



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - 2 January 2018

***Untitled!***

**A works-in-progress reading series between SAAC and SCT!**

**STARKVILLE, MS -**

SAAC joined forces with SCT to create *Untitled!*, a new project for local artists to practice drafts of works-in-progress before a live audience. No sets, no props, no feedback, just practice runs. Through *Untitled!*, writers, actors, singers, songwriters, and performers will present ten minutes of work, on stage, open to the public. Anyone may sit in the audience, at no cost, on a first-come first-served basis.

*Untitled!* gives artists an opportunity to test and explore developing works, and is not strictly limited to a particular genre. Examples of eligible works include: essays, poetry, script, songs, prose, or even dance performance... diversity is encouraged. Actors can utilize this opportunity to strengthen their cold reading skills: to participate, they will need to arrive 30 minutes before the official start time to be “cast” in a reading. Singers and songwriters who participate must provide their own basic instrumental needs.

Submissions may be made online, prior to each show, where 5-6 works will be selected to perform. Selection will be based on merit of content and contribution to the diverse community of the Starkville area.

John W. Bateman, Executive Director of SAAC, and Gabe Smith, Chief Administrative Officer of SCT, hope that *Untitled!* will help connect Starkville and Oktibbeha County with local artists and provide a forum for growth. Specifically, Bateman says: “Reading drafts helps writers and performers exercise and build their craft. This series gives a wide range of creatives a chance to develop works and meet other talent. Because feedback is not part of the format, this isn’t a traditional salon and really opens the door to build raw works. The community audience gets to experience and be a part of that amazing process.”

“SCT is proud to be a host venue for fresh compositions from local talent,” said Smith. “Not only is this a chance for homegrown artists to showcase their voices, it brings additional life into our playhouse and gives performers a low-stakes, high-energy way to stretch their acting muscles and become hands-on participants in the creation of new work.”

Spring dates for *Untitled!* will be: January 19, 2018, February 23, 2018, March 23, 2018, and April 27, 2018. Readings begin at 7:30 p.m.; actors must arrive by 7:00 p.m.



### **About SAAC**

Now commencing its third decade, the Starkville Area Arts Council sponsors the Cotton District Arts Festival, runs various outreach programs, and awards almost \$30,000 each year in grants and scholarships throughout Starkville and Oktibbeha County in its mission to build a strong, creative, connected community through the arts. The Starkville Area Arts Council (SAAC) appreciates the support of the City of Starkville and Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Oktibbeha County, National Endowment for the Arts, Mississippi Arts Commission, and local businesses and individuals. Additional information about SAAC can be found at [www.starkvillearts.org](http://www.starkvillearts.org).

### **About SCT**

The Starkville Community Theatre was formed in 1978 to provide for the cultural and educational enhancement of the citizens of Starkville and the surrounding areas. The 2016-2017 season is the thirty-ninth season of action, ambition, and accomplishment for the Starkville Community Theatre. Sitting in the eighty-nine-seat audience at the Playhouse on Main, one can almost hear the history that has been -and still is - SCT. Over one hundred productions - dramas, comedies, skits, one-acts, musicals, and special events - have been enacted by the Players of SCT over the past 39 years, and the community support for these players is as strong today as it has ever been. Additional information can be found at [www.sct-online.org](http://www.sct-online.org).

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