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Junior Players Future Stars Event Series Features Keynote Speaker James Roday Rodriguez

DALLAS, TX, September 28, 2020 - Junior Players is excited to announce star of *Psych* and *A Million Little Things* **James Roday Rodriguez**, as our Keynote Speaker for our Future Stars Event on **November 7, 2020 at 7 pm CST**. Junior Players' incredible stakeholders and supporters will come together virtually to hear from Mr. Rodriguez and to raise money to empower over 15,000 young voices annually.

James Roday Rodriguez is a multi-hyphenate who is best known for his 8-year run as Shawn Spencer on the USA hit comedy *Psych* which also spawned a *Psych* film that aired in December to huge ratings success. He currently stars on ABC's DJ Nash drama *A Million Little Things* that is in its second season. Next up is the second *Psych* movie, *Psych 2: Lassie Come Home*, which has aired on the new Peacock Network.

James wrote and directed *Treehouse* as part of the Blumhouse anthology series for Hulu that starred Jimmi Simpson, Julianna Guill, Stephanie Beatriz, Mary McCormack and Shaunette Renee Wilson. He also wrote and directed the USA pilot *Shoot the Moon* starring Mandy Moore and Sam Huntington.

James has written pilots for USA, Fox and Syfy as well as directed shows such as *The Resident* for FBC, *Battle Creek* for Vince Gilligan and David Shore, *Rosewood* for FBC; as well as writing and directing multiple episodes of *Psych* for USA.

His upcoming features include *The Buddy Games* for writer/director Josh Duhamel and *The Hollywood Hills* movie for writer/director Rhys Wakefield. Past credits include the indie festival hit comedy *Pushing Dead*, about an HIV+ patient surviving his illness in the modern day healthcare system, *Christmas Eve* with Patrick Stewart and Cheryl Hines; and Brian Klugman's *Baby Baby Baby*. His feature directing debut, *Gravy*, starring Jimmi Simpson and Michael Weston is now a cult classic horror-comedy film seen around the world.

In addition to a wide variety of entertainment, the 2020 Future Stars Celebration will feature a variety of enticing silent auction items, a virtual liquor pull, and performances showcasing Junior Players' participants through the years. All proceeds benefit Junior Players' free arts education programs that take place throughout the year and serve over 15,000 youth in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and 6,000 audiences annually for a total reach of 20,000 individuals.

Sponsorship levels begin at \$1,000. Individual tickets are available for \$125 or at a Young Professionals Discount of \$100. To purchase or for more information, follow this link juniorplayers.org/futurestars. Current sponsors include Tyler Foundation, Thompson & Knight Foundation, Cathryn & William Kelly, Hoss Group Realty, Thompson Coburn LLP, Total IT, Kurtz & Company, P.C., Campagna Real Estate, DiAnn L'Roy Photographer, Don Herring Mitsubishi, Gupta & Wiora, P.C., HR Virtuoso, Ignite/Arts Dallas and SMU Meadows, Palter Sims Martinez PLLC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Rebecca & Michael Massiatte, Rex Mills and Rosanne Messineo Mills, Rosaura Cruz, Sunflower Dental, The Art of Wine, The Tony Family, Tara The Wine Ranch, and Maguires Dallas.

Junior Players was founded in 1955, and is the oldest non-profit children's theater organization in Dallas. Over its sixty-five-year existence, Junior Players has strived to meet the changing needs of the community. From 1955 to 1989, Junior Players presented traditional children's theater productions performed entirely by children and teenagers. In 1989, the Board of Directors changed the focus of Junior Players activities, deciding that Junior Players can best serve the youth of Dallas by providing free programming accessible to all the children of North Texas. Junior Players exclusively provides free arts education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, housing projects, elementary and middle schools and through social service agencies serving youth at risk.

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