

## **ACTING ENSEMBLE 2021-2022 SEASON**

### **MAIN STAGE**

#### **The Originalist by John Strand**

When a bright, liberal, Harvard Law School graduate embarks on a nerve-wracking clerkship with fearsome conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, she discovers him to be both an infuriating sparring partner and an unexpected mentor. John Strand's critically acclaimed drama depicts passionate people risking heart and soul to defend their version of the truth. What does it cost us to suppress our fear and distrust, take a step toward the middle, and sit down with the monsters?

#### **Mr. and Mrs. Fitch by D. C. Beane**

Meet gossip columnists Mr. and Mrs. Fitch. When the social circuit no longer provides juicy morsels, when the pressure to create news in our never-ending news cycle becomes just a bit much, it's time to toss back the martinis, toss around the bon mots and realize that great celebrity can just appear out of thin air. This wicked, urbane comedy is a scathing look at who is in, who is out and who may not even exist at all.

#### **Becky Shaw by Gina Gionfriddo**

A newlywed couple fixes up two romantically challenged friends: wife's best friend, meet husband's sexy and strange new co-worker. When an evening calculated to bring happiness takes a dark turn, crisis and comedy ensue in this wickedly funny play that asks what we owe the people we love and the strangers who land on our doorstep.

#### **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf by Edward Albee**

History professor George and his boozy wife Martha return late one Saturday night from a cocktail party at the home of the college president, Martha's father. Martha announces that she invited another couple, newly appointed instructor Nick and his timid wife Honey over for a nightcap. When the younger couple arrive, the night erupts into a no-holds-barred torrent of marital angst and verbal tirades.

#### **Big Scary Animals by Matt Lyle**

An older white couple from the country unknowingly move to the gayborhood to be closer to their granddaughter. What begins as polite dinner conversation with their gay, multi-ethnic neighbors careens out of control. A hilarious collision of race, sex, guns and sports, BIG, SCARY ANIMALS examines shifting generational beliefs and just how hard it is to raise a child regardless of who you are and where you live.

**Beyond the Fringe by Jonathon Miller, Alan Bennet, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore**

A series of satirical sketches and musical pieces using a minimal set, looking at events of the day. A forerunner to British television programs, That Was the Week That Was, At Last the 1948 Show and Monty Python's Flying Circus.

**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologist by Halley Feiffer**

A foul-mouthed twenty-something comedian and a middle-aged man embroiled in a nasty divorce are brought together unexpectedly when their cancer-stricken mothers become roommates in the hospital. Together, this unlikely duo must negotiate some of life's biggest challenges...while making some of the world's most inappropriate jokes. Can these two very lost people learn to laugh through their pain and lean on each other, when all they really want to do is run away?

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### **STAGED READINGS**

#### **Gentleman Caller by Phillip Dawkins**

Tennessee Williams and William Inge today are recognized as two of the greatest American playwrights, whose work irrevocably altered the theatrical and social landscapes. In 1944, however, neither had achieved anything like genuine success. As flamboyant genius Williams prepares for the world premiere of his play *The Gentleman Caller*—to become *The Glass Menagerie*—self-loathing Inge struggles through his job as a theater critic, denying his true wish to be writing plays. Based on real-life but closed-door encounters, reconstructed from troves of comments (and elisions) by each man about their relationship, Philip Dawkins gorgeously envisions what might have taken place during those early-career meetings.

#### **Peter and Alice by John Logan**

The play is based on a meeting between Alice Liddell Hargreaves, the woman who inspired Alice of Wonderland fame, and Peter Llewellyn Davies, one of the boys who inspired Peter Pan at the opening of a Lewis Carroll exhibition in 1932. The play sees enchantment and reality collide as this brief encounter lays bare the lives of these two characters.

#### **I and You by Lauren Gunderson**

One afternoon, Anthony arrives unexpectedly at classmate Caroline's door bearing a beat-up copy of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, an urgent assignment from their English teacher. Homebound due to illness, Caroline hasn't been to school in months, but she is as quick and sardonic as Anthony is athletic, sensitive, and popular. As these two let down their guards and share their secrets, this seemingly mundane poetry project unlocks a much deeper mystery that has brought them together. *I and You* is an ode to youth, life, love, and the strange beauty of human connectedness.

#### **Daisy by Sean Devine**

It's the fall of 1964. Bloody turmoil over civil rights is spilling onto the streets. A fearful ideology is growing from the conservative right. The threat of nuclear war is palpable. And a little skirmish in the far-off nation of Vietnam just won't go away. With a presidential election looming, a group of "ad-men" working for Lyndon Johnson unleash the most devastating political commercial ever conceived, the "Daisy ad." Based on true events, *DAISY* explores the moment in television history that launched the age of negative advertising, and forever changed how we elect our leaders.

#### **The Minotaur by Anna Ziegler**

A present-day version of a classic Greek myth, THE MINOTAUR is a contemporary take on love, honor, and human connection. With refreshing originality and wit, it explores how we break out of history in order to shape new stories for ourselves.

### **The Revolutionists by Lauren Gunderson**

Four beautiful, badass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. Playwright Olympe de Gouges, assassin Charlotte Corday, former queen (and fan of ribbons) Marie Antoinette, and Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle hang out, murder Marat, and try to beat back the extremist insanity in 1793 Paris. This grand and dream-tweaked comedy is about violence and legacy, art and activism, feminism and terrorism, compatriots and chosen sisters, and how we actually go about changing the world. It's a true story. Or total fiction. Or a play about a play. Or a raucous resurrection...that ends in a song and a scaffold.

### **Monte Carlo by Lydia Stryk**

Daisy, now approaching retirement, has lived with her mother, while working in a factory, for her entire adult life. Nothing seems set to change until she wins the football pools and becomes a millionaire, and her world is turned upside-down. But with the riches and the fulfillment of a life-long unspoken dream to see Monte Carlo, comes a realization about her relationship with her mother which will change her life in far more unexpected ways. .

### **Kill Move Paradise by James Ijames**

Four black men find themselves stuck in a waiting room for the afterlife. As they attempt to make sense of their new paradise, Isa, Daz, Grif, and Tiny are forced to confront the reality of their past, and how they arrived in this unearthly place. Inspired by the ever-growing list of slain black men and women, KILL MOVE PARADISE illustrates the potential for collective transformation and radical acts of joy.

### **Kiss of the Spider Woman (*El beso de la mujer arana*) by Manuel Puig**

A testament to fantasy and friendship in the most dire of circumstances. It is the 1960s in Argentina, a time of civic, economic, and cultural turmoil. Window-dresser Luis Alberto Molina is in the third year of his eight-year prison sentence for sexual deviancy and corrupting a minor. He lives in the fantasy world of cinema, often visited by the beautiful Aurora, his favorite film star. And while he loves her, he fears the Spider Woman, a vampy diva who kills men with her kiss. One day, Marxist revolutionary Valentin Arregui Paz is pushed into this cell after being tortured. Valentin is hostile, secretive, and confrontational towards the chattering Molina, and even draws a line down the center of the cell to keep Molina away from him. But Molina is a caring man, and tends to Valentin after brutal torture, and even keeps Valentin's secrets while

sharing his daydreams of Aurora. The men develop a trusting relationship that extends beyond simple friendship into a true love and dedication to each other.

### **My Barking Dog by Eric Coble**

Two lonely people's lives are pushed suddenly into the unforeseen when a starving coyote shows up at their apartment building. MY BARKING DOG is a truly unpredictable, gripping exploration of isolated urban lifestyles and a daring lament for the destruction of nature by man-made boundaries.

### **The Library by Scott Burns**

After Caitlin Gabriel survives a deadly shooting at her high school, she struggles to tell her story to her parents, the authorities, and anyone who will listen. But there are other narratives that gain purchase in the media and paint her in a different light. Renowned Hollywood screenwriter Scott Z. Burns returns to the stage with this bold and chilling play that asks us to examine our relationship to the truth and the lies that claim to heal us.

### **The Lifespan of a Fact by Jeremy Kareken**

A determined young fact checker is about to stir up trouble. The demanding editor has given him a big assignment: apply his skill to a groundbreaking piece by the unorthodox author. Together, they take on the high-stakes world of publishing in this new comedy of conflict. The ultimate showdown between fact and fiction is about to begin—with undeniably delicious consequences.

### **Two Thirds Home by Padraic Lillis**

Two brothers, Michael and Paul, return to their childhood home after their mother's funeral. There, they confront deep-seated issues and Sue, their mother's surviving lover. Anne, the boys' mother, had kept her two lives as separate as possible to make things easier on everyone, including herself. What looks to become a fight over who gets the house becomes a more poignant battle over where each person stood in the life of their deceased loved one. The play examines the characters' relationships from every possible angle, with plenty of angst expressed in the proceedings, and a healthy dose of humor. An affecting and resonant drama, TWO THIRDS HOME explores the ways in which sharing secrets can both create and destroy intimacy.

### **The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey by James Lecure**

One actor portrays every character (or roles can be split up) in a small Jersey Shore town as he unravels the story of Leonard Pelkey, a tenaciously optimistic and flamboyant fourteen-year-old boy who goes missing. A luminous force of nature whose magic is only truly felt once he is gone, Leonard becomes an unexpected inspiration as the town's citizens question how they live, who they love, and what they leave behind.

## **Mala by Melinda Lopez**

MALA is a darkly funny tale about what it means to put our loved ones first, right to the very end, and what happens when we strive to be good but don't always succeed. It is a comical and brutally honest look at family dynamics, including stubborn parents and unequipped children, and explores the unsentimental poetry of everyday life. A one-woman tour-de-force for a powerful actress, MALA careens from comedy to deep pathos, while having the toughest conversation about the most common of events—the end of life.