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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LADIES OF A CERTAIN AGE ROCK THE STAGE IN MOXIE ROLLING WORLD PREMIERE**  
*Herland Opens January 26*

**January 2019** - With her debut *Herland* at MOXIE Theatre, Grace McLeod is the youngest person ever to receive a prestigious Rolling World Premiere from the National New Play Network. McLeod's comedy follows a trio of lady septuagenarians who hire a high school intern to hatch a bold plan for a utopian alternative rather than move in to a retirement home. After its premiere at MOXIE, the play, which deals with coming out and being true to yourself at all ages, will receive separate productions at Red Twist Theatre in Chicago and Greenway Court Theatre in Los Angeles as a part of the Rolling World Premiere.

In a culture that's ever obsessed with youth, *Herland* challenges the idea that young people are the only ones living the most important time of their lives. Like the central young character, high school graduates are constantly being told that that singular moment is the time to decide what to do with the rest of their lives; the older characters in the show prove that we keep deciding and making choices at every age.

Executive Artistic Director Jennifer Eve Thorn, who also helms this production, loved the opportunity to hire a variety of actresses: "It's at the very moment women are feeling the most brave and sure of themselves as artists that our culture writes them off as secondary characters. Some of the best talent in San Diego theatre is over 65 and female. Those women don't have the opportunities they should. *Herland* is a showcase for some of my favorite young and mature actresses in San Diego. It's about women. Being together. And liking it. I love that."

Thorn isn't the only one loving the play's focus. Council President Georgette Gómez (District 9) will be joining *Herland* playwright McLeod for a post-show discussion after the Friday January 25th performance. The talk will be titled "Queer Role Models in Fiction and Flesh."



**Directed by Jennifer Eve Thorn. The Design and Production Team includes: Set Design, Julie Lorenz; Costume Design, Anastasia Puatova; Lighting Design, Ashley Bietz ; Sound Design, Lily Voon; Properties Design, Angelica Ynfante; Stage Management, Megan Ames.**



**Grace McLeod (Playwright)** is a Chicago-based playwright and screenwriter. She has developed her full-length plays with First Floor Theater, Greenhouse Theater Center, The New Colony, and Commission Theatre, and has had the pleasure of writing short plays for Chimera Ensemble, American Blues Theater, and the Victory Gardens College Night series, among others. Grace was the recipient of the 2018 Olga and Paul Menn Foundation Prize for Playwriting and a 2017-2018 playwright-in-residence at the Greenhouse Theater Center as part of the Trellis Residency Initiative, where she developed her play *Herland*, which will have its National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere this year at MOXIE Theatre in San Diego, Redtwist Theatre in Chicago, and Greenway Court Theatre in Los Angeles. She was a 2013-2014 Tribeca Film Fellow and wrote and directed the short film “Under the Table,” which premiered during the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival. Grace is a recent graduate of the University of Chicago.



**Jennifer Eve Thorn (Director)** is a co-Founder and Executive Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, a director, writer, teacher and actor with a degree in theatre from the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. Jennifer is also the director and co-creator of A Lesson For Life and was awarded a Global Leadership Award from The Young President’s Organization for this groundbreaking educational theatre experience which promotes education about and prevention of child sexual abuse. Thorn has established herself as a director in San Diego with many successes, including *Dog Act*, *Fall*, *Devil Dog Six*, *Victoria Martin-Math Team Queen* (Patte Award for Outstanding Direction), *The Sugar Syndrome*, *Drink Me*, *Expecting Isabel*, *The Crucible* and *Coming Attractions*, *Hickorydickory*, *Mud Blue Sky*, *Enron*, *Lesson 443*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *The Revolutionists*, *Ironbound*, *The Madres* and *Herland*. In May of 2003 Jen’s adaptation of the national best seller *First They Killed My Father* was staged and produced at the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, raising over \$500,000 for Land Mine Victims in Cambodia. She has developed the “MOXIE Theatre Immersion” program, designed to incorporate the art of theatre into the world of corporate strategic planning to facilitate team building and communication. MOXIE has used the program in working with corporations such as Disney and Half-Full, LLC. Recently she was a nominee for San Diego Magazine’s Woman of the Year Award.

## THE CAST

**Rhona Gold** (Jean) is delighted to be returning to the MOXIE Theatre stage and to be working with such a talented group of women. She has been seen in a number of MOXIE productions including *The Crucible* (an Intrepid and Moxie Theatre collaboration), *Drink Me*, *Eurydice*, *Eleemosynary*, and *Skinless*. She also appeared in *The Vortex* and *Hay Fever*, two Noel Coward plays which ran in repertory at The Cygnet Theatre, *Hedda Gabler* at The North Coast Rep and *Old Jews Telling Jokes* at the Lyceum Theatre. She appeared in *Enchanted April*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Fiddler On the Roof* at Lambs Players Theatre.

**Christine Cervas Nathanson** (Natalie) is proud to be MOXIE Theatre's Business Manager, and a founding member and co-Artistic Director of MaArte Theatre Collective. She holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Westmont College where she commissioned and directed the premiere of *Tar and Feather* by Kristin Idaszak (Santa Barbara Indy Award). Select acting credits include: *Dido Queen of Carthage* as Dido (Santa Barbara Indy Award), *Dido and Aeneas* as Belinda, *Electra* as Electra (Westmont). Select directing credits include: *Colored* (MaArte Theatre Collective); *Skin and Bone* (self-produced); *Spin Class*, *The Bechdel Tent*, *Des Étoiles*, (Westmont); *Ophelia/Ophelie* (SDSU 10 Minute Play Festival). Assistant directing credits include: *Voyeurs de Venus*, *The Revolutionists* (MOXIE Theatre); *Vietgone* (San Diego Repertory Theatre); and *The Last Wife* (Cygnet Theatre). Upcoming: *The Fire in Me* by Thelma Virata de Castro (Asian Story Theatre) made possible by the San Diego Foundation Creative Catalyst Grant. @christinecervas

**Jill Drexler** (Louise) is happy to be back at MOXIE. Her last role there was in *Coming Attractions*. Other recent roles include work at *4000 Miles* (Ion); *True West* (Cygnet); *The Season of Love*, *Lettice and Loveage* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Beau Jest*, *Foxfire*, *Ring Around the Moon*, *Moon Over Buffalo* (Moonlight Stage at the Avo); *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Buried Child*, *What's Wrong with this Picture* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *Hysterical Blindness* (Backyard Productions); *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Fit to be Tied* (Diversions Theatre, San Diego Theatre Critic's Circle award). Ms. Drexler is the Artistic Director of Scripps Ranch Theatre, which opens *Dancing Lessons* by Mark St. Germain on January 25th.

**Loie Gail** (Terry) is excited and proud to be making her first appearance at MOXIE Theatre. Though a performer since childhood (mainly as a singer,) she came to acting in her retirement and completed a 2 year training at the Meisner/Chekov Intensive Training Studio with master teachers Lisa Berger, Liz Shipman and Jeffrey Ingman. Some of the plays in which she has appeared are *Over the Tavern*, *The Bad Seed*, *Bell Book & Candle* (for which she was nominated for an Aubrey Award), *Lend Me a Tenor*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Persuasion*, *The Peacock and the Nightingale*, *The Hallelujah Girls*, and *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*. Loie is also a member of The Late Bloomers improv group at the North Park Vaudeville theater.

**Meg Stoll Tron** (Becca) is an LA based actor excited to be at MOXIE for this show. After getting her B.A. from the University of San Diego, Meg appeared locally in the Plays by Young Writers Festival (The Old Globe/Playwrights Project), as Hamlet in a one-night showcase (self-

produced), and as Cindy in *Fefu and Her Friends* (Oracle Performing Arts). Her favorite roles include Katherine in *Henry V* and Eurydice in *Eurydice*. Meg likes to swing dance, sword fight, direct a little bit, and discuss Shakespeare over red wine like THAT kind of actor. @megstolltron

### **FACTS ABOUT *Herald***

**WHAT:** *Herland* by Grace McLeod

**WHERE:** MOXIE Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego, CA 92115

**SCHEDULE:** Run Dates: January 20 - February 17. Opening Night: January 26.  
Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm

### **TICKET PRICES**

**DISCOUNTS:** Seniors, Students, Military and AASD receive \$5 off general admission

\$18-\$44

10 or more tickets  
25% OFF entire order  
15 or more tickets  
35% OFF entire order

BOX OFFICE: 858-598-7620 or [www.moxietheatre.com](http://www.moxietheatre.com)

### **SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:**

**Friday January 25, 2019 @ 8pm - Post Show: Queer Role Models in Fiction and Flesh with Georgette Gomez**

Council President and previous MOXIE Award Winner Georgette Gómez (District 9) will be participating in a post-show discussion with playwright Grace McLeod after the final preview of *HERLAND!* The talk will be titled: Queer Role Models in Fiction and Flesh. Don't miss these two brilliant women in conversation after the show!

**Sunday January 27 , 2019 @ 2pm - Post Show: Famous Female Friendships with Dr. Monica Stufft**

Join University of San Diego professor Dr. Monica Stufft after the first matinee performance for a panel discussion on iconic female friendships in media and culture.

**Saturday February 2 @ 7pm – Bechdel Brigade Night: *Herland***

Join MOXIE and The Bechdel Brigade for our lesbian outreach event featuring a pre-show discussion with a special guest and catered libations from The Wild Thyme company.

**Sunday, February 10, 2019 @ 2pm – Second Sunday Q & A: *Herland***

Join the actors from *Herland* for a post-show discussion to learn more about the play and enrich your theatre going experience.

