

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO EXTENDS
MY STROKE OF LUCK

Written and performed by Diane Barnes

Directed by Rebecca Fisher

Developed with David Ford

January 4-February 3, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (12 December 2017) – **The Marsh San Francisco** kicks off the New Year with an extension of 2017 United Solo Theatre Festival winner *My Stroke of Luck*, from January 4 through February 3, 2018. Not everyone knows that the average person loses 1.9 million brain cells every minute a stroke goes untreated, but Diane Barnes did. As a radiologist who diagnoses strokes, Barnes did not deal with having a stroke very well; it was more than 20 hours before she went to the hospital. Hailed by the *Marin Independent Journal* as a “riveting and moving account,” *My Stroke of Luck* follows Barnes as she recounts her experience of having a stroke, her path to recovery, and more. A spellbinding and funny look at love, family, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Barnes shares the story of a single adoptive mother of special needs and gifted sons and how she forges a new identity after a debilitating change. The Theatre Bay Area recommended production *My Stroke of Luck*, directed by Rebecca Fisher and developed with David Ford, will be presented 8:00pm Thursdays, 5:00pm Saturdays, and two shows at 2:00pm Sundays **January 4-February 3, 2018** at **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco. For tickets (\$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$55-\$100 reserved), the public may visit www.themarsh.org or call The Marsh box office at **415-282-3055** (open 1-4pm, Monday through Friday).

After surviving the catastrophe that inspired this show, **Diane Barnes** discovered improvisation. “Yes, and,” the mantra of improv, opened an alternate universe for this “Hmm...show me the evidence,” skeptic scientist. Barnes’ first solo performance shared her experience negotiating the hurdles to single parent adoption. Audience response galvanized her

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with the power of storytelling and launched her new career. She left the practice of medicine in 2010. Now a Meisner-trained actor, Barnes also completed the American Conservatory Theater’s Summer Training Congress, and studied with Anna Deavere Smith, Ann Randolph, Keith Johnstone, and the Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre. She has appeared at Ross Valley Players, College of Marin, Studio One, BATS Improv, and Pan Theater. Barnes, a NYC transplant, and third generation physician, is a graduate of Stanford University and Yale University School of Medicine, and is board certified in Diagnostic Radiology.

Rebecca Fisher (Director) is the creator of The Marsh’s Writing Cabaret and the co-producer of the long-running Marsh series *Tell it on Tuesday*. Her solo performance work has been called “smart, challenging, and unmistakably affecting” by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and has won a San Francisco Best of Fringe award. She has directed solo shows in national fringe festivals and Mark Kenward’s *Nantucket* at The Marsh Berkeley. Fisher was a teaching artist with The Lincoln Center affiliated arts education program in Bay Area schools and directed theater camps with the Berkeley Playhouse/Julia Morgan Center for the Arts and The Marsh.

David Ford (Developer) has been collaborating on new and unusual theater for three decades and has been associated with The Marsh for most of that time. The San Francisco press has variously called him “the solo performer maven,” “the monologue maestro,” “the dean of solo performance,” and “the solo performer’s best friend.” Collaborators include Geoff Hoyle, Echo Brown, Brian Copeland, Charlie Varon, Marilyn Pittman, Rebecca Fisher, Wayne Harris, and Marga Gomez. As a director, Mr. Ford has directed both solo and ensemble work regionally at the Public Theater, Second Stage, St. Clement’s, Dixon’s Place, One Dream Theatre, and Theatre for the New City (NY), Highways Performance Space (LA) and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (DC) as well as at theaters around the Bay Area including Magic Theatre and Marin Theatre Company. He is also a published playwright.

The Marsh is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and now annually hosts more than 600 performances of 175 shows across the company’s two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh’s specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco*

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Chronicle as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area’s best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.”

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: **The Marsh San Francisco** kicks off the New Year with an extension of 2017 United Solo Theatre Festival winner *My Stroke of Luck*. Not everyone knows that the average person loses 1.9 million brain cells every minute a stroke goes untreated, but Diane Barnes did. As a radiologist who diagnoses strokes, Barnes did not deal with having a stroke very well; it was more than 20 hours before she went to the hospital. *My Stroke of Luck* follows Barnes as she recounts her experience of having a stroke, her path to recovery, and more. A spellbinding and funny look at love, family, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Barnes shares the story of a single adoptive mother of special needs and gifted sons and how she forges a new identity after a debilitating change. The Theatre Bay Area recommended production *My Stroke of Luck*, is directed by Rebecca Fisher and developed with David Ford.

WHEN: January 4 - February 3, 2018

SHOWS: 8:00pm Thursdays
5:00pm Saturdays
2:00pm Sundays (on January 21 and January 28)

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco
(between 21st & 22nd Streets)
*Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage
(21st St between Mission & Valencia)
BART Station (closest): Mission & 24th Street*

TICKETS: \$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$55 and \$100 reserved

INFO: For information or to order tickets call (415) 282-3055 or visit
www.themarsh.org

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PRESS: Contact Courtney Heimbeck, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://www.cb-pr.com/press/mystrokeofluck.html>