



**For Immediate Release**  
April 7, 2022

Contact: Nick Chase  
nick@localtheaterco.org | 850.322.4769

**Local Theater Company features Phish, tech companies, *Goodnight Moon*, and elite Quaker private schools as part of their boundary-spanning festival, Local Lab (April 22–24, Dairy Arts Center)**

BOULDER, CO—Local Theater Company, a nationally recognized, award-winning theater based in Boulder, Colorado, announces Local Lab (spring addition), which will include staged readings of four theatrical works that push the boundaries of the form. Featured are Atlanta-based playwright Topher Payne’s *YOU ENJOY MYSELF*, a comedy with music about passion, reconnection, and a band called Phish; Esther Omegba’s *THE LOTUS*, part of a new partnership with CU Boulder that offers a student playwright a professional workshop of their work; Jody Kuehner’s (aka Cherdonna Sinatra’s) *GOODNIGHT COWBOY*, dance–theater hybrid that mashes *Goodnight Moon* and cinema’s Westerns; and Nick Malakhov’s trenchant drama, *AFFINITY LUNCH MINUTES*, about a racially charged discipline decision that ignites a divide at a tony private Quaker school.

Local Lab provides playwrights with the resources to conduct weeklong workshops of their material with skilled collaborators that culminate in public presentations and feedback from audience members. Parties and workshops round out the festival programming and provide audiences with the opportunity to casually engage with each other and the creative teams.

Local Lab 11 Co-Director Nick Chase said, “With the expansion of our Local Lab new play development program, we’re able to support more artists and a greater variety of work. The definition of theater is expanding. Local is excited to expand with it.”

Local Lab Co-Director Betty Hart said, “Season 11 is focusing on new American plays that are relevant, crucial, and that allow us to investigate who we are and who we want to be as individuals and as a community. It’s a season of playwrights telling stories in new and innovative ways and they’re telling stories of demographics that have been underrepresented in the past.”

The weekend lineup includes four staged readings, two parties (kickoff and Saturday night dance party), and a creative workshop. Individual tickets and All-Access Passes are available. Details below.

This three-day festival is the final production in a season that found Local supporting the development of 11 new works and partnering with Roundabout Theatre Company in NY, CU Boulder, and UCLA (recent reading of David Myers’ *237 VIRGINIA AVENUE* featuring John Lithgow and Nate Corddry, directed by Peshya Rudnick). The company was recently presented a True West Award for offering 230+ employment contracts to theater makers during 2021.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **EARTH DAY HIKE (Available to All-Access Pass-Holders)**

Friday, April 22 | 8–9:30 am

@Chautauqua Park

Baseline Rd & 9th Ave, Boulder, CO 80302

Let's walk into the Local Lab weekend with clean air in our lungs and beautiful vistas in our minds. Artistic Director Peshia Rudnick and Local Lab 11 Co-Director Nick Chase lead a morning hike at the iconic Chautauqua Park for Local Lab company members and All-Access Pass-Holders.

### **FESTIVAL KICK-OFF PARTY! (Available to All-Access Pass-Holders)**

Friday, April 22 | 4:30–6 pm

@ The home of Local Theater Company Board Chair, Jane Butcher - 595 Aurora Ave, Boulder CO 80302  
Wine, snacks, and anticipation. Gather with your community and consider what stories Lab weekend will hold.

### **MAINSTAGE READING 1: *You Enjoy Myself***

Written by Topher Payne | Directed by Betty Hart

Friday, April 22 | 7 pm (doors open at 6:30)

Grace Gamm Theater, Dairy Arts Center: 2590 Walnut St., Boulder, CO

About the show: A comedy about passion, reconnection, and a band called Phish.

### **MAINSTAGE READING 2: *The Lotus***

Written by Esther Omegba | Directed by Lisa Marie Rollins

Presented in collaboration with CU Boulder

Saturday, April 23 | 2 pm (doors open at 1:30)

Grace Gamm Theater, Dairy Arts Center

About the show: A poor young girl and her sister attempt to take on a global computer supervirus with the help of a charming young boy.

(Continued)

### **MAINSTAGE READING 3: *Goodnight Cowboy***

Created and performed by Jody Kuehner, aka Cherdonna Shinatra

Saturday, April 23 | 6 pm (doors open at 5:30)

Grace Gamm Theatre, Dairy Arts Center

About the show: Inspired by Margaret Wise Brown's beloved children's book *Goodnight Moon* and American cinema Westerns, Cherdonna explores death, propaganda, toxic masculinity, and more.

### **LATE NIGHT LAB PARTY (Available to All-Access Pass-Holders)**

Saturday, April 23 | 8—Close

@ **DV8** (aka Deviant Spirits) - 2480 49th st Suite E, Boulder

DJ Parachute Pants spins into the early hours. Bring dancing shoes and charm, darling.

### **CO-LAB (Available to All-Access Pass-Holders)**

Sunday, April 24 | 12–1:30 pm

Grace Gamm Theater, Dairy Arts Center

Local Lab leaders Nick Chase, Betty Hart and Peshia Rudnick lead a creative workshop for theater makers and non-theater makers alike.

### **MAINSTAGE READING 4: *Affinity Lunch Minutes***

Written by Nick Malakhov | Directed by Sabin Epstein

Sunday, April 24 | 2 pm

Grace Gamm Theater, Dairy Arts Center

About the show: A racially charged discipline decision ignites a divide at a private Quaker school.

## **DETAILS**

**LOCATION:** All readings will be presented at the Dairy Arts Center (2590 Walnut Street, Boulder, CO). The Festival Kick-Off Party and Late-Night Lab Party will be held at Boulder locations.

**BOX OFFICE:** [thedairy.org/local-lab](http://thedairy.org/local-lab)

**TICKETS:** \$30 per reading, \$159 for the All-Access Pass (includes parties and creative workshop)

**LOCAL LAB WEBSITE:** [localtheaterco.org/springlab](http://localtheaterco.org/springlab)

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

**Local Theater Company Team**

Pesha Rudnick - Founding Artistic Director

Nick Chase - Associate Artistic Director, Marketing Manager, Co-Director, Local Lab 11

Misha S. Zimmerman - Producer

Alison Palmer - Development & Business Affairs

Betty Hart - Co-Director, Local Lab 11

Kevin Douglas - Marketing Associate

Jordan Lichtenheld - Resident Dramaturg

Mikaley Osley - Production and Administrative Assistant

**Social Media** - Instagram: [localtheaterco](#) | Facebook: [LocalTheater](#) | Twitter: [localtheaterco](#)