

Other Desert Cities

Close the Distance.

For Immediate Release | January 13, 2020



In March, **The Studio Theatre™ Tierra del Sol** (806 San Marino Drive, The Villages, FL) will open its final production of its fourth season, *Other Desert Cities*, a drama written by Jon Robin Baitz.

Novelist Brooke Wyeth is about to publish a family secret. Over Christmas in Palm Springs, she tells her parents about her memoir, only to find out she has no idea what she is truly revealing. Winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize, Jon Robin Baitz tells an American story about a politically divided family and the lines we are willing to cross for those we love.



Portraying Polly Wyeth, is Actress & Dialect Coach **Susan Goddick**.^{*} Originally from Rockford, Illinois and a performer since childhood, Susan received a BA in Communications and Theatre from the University of Notre Dame, along with an MFA in Acting from the University of California in San Diego. As a proud member of the Actors Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA, Susan has performed in various well-known venues in Chicago, including Theatre at the Center, Paramount Theatre, Artists' Ensemble, and Drury Lane Oakbrook, as well as Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, and Lincoln Center Institute in NYC. Susan has appeared with The Transgressive-Theatre Opera in the Malignant Mezzo concert, and at Oak Park Grace Episcopal Church as the alto soloist in both the Mozart and Duruflé Requiem. Susan, who currently teaches Voice and Dialects at Columbia College-Chicago, has also served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice and Speech at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. This will be Goddick's first time gracing The Studio stage and is looking forward to being inspired by the connection and interaction between the audience and live performers.



Hailing from Chicago is **Jessica Thigpen**, who plays Brooke Wyeth. A proud graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and professional performer of over fifteen years, Thigpen works part-time as a professor of theatre at Loyola University Chicago. “Jess Thigpen, who’s had featured roles at Shattered Globe, Provision and TimeLine Theatre, is an absolute delight as Rita,” wrote Colin Douglas of The Chicago Theatre Review in regards to Jessica’s portrayal of the main character of *Educating Rita*- Citadel Theatre Chicago. “It comes as no surprise to the audience that Frank’s immediately captivated by this lovely girl’s enthusiasm for learning and her *joie de vivre*. As Ms. Thigpen’s character evolved into the confident, educated young woman she was destined to become, she grows more and more fascinating and alluring. By the end of the play, with her transformation complete, she’s also brought Frank out of his musty shell and ready to enter into the light, to embark upon his own education,” he adds. Although Jessica is making her debut at The Studio Theatre, it is not the first she has heard about Artistic Director, Whitney Morse. Her colleague and head of the Theatre Department at Loyola University Chicago Mark Lococo, cast Morse in the role of Brooke in its production of *Other Desert Cities* several years ago. Jessica is very excited and grateful to be working with The Studio Theatre.

The cast also includes: **Jon Freda*** (Lyman Wyeth), **Mindy Shaw** (Silda Grauman), **Andrew Romano** (Trip Wyeth), **Sherri Paradis** (U/S Polly/Silda), **Lon Abrams** (U/S Lyman), and **Danielle Bouloy** (U/S Brooke).

The Theatre Management and Creative Teams are composed of Director **Bobbie Bell**, Producer **Jason Goedken**, Artistic Director **Whitney Morse**, Set Designer **Kenneth Constant**, Costume Designer **Meghan Kennedy**, Lighting Designer **David Krupla**, Assistant Lighting Designer **Lindsey Young**, Sound/AV Designer **Nick Erickson**, Production Manager **Danielle Paccione**, Technical Director **Clayton Becker**, Stage Manager **Grace Zottig**, Assistant Stage Manager **Amber Sacks**, Company Manager **Ryan Loeckel**, House Manager **Grace Petty**, as well as Props Master **Tony Fairchild**.

- **What:** *Other Desert Cities*
- **Where:** The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol, 806 San Marino Dr. The Villages, FL
- **When:** March 27-May 3 2020
- **For tickets:** www.TheSharonStudio.com | (352) 751-7799
- **Price:** \$15 previews | \$35 performances
- **Sign Language Interpretation Show:** April 9, 2020

The Studio Theatre’s Mission is to inspire the residents of Central Florida to examine relevant issues by elevating them through innovative and intimate storytelling. ***Think outside the box, inside the box.***

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**Denotes member of Actors Equity Association*

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