



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Two actresses examine everyday life in the sidesplitting play *Parallel Lives* at the Fine Arts Center

*Colorado Springs (August 24, 2017)* — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College Theatre Company is excited to announce the hilarious season-opening production *Parallel Lives* written by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, directed by Nathan Halvorson, and starring Birgitta De Pree and Leslie O'Carroll Sept. 8-Oct. 1, 2017.

In the opening scene, two Supreme Beings plan the beginning of the world with the relish of two slightly sadistic suburban wives decorating a living room. Once they've decided on the color scheme of the races, a little concerned that white people will feel slighted being such a boring color, they create sex and the sexes. Afraid women will have too many advantages, the Beings decide to make childbirth painful and to give men enormous egos as compensation. From this moment, the audience is whisked through the outrageous universe of Kathy and Mo, where two actresses play men and women struggling through the common rituals of modern life: teenagers on a date, sisters at their grandmother's funeral, a man and a woman together in a country-western bar. With boundless humor, *Parallel Lives* reexamines the ongoing quest to find parity and love in a contest handicapped by capricious gods – or in this case, goddesses.

*"... a romp with a feminist sensibility; it's a humor for a post-Lily Tomlin generation ... Above all, PARALLEL LIVES is a smart, provocative show."* –Variety

**Birgitta De Pree** is the Artistic Director of the Millibo Art Theatre. She received her MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory and has spent the last two decades working throughout Colorado as a performer, director, and educator. She was recently seen at the Fine Arts Center in *Noises Off*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Love Loss and What I Wore*, and *Shear Madness* and at the Millibo Art Theatre in *Lovette*, *Holidaze on Ice*, and *The Six Women Play Festival*. Birgitta received the People's Choice Award for "Best Actress" from the Gazette's Best of the Springs in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

**Leslie O'Carroll** is delighted to be working at the Fine Arts Center for the first time. She has been seen at THEATREWORKS in the recent production of *Much Ado About Nothing* (Dogberry), *Our Town* and *Grapes of Wrath*. A resident of Denver, she recently appeared in Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company's production of *Silent Sky* and in *Tartuffe* at the Arvada Center. After *Parallel Lives*, Leslie will return to the Denver Center of Performing Arts to reprise her role as Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*. She has also worked at Curious Theatre Company, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Senior Housing Options, and The Aurora Fox. TV Credits include *Breaking Bad*, *Longmire*, and the original *Footloose*. She is a graduate of the National Theatre Conservatory.

### ***Parallel Lives***

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**When:** Saturday, Sept. 8-Oct. 1; Fri, Sat | 7:30 p.m. & Sun Matinées | 2 p.m.

**Where:** Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

**Tickets:** \$20 (\$18 FAC members)

**Something else:** Theatre patrons receive free admission the FAC Museum on the day of their ticketed performance.

**Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [www.coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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