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## **Arizona Theatre Company Ends 56<sup>th</sup> Season with Explosive Finale; *True West* Takes Center Stage in Tucson**

**Tucson, Ariz.** – Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents Sam Shepard’s *True West* in an electrifying conclusion to its 56<sup>th</sup> season. This raw and gripping production promises audiences a hilariously unforgettable journey into the heart of family, rivalry, and the American Dream.

*True West* depicts the turbulent relationship between two estranged brothers, Austin and Lee, as they find themselves thrust together in their absent mother's Western suburban home. Their opposite Cain and Abel personalities collide in a fierce battle for dominance, sparking a chain reaction of unexpected consequences that shatters the bonds of brotherhood.

A Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony-nominated play that launched the careers of well-known stars John Malkovich and Gary Sinise, *True West* is considered the “heavyweight championship of the world” for actors. It has turned journeymen into celebrities and attracted established film stars back to the stage to great acclaim: Philip Seymour Hoffman vs. John C. Reilly, Tommy Lee Jones vs. Peter Boyle, and Ethan Hawke vs. Paul Dano, just to name a few iconic pairings.

"*True West* is definitely the climax of our season." says Matt August, Kasser Family Artistic Director. "It's a hilarious and chaotic play that is almost impossible to produce because of the huge demands it puts on actors and production teams." He notes that the brothers fight and destroy the set with every one of the 38 performances.

“We are very lucky that we have the resources as the State Theatre to produce this play correctly and give it the production it requires and deserves. Our relentless team here at ATC is supporting a creative team made up of some of the hottest folks in the industry right now. They are serving up a five-course meal with this one. Before there was Quentin Tarantino, before Martin McDonagh and Robert Rodriguez, before *Breaking Bad*, *Deadwood*, and *Game of Thrones*, there was Sam Shepard cutting the trail with his play *True West*.”

The A-List team of creatives boasts Tony-nominated and international designers, Broadway and regional repertory actors, and one of the most in-demand directors working today. “ATC has truly gathered the best and brightest for this monster!” August says.

As ATC celebrates the culmination of their most successful season since the COVID shutdown, *True West* promises to leave a lasting impression, showcasing the company's commitment to producing world-class professional theatre.

ATC's *True West* will run April 27 through May 18 in Tucson at the Temple of Music and Art (330 S. Scott Ave.) and May 24 through June 9 in Greater Phoenix at Tempe Center for the Arts (700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy.) Tickets are on sale now; prices begin at \$33. Tickets can be purchased at [atc.org](http://atc.org) or 1-833-ATC-SEAT.

### **About ATC's *True West***

Sam Shepard's Pulitzer finalist and Tony-nominated play *True West* is a Cain and Abel story of brotherly love and sibling rivalry set against the Dreams of the American West. Successful screenwriter Austin settles in to house sit his mother's desert home to write his next screenplay, while his brother Lee, an alcoholic drifter, arrives to rob the neighborhood. A hysterically twisted story unfolds as the estranged brothers torment each other until they are forced to collaborate on a screenplay for Austin's producer with the promise of a huge Hollywood payday. Ultimately reversing roles and finding themselves inside the other's shoes, the two brothers discover that this town ain't big enough for the both of them ...

**Temple of Music and Art** – April 27 to May 18, 2024

**Tempe Center for the Arts** – May 24 to June 9, 2024

Directed by Jenn Thompson

Featuring Rhett Guter (Austin), Zack Fine (Lee), Geoffrey Wade (Saul Kimmer), and Amelia White (Mom).

### **About Arizona Theatre Company**

Arizona Theatre Company's (ATC) performances provide space for individuals to share moments of joy, communion, and relief. The company's diverse range of productions invite audiences to connect, offering an escape from daily pressures and a chance to rediscover the power of community through laughter, love, and reflection. Founded in 1966 and celebrating its 56th season, ATC is led by Kasser Family Artistic Director Matt August and Executive Director Geri Wright. ATC is the only League of Resident Theatres (LORT) member in Arizona; operating in Tucson and Phoenix, and is the preeminent professional theatre in Arizona, recognized as the Official Arizona State Theatre. More at [atc.org](http://atc.org).