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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# ALMOST A STEPMOM

Presented by **Standing Room Only Theatre Company** | Written and performed by **Keara Barnes** | Directed by **Michael Stewart**



**March 14-18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Featured as part of the **Vancouver Celticfest***

Playing at **Havana Theatre** (1212 Commercial Drive, Vancouver)

***A TRUE Story. Keara moved to Ireland. She fell in love. Then she became a stepmom....almost.***

***A darkly comic tale about the ups and downs of becoming a stepmother.***

***Multiple characters and a murder attempt round off this tumultuous and touching solo show.***

March 14 – 8:00pm | March 16 - 8:00pm | March 18- 2:00pm

Tickets: \$15-Senior/Student \$18-General Admission | Age: 14+ | Advisory: Strong Language, Adult Themes

To purchase tickets please visit: <http://almostastepmom.brownpapertickets.com/>

For more information please visit: [www.standingroomonlytheatre.org](http://www.standingroomonlytheatre.org)



***“If this show isn’t already on your Fringe list, make room for it. Almost a Stepmom affected me more in one act than some plays have in three”*** (The Marble Victoria)

***“Keara Barnes has a stage presence like none I have ever seen”*** (The Marble Victoria)

***“Almost a Stepmom is a powerful look at a life that could have been. It’s also a show you don’t want to miss”*** (James Hutchison)



# COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES



## Standing Room Only Theatre

Standing Room Only Theatre's mission is to produce established plays, new writing and original work. We want to empower the individual and the collective alike with the experience of theatre in order to challenge and entertain in equal measure. We seek to explore different modes of storytelling and bring a myriad of voices to the stage with energy and our own brand of originality to make the stage our own and keep theatre alive as an arena that tells stories, addresses human issues, encourages creativity and maintains importance in today's society.



### Keara Barnes (Writer, Performer)

Keara is an actor, writer and producer from Vancouver, B.C and the co-founder of Standing Room Only Theatre. **Recent acting credits include:** *Almost a Stepmom* (Shift One Act Festival), *Moll in Moll* (SRO Theatre/Celticfest Vancouver 2016), *The Motherers* (2016 Pull Festival), *Lady Macbeth in Macbeth* (SRO Theatre), *Olya the Child* (Troika Collective/2015 Vancouver Fringe Festival), *Almost a Stepmom* (SRO Theatre/2015 Victoria Fringe Festival), *The Weir* (SRO Theatre/Celticfest Vancouver 2015) *Hug* (2014 Edinburgh International Fringe Festival), *The Mikado* and *The Hollow* (Metro Theatre), *Waiting for Ghostbusters* (Genus Theatre), *Phoebe in As you Like it* (Kaleidoscope Theatre), as well as various short films.

Born and raised in Vancouver, she holds a BFA in Theatre from The University of Victoria and also trained at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York. She worked for the Abbey Theatre, The National Theatre of Ireland, for three years and has also lived in England and Australia. She blogs about her two passions, theatre and travel at [www.traveltheatrics.com](http://www.traveltheatrics.com) and you can also check out her website [www.kearabarnes.com](http://www.kearabarnes.com).



### Michael David Stewart (Director)

Michael David Stewart is proud to direct this fantastic one woman show. Michael most recently directed "Underpants" by Gerald Williams in the About Love Festival of Plays and Music. He is also an actor of both stage and screen. His latest theatre credits include Standing Room Only's production of Conor McPherson's "The Weir" and Aenigma Theatre's production of "No Exit". He is also know for various roles on television shows like "Motive "and "Dark Waters of Crime", as well as feature films "When The Wheels Fall Off", and "Interspecies Dating" both slated for release in 2015.



### Joe Hinks (Assistant Director)

A British National, Joe has been active in the Vancouver theatre scene in many capacities since 2013; he is on the Board of Directors for Metro Theatre and he also volunteers for several other arts organizations in Vancouver, including the GVPTA and the Vancouver Opera. Most recently, Joe directed *Go Back for Murder* (2015) at Metro Theatre and Assistant Directed SRO's sell-out run of *The Weir* (2015). He was also fortunate enough to work on *The Switch* (2015), the world's first Transgender sitcom.

Currently, Joe is extremely proud to be working with some gifted individuals as Consultant Director on *Death In a Dumpster*, a musical written and directed by disadvantaged and at-risk youth, which premieres at the Waterfront Theatre in November. Joe also teaches drama classes at Quantum Day Program and is assisting the direction of SRO's world premiere of *Almost a Stepmom* (written by Keara Barnes).

## Tracy Chernaske (Scenic Designer)

Tracy-Lynn has had a ten year love affair with the visual aspects of theatre, one which started in high school, continued through Capilano University (2007) and which she personally hopes will never end. Though technically a free lance Scenic Artist, Tracy-Lynn has been the resident Scenic Painter and Set Decorator at Metro Theatre for the last four years, creating wonderfully rich and realistic looking sets for classic plays such as Brighton Beach Memoirs, Relatively Speaking and The Hollow and Go Back for Murder. Outside of Metro, Tracy-Lynn has worked for theatres and theatre groups all over the Lower Mainland, including Fighting Chance Productions (Rent) and most recently the Kay Meek (Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune), in which she was required to paint a 32' realistic moon across the stage.

Tracy's true passion lies in theatre, tea and Scottie dogs and she dreams of the day when she has a job which marries the three together. Until then she very much looks forward to her extended stay with Metro Theatre and her latest venture as Set Designer for Macbeth with Standing Room Only and her very first art show at RAWartist Vancouver in August.



***"She is one vivacious young woman and a born storyteller"*** (The Calgary Herald)

***"Barnes is a talented actor"*** (CVV Magazine Victoria)

***"Barnes is a very charismatic performer, a terrifically engaging storyteller and I expect we will see and hear more from her"*** (Jo Ledingham)

***"Her tale is honest and engaging. Barnes has you in the palm of her hand the minute she opens her mouth"*** (Jenna Shummoogum)

