**MEDIA RELEASE**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Creative Cauldron Presents Award-Winning Cult-Hit *Ruthless! The Musical***

**October 6-30, 2016 at *ArtSpace Falls Church***

**Falls Church, VA –** Creative Cauldron presents the regional premiere of award-winning cult-hit ***Ruthless! The Musical***, with book and lyrics by **Joel Paley**, music by **Marvin Laird**, and direction by Creative Cauldron Artistic Associate **Matt Conner**. The original Off-Broadway run of *Ruthless! The Musical* was nominated for five Drama Desk Awards in 1991-92 and won for Outstanding Lyrics. It won the 1993 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical. This original run helped launch the careers of Natalie Portman and Britney Spears as understudies in the role of Tina Denmark. The musical re-launched Off-Broadway in 2015 under the direction of Joel Paley and is running there currently. Creative Cauldron’s production will run October 6th through 30th, 2016 at *ArtSpace Falls Church*. “It’s a hilarious, off-beat sendup that puts all the backstage drama downstage center,” says director Matt Conner, “anyone who loves musicals will die laughing.” **Press Night is Saturday, October 8th, 2016 at 8 PM**.

*Ruthless!*, often billed as “the stage mother of all musicals,” is a musical farce about a cutthroat eight-year-old, Tina Denmark, whose Broadway ambitions mean she is willing to do anything for the chance to play the lead in her school play. *Ruthless!* is a campy favorite that famously spoofs Broadway hits like *Gypsy* and *Mame* as well as classic films like *The Bad Seed* and *All About Eve*. This productionwill feature Creative Cauldron newcomer **Sophia Manicone** in the role of Tina Denmark. Creative Cauldron veteran **Katie McManus** (Helen Hayes © Recommended productions of *World Goes ‘Round* and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living In Paris)* will play Tina’s overbearing stage mother Judy Denmark. McManus has previously appeared at The Shakespeare Theatre, Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre and as a special guest soloist at the Kennedy Center. **Iyona Blake**, recently named a DCMTA Staff Favorite for her performance in Creative Cauldron’s *Caroline, or Change*, will play Miss Thorne, a failed actress turned teacher. The remaining cast features Kathy Halenda (eighteen national tours including *Gypsy* and *Fiddler on the Roof*), Jordan DeBona (Creative Cauldron’s *World Goes ‘Round,* Signature’s *The Fix and Cabaret*), and Tamarin Ythier (Epic Productions’ *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change!*).

Director **Matt Conner** recently directed Creative Cauldron’s critically acclaimed, Helen Hayes © Recommended musical *Caroline, or Change*. He received a Helen Hayes Award © Nomination for Outstanding Director of a Musical – HELEN Production with Stephen Gregory Smith for Creative Cauldron’s 2015 production of *The Turn of the Screw*. He directed Creative Cauldron’s 2015 production of *Once on This Island*, which received a 2016 Helen Hayes Awards © Nomination for Outstanding Musical – HELEN Production. With Stephen Gregory Smith, Conner has written two critically acclaimed world premiere musicals under Creative Cauldron’s *Bold New Works for Intimate Stages* initiative. He is a nationally recognized musical composer known for *Nevermore*, *Night of the Living Dead: The Musical*, and *The Hollow*. In 2008, Conner was one of six composers awarded a commission through Signature Theatre’s (Arlington, VA) “American Musical Voices Project: The Next Generation.” His new musical *Silver Belles*, written with Allyson Currin and Stephen Gregory Smith, will premiere at Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA this winter. Conner and Smith’s third *Bold New Works* world premiere, *Kaleidoscope,* will appear at Creative Cauldron in May, 2017.

The creative team for *Ruthless!* includes Walter “Bobby” McCoy as Musical Director, Margie Jervis as Scenic and Costume Designer, and Joseph Lovins as Lighting Designer.

**Tickets for *Ruthless!* can be purchased at creativecauldron.org or by calling 703-436-9948.**

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**Creative Cauldron** is a non-profit arts organization whose innovative programs in the performing and visual arts embody collaboration, experimentation and community engagement. Creative Cauldron was founded by Producing Director Laura Connors Hull in 2002. In June of 2009, Creative Cauldron acquired a permanent home in *ArtSpace Falls Church,* a 3,000 square foot flexible arts space that provides a venue for year-round classes, live performances of theater, music and dance and visual art exhibits. Programs are presented in part through grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church and the Little City CATCH Foundation. Creative Cauldron’s programs are also supported by generous corporate and individual sponsors.

**FACT SHEET**

**Who/What:** Creative Cauldron’s Presents: *Ruthless! The Musical*

 Book and Lyrics by Joel Paley

 Music by Marvin Laird

Directed by Matt Conner

Featuring Sophia Manicone, Katie McManus, Iyona Blake, Kathy Halenda, Jordan DeBona and Tamarin Ythier

**When:** Production runs October 6th through 30th, 2016

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM, Sundays at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Press Night is Saturday, October 8th at 8:00 PM

Annual Gala is Saturday, October 15th at 8:00 PM

**Where**: Creative Cauldron at *ArtSpace Falls Church*

 410 South Maple Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046

**Ticket Info:** Adults: $30 | Seniors/Military: $26 |Students $20

Season Passes and Discounts for Groups of 10 or more available

 [www.creativecauldron.org](http://www.creativecauldron.org) or 703-436-9948

 Free Parking is available in the 410 and 400 South Maple Building Garages