



Alaska Theater Festival features three full outdoor productions

2022 Festival includes *Neighborhood Cabaret*,
Shakespeare's family classic *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
and the world premiere of Annie Bartholomew's
Sisters of White Chapel

Juneau, AK, April 11, 2022 - Theater Alaska (Producing Artistic Director, Flordelino Lagundino; General Manager, Jennifer Lagundino) announced the second Alaska Theater Festival, which runs May 14-July 23, 2022 and will be held in various outdoor locations throughout Juneau. The Festival kicks off with a reading of *Pride and Prejudice* by Kate Hamill, which is adapted from the novel by Jane Austen, May 14 & 15, and *Neighborhood Cabaret*, May 26-29. Following those presentations, Playwright Frank Henry Kaash Katasse leads a playwriting workshop for Alaska Native artists on June 10. Next, the Festival features the productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, June 10-26, and the world premiere of *Sisters of White Chapel: A Short But True Story* by Annie Bartholomew, July 7-17. The Festival ends with the second *Climate Fair for a Cool Planet*, July 23.

"We are excited to expand the festival this year to make live theater more accessible to audiences in our Juneau community," says Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino. "And as the world opens up, we look to also welcome visitors to share stories presented by the extraordinarily talented artists we have in Alaska."

The Alaska Theater Festival kicks off on May 14 & 15 with a staged reading of the hilarious and heartfelt adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* adapted by Kate Hamill from the novel by Jane Austen. The reading is directed by Christina Apathy, who will also be featured in the role of Lizzy. *Neighborhood Cabaret*, May 26-29, brings live music to Juneau neighborhoods. *Neighborhood Cabaret* features company members Ericka Lee, Tommy Schoffler, Enrique

Bravo, Christina Apathy, as well as Salissa Cooper, Rob Cohen, and Jocelyn Miles. The production is directed by Tommy Schoffler. Annie Bartholomew makes a special guest appearance on May 28 & 29 to share songs from her play *Sisters of White Chapel*.

Alaska Native writer Frank Henry Kaash Katasse leads a workshop on June 10 specifically for Alaska Native artists to explore writing for performance. The free workshop will be held at Shuká Hít (Clan House) in the Sealaska Heritage Institute Walter Soboleff Building. Applications can be found on the Theater Alaska website.

Next up, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* features lovers, fairies, and a crazy donkey roaming the forest in one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* features Theater Alaska company members Enrique Bravo and Tommy Schoffler, as well as Natalia Spengler, Frank Delaney, Cate Ross, and dancers from Juneau Dance Theater. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be presented at various outdoor locations in Juneau and is directed by Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino. The production runs from June 9-26.

Sisters of White Chapel is a Victorian folk opera inspired by narratives of women during the Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska and the Yukon. Written by Alaskan songwriter Annie Bartholomew, this performance piece marries historic source material and folk music traditions, to honor the brave women that risked life and virtue seeking freedom in the far north. The production is directed by Heidi Handelsman and runs July 7-17.

"Theater Alaska has been an incredible partner adapting these stories and music for the stage," says writer/songwriter Annie Bartholomew. "It's an honor to share these songs in the home of the Alaska Folk Festival and part of the country that inspired it. I'm also thrilled to bring Anchorage multi-instrumentalist Kat Moore to Juneau for the production."

The final event of Alaska Theater Festival 2022, *Climate Fair for a Cool Planet*, will be held on July 23 at Overstreet Park - the Whale. *Climate Fair for a Cool Planet* is a family-friendly community event in which Alaskan artists share art related to the issue of climate change. Co-produced with 350Juneau, *Climate Fair for a Cool Planet* includes a dance piece commission choreographed by Hali Duran, a musical commission featuring the work of composer Michael Bucy, and two short play commissions written by Alaskan playwrights Dave Hunsaker and Kristen Ritter. Additional artists will be announced at a later date.

DATES AND TIMES

**Reading of PRIDE AND PREJUDICE by Kate Hamill
adapted from the novel by Jane Austen**

Saturday, May 14 @ 2:00PM - Riverside Rotary Park

Sunday, May 15 @ 12:00PM - Pioneer Pavilion at Savikko Park

NEIGHBORHOOD CABARET - May 26-29, 2022

Thursday, May 26 @ 6:30PM - St. Vincent de Paul

Friday, May 27 @ 6:30PM - TBD

Saturday, May 28 @ 2PM - Pioneer Home

Saturday, May 28 @ 6:30PM - Marine Park Pavillion

Special Guest: Annie Bartolomew (featuring songs from *Sisters of White Chapel*)

Sunday, May 29 @ 2PM - Savikko Shelter #1

Special Guest: Annie Bartolomew (featuring songs from *Sisters of White Chapel*)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare - May 9-26, 2022

Thursday, June 9 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Friday, June 10 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Saturday, June 11 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Sunday, June 12 - @ 3:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Thursday, June 16 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Friday, June 17 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Saturday, June 18 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Sunday, June 19 @ 3:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Thursday, June 23 @ 7:00PM - Riverside Rotary Park

Friday, June 24 @ 7:00PM - Riverside Rotary Park

Saturday, June 25 @ 7:00PM - Jensen-Olsen Arboretum

Sunday, June 26 @ 3:00PM - Cope Park

SISTERS OF WHITE CHAPEL by Annie Bartholomew - July 7-17, 2022

Thursday, July 7 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Friday, July 8 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Saturday, July 9 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Sunday, July 10 @ 3:00PM - Treadwell Office Mine

Thursday, July 14 @ 7:00PM - Riverside Rotary Park

Friday, July 15 @ 7:00PM - Riverside Rotary Park

Saturday, July 16 @ 7:00PM - TBD

Sunday, July 17 @ 3:00PM - TBD

CLIMATE FAIR FOR A COOL PLANET - July 23, 2022

Saturday, July 23 @ 3:00PM-5:00PM - Overstreet Park (the Whale)

WORKSHOP

GROUNDWORK WRITERS WORKSHOP, 12pm-4pm, June 10, 2022

Shuká Hít (Clan House), Sealaska Heritage Institute Walter Soboleff Building

Instructor: Frank Henry Kaash Katasse

Class size for the Groundwork Writers Workshop is limited to ten (10) Alaska Native participants. Workshop is free. To register or for more information, email Flordelino Lagundino at flordelino@theateralaska.org.

LEAD ARTISTS

Hali Duran is a dancer, choreographer and director who began her training in 1992. She studied at the International Ballet School, Colorado Conservatory of Dance, and the University of Colorado, Boulder where she also studied environmental design with an emphasis in urban planning. She has co-directed *Juneau's Got Talent* and choreographed for Juneau Arts and Humanities Center's, *Joie de Vivre*. Hali has performed in Perseverance Theatre's *Guys and Dolls* and *Chicago*, Orpheus Project's *Princes Sophia* as well as choreographed numerous productions in town, including Orpheus Project's *West Side Story*, Juneau Douglas Little Theatre's *Next to Normal*, Perseverance Theatre's *Fun Home*, *Whale Song*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Sweeney Todd*. She has also provided professional movement coaching on various PT plays such as *Chad Deity* and *Winter Bear*. She is proud to be a board member of Juneau Dance Theatre and the New JACC Board.

Annie Bartholomew is an Alaskan songwriter and audio storyteller from Juneau. She is the recipient of a 2020 Rasmuson Project Award to record her album of songs inspired by narratives of women during the Klondike Gold Rush. Annie plays traditional folk guitar and clawhammer banjo, and her collaborative music ensembles can be heard at the Alaska Folk Festival every April. She was the March 2019 artist-in-residence through the Yukon Arts Centre's Jenni House Residency in Whitehorse and was awarded the Alaska Historical Society's Emerging Professional/Student travel scholarship to present her work at their 2019 conference in Kodiak. Annie is working with Theater Alaska to develop her historical songwriting project, *Sisters of White Chapel*, into a stage show, and bring this history to new audiences.

Michael Bucy is currently a middle school music teacher in Juneau. Primarily a trombonist, Bucy has written music off and on and even taken classes over the years. However, it wasn't until a night class he took in 2016 at the Juilliard School, taught by Conrad Cummings, that he was especially inspired. He received his music degree from McGill University in Montreal. He is currently active in the Juneau Composer's Consortium and their performances of new music with the Con Brio organization in Juneau.

Frank Henry Kaash Katasse is an Alaska Native from the Tlingit clan Tsaagweidí. Frank is an actor, director, producer, improviser, educator and playwright. Frank received his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Hawai'i: Mānoa. In 2017, his play *They Don't Talk Back* received an NNPN rolling world premiere at Perseverance Theatre, Native Voices at the Autry, and La Jolla Playhouse.

Flordelino Lagundino is a director, actor, and producer. He is the producing artistic director of Theater Alaska. His directing credits include: *Aubergine* (Park Square Theatre); *FOB* (Drama League DirectorFest); *Trigger* (Leviathan Lab); *Deliverance*-workshop (Syracuse Stage); *Un*-workshop (Pan Asian Rep); *Sweeney Todd*, *Doubt*, *Yellowman*, *Cedar House*, and *Animals Out of Paper* (Perseverance Theatre); *Flipzoids*, *The Reincarnation of Stories*, *True West*, and *Shakespeare's R&J* (Generator Theater Company); *Sweeney Todd* (Juneau Symphony); *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Stone Cold Dead Serious*, *In the Blood* (Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company). As an actor, his credits include: *Vietgone* (Mixed Blood Theatre) - Ivey Award for Best Ensemble; *Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe); *Camino Real* (The Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Willy Wonka* (The Kennedy Center); *The Long Season*, *Yeast Nation*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hair*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Noises Off*, *The Last Five Years*, *The Inspector General* (Perseverance Theatre); *Invisible City 14th Street* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). Education: MFA in directing, Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company; MFA in acting, University of Texas at Austin.

Tommy Schoffler is a proud native West Virginian and first fell in love with Juneau almost a decade ago when he came to co-direct [title of show] with Generator Theater at Perseverance Theatre in 2011. Other favorite acting credits: The Baker in *Into the Woods* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (WV Public Theatre), Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* (Perseverance Theatre), Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* (Theatre West Virginia), Jinx in *Forever Plaid* (Oregon Cabaret Theatre), Finch in *How to Succeed in Business...* (Depot Theatre, NY), Yepihodov in *The Cherry Orchard* and Cripple Billy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Warehouse Theatre, SC), Touchstone in *As You Like It* (Theatre at Monmouth, ME) and David in *The Santaland Diaries* (GVT & Sycamore Rouge, VA). He has directed in New York for both the Connelly Theatre's Dark Nights Series and the SoHo Think Tank Series, and regionally for the The Theatre at Monmouth, The Depot Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, Sycamore Rouge, and North Carolina Stage Company.

Kristen Ritter is an Alaskan writer and storyteller. She is a graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program and has an undergraduate degree in English from Vassar College. Awards and honors include the Alaska State Council on the Arts Literary Award, the Ham Humor Award, and a Brazilian literature research grant. Her plays have been selected for staged readings at the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, Alaska for the past three years and she was a member of the inaugural Alaska Writers Workshop year-long residency with Theater Alaska.

ABOUT 350JUNEAU

350Juneau is building a local, diverse grassroots movement to address the root causes of climate disruption through justice-based solutions. We work on systemic change, holding our

leaders accountable to climate science and social justice. We work at the local, state, and national level through education, public policy advocacy, and mobilizing people to take creative and effective action. www.350juneau.org.

ABOUT THEATER ALASKA

Theater Alaska brings vibrant theatrical events directly into community spaces. We are a theater for all and create accessibility to the arts through equity and inclusion. Theater Alaska shares stories that connect with its community in Juneau and around the great state of Alaska. For many, there exist significant barriers to attend theatrical events. To increase accessibility, the company brings free theatrical productions to venues such as community centers, schools, correctional facilities, and other non-traditional venues, meeting people where they are most comfortable. The theater also performs for paying audiences at traditional theater venues. Theater Alaska is modeled after Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis, MN, which tours professional productions to community venues. www.theateralaska.org.

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