



TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Em Hall—emmab26@gmail.com / 773.322.7296

Route 66 Theatre Company presents
The Chicago Premiere of
GOLDFISH
By John Kolvenbach
Directed by Damon Kiely
June 11 through July 12, 2015

CHICAGO IL- **Route 66 Theatre Company** is pleased to present the Chicago premiere of ***Goldfish***, by **John Kolvenbach**, directed by **Damon Kiely**. Performances begin **June 11 and run through July 12, 2015** at the **Greenhouse Theater Center**: 2257 N Lincoln Avenue in Chicago. Tickets are on sale at www.greenhousetheater.org, by calling 773.404.7336, or in person at the Greenhouse Theater Center box office. **The press opening is June 16 at 7:30 pm.**

Goldfish will feature **Francis Guinan** (2010 Jeff Award winner for Victory Gardens Theater's *A Guide for the Perplexed*; Steppenwolf's *August: Osage County*) and **Shannon Cochran** (2014 Jeff Award winner for Writers Theatre's *The Dance of Death*; Goodman Theatre's *The Little Foxes*; Obie and Theatre World Award for *Bug*), with **Alex Stage** (Goodman Theatre's *Ask Aunt Susan*; Victory Gardens Theater's *Appropriate*) and **Tyler Meredith** (Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Teatro Vista's *Romeo and Juliet*).

Goldfish is a story of a young man who raises his father, then leaves home. He meets a young woman who undoes him, but the young woman has her own story: a mother who is a force of nature. It's a play about legacy and leaving home. We raise our children to leave us, to walk out into the world. But then they do.

"John's play, *On an Average Day*, launched our company back in 2008 and we are so excited to present the Midwest premiere of *Goldfish*", said Stef Tovar, Route 66 Theatre Company's Artistic Director. "We've put together the dream team of cast and designers to tell this beautiful story and I could not be more excited to see it finally come to fruition."

The production team for ***Goldfish*** includes scenic design by **Collette Pollard** (*Inana* at TimeLine Theatre; 2014 Jeff Award winner for *In the Garden: A Darwinian Love Story* at Lookingglass Theatre Company); costumes by **Izumi Inaba** (*The Property* at Lyric Unlimited, *Yankee Tavern* at American Blues Theater); original music and sound design by **Josh Horvath** (*The Secret Garden* at Court Theatre, *Little Mermaid* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater); props design by **Jesse Gaffney** (*Appropriate* at Victory Gardens; *The Downpour* with Route 66) and lighting design by **Lee Keenan** (*Waiting For Godot* at Court Theatre, *The Mousetrap* at Northlight Theatre); with **Ellen Willett** (Production Manager), **Nancy Staiger** (Stage Manager), **Matthew Bonaccorso** (Assistant Stage Manager/Route 66 Company Manager), **Skye Robinson Hillis** (Dramaturg) and **Stef Tovar** (Assistant Director/Route 66 Artistic Director).

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Goldfish

Written by **John Kolvenbach**

Directed by **Damon Kiely**

Featuring **Francis Guinan, Shannon Cochran, Alex Stage** and **Tyler Meredith**

Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

Previews June 11 – June 14, 2015

Press opening June 16, 2015

Regular run June 18 – July 12, 2015

Curtain times Thursdays at 7:30 pm; Fridays at 8 pm; Saturdays at 4 pm & 8 pm; Sundays at 2 pm

Tickets Previews \$29. Regular run \$39 Thursdays; \$43 Fridays through Sundays. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more, Students and Seniors. Tickets on sale at greenhousetheater.org, or by calling 773.404.7336, or in person at the Greenhouse Theater Center box office.

About the Playwright:

John Kolvenbach On the West End: *Love Song* (Olivier nomination, Best New Comedy, directed by John Crowley) and *On an Average Day* (with Woody Harrelson and Kyle MacLachlan, also directed by Mr. Crowley.) *Love Song* premiered at Steppenwolf in 2006, directed by Austin Pendelton. It has been produced in New York, Zurich, Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington, Seoul and Rome. There have been over fifty productions in the U.S. *On an Average Day* has been produced in Tel Aviv, Buenos Aires, Lisbon and by Route 66 in Chicago and in Los Angeles. *Goldfish* premiered at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco, directed by Loretta Greco. The play was done in repertory with *Mrs. Whitney*, which was directed by the author. Most recently, *Sister Play* received its premier at the Magic and at The Harbor Stage Company, both productions directed by the author. Other plays include: *Fabuloso*, (Premiered at WHAT, subsequent productions in San Juan and Zurich, in Spanish and Swiss German) *Bank Job* (Amphibian Stages) and *Marriage Play or Half 'n Half 'n Half* (Merrimack Rep.)

About the Director:

Damon Kiely is excited to be back at Route 66, where he is an Associate Artist, having directed the world premiere of *McMeekin Finds Out*. He is a professional director and writer, as well as a full time professor of directing and acting for DePaul's Theatre School, where he is the incoming Chair of Performance. He is currently writing a book for Routledge called *How to Read a Play: Script Analysis for Directors* due out February 2016. In the fall the House Theatre of Chicago will produce his new play *The Revel*, an adaptation of *The Bacchae*; in the winter he will direct his own adaptation of *The Tempest* called *Prospero's Storm* for DePaul Theatre School's Playworks series, in the spring of 2016 he will direct *Once in a Lifetime* for Strawdog Theatre Company. He was recently nominated for a Jeff Award for Best Director of a Musical for his production of *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* for American Blues Theatre, which won for Best Musical Mid-Sized Theatre. In Chicago, he has directed regional premieres of work by Lisa Kron, Kirsten Greenidge, and Jordan Harrison for Next Theatre (R.I.P.), The Chicago premiere of Gore Vidal's *Weekend* for TimeLine Theatre Company, and the regional premiere of Gina Gionfriddo's *Becky Shaw* for A Red Orchid Theatre. He's also worked at Eclipse Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, Wild Claw and others. His world premiere adaptation of *Thieves Like Us* was produced by the House Theatre of Chicago and the Theatre School. He served as the Artistic Director of American Theater Company from 2002 to 2007. Directing credits at ATC include *Oklahoma!* (Nominated for 6 Jeff Awards including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical), *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *Orpheus Descending*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *The Hairy Ape*. At

The Theatre School he has directed many plays for the Showcase and Playworks series including *Our Town*, the first show in the Theatre School's new building, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Medea*, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, and his own adaptation of *Nancy Drew and the Sign of the Twisted Candle*. Prior to moving back to Chicago he produced, directed, and taught in New York City. In New York he directed for the Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, the Ontological Theater, Adobe Theater Company, PS122, Ensemble Studio Theater and New Dramatists. He is a winner of the 2000-02 NEA/TCG Career Directing Program, the 2000 Drama League Fall Directing Program and the 1997 Princess Grace Award.

Route 66 Theatre Company

Route 66 Theatre Company introduces, develops, produces, and exports new work for the stage that embraces the American spirit of exploration and risk.

The Road Begins with our new play development process and reaches west, where our World and Chicago Premiere shows are given an advocate for further regional productions along the road less traveled from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Since the company's founding, Route 66 has produced eight productions, two in two cities including an Off-Broadway New York premiere, has been nominated for five Jeff Awards and won two. 2015 is Route 66's second full season of new work. www.route66theatre.org

Route 66 is Stef Tovar, Founder and Artistic Director; Frances Limoncelli, Literary Manager; Kelly Parker, Casting Director; Alana Parvey-Zalas, Business Manager; Matthew Bonaccorso, Company Manager; John Mohrlein, Consigliere

###