatre), *Leap* (Abingdon Theatre), *To Have and To Hold* (Phil Bosakowski Theatre). Off-Off Broadway: New Dramatist, New York Fringe Festival, The American Globe Theatre, The Present Company, Boomerang Theatre Summer Shakespeare, NY Musical Theatre Works, The Producer's Club and The Duplex. Regional: *Tortilla Curtain* (San Diego Rep) *A Behanding In Spokane*, *Man From Nebraska* (Cygnet Theatre), *Simpatico* (New Village Arts), *Killer Joe* (Compass Theatre), *Good Boys* (Mo'olelo), *The Glory Man* (Lamb's Players), *Tuesday's With Morrie* (North Coast Rep). Mike is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York City and a member of Actors Equity Association.

**RACHAEL VANWORMER** (Zookeeper) Diversionary Theatre: *Speech and Debate, Corpus Christi, Beautiful Thing*. Elsewhere: *The Wizard of Oz, Lifeboat, The Reluctant Dragon* (PCPA TheaterFest); *boom* (San Diego Rep); *The Mousetrap, You Never Can Tell* (Moonlight Stage Productions); *The Woolgatherer, bash: latterday plays, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; In a Dark Dark House* (ion Theatre); *Waving Goodbye, Things We Want, Time Flies, Be Aggressive, This Is Our Youth, The Playboy of the Western World, The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (New Village Arts); *Eleemosynary, The Sugar Syndrome, The Listener* (MOXIE Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (North Coast Rep); *Arcadia, The Matchmaker, The Little Foxes, Curse of the Starving Class* (North Coast Rep).

**MARC ACITO** (Playwright) won the Helen Hayes Award for Best New Play with his comedy *Birds of a Feather*, which had its world premiere at the Hub Theatre in Fairfax, Virginia. Marc returned to the Hub to create a stage adaptation of his first book *How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship and Musical Theater*, which won the Ken Kesey Award for Fiction, was an Editors' Choice for The New York Times, and a Top Teen Pick by the American Library Association. Translated into five languages the author cannot read, it inspired a sequel, *Attack of the Theater People*. He wrote several musicals, including *Allegiance* and *A Room with a View*, both of which had their world premieres at the Old Globe. *Allegiance*, which stars George Takei and Lea Salonga, broke the Globe's all-time box-office record and is scheduled for Broadway in the 2013-2014 season. Marc also wrote book and lyrics for *Bastard Jones*, a finalist for the Richard Rodgers, Eugene O'Neill and Alec Baldwin fellowships. He is a regular contributor to Playbill and has written about theater for The New York Times and American Theatre. A former professional opera singer, he irregularly performs "singing commentaries" on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Marc graduated from Colorado College, which in 2009 awarded him an honorary doctorate. Though he answers to Dr. Marco, he cannot prescribe medication. Marc lives in New York City, where he teaches story structure to writers of all genres in NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

**JAMES VÁSQUEZ** (Director) Diversionary credits: *Pippin, Harmony, Kansas, Next Fall, Fair Use, [title of show]* (SD Critics Circle nominations for Outstanding Direction and Resident Musical) and *Twist*. James won the Craig Noel SD Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical for Cygnet's *Sweeny Todd*, which also won the Outstanding Resident Musical Award. Other recent directing/choreographing credits include: *The Rocky Horror Show, Emma* (Assoc. Director), *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (2003-2012), *Boeing-Boeing* (Old Globe Theatre), *Hedwig...*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Cygnet Theatre) and *Into The Woods* (New Village Arts). In 2004, James founded Daisy 3 Pictures with Mark Holmes and Carrie Preston. Their first two feature films, *29th and Gay* (TLA Releasing, Here TV) and *Ready? OK!* (Wolfe Video, LOGO) have played national and international film festivals, with *Ready? OK!* winning the Best Feature Film award in Seattle, North Carolina, and San Diego. Their latest film, *That's What She Said*, starring Anne Heche, made its world premiere at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. As an actor, James has appeared on film, television,

Off-Broadway, regional and local stages. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Drama. To learn more about James, visit [daisy3pictures.com](http://daisy3pictures.com).

## **ABOUT DIVERSIONARY THEATRE**

**Diversiónary Theatre** develops new works and produces plays and musicals that explore the issues, characters and stories of the LGBT community in all its complexity and diversity. Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, Diversiónary is a professional theatre company that produces a season of mainstage plays and musicals, presents a series of entertaining live entertainment (Diversiónary Cabaret), and nurtures artists in the development of new works of theatre through new play commissions, readings, workshops.

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