**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Biographies:**

**Padraig Bond** (17) is a Viewpoints and Suzuki trained actor, and a devoted political activist. He has been involved with Ad Astra Theatre Troupe for the past year, having played the commanding officer, Ignacy Rosak, in Uprising. He is co-author of and will direct The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust presents Ad Astra Theatre Troupe Ltd.’s adaptation of Trojan Women. His approach towards this project was inspired by the SCOT production of Trojan Women, and last spring’s student walkouts, which he organized at Saratoga Springs High School, where he is a senior. He will be attending Hunter College in the fall.

**Catie LeCours** (18) is a freshman at Skidmore College, where she studies theatre, classics, and vocal performance. Catie is a co-author of Uprising, The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust presents Ad Astra Theatre Troupe Ltd.’s adaptation of Trojan Women, and other works. She is a founding member of Ad Astra Theatre Troupe, having played Tinker Bell in Peter/Wendy and Jadwiga in Uprising. Catie has also performed in five operas at the Glimmerglass Festival, including as Penelope in the world premiere of Odyssey, which solidified her interest in Greek mythology.

**Grace Alberti** (17) is the founder and executive director of Ad Astra Theatre Troupe, Ltd., a Saratoga Springs based 501(c)(3) non-profit student run theatre company beginning its third season. Grace is co-author, along with Lâle Davidson and Catie LeCours, of the original play, Uprising, which debuted as a workshop last June and went on to touring engagements at Canisius College in Buffalo and at the Park Theater in Glens Falls. Grace directed Uprising and Jeremy Bloom’s Peter/Wendy for Ad Astra Theatre Troupe and has performed in over 50 local youth and community theater productions since 2009. She is a senior at Saratoga Springs High School. She will be attending New York University, Tisch School of the Arts in the fall.

**Information about Ad Astra Theatre Troupe, Ltd:**

Ad Astra Theatre Troupe is a non-profit student-run performance company focusing on spreading education, confidence, and a sense of community through the arts. We're unique because of our aim to enable local high-school students through all forms of theatrical development, with new opportunities in direction, production, choreography, technical direction, publicity, play writing, and stage management, with little to no cost to families.

Ad Astra is in its third season and all of its founding membership will be in college in the fall of 2019. Ad Astra is actively mentoring younger company members so that the organization will continue, with new teen leadership, long into the future.

[www.adastratroupe.org](http://www.adastratroupe.org)

[www.facebook.com/adastratroupe/](http://www.facebook.com/adastratroupe/)

**Information about The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust presents Ad Astra Theatre Troupe Ltd.’s adaptation of *Trojan Women*:**

The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust presents Ad Astra Theatre Troupe’s 2019 main stage project, an original adaptation of ***Trojan Women***, by Padraig Bond and Catie LeCours. Trojan Women is an exploration of the effects of war on women. This adaptation of Euripides’ play is a synthesis of text from the classical canon and modern-day political discourse, which addresses the social issues of our time while reflecting on humanity’s long heritage of the horrors of violent conflict on civilian populations.

Padraig will be directing the play. Auditions will be in February (please watch the web site and Facebook page for dates) with weekly rehearsals beginning in March. The roles of assistant director and stage manager will be filled by younger company members so that the knowledge of how to successfully run a show can be passed to the next wave of leadership. Grace will be the producer. The productions will be in late May or early June. The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust has provided a substantial grant for this production.

**Information about *Uprising* (original play from Ad Astra’s second season):**

***Uprising*** begins the day before W-Hour, the start of the Warsaw Uprising during World War II. Seventeen-year-old Halina (Hela) and her thirteen-year-old sister Elżbieta (Elża) work for a German family who has appropriated their family’s small pharmacy in Warsaw’s city center, having lost both their parents in the years prior. Hela is getting ready to sneak out to a secret resistance meeting which is disguised as a dance. Elża begs her to come along but Hela flatly refuses, knowing the risks of going out after curfew. The mischievous and brave Piotr, however, knows a back entrance to the venue where the audience will meet Hela’s battalion.

In fall 2017, Grace joined forces with Lâle Davidson, an award-winning author and a professor at SUNY Adirondack, and Catie LeCours, then a senior at Niskayuna High School, to write an original play about the Warsaw Uprising. The three playwrights spent the next six months trading scripts over Google Docs and learning the intricate art of collaboration. Author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab reviewed the script for historic accuracy. Grace directed the show, which had 3 workshop performances in Saratoga Springs, NY and which toured, on invitation, to Canisius College in Buffalo, NY and the Park Theater in Glens Falls, NY.