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Contact: Nick Chase  
nick@localtheaterco.org | 850.322.4769

## **Local Theater Company Announces New Shared Leadership Model & Season 12 Programming**

**Betty Hart and Nick Chase Named Co-Artistic Directors Alongside Pesh Rudnick, Founding Artistic Director**

**Expanded Season 12 to Include Three MainStage Productions and Local Lab 12**



L to R in both images: Nick Chase, Pesh Rudnick, Betty Hart  
Local Theater Company's Season 12 Announcement | Boulder, CO  
June 18, 2022

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digital file available upon request

**BOULDER, CO**—Local Theater Company (LTC), a nationally recognized, award-winning theater based in Boulder, Colorado, announced a monumental transition in the company's leadership structure today. The company transitions from a single artistic director to a triumvirate artistic director model. Nick Chase and Betty Hart are now Co-Artistic Directors alongside Founding Artistic Director Pesh Rudnick. Chase, formerly LTC's Associate Artistic Director and Co-Director of Local Lab 11, will assume the position of Co-Artistic Director of Production and Education. Betty Hart, formerly LTC's Co-Director of Local Lab 11, will assume the position of Co-Artistic Director of New Plays and Community Engagement while Pesh Rudnick will maintain the title Founding Artistic Director and oversee LTC's expansion programming. This new shared leadership structure is a first in the company's 12-year history.

Rudnick said, "We experimented with the shared leadership model last season during Lab and the experience was invigorating personally and programmatically. Betty and Nick have unique styles of leadership in new play development, and they have rich, independent artistic lives. (cont'd.)

Our hope is that this model enables Local to provide artists and audiences a dynamic experience when they participate with us, and simultaneously allow us as leaders to grow artistically. All too often leaders burn out simply because we're asked to do it all.

But *how* will we share leadership? It's a fair question. The three of us have worked hard to come up with a plan that includes our staff and board. We've designed the season together, and ultimately our intention is to seek collaboration, but not necessarily consensus. We each have specific programs to oversee."

Chase added, "Over the past year, Betty, Pesha, and I have worked in concert, overseeing our expanded new play development program, Local Lab. In that time, we established the foundation of communication, problem solving, and artistic envisioning that we will continue to build upon in Season 12. Our unique perspectives coupled with our commitment to precise, honest communication are our strengths. That's reflected in the season lineup. The plays are distinct in their points of view, yet feel unified; that's a direct result of our collaboration, the intersection of our perspectives."

Hart added, "I have a long history and love of new play development, so I'm elated to be able to work more closely with Pesha and Nick co-leading Local Theater Company. I believe artists are telling new and compelling stories, in part, because of experiencing all that the twin pandemics of racial strife and Covid have brought forth. I look forward to being part of the team that amplifies these writers and their unique American stories."

Local Theater Company also announces their Season 12 lineup today. Included are multi-hyphenate GerRee Hinshaw's story of self-discovery through the genre-spanning music and personal story of Mexican-American artist Linda Ronstadt, *Raised on Ronstadt*, presented in Boulder, fall 2022. In December, the 2021 True West Award-winning Local Lab selection, *Shells*, returns in the form of a holiday (or, anti-holiday) show, *Pop the Holidays, Music with Michelle "Shells" Hoffman*. This work, created by Nick Chase & Roslyn Hart, will be presented in Denver, December 2022. In March, 2023, LTC returns to Denver with *The Lady M Project*, penned by Hadley Kamminga-Peck, Anne Penner, and Mare Trevathan. Trevathan is set to direct, with Penner starring and Kamminga-Peck returning as dramaturg. The company will also present their expanded new play festival featuring four new works, community events and workshops, Local Lab 12, in Boulder, spring 2023.

Misha S. Zimmerman, Executive Producer, said, "Over the past two years during the Covid-19 pandemic, we expanded our Local Lab new play development program, supporting the development of 15 new theatrical works. For Season 12, we are thrilled to return to MainStage productions where plays receive their first fully realized productions. Here, designers and technicians join the creative teams. This year, we will present our first holiday show and 50% of our programming will take place in Denver, a first for our Boulder-based organization."

## SEASON 12 DETAILS

### *Raised on Ronstadt*

Written and performed by GerRee Hinshaw

October–November, 2022

Boulder, CO (venue TBA)

Where do our voices come from? Who teaches our hearts to sing? What is in the music that made you? GerRee Hinshaw explores the sounds of her childhood and how an icon's disregard for convention and category inspired more than her taste in music.

### *Pop the Holidays: Music with Michelle "Shells" Hoffman*

Created by Nick Chase & Roslyn Hart

Written and directed by Nick Chase (cont'd.)

Performed by Roslyn Hart

December, 2022

Denver, CO (venue TBA)

Welcome the holidays at this True West Award-winning show where souls are bared, shots are downed, and sh\*t gets real. Hosted by “hysterically funny and wildly inappropriate” (Time Out NY) downtown NYC sensation Shells Hoffman, this show involves the whole audience in hilarious games, epic sing-alongs, and jaw-dropping revelations.

*The Lady M Project*

Conceived by Anne Penner & Mare Trevathan

Written by Hadley Kamminga-Peck, Anne Penner, & Mare Trevathan

Directed by Mare Trevathan

March, 2023

Denver, CO (venue TBA)

Experience Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* from the passionate, complex, loving, and disturbed point of view of Lady Macbeth.

Local Lab 12

April, 2023

Boulder, CO (venue TBA)

Experience the cutting-edge of new theater with Local Lab, Boulder’s premier new play festival. Enjoy three days of plays, parties, and workshops.

## **SEASON 12 MEMBERSHIP**

Memberships start at just \$39 and includes:

- 50% off tickets to each Main Stage Production
- \$69 ALL-ACCESS PASS to Local Lab, Boulder’s premier new play festival (regularly \$99)
- Early access to tickets—never face a sold-out show
- Concierge ticketing service—we’ll call you and take care of everything
- Discounts at area theaters
- Monthly newsletter
- LTC Tote bag

## **BIOS**

### **Pesha Rudnick (she/her)**

#### **Founding Artistic Director**

Pesha Rudnick is the founding artistic director of Local Theater Company in Boulder, CO, where she pursues the company’s mission to discover and develop new American plays. For Local Theater Company, Pesha directed 20 new works including the world premiere productions of *Paper Cut* (Colorado Theater Guild winner Best New Play) by Andrew Rosendorf; *Discount Ghost Stories: Songs from the Rockies* music and lyrics by Alexander Sage Oyen, Book by Rob Wright and Pesha Rudnick; *Elijah: An Adventure* by Michael Mitnick (Colorado Theater Guild Nomination Best New Play); *Faith* by James McLindon (Colorado Theater Guild nomination Best New Play); and *The Firestorm* by Meridith Friedman (Colorado Theater Guild nomination Best New Play). Pesha curated the digital series, “Living Room Local,” in 2020, and the past ten annual new play festivals, Local Lab. (cont’d.)

Pesha was featured in Westward Magazine’s “[100 Colorado Creatives](#).”

Nationally, Pesha has developed and directed dozens of new works including the world premiere of *O.P.C.* by Eve Ensler at the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University and *26 Miles* by Quiara Hudes at Curious Theater Company. (cont’d.)

She previously collaborated with Ensler as associate director of the world premiere of *Emotional Creature* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Signature Theatre Center. She has worked at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Creede Repertory Theater, Florida Stage, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and many others.

Pesha is the former associate artistic director of Theater Master's National MFA Playwright's Festival (59E59, Atlantic Stage 2, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Wild Project, Theatre Row, and the Aspen Institute).

For six years, she served as the associate director of education at Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree from New York University. Pesha is a Drama League Directing Fellow and a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Want to know more about Pesha's passion for live theater? Visit her website [pesharudnick.com](http://pesharudnick.com) or watch her TEDx talk on "[The Danger of Live Theater](#)."

### **Nick Chase (he/him)**

#### **Co-Artistic Director, Production & Education**

Nick Chase is a writer/director who began his career at twenty-one, staging productions at a number of celebrated downtown New York venues including The Ohio, Galapagos, Fez and The Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, and, most notably, a years-long run at the Tony Award/Pulitzer Prize-winning Public Theater/Joe's Pub with his critically acclaimed theatrical series, *SHELLS*. During his tenure, Nick wrote and directed twenty-seven "episodes" of the live series and was featured in *The New York Times*.

Stage work: *Burtka, David* - book, associate director (54 Below, director Neil Patrick Harris, music director Seth Rudetsky). Screenplays: *Drake* for director Chiemi Karasawa (*Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me*); *Blue*, currently under agreement with Karen Tenkhoff (Producer, *The Motorcycle Diaries*), and *Last Ferry Out*, a feature-length horror film set on Fire Island penned with Emmy Award-winning writer/director, Doug Shultz.

At LTC, Nick has served as Co-Director, Local Lab 11 alongside Betty Hart; director, LocalWRITES; assistant director, *Paper Cut* (by Andrew Rosendorf | director, Pesha Rudnick). He and collaborator Roslyn Hart received a 2021 True West Award for their Local Lab presentation of *Shells*.

### **Betty Hart (she/her)**

#### **Co-Artistic Director, New Plays & Community Engagement**

Betty Hart is an actor, director, and facilitator who moved from Atlanta to Denver in fall 2013. Betty has acted in Local Lab, and has facilitated audience conversations and salons for Local Theater Company since 2015. In 2020, Betty directed Josh Kroenig's *Vroom Vroom* for Local Lab, which audiences never saw due to the theater-wide shut down. In 2021–22, Betty became co-director of Local Lab 11, Local Theater Company's new play festival.

In the 2021–22 season, Betty directed *Blackademics* (Vintage Theatre), *Once on this Island* (Town Hall Arts Center), *By the way, Meet Vera Stark* (Fine Arts Center at Colorado College), *Polaroid Stories* (Metropolitan State University), and the one-person play, *An Iliad* (Creede Repertory Theatre).

Additional directing credits include the virtual theatre production of the domestic violence play, *To the Moon*, by Beth Kander for Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT), an original devised theatrical film for the University of Northern Colorado called *2020 Speaks*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (DCPA Cabaret & Vintage Theatre); *The Scottsboro Boys* and *Crowns* (Vintage Theatre); (cont'd.)



*Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies* (Aurora Fox); *The Darker Face of the Earth*; *Evelyn in Purgatory*; *A Thousand Circlets*; *Jim Crow and the Rhythm Darlings* (Essential Theatre).

This summer, Betty will assistant direct the world premiere of a new immersive theatrical production called *Theater of the Mind* in collaboration with co-creators David Byrne and Mala Gaonkar, which is being co-produced by the Denver Center's Off-Center.

Special/Awards/Training: 2022 Henry Award nominee for outstanding direction of a musical (*Once on this Island*), 2018 & 2021 True West Award winner, and 2021 BroadwayWorld Denver Award for Best direction of a stream for Creede Repertory's online production of Beth Kander's *To the Moon*.

In November of 2020, Betty gave a Ted Talk on compassion culture instead of cancel culture. You can view the talk here: [go.ted.com/bettyhart](https://go.ted.com/bettyhart)

## **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](https://localtheaterco.org).

### **Local Theater Company Team**

Pesha Rudnick - Founding Artistic Director

Misha S. Zimmerman - Executive Producer

Nick Chase - Co-Artistic Director, Production, and Education

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

Kevin Douglas - Marketing Associate

Jordan Lichtenheld - Resident Dramaturg

### **Social Media**

Instagram: [localtheaterco](https://www.instagram.com/localtheaterco) | Facebook: [LocalTheater](https://www.facebook.com/LocalTheater) | Twitter: [localtheaterco](https://twitter.com/localtheaterco)

### **Website**

[localtheaterco.org](https://localtheaterco.org)