



PRESS RELEASE - OF GOOD STOCK

Drink Up, Family is Coming: SCR Premieres *Of Good Stock* by Melissa Ross

COSTA MESA, Calif. (March 4, 2015)—Pack your baggage, it's time for a weekend with the Stockton sisters in South Coast Repertory's world premiere play, *Of Good Stock* by Melissa Ross. Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, *Of Good Stock*, runs on the Segerstrom Stage, March 27-April 26. This production is part of the 2015 Pacific Playwrights Festival. Tickets are now available at www.scr.org.

Legendary novelist Mick Stockton left his three daughters a house in Cape Cod, control over his books and a whole lot of issues. Years later, the men in their lives struggle to be part of this elusive family's legacy. It's not always easy keeping up with the whip-smart and very funny Stockton sisters, especially during a weekend filled with dramatic confrontations and surprising confessions. But good scotch helps. And, in the end, what matters most is family.

"We commissioned this play when Melissa was still relatively unknown, but we believed in her talent and she has rewarded our faith with a play that we're very excited to share with our audiences," said Associate Artistic Director John Glore. Ross is part of a group of emerging playwrights at SCR funded and commissioned through the Elizabeth George Foundation. Other playwrights funded through this grant have included Julia Cho, Noah Haidle and Rajiv Joseph.

Melissa Ross has written numerous plays including *Thinner Than Water*, *Do Something Pretty*, *A Life Extra Ordinary* and *You Are Here* which had a reading at the 2012 Pacific Playwrights Festival. She has had readings and workshops with Dorset Theatre Festival, The Juilliard School, New York Stage and Film and Rattlestick Playwrights. She was a Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellow at The Juilliard School and is a two-time recipient of the Le Comte Du Nouy Award.

"*Of Good Stock* was my very first commission," said Melissa Ross. "I was lucky to be able to write it shortly after experiencing my first Pacific Playwrights Festival with a different play. It was a real joy for me to write something for South Coast Repertory that was truly inspired by their stages, their work and their audiences. Having had my reading on the Segerstrom stage the year before, I kept a vision of it in my head while writing the play. I am thrilled that I will be able to see this story come to life on the stage that I wrote it for."

Of Good Stock received a stage reading at SCR's 2014 Pacific Playwrights Festival reading and is already set for an off-Broadway production at Manhattan Theatre Club in June. Glore isn't surprised by her success, "Melissa has a rare ability to write honestly about emotionally difficult situations and still make you laugh. Her characters are recognizably human, deeply flawed—sometimes annoyingly so, and yet we end up caring about them. Probably because they remind us of us."

The cast for *Of Good Stock* includes Corey Brill, Kat Foster, Melanie Lora, Todd Lowe, Rob Nagle and Andrea Sygłowski.

The design and creative team includes Tony Fanning, scenic design; David Kay Mickelsen, costume design; Bradley King, lighting design; and Darron L. West, sound design. The show's dramaturg is Jerry Patch, the production manager is Jackie Hill and the stage manager is Kathryn Davies.

Of Good Stock is generously supported by Honorary Producers Jane and Richard P. Taylor and Pam and Jim Muzzy. The Corporate Honorary Associate Producer is BNY Mellon Wealth Management. The media partner is the *Orange Coast* magazine.

Tickets start at \$22. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 25 years of age and under, full-time educators, seniors and groups of 10 or more. For complete information, visit: www.scr.org.
