



SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017  
ELM STREET CULTURAL ARTS VILLAGE  
WOODSTOCK, GA

CELEBRATING WOMEN, WISDOM, AND POSSIBILITY

Jo Howarth Noonan Foundation for the Performing Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information Contact:  
Patrick Noonan, Board President  
678-358-5961 [pnoonan8@gmail.com](mailto:pnoonan8@gmail.com)

Jill Patrick, Board Vice President  
404-441-2716 [jill.patrick@gmail.com](mailto:jill.patrick@gmail.com)

### **New Foundation Announces Directors & Cast for MOJO FEST 2017**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

**Elm Street Cultural Arts Village (8534 Main St, Woodstock, GA 30188)**

### **New Plays Highlight Mission to Create More Roles for Women in Theater**

**Atlanta (March 15, 2017)** – The Jo Howarth Noonan Foundation for the Performing Arts has released more details of its public debut, MoJo Fest 2017. The March 25 theater festival will include staged readings of 5 newly commissioned 10-minute plays, a panel of accomplished women who have worn many hats in the theater community in Atlanta and beyond, and a reading of a full-length work.

This year's list of playwrights, directors and casts reads like a "who's who" of Atlanta theater:

#### **10-minute commissioned works:**

"Catch & Release," by Sherry Camp Paulsen

Vicky shops for new intimate apparel with her longtime friend, Eileen. As she "fishes" for just the right undies, she "catches" something far bigger than she can handle.

Directed by Tess Malis Kincaid; With Deadra Moore\*, and Cynthia Barrett\* and Bethany Lind\*.

"Getting There," by Suehyla El Attar

A daughter takes her mother to a doctor's appointment. Again.

Directed by Julie Skrzypek; With Susan Shalhoub Larkin\* and Daryl Lisa Fazio.

"The Cocktail Hour," by Penny Mickelbury

Best friends Lila and Nettie, 60, are lively, vibrant yoga devotees looking forward to a travel-centric retirement. Then the election screws it all up. Nettie is depressed. Lila is mad as hell. Neither is willing to let a "fat, ugly, orange ooze" turn back the clock on what it means to be Black and female in America--especially at age 60. Yes, they'll resist – but they'll do it in different ways. What they won't do is go backward.

Directed by Andrea Frye; With Brenda Porter\* and Rita Barrett.

“Morningside,” by Topher Payne

Tensions run high at the baby shower being thrown for Grace Driscoll's daughter, thanks in part to a drunken family member who's not a fan of party games.

Directed by Dina Shadwell; With Shelly McCook, Shannon Eubanks\*, Elisa Carlson\*, and Ann Wilson.

“Final Resting Place,” by Pamela Turner

Karen and her sister Lucy have spent their lives trying to get past the tumultuous childhood that had made them both leave home as soon as possible. Both blame the problems on their mother Margaret and a series of events that no one talks about. But while Lucy returned to their small Midwest town in early adulthood to make the best of it, Karen only came back twice, each time running again the minute memories got too close to the surface. Now at age fifty, after a few years of living one town over, she has decided to try and reconnect with her mother one last time after the death of stepfather number three.

Directed by Carolyn Shepherd Choe; With Kathleen McManus and Nancy Riggs.

**Full length play:**

“Coyote Hour,” by Margaret Baldwin

When Annie's dog goes missing amid reports of coyotes roaming her neighborhood, she sets out to rid her yard of unwelcome invaders, all the while dealing with a deep personal loss. She summons a stranger to the hunt, whose presence exposes cracks in her marriage and threatens to shatter her reality to the core.

Directed by Shelly McCook; With Mary Saville, Topher Payne, Jill Hames, Nick Tecosky, Karen Howell\*, and Alan Kilpatrick\*.

\*These Actors are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

*For more information about Jo Howarth Noonan Foundation for the Performing Arts, please visit the new web site at <https://www.johowarthnoonan.org/>. The March 14 press release about MoJo Fest 2017 can be found at: <https://www.johowarthnoonan.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/MoJo-Fest-3-25-17-PR1.pdf> You can follow the Foundation on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JHNFoundation/>. To purchase tickets, please visit Brown Paper Tickets at <http://mojofestival2017.bpt.me/>*

///

*MoJo Fest 2017 will take place on March 25, 2017 at the Elm Street Cultural Arts Village (8534 Main St, Woodstock, GA 30188). Doors will open at 12:30pm, with new 10-minute plays beginning at 1:00pm. The evening's play reading will conclude by 9:00pm. Admission is \$25 and includes a dinner catered by Affairs to Remember. Advance tickets are available online at Brown Paper Tickets: <http://mojofestival2017.bpt.me/>*

**About the Jo Howarth Noonan Foundation for the Performing Arts:**

Jo Howarth Noonan passed away unexpectedly – and far too young – on June 10, 2015. An accomplished actor, mentor and patron of theatrical arts, she was known not only for having been an actress at an early age, but also for having returned to stage, and having a successful career in her 40s and 50s. She also was loved by all for her warmth and generous spirit.

The new non-profit foundation that carries her name aims to extend Jo's achievements beyond her own life, by creating more opportunities for actresses over 40 to stay engaged and vital in American theater.

By commissioning new stage works, recognizing plays and screenplays that provide substantial roles for older women (also as writers and directors), sponsoring mentoring and networking events, and hosting an annual MoJo Fest, the Foundation seeks to have a lasting impact on theater across the country.

Theater communities and audiences coast to coast will benefit from retaining the talent, wisdom, professional experience, and LIFE experience of these women, and our work will carry Jo's name.