



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Xerron Mingo | (601) 948-3533 ext. 232 | [education@newstagetheatre.com](mailto:education@newstagetheatre.com)

Jackson, Mississippi – The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre presents *The Grown-Ups* by Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox May 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and May 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com) for \$10 until Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. If seating is available, tickets may also be purchased for \$15 at the door, one hour before each show. The performances are staged at New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre, which is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. *The Grown-Ups* is recommended for ages 14+.

*The Grown-Ups*, directed by Vern Allen, is an apocalypse around a campfire. The story follows a group of camp counselors trying to mold the leaders of tomorrow, which proves difficult when tomorrow is looking bleaker by the hour. With each passing night, tension from the outside world rises like the flames the counselors build up and try to put out. In *The Grown-Ups*, friendships are built, trust is broken, and traditions are put to the test.

New Stage’s Artistic Director Francine Reynolds writes that “Skylar Fox and Simon Henriques’s dark comedy *The Grown-Ups* is a perfect selection for the Unframed at New Stage Theatre Series. This new play’s evocative, deeply unsettling meditation on the uncertainty of life in a culturally divided society is very timely, and New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre creates the essential intimacy that the material demands.”

*The Grown-Ups* is written by tour-de-force, Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox. The two New York based writers are co-founders of contemporary theatre company, Nightdrive. Henriques is a performer and writer whose written work has been featured in *McSweeney’s* and *The New Yorker*. A few of his most recent plays include *The Tomato and The Onion*, and *Narrators*, the last of which won the 2015 Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Festival. Fox is an award winning writer and director. A few of his most recent writing credits include *Alien Nation*, *Thank You, Sorry*, and *Apathy Boy* (2015 O’Neill Finalist.)

Education Director and Unframed’s Producing Manager, Xerron Mingo, writes that he is “extremely excited to be wrapping up our 2023-2024 Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre Season. We have provided phenomenal alternative theatre experiences for the community this year and are able to do so again with this upcoming production of *The Grown-Ups*. I believe it will be a great closer to our 2023-2024 Season because it explores the traditions that change us, and how to change yourself when you’re hopelessly not prepared for what’s to come! We are looking forward to seeing the audience at our Warehouse Theatre May 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>.”

The cast of *The Grown-Ups* includes Jade Krystal Dyer (Cassie), Morgan McKay (Becca), Thomas McBride (Lukas), Hannah Beth Gosnell (Maeve), and Paul Pelletier (Aiden). Understudies include Ebonee Beard, Mahri McLean, and Michael Montgomery.

Director Vern Allen writes that he is “very excited for everyone to see this production. *The Grown-Ups* was first performed in 2020 during a time of extreme uncertainty. A time we got through even when it seemed impossible. The cast has been challenged to not just present a story, but invite the audience onto the campgrounds so all can live through a shared experience together, hopefully coming out on the other side better than before. There are multiple messages to take from this production, but the one that sticks out most for me is perseverance. *The Grown-Ups* reveals you have to move forward, as we have done so many times before, and I hope that optimism is received by those who come to see it.”

Created in 2006, New Stage’s Unframed Series, provides a distinctive theatre experience to the community. The focus is on producing new works and contemporary drama as an alternative to the traditional New Stage subscription series. Unframed at New Stage provides artistic opportunities to emerging artists, allowing them to get more experience working with a professional theatre company and on fresh, exciting material that is not typically produced on the main stage. This season, Unframed produced *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Is God Is*, two staged readings, and is proud to conclude its season with *The Grown-Ups*.

*The Grown-Ups* opens on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Additional performances are Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. \$10 tickets may be purchased in advance through [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com) or by calling 601-948-3533 (ex. 222). If seating is available, tickets may also be purchased for \$15 at the door, one hour before each show. *The Grown-Ups* is recommended for ages 14+. The performances are staged at New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre. The theatre is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. For more information on the Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre, find us on Facebook or Instagram at Unframed at New Stage Theatre or call 601-948-3533 (ex. 222).