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Southern Theater adds two artists to Board of Directors Brian Sostek and Leslie Ball to be added as full Board members

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – The Southern Theater has announced the appointment of artists **Leslie Ball** and **Brian Sostek** to the Southern Board of Directors. Each artist has a long history of active engagement with the Southern, and the two new positions on the Board reflect the Southern's commitment to remaining connected to the Twin Cities artistic community. They joined the board on Nov. 3.

"The Board was unanimous in its approval of new members Brian Sostek and Leslie Ball," Southern Board Chair Susan Lach said. "They each will bring a practicing artist's perspective to the Board of the Southern Theater. We look forward to their new ideas and lively participation."

After graduation by Carleton College in 1990, **Brian Sostek** said he was drawn to the Southern Theater, first as a volunteer who placed mailing labels on envelopes, and eventually as an actor, dancer, and producer. Married on the Southern stage to fellow performer Megan McClellan, Sostek and McClellan have appeared as hosts for the annual Southern Exposure benefit.

"As a board member," Sostek said, "and especially as the chair of the newly created Artist Advisory Committee, I'm hoping to be able to make the Southern an even stronger institution by helping to productively channel the artistic community's energy and time."

Singer, producer, writer, and educator, **Leslie Ball** has been a standard at the Southern since she founded *BALLS Cabaret* in 1991. A weekly experimental stage for artists of any discipline, at any level of experience, *BALLS* is now in its 18th year and continually wins awards as the best open stage in town. *BALLS* was cited in the *New York Times* as "one of the most important laboratories for new talent in town" and the local press has referred to Ms. Ball as "the den mother of the Twin Cities art community."

"Having these full-time artists on the Board will give the Southern's governance an enriched perspective," said Southern Theater President Patricia Ann Speelman. "Each of them brings an additional viewpoint that will help the Southern to maintain its important position in the world of Twin Cities theaters."

Southern Theater mission and artistic statement

The Southern Theater cultivates artistic exploration by providing a vibrant home for performance, fostering a multiplicity of voices and catalyzing connections among artists and audience.

The Southern presents and produces performance characterized by innovation and originality. We value connections to the local community and celebrate artwork that holds potential for transformative exchange. On stage, we are unyielding in our commitment to the highest levels of professionalism and artistic integrity.

For more information on the Southern, please visit www.southerntheater.org or call 612.340.0155.

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