



Theater Alaska Presents the Alaska Theater Festival

Three week festival to be presented in Juneau

Juneau, AK, March 15, 2021 - Theater Alaska (Producing Artistic Director, Flordelino Lagundino; General Manager, Jennifer Lagundino) announced the Alaska Theater Festival, which will run May 11-30, 2021 and will be held in various locations throughout Juneau. The Festival will be headlined by productions of *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, May 11-23, and *Neighborhood Cabaret*, May 26-30; and will also present new play readings of *Sisters of White Chapel: A Short But True Story* by Annie Bartholomew on May 17, and *Once Upon a Tide* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse on May 24; and three theater classes: *Introduction to Alexander Technique*, taught by Tommy Schoffler on May 19, *Unleashing Your Laughter - The Red Nose*, taught by Roblin Gray Davis on May 22, and *Acting Through Song*, taught by Vishal Vaidya on May 22.

“We are looking forward to performing and being in the community,” says Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino. “The Alaska Theater Festival is a celebration of arts and theater and of the resilience of artists in Alaska. Theater Alaska’s mission is to bring theatrical events directly into community spaces and we are excited to be performing shows live throughout Juneau.”

In *Macbeth*, three witches prophesy a royal future for the soldier Macbeth, which he fulfills with his bloody ambition. Shakespeare’s masterpiece asks the question: What happens when an honorable man commits an unthinkable act? This production features company member Enrique Bravo in the title role, as well as Natalia Spengler as Lady Macbeth. The production is directed by Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino and runs from May 11-23. In the *Neighborhood Cabaret*, artists bring live music to Juneau neighborhoods. *Neighborhood Cabaret* features company members Ericka Lee, Tommy Schoffler, Enrique Bravo, as well as Salissa Cooper, Rob Cohen, Chris Talley, Shona Strauser, and Jocelyn Miles. The production is directed by Tommy Schoffler and runs from May 26-30.

The Festival will also feature two readings of new work by two Alaskan artists, *Sisters of White Chapel: A Short But True Story* by Annie Bartholomew and *Once Upon a Tide* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse. *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 for a chance to rise above their station. In *Once Upon a Tide* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse, three Tlingit siblings return home to attend the services of their father. As they are of the opposite moiety, they must guard the body the night before it is buried to protect it from evil spirits and usher it safely to the afterlife.

Three classes are being offered as a part of the Alaska Theater Festival. Tommy Schoffler, will teach *Introduction to the Alexander Technique* on May 19, 6pm-8pm at Pioneer Pavilion. Alexander Technique is a method of bringing awareness to one's thinking and movement to achieve greater clarity and ease. Students will apply the principles of Alexander Technique to daily activities such as walking, sitting and standing, and to the specific demands of performance or other specialized activities. The second offering, *Unleashing Your Laughter - The Red Nose* taught by Roblin Gray Davis on May 22, 1pm-4pm at Pioneer Pavilion, participants will explore clown work and what makes them uniquely loveable as an actor. For the final class, Broadway veteran Vishal Vaidya will teach *Acting Through Song* on May 22, 1pm-4pm via Zoom. In this workshop, singers will explore song interpretation through text analysis, mining the music for cues, and connecting emotion to song so they can sing any genre of musical theatre with finesse, authority, and authenticity.

THEATER SCHEDULE

MACBETH by William Shakespeare - May 11-23

Thursday, May 13 @ 1:30PM - Thunder Mountain High School

Friday, May 14 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Mine Office Building - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Saturday, May 15 @ 7:00PM - Treadwell Mine Office Building - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Sunday, May 16 @ 3:00PM - Treadwell Mine Office Building - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Thursday, May 20 @ 1:30 PM - Juneau Douglas High School

Friday, May 21 @ 7:00PM - Capital School Park - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Saturday, May 22 @ 7:00PM - Riverside Rotary Park - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Sunday, May 23 @ 3:00PM - Mayor Bill Overstreet Park - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CABARET - May 26-30

Wednesday, May 26 @ 7:00PM - Twin Lakes Park - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Thursday, May 27 @ 7:00PM - St. Vincent de Paul

Friday, May 28 @ 7:00PM - Channel View Trailer Park

Saturday, May 29 @ 2:30PM - Pioneer Home
Saturday, May 29 @ 7:00PM - Marine Park - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE
Sunday, May 30 @ 3:00PM - Savikko Park Shelter #1 at Sandy Beach - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

READINGS

SISTERS OF WHITE CHAPEL: A SHORT BUT TRUE STORY by Annie Bartholomew

Monday, May 17 at 6pm - Resurrection Lutheran Church

ONCE UPON A TIDE by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse

Monday, May 24 at 6pm - Resurrection Lutheran Church

Readings are limited to 15 audience members. Reservations to attend are being taken by Jenny Lagundino, jennylagundino@gmail.com.

CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, 6-8pm, May 19

Pioneer Pavilion

Instructor: Tommy Schoffler

UNLEASHING YOUR LAUGHTER - THE RED NOSE, 1pm-4pm, May 22

Pioneer Pavilion

Instructor: Roblin Gray Davis

ACTING THROUGH SONG, 1-4pm, May 22

Via Zoom

Instructor: Vishal Vaidya

Class sizes limited to 10. Fee is \$25. To register or for more information, email Jenny Lagundino at jenny@theateralaska.org.

LEAD ARTISTS

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.

Roblin Gray Davis is an actor, director, and life-long Alaskan theatre maker. He is a recognized Teaching Artist with the Alaska State Council on the Arts and Juneau Arts and Humanities Council and a founding member of Strange Attractor Theatre Company. Roblin earned an M.F.A. in Actor Created Theatre from Naropa University in association with the London International School of Performing Arts, holds a Certificate from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, and a B.A. from Western Washington University, Fairhaven College. He has studied theatrical mask and movement with Giovanni Fusetti, Aitor Basauri, Phillippe Gaulier, Ronlin Foreman, Thomas Prattki, Sue Morrison, Kevin Kulkhe, Daniel Stein, Corrine Soum and Steven Wasson.

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). Producing: artistic director of Park Square Theatre, Generator Theater, and Leviathan Lab; associate producer at La Jolla Playhouse, founding producer of the graduate theater company Romp of Otters at Brown University. Directing fellowships: SDC Sir John Gielgud Classical Directing Fellow, Drama League NY Directing Fellow, Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival FAIR Fellow, Arena Stage Allen Lee Hughes Fellow. 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. Associate Professor of Theatre at WV Wesleyan College, Tommy is also a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and presents masterclasses and workshops across the country to students ranging from professional arm wrestlers and pole-vaulters to performers of all stripes, and at Davis & Elkins College, Alderson-Broadus University, West Virginia University, Hollins University, Seton Hill University, the University of Alaska - Southeast, the University of Findlay, the University of Iowa, The University of Florida, High Point University, Southeastern Theater Conference, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the NYC Asian American Writers' Workshop, Chanticleer Children's Chorus of WV, and the West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts. www.tommyschoffler.com.

Vishal Vaidya is a performer and voice teacher based in New York City. He made his Broadway debut as Larry the Cameraman in *Groundhog Day*. Other performing credits include New York City Center (*Road Show, 1776*), Prospect Theater (*Einstein's Dreams*), Arena Stage, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Theatre Company, and dozens of musicals in development. Vishal also has a robust private voice studio and has also taught for Rock The Audition, Indiana University, Sam Houston State, Levine Music, et cetera. He can be heard on Charlie Rosen's *Come Hang*, *Losing My Mind: A Sondheim Disco Fever Dream*, and the cast album for *Einstein's Dreams*. IG: @Vishgram Twitter: @TweetsbyVish

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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