

local

theater company

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Local Theater Company announces world premiere of David Myers' *237 Virginia Avenue* starring Lawrence Hecht, former Head of Acting at DCPA's National Theatre Conservatory, and Jacob Dresch, Henry Award-winner (*It's a Wonderful Life*).

Boulder, CO – Local Theater Company (LTC) announces its world premiere production of David Myers' *237 Virginia Avenue*, a 90-minute dark comedy spanning 400 years of American history distilled into one plot of land, one Monopoly property, one father/son struggle, and four episodes of manipulative acquisitions of property. Two of the Colorado community's most prominent actors, Lawrence Hecht and Jacob Dresch, will star. LTC Co-Artistic Director Nick Chase and Founding Artistic Director Pesha Rudnick will direct.

When Eric, an overeducated and under-employed college professor is forced to return to his childhood home to care for his ailing father Rex, a boomer with a “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” mentality, a clash develops around a game of Monopoly that reveals darker motives. Can Eric convince his father to bequeath his property to him? Or, will Rex insist that his son forge his own path? Interspersed between this epic father/son battle are four scenes of bloody and brutal property acquisition that took place on the same land on which these characters now stand. The actors playing Rex and Eric will play all characters.

Actor Lawrence Hecht is the former Head of Acting at DCPA's respected National Theatre Conservatory. He acted, directed and taught with the American Theatre Conservatory in San Francisco for over 25 years. Audiences will remember him from his performance in another two-hander, Curious Theatre Company's production of *Red* as well as *The Intelligent Homosexuals Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*. Actor Jacob

Dresch is a classical clown who was recently seen in CSF's *One Man, Two Guvnors* and DCPA's *A Christmas Carol*. Additionally, he is an Adjunct Professor at MSU and CU, Boulder.

Co-director Chase said, "Home ownership has long been the American Dream, a guarantee of security. But we are living in a time when ownership is inaccessible to many. What playwright David Myers has created is a tour d'force centered on Monopoly, a board game that unearths dark capitalist motives in almost anyone who plays it. I always say, if you love someone, don't play Monopoly with them; it always ends in tears. But what happens when the stakes are all too real?" Playwright Myers added, "I wanted to find a way to write about the system or systems we live in. I want to see the water I'm swimming in."

Local Theater Company has been involved in the development of *237 Virginia Avenue* over the past two years, first in Los Angeles with a Local Lab Pop-Up workshop reading starring Emmy, Tony, and Golden Globe-winning actor John Lithgow and Nate Corddry (*Harry's Law*, *Perry Mason*) and at the Durango Play Fest featuring Glenn Morshower (*24*, *The Resident*) and Jack Mikesell (*NCIS*, *How to Get Away with Murder*). Rudnick directed both workshops/readings.

Co-director Rudnick adds, "I always ask why this play now? I'm interested in the systems that are put in place that exclude some Americans from home ownership. How are we unknowingly supporting those systems, and how are we dismantling them?"

The *237 Virginia Avenue* design team includes celebrated production designer and frequent Curious Theatre Company collaborator, Markas Henry; Henry Award-winning sound designer CeCe Smith; and frequent LTC collaborator, lighting designer Sean Mallary.

237 Virginia Avenue is generously sponsored by Diana and Mike Kinsey.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Location: The Savoy (2700 Arapahoe Street, Denver)

Dates: May 2-19, 2024

Tickets: \$15-45 (link: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/36653/production/1180520>)

Website: localtheaterco.org/237

COME TOGETHER EVENTS

Come Together is Local Theater Company's community engagement program.

May 3, 2024: College Night & Q&A with playwright David Myers

May 5, 2024: Pay-What-You-Will Performance

May 9, 2024: Come Together post-show conversation

237 Virginia Avenue PRODUCTION TEAM

Playwright: David Myers

Directors: Nick Chase & Peshya Rudnick^

Rex: Lawrence Hecht*

Eric: Jacob Dresch*
Production Design (scenic, costume, props): Markas Henry
Sound Design: CeCe Smith
Lighting Design: Sean Mallary
Stage Manager: Harper Hadley

*Appearing through an Agreement between Local Theater Company and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

^The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreography Society, a national theatrical labor union.

ABOUT LOCAL THEATER COMPANY

[Local Theater Company](#) (Local) Local Theater Company discovers, develops and produces exceptional new plays and theatrical works. We provide artists a fertile environment to grow their work, and cultivate audiences for new plays by including them in all stages of new play development. We believe theater is a local experience. When you elect to join an audience, you create a new community where, for that brief span of time, everyone is a local. [Learn more at localtheaterco.org](#).

Local Theater Company Team

Executive Director: Kate Gipson
Founding Artistic Director: Pasha Rudnick
Executive Producer: Misha S. Zimmerman
Co-Artistic Director, Production & Education: Nick Chase
Co-Artistic Director, New Plays & Engagement: Betty Hart
Associate Producer: Levi Franklin
Resident Dramaturg: Jordan Lichtenheld

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