



**INVISIBLE THEATRE - PRESS RELEASE**

Press Contact: Cathy Johnson or Susan Claassen  
Administration: (520) 884-0672  
Box Office: (520) 882-9721  
1400 N. First Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719  
cathy@invisibletheatre.com  
www.invisibletheatre.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Invisible Theatre continues its 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

**with the Arizona premiere of**

**BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES**

**starring and written by Jessica Sherr**

**Three Performances Only!**

**November 16, 2018 at 7:30 PM**

**November 17, 2018 at 3:00 PM**

**November 17, 2018 at 7:30 PM**

*(October 29, 2018, Tucson, AZ);* **BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES**, starring and written by Jessica Sherr, is a 90-minute one-woman show about the 1930's icon, Bette Davis, on the night of the 1939 Academy Awards. Young Miss Davis is nominated for Best Actress in *Dark Victory*, and the Los Angeles Times LEAKED the OSCAR winners EARLY ... the BOLD, DEFIANT and DISILLUSIONED Bette Davis decides to leave the Oscars! Journey into the young starlets battle to win freedom from the grip and control of the studio moguls of Hollywood. Witness Bette's most defining moments as a tenacious young starlet fighting her way to the top!! See what happens when someone who always wins, loses.

**This production is made possible in part through the generous support of  
Jane and Marvin Brown**

"Sherr is mesmerizing to watch. A dynamic performance reflecting both vanity and vulnerability."  
-*Edinburgh Guide*



**BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES** will play on November 16 and 17, 2018 at the Invisible Theatre, located at 1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman), Tucson, AZ 85719.

The single show ticket price for **BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES** is \$35. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, active military and students. Rush tickets are available for purchase at half-price one half hour prior to performance time and are subject to availability.

Tickets are available for purchase by calling the Invisible Theatre Box Office at (520) 882-9721 and are also available 24/7 on-line through OvationTix at [www.invisibletheatre.com](http://www.invisibletheatre.com).

The running time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

**BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES** is appropriate for ages high school and up (mature audiences).

## THE INVISIBLE THEATRE

The Invisible Theatre (IT) of Tucson, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to producing quality theatre and arts education experiences for all facets of the community in an intimate setting that showcases local professional talent and guest artists. IT takes its name from the invisible energy that flows between a performer and audience, creating the magic of theatre. Started in 1971 as an arena for local playwrights, the theatre has expanded its programs to include adaptations of classics and recent Off-Broadway plays and musicals, while continuing to encourage new playwrights through both full productions and staged readings.

Under the leadership of Managing Artistic Director Susan Claassen, Associate Artistic Director James Blair, and PR Director Cathy Johnson, IT is strongly committed to community service and outreach programs. The company's current season includes a six play Main Stage season, many special events, a world class cabaret series, organizational collaborations, educational tours, seminars that encourage community dialogue and Project Pastime – an educational theatre program for mentally challenged youth.

The Invisible Theatre, the recipient of the first Arizona Theatre Association Award for Best Producing Theatre Company, is a member of the Theatre Communications Group and has long enjoyed both local and national recognition for its strong leadership role in the arts community. Productions take place in an intimate 80-seat converted laundry building. IT celebrates its 48<sup>th</sup> season with an even greater commitment to professionalism, artistic excellence, accessibility, freedom of expression, diverse programming and creative challenge – thus making the Invisible Theatre a very visible force in Tucson's cultural community.

## JESSICA SHERR



Jessica Sherr, “A Bright Comedic Energy” (*Chicago Reader*), grew up in San Diego, California, and is a graduate of the Wynn Handman Acting Studio. She has studied improv at UCB, The Pit and the Annoyance Theater.

Jessica will appear on Season 2 of *Claws* (TNT) and was recently seen on *Blue Bloods* (CBS) opposite Donnie Wahlberg. Her film *One, Two, Guess Who is Who*, directed by Italian director Lorenzo Faccenda, screened at The London International Filmmaker Festival and has won Best Feature Film at New York Film Awards and Best Foreign Feature at The Los Angeles Independent Film Awards. *We are the Prototypes* is an official selection of Dances with Films Festival and will have its world premiere at The Chinese Theater in Los Angeles. Jessica was the face of Fruit by the Foot and had a two-year National Campaign for Aquafresh. She finished a 6-part industrial for PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Jessica is the actress/writer of the acclaimed one-woman show *BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES*. She had her international debut at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival and had a successful 4-week run in Chicago at The Athenaeum Theater. She has a monthly residency at The Actors Episcopal Guild in New York. “*Bette Davis is Bad-Ass*” (*The Fourth Walsh*).

Jessica is a certified personal trainer and holds her New York Real Estate License. Jessica is married to actor Douglas Schneider and they live in New Jersey. When not on stage you can find Jessica at Rockaway Beach, surfing.

Film: *Annie* (Columbia Pictures), *Great Expectations* (Best Ensemble Cast and Best Short Comedy), *Rock Dove* (winner Flagstaff & Washington Gorge Film Festival), *The Video Guys* (Best Comedy IFF Festival). Television: Miss Faltine on *Team Toon* (Netflix), *Flight of the Concords* (HBO). Theater: *BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Assembly Rooms), Fringe NYC 59E59 Theater 2013-2016, St. James Theatre London, *THE GREAT GATSBY* (Hudson Theater Ensemble), *ALMOST, MAINE* (Hudson Theater Ensemble), *AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN* (Hudson Theater Ensemble). Commercials: Aquafresh, Optimum Online, Sinus Busters, Fruit by the Foot and New York Jets.



Jessica Sherr in *BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES*

# BETTE DAVIS



Ruth Elizabeth Davis was born April 5, 1908, in Lowell, Massachusetts, to Ruth Augusta (Favor) and Harlow Morrell Davis, a patent attorney. Her parents divorced when she was 10. She and her sister were raised by their mother. Her early interest was dance. To Bette, dancers led a glamorous life, but then she discovered the stage, and gave up dancing for acting. To her, it presented much more of a challenge.

In 1932, she signed a seven-year deal with Warner Brothers Pictures. Her first film with them was *Seed* (1931). She became a star after her appearance in *The Man Who Played God* (1932), known as the actress that could play a variety of very strong and complex roles. More fairly successful movies followed, but it was the role of Mildred Rogers in RKO's *Of Human Bondage* (1934) that would give Bette major acclaim from the film critics. She had a significant number of write-in votes for the Best Actress Oscar, but didn't win. Warner Bros. felt their seven-year deal with Bette was more than justified. They had a genuine star on their hands, With this

success under her belt, she began pushing for stronger and more meaningful roles. In 1935, she received her first Oscar for her role in *Dangerous* (1935) as Joyce Heath.

In 1936, she was suspended without pay for turning down a role that she deemed unworthy of her talent. She went to England, where she had planned to make movies, but was stopped by Warner Bros. because she was still under contract to them. They did not want her to work anywhere. Although she sued to get out of her contract, she lost. Still, they began to take her more seriously after that.

Returning after losing her lawsuit, her roles improved dramatically. In 1938, Bette received a second Academy Award nomination for her work in *Jezebel* (1938) opposite the soon-to-be-legendary Henry Fonda. The only role she didn't get that she wanted was Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* (1939). Warner Bros. couldn't loan her to David O. Selznick unless he hired Errol Flynn to play Rhett Butler, which both Selznick and Davis thought was a terrible choice. It was rumored she had numerous affairs, among them George Brent and William Wyler, and she was married four times, three of which ended in divorce. She admitted her career always came first.

She made many successful films in the 1940s, but each picture was weaker than the last and by the time her Warner Brothers contract had ended in 1949, she had been reduced to appearing in such films as the unintentionally hilarious *Beyond the Forest* (1949). She made a huge comeback in 1950 when she replaced an ill Claudette Colbert in, and received an Oscar nomination for, *All About Eve* (1950). She worked in films through the 1950s, but her career eventually came to a standstill, and in 1961 she placed a now famous Job Wanted ad in the trade papers.

She received an Oscar nomination for her role as a demented former child star in *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane* (1962). This brought about a new round of super-stardom for generations of fans who were not familiar with her work. Two years later, she starred in *Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964).

In 1977, she received the AFI's Lifetime Achievement Award and in 1979, she won a Best Actress Emmy for *Strangers: The Story of a Mother and Daughter* (1979). In 1977-78 she moved from Connecticut to Los Angeles and filmed a pilot for the series *Hotel* (1983), which she called Brothel. She refused to do the TV series and suffered a stroke during this time.

Her last marriage, to actor Gary Merrill, lasted ten years, longer than any of the previous three. In 1985, her daughter Barbara Davis ("B.D.") Hyman published a scandalous book about Bette called "My Mother's Keeper". Bette worked in the later 1980's in films and TV, even though a stroke had impaired her appearance and mobility. She wrote a book, "This 'N That", during her recovery from the stroke, Her last book was "Bette Davis, The Lonely Life", issued in paperback in 1990. It included an update from 1962 to 1989. She wrote the last chapter in San Sebastian, Spain.

Sadly, Bette Davis died on October 6, 1989, of metastasized breast cancer, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, Hauts-de-Seine, France. Many of her fans refused to believe she was gone.

# FACTS ABOUT BETTE DAVIS AIN'T FOR SISSIES

**WHO:**

Written by and starring Jessica Sherr

**WHAT:**

The Arizona Premiere

**WHERE:**

The Invisible Theatre  
1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman), Tucson, AZ. 85719

**WHEN:**

Season Ticket Holders are seated first, followed by general admission.

Friday	November 16, 2018 at 7:30 PM
Saturday	November 17, 2018 at 3:00 PM
Saturday	November 17, 2018 at 7:30 PM

**RUNNING TIME:**

90 minutes with no intermission

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:**

High School and up (mature audiences)

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR INFORMATION:**

To charge tickets by phone, call our Box Office at (520) 882-9721.  
You may also visit the Box Office in the Invisible Theatre Lobby (1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman).  
To buy tickets online 24/7, go to [www.invisibletheatre.com](http://www.invisibletheatre.com) and click on the OvationTix logo.  
Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS:**

The Invisible Theatre is fully accessible to patrons using wheelchairs or with other mobility challenges. Seating areas to accommodate persons using wheelchairs are located in the theatre. If patrons require special seating they should inform the Box Office at (520) 882-9721.

**ONLINE MEDIA MATERIALS:**

Attached are two photos of Jessica Sherr. They can also be found at [www.invisibletheatre.com](http://www.invisibletheatre.com) (Press). Photo credit is courtesy of Velvet Fox Productions.

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Fax – (520) 884-5410  
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