



For Immediate Release
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Local Theater Company Presents 12th Annual LOCAL LAB

Boulder-based Festival of New Plays Features Five Play Readings,
Playwrights Panel, Social Gatherings, and Special Events

Boulder, CO—Local Theater Company (LTC) announces the lineup of their new-play festival, Local Lab, to be presented at the Dairy Arts Center from April 27–30, 2023. Featured plays include Don Nguyen’s *The World Is Not Silent* (dir. Marya Mazor), Lia Romeo’s *The Agency* (dir. Rodney Lizcano), Adriana Santos’s *Cris Leaves Queens* (dir. Ilasiea Gray), and Sarah Powers’s *Great Bends* (dir. Cecilia Pang), which is presented as part of the CU Boulder/LTC collaboration. Local Lab has become a highlight of the annual Boulder arts calendar, with LTC presenting some of the most compelling new theatrical works in development to the Colorado community. Playwrights and other theater-makers from Colorado and across the nation convene in Boulder for a week of workshops that provide artists a forum to explore, develop, and strengthen their work. These workshops culminate in public presentations of the new material, followed by a curated post-show conversation that moves new work toward full production. In doing so, audiences become participants in the creation of new theatrical works during their nascent stage. As Betty Hart, Artistic Director of New Plays, said, “All plays start somewhere. *Hamilton* started somewhere. We’re here to support the works of tomorrow today.” She continued, “We had more submissions than ever in the history of Local Lab. I’m thrilled to explore themes of connection and disconnection, love and grief, and potential dystopian futures. The plays are thoughtful and ask interesting questions about who we want to be as a community.”

Additional events include a staged reading of a *New York Times*’ story in which journalist Kevin Roose carries on a conversation with Sydney, the A.I. chatbot created by Microsoft’s Bing, brought to life by Betty Hart and co-artistic director Nick Chase and directed by founding artistic director Pasha Rudnick. Read the source article [here](#). A playwrights panel will be presented at the conclusion of the festival, and two parties—a kickoff and late-night dance party—round out the festival.

Local Lab is sponsored by Marybeth Emerson and co-sponsored by Create Boulder / Visit Boulder and John Lithgow.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON FOLLOWING PAGES

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Thursday, April 27

FESTIVAL KICKOFF PARTY! | 5–7 PM

Meet your fellow festival-goers, the playwrights, and the rest of the Lab teams as we kick off Local Lab 12. There will be drinks. There will be food. There will be fun.

MAINSTAGE READING 1 | 7:30 PM (doors open at 7)

Great Bends

Written by Sarah Powers

Directed by Cecilia Pang

Grace Gamm Theater @ The Dairy Arts Center

Great Bends is a play exploring the profound grief of lives lost and relationships strengthened in the face of climate change. Throughout one night in Great Bend County, Kansas, relationships are tested through debates regarding career choices, childbearing, and ethics, in preparation for an unpredictable future. In this dystopian future not too unlike our own, sacrifice, love, and the bends we take for one another may be what saves us all.

Friday, April 28

MAINSTAGE READING 2 | 7:30 PM (doors open at 7)

The World is Not Silent

Written by Don Nguyen

Directed by Marya Mazor

Grace Gamm Theater @ The Dairy Arts Center

Dau, a Vietnamese immigrant living in Nebraska, hopes to match his son, Don, with a nice Vietnamese woman. When an unexpected guest arrives at their Thanksgiving dinner, the plan is set in motion in this hilarious and tender play. *The World Is Not Silent* examines barriers—linguistic, generational, cultural—and proves that they can be surmounted.

Saturday, April 29

BONUS READING | 3:00 PM (doors open at 2:30)

“I Want to Be Alive”

Written by Kevin Roose

Grace Gamm Theater @ The Dairy Arts Center

A compelling reading of an NYT story in which journalist Kevin Roose carries on a conversation with Sydney, the A.I. chatbot created by Microsoft's Bing, brought to life by Betty Hart and Nick Chase and directed by Pesha Rudnick. Read the compelling article [here](#).

MAINSTAGE READING 3 | 6:30PM (doors open at 6)

The Agency

Written by Lia Romeo

Directed by Rodney Lizcano

Grace Gamm Theater @ The Dairy Arts Center

Ani, a struggling actor, has scored a high-paying acting gig, although it's anything but typical. In this dystopian comedy, clients hire her to play people with whom they have unresolved issues. Being an emotional surrogate helping others work through challenges is initially rewarding, but the lines between character and human soon blur.

LATE NIGHT LAB PARTY | 8:00 PM

DV8 (aka Deviant Spirits)

2480 49th St. Suite E, Boulder, 80301

All this exciting theater make you wanna dance? Good, because that's what we're gonna do. Gather with the playwrights, the Lab team, and your fellow All-Access Passholders at DV8 in east Boulder. Not one to hit the dance floor? We get it: sometimes you just want to relax. There will be space for all.

Sunday, April 30

MAINSTAGE READING 4 | 12 PM (doors open at 11:30)

Cris Leaves Queens

Written by Adriana Santos

Directed by Ilasiea Gray

Grace Gamm Theater @ The Dairy Arts Center

A family-run funeral home in Queens comes under threat from an incoming snow storm, forcing twin sisters Cris and Dani, their father, and a guest to come face to face with what's been haunting them, along with several other quirky undead.

PLAYWRIGHTS PANEL | 3 PM (doors open at 2:30)

Grace Gamm Theater @ The Dairy Arts Center

A conversation with all four Local Lab playwrights.

ABOUT LOCAL THEATER COMPANY

Local Theater Company (Local) is a nonprofit professional theater company that discovers, develops, and produces new American plays. Local engages audiences through innovative performances that spark camaraderie, learning, and contemplation and provides a resourceful environment for theater artists to take creative risks and develop their work. Local believes theater is a local experience. When you enter an audience, a new community is created where, for that brief span of time, everyone is a local. Learn more at localtheaterco.org.

Local Theater Company Team

Pesha Rudnick - Founding Artistic Director

Misha S. Zimmerman - Executive Producer

Nick Chase - Co-Artistic Director, Production & Education

Betty Hart - Co-Artistic Director, New Plays & Community Outreach

Kate Gipson - Development Director

Susan McKenzie - Marketing Manager

Levi Franklin - Associate Producer

Social Media

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localtheaterco.org