

For Immediate Release:

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Wide Eyed Productions presents the world premiere of



By Leonora Bernstein
Directed by Kristin Skye Hoffmann & Stephanie C. Cunningham
Part of the FringeNYCJR 2016

Venue #6
At THE THEATRE at THE 14TH STREET Y
344 E. 14th Street
Take the L Train to First Avenue
or the 4, 5, 6, Q, N, or R trains to Union Square Station

PERFORMANCE DATES
Sunday August 21 at 3:45pm
Monday August 22 at 2:00pm
Wednesday August 24 at 5:30pm
Friday August 26 @ 5:00pm
Saturday August 27 at 4:00pm

Wide Eyed Productions is proud to present the world premiere of **Swashbuckling Sam and the Tale of Blackbeard's Revenge** by Leonora Bernstein as part of the 20th annual New York International Fringe Festival - FringeNYCJR. The play will be Directed by Kristin Skye Hoffmann (Winner: Outstanding Direction FringeNYC 2012) and Stephanie C. Cunningham.

Swashbuckling Sam and the Tale of Blackbeard's Revenge follows Sam, a seven-year-old girl, who is going through a rough time. Her parents are newly divorced, her best friend just moved away and she is getting picked on at school. To cope with everything, Sam creates a magical pirate world from the classic novel *Treasure Island*. Wide Eyed creates a fantastical world complete with schizophrenic fairies, flesh eating skeletons, and sassy birds that children and adults alike are sure to enjoy. With the help of Long John Silver's wacky and hilarious pirate crew, she gains the courage to adjust to all of the new changes in her life and her school tormentors.

Swashbuckling Sam... features an ensemble of amazing adult actors including Kelsey Foltz (Sam), Duane Ferguson (Long John Silver), Lucy McRae (The Pink Fairy), Simon Winheld (Johnny Silver), Samantha Cooper (Old Fish), Will Farrell Jr (Billy Bones), & Trey K. Blackburn (Blackbeard's Ghost). The production team includes Cate DiGirolamo (Lighting Design- TACT, Royal Court Theatre), Melissa Chernowitz (Shadow Puppetry- Dancing Lantern Shadow Theatre) and Zachary Kelley (PSM).

Swashbuckling Sam and the Tale of Blackbeard's Revenge is Leonora Bernstein's first play. Leonora has worked as both an in-school and after school teaching artist for several community-based organizations throughout New York City. Outside of New York she has worked in Dublin, for The Ark, A cultural Centre for Children and also in Boise with Idaho Theatre for Youth. Leonora is currently Wide Eyed's education chair. She holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Boise State University and a M.A. in Educational Theatre from New York University.

Kristin Skye Hoffmann's directing credits include *Animals* by Sam Byron (**Winner: Outstanding Direction FringeNYC 2012**), *Leah in Vegas* by Kara Ayn Napolitano (Fringe NYC), *Red Light Winter* by Adam Rapp (NSD, Pam MacKinnon Advisor), *At the Finish* by Nick Gandiello, *The 'You Knows' Know* by Derek Ahonen, *The Accommodation* by Paul Cohen, *The Old Forever New Things* by Dan Kitrosser. Her short film, *Isolation* by Matt Herzfeld was selected to be a part of the Chicago Reel Short Film Festival and the Phoenix International Film Festival and her web series *Bar Crossed Lovers* is streaming now. In this year's Fringe Festival Kristin is also directing *Dream Ticket* by Ryan Bernsten. This fall she will direct *theMumblings* by Dan Kitrosser in Denver, Colorado. Kristin received her BA in

Performing Arts from the University of Northern Colorado and an MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama. She is the Founding Artistic Director of Wide Eyed Productions. www.kristinskyehoffmann.com

Stephanie C. Cunningham's recent directing credits in New York include *Keep* (Wide Eyed Productions), *Butcher* (Stella Adler Studio), *Salt* (Wide Eyed Productions), *Die Kleinen* (Mastodon Theater Company), *First Love* (RAL Productions), and *The Worst Year Ever* (Fringe NYC). Currently she is on faculty at The New School for Performing Arts, is the director of the New School for Drama's Summer Acting Intensive and is a freelance teaching artist around NYC. She has been a teaching fellow at Boston College and Harvard University. She holds an MA in Theatre Education from Emerson College and an MFA in Directing from New School for Drama. She is the Associate Artistic Director of Wide Eyed Productions.

Since its inception in 2007, **Wide Eyed Productions** developed works of brave, bold and culturally relevant new texts to production. With a core ensemble of emerging theatre artists, the company is dedicated to leaving audiences wide eyed.

Past **FringeJR** productions include **Jack and the Soy Beanstalk & Goldilocks and the 3 Polar Bears** by Sky Seals and Jerrod Bogard. Past **FringeNYC** credits include **Animals** by Sam Byron & **A World Elsewhere! Arias in the Key of Clown** by Ben Newman. Other NYC productions include: *Dead Special Crabs* by Dan Kitrosser, *Keep* by Francesca Pazniokas, *My Daughter Keeps Our Hammer* by Brian Watkins and *A Devil Inside* by David Lindsay-Abair. They have produced plays at New York venues including The Barrow Group Theatre, The Kraine, Players Theater, East 13th Street Theater, and Cherry Lane Theater. For more info, visit www.wideeyedproductions.com.

Visit our website:
www.wideeyedproductions.com or www.FringeNYC.org
for information and updates.

For tickets visit www.FringeNYC.org

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