



For Timed Release
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Local Theater Company Announces SEASON 13 in Tiered Rollout

Season includes *YOU ENJOY MYSELF*, a new play about family, love and a band called Phish; *The Democracy Cycle*, a community-generated project; Local Lab, Boulder's premier new play festival and more!

Boulder, CO—In a tiered season rollout that will culminate with a season kickoff party on July 23, Local Theater Company (Local)—dedicated to the discovery, development and production of new American plays—shared their season of new theatrical work. This announcement comes on the heels of the company receiving three Colorado Theatre Guild “Henry Award” nominations for its previous season’s smash hit, GerRee Hinshaw’s *RAISED ON RONSTADT* (dir. Dee Covington), including Best New Play or Musical, Best Director of a Musical and Best Actress in a Musical.

Season 13 productions begin on September 23, 2023 with Atlanta-based playwright Topher Payne’s *YOU ENJOY MYSELF*, directed by Local Co-Artistic Director Betty Hart, at the Dairy Arts Center in Boulder. The ensemble comedy follows a group of Phish-lovers to a remote farmhouse in Vermont where lives and loves intersect. This multi-generational heartfelt comedy was presented in 2022 as part of Local Theater Company’s new play development program, Local Lab.

Fortifying its mission to support new work at every stage, Local will initiate the season-spanning community-devised project, *The Democracy Cycle*, supported by Redline Arts in Society Grant. This two-phase theatrical event invites community members to participate in story circles led by facilitators trained in the teachings of Augusto Boal/Theatre of the Oppressed. Project partners include Curious Theatre Company and Gunnison Valley Theatre Festival. Each theater will host multi-day story circle sessions with unique groups of 25 citizens all focusing on selected topics relevant to democracy in their respective communities. In addition to conversation, the discourse emerges through exercises in physical movement, improvisation, music and writing prompts. The second phase of the project, to be presented in Local’s following season, will include works inspired by the conversations heard in the story circles. On July 23, Local will welcome renowned Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) educator Brent Blair (USC), for a 2-hour workshop presented to the public. Attendees will learn the fundamentals of TO, a form of theater making that endows the audience with agency and engages them in the creation of material. Limited tickets to this engaging class will be available to subscribers on June 23 and to the public on June 30.

From March 14-17, Local returns to the Dairy Arts Center for the 13th Local Lab festival of new theatrical work. Four creative teams will gather in Boulder for week-long workshops that culminate in public readings where the audience participates in robust post-show conversations that move the work one step closer to production. Recent Lab plays will receive world premiere productions at renowned regional theaters including Don Nguyen's THE WORLD IS NOT SILENT (The Alley, February 2024).

Subscriptions for Season 13 will go on sale July 23, 2023. Visit localtheaterco.org for more information.

Additional Season 13 productions and programs will be announced between now and July 23rd. An updated press release will be shared.

DETAILS

ANNOUNCEMENT: 8 am MT, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

YOU ENJOY MYSELF

Written by Topher Payne

Directed by Betty Hart

Previews: Sept 21, 22

Opening Night: Sat, Sept 23, 2023

Runs through October 15

Venue: Dairy Arts Center (2590 Walnut St, Boulder, CO 80302)

Tickets available in August

Subscriptions available localtheaterco.org

ABOUT YOU ENJOY MYSELF: Judith and Eileen met and eagerly fell in love- first with a band called Phish, and then with each other. But that was thirty years ago, before their lives took notably divergent paths. An Instagram post from a stranger leads the two of them crashing back into each other, along with four young wayward souls who passionately want to be passionate about something. Over the course of one curious night at a remote Vermont farmhouse, they'll each explore the nature of devotion- to music, to literature, to other people- and learn the art of "including your own hey."

ANNOUNCEMENT: THURSDAY, JUNE 29

LOCAL LAB 13

4 Staged Readings of New Theatrical Works. Titles to be announced in January, 2024.

March 14 - 17, 2024

Venue: Dairy Arts Center (2590 Walnut St, Boulder, CO 80302)

Individual tickets and All Access Passes will be available in January

Subscriptions available at localtheaterco.org

ABOUT LOCAL LAB: Local Theater Company discovers and develops world-premiere plays, small-cast musicals, hybrid and devised theater pieces through Local Lab. Selected project creators are provided the resources to conduct a workshop of their material, offering them a forum to explore, develop and strengthen their work in collaboration with other theater artists. At the conclusion of the workshop, the material is presented publicly followed by a curated post-show conversation with artistic staff and audience members that moves new work toward full production.

ANNOUNCEMENT: FRIDAY, JULY 7

THE DEMOCRACY CYCLE

A community-devised theater project

Season-long

Venue: Boulder Library & various locations

Upcoming event

Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop with Brent Blair

Date & Time: Sunday, July 23, 3:30 - 5:30 pm MT

Location: The Savoy, Denver (2700 Arapahoe Street)

ABOUT THE DEMOCRACY CYCLE: The Democracy Cycle is a two-phase theatrical project rooted in practices that evoke collective listening and storytelling. Led by trained facilitators, participants explore questions of health, safety, class, access, bias or other critical issues affecting Coloradans. The discourse emerges through conversation, but also through exercises in physical movement, improvisation, music, and writing prompts. This project aims to bridge the urban/rural divide by engaging citizens in three distinct communities: Boulder, Denver, Gunnison.

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

Nick Chase - Co-Artistic Director, Production & Education

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

Kate Gipson - Executive Director

Misha S. Zimmerman - Executive Producer

Susan McKenzie - Marketing Manager

Levi Franklin - Associate Producer

Jordan Lichtenheld - Resident Dramaturg and Copyeditor

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