



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 48th Anniversary Season

with Award Winning, Broadway Star

Jim Brochu

In

ZERO HOUR

The Zero Mostel Story

Written by Jim Brochu and directed by Piper Laurie

TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!

Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 3:00 PM

The Berger Performing Arts Center

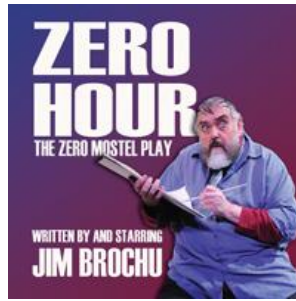
1200 W. Speedway Blvd

(December 20, 2018, Tucson, Arizona); The Invisible Theatre continues its 48th Anniversary Season with **ZERO HOUR**. This not-to-be-missed theatrical event is set in theatre legend Zero Mostel's painting studio, a naive reporter attempts to interview the famously volatile artist, prompting an explosion of memory, humor, outrage and juicy backstage lore. Mostel is remembered for his comedic genius, but in the 1950's he was equally known for his place on the infamous Hollywood blacklist. Zero Mostel is brought back to the stage in this volcanic tour-de-force.

**This production is made possible in part through the generous support of
The Milton and Elizabeth Kahn Philanthropic Fund**

"Captivating! It brings Mostel back to life!"

-The New York Times



The Arizona Premiere of ZERO HOUR

Written by and starring Jim Brochu

Directed by Piper Laurie

January 12 - 13, 2019

**The Berger Performing Arts Center
Located at 1200 W. Speedway Blvd, Tucson, AZ.**

The single show ticket price for **ZERO HOUR** is \$45. All seats are reserved. Additional 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.

The running time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

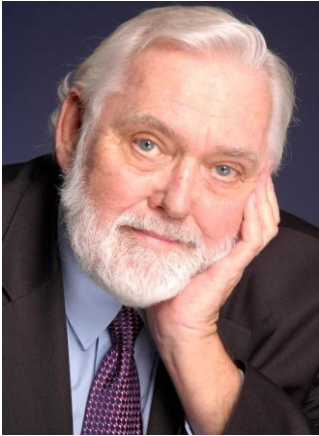
THE INVISIBLE THEATRE

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 48th 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.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE



JIM BROCHU (*Writer and Star*) is the only actor in America to have won the New York Drama Desk Award, the Washington, DC Helen Hayes Award, the Los Angeles Ovation Award, the South Florida Carbonell Award and the Palm Springs Desert Star Award, all for Best Actor in a Play. On Broadway, he has appeared as Andrew McLaren in *Brigadoon* opposite Christine Ebersole and Len Cariou and as Mr. Brownlow in *Oliver!* opposite Brian Stokes Mitchell's Fagin. In Washington, DC he played Willy Clark opposite Theodore Bikel's Al Lewis in Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys*.

Recently he starred at New York's fabled Palace Theatre in *Broadway Backwards* with Florence Henderson and Estelle Parsons as well as in the major Off-Broadway revivals of *The Man Who Came To Dinner* as Sheridan Whiteside opposite Tony winner Cady Huffman and as Sir in the Anthony Newley-

Leslie Bricusse musical, *The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of The Crowd*. Over the past few years, Jim has been leading a double life – both as himself and as the great Zero Mostel in his multi-award winning play, *Zero Hour*. Since its premiere in 2006 Jim has been touring the country with the show, racking up over 600 performances, garnering both unanimous critical raves and major theatrical honors. Legendary producer Hal Prince praised Jim's performance as "Dazzling! The work of a great artist!"

His acting career has taken him to regional stages all over the United States and Canada, including the Washington Theatre Club in D.C., the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, The Invisible Theatre in Tucson, two seasons at the Goodspeed Opera House where he originated the role of Flint in *Something's Afoot*, Theatre Building Chicago, Stages Repertory Theatre in Houston, the Trinity Arts Center in Dallas and the DejaVu Theatre in Los Angeles - where he won the Backstage West Award as Best Actor for his performance as Marvin in Robert Patrick's *T-Shirts*. While playing Tevye at the Waldo Astoria Dinner Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri, he wrote his first play *Cookin' With Gus* which was immediately published by Samuel French and has since been performed all over the United States (including Invisible Theatre) and has been translated into several languages for productions all over the world. A huge hit in Quebec, Canada; it was recently taped in French by HBO Canada. One play led to another and soon Jim was writing full time. For the theatre, he has written the comedies *The Lucky O'Learys* with Kathleen Freeman and Pat Carroll, *Fat Chance* with Virginia Capers, *The Lady Of The House* with Rue McClanahan and the off-Broadway smash hit musical, *The Last Session*, which he also directed. After *The Last Session's* New York run (for which he received Drama League and Outer Critics Circle Nominations), the show was named by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the ten best plays of the 1998-1999 Los Angeles season, garnering him the Oscar Wilde Award and the GLAAD Media Award. Brochu won another Backstage West Award for his direction of the show, along with the Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award as playwright. *The Last Session* opened in London in October of 2012 where it received rave reviews starring British Pop Star Darren Day.

In 1988 Jim got an offer he couldn't refuse - a call from his idol, Lucille Ball, who had read his play *The Lucky O'Learys* and thought it would be perfect for herself and Audrey Meadows. By the time he finished writing the pilot for 20th Century Fox, Miss Ball was not up to doing the project and it never developed. However, what did develop was a deep friendship between Ball and Brochu that resulted in them spending almost every afternoon together until she died in 1989. Jim chronicled Lucy's life as she told it to him over the backgammon table in his book, *Lucy In The Afternoon*, published by William Morrow, Pocketbooks in paperback and was named as an alternate selection by The Literary Guild Book Club.

Jim currently lives in his home town New York City where, between theatrical assignments, he travels on the great cruise ships all over the world performing and lecturing about Broadway, Hollywood and the stars with whom he has worked. He is an active member of the Dramatists Guild, the Screen Actors Guild, Actors Equity Association and remains, as the New York Times called him, a true "Man Of The Theatre". His caricature hangs on the wall of the legendary Sardi's Restaurant in New York next to his mentor David Burns, a singular tribute to a forty year show business career as an actor and playwright.



Samuel (Zero) Mostel was born in Brooklyn, New York City, on the 28th of February, 1915. The son of Jewish immigrants, Mostel attended art classes at the Educational Alliance with Ben Shahn. After graduating from high school, Mostel enrolled in the City College of New York. This was followed by a year at New York University. In 1937, Mostel joined the Federal Art Project (part of the Works Projects administration) and taught art at the 92nd Street Young Men and Young Women's Hebrew Association. He also gave lectures at various museums. Mostel talks were very humorous and he was soon being invited to perform at private parties and local clubs. It was during this period that a press agent at one of the clubs gave him the nickname Zero because he was a "guy who's started from nothing".

Mostel joined the United States Army in 1943 but was discharged because of an unspecified physical disability. For the rest of the Second World War, Mostel entertained American troops overseas. After the war, Mostel continued to work in nightclubs as a standup comedian. He also started acting and appeared in the film *Panic in the Streets* in 1950. This was followed by *Sirocco* (1951), *The Guy Who Came Back* (1951), *The Enforcer* (1951) and *The Model and the Marriage Broker* (1951). Mostel held left-wing political views and when the House of Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) began an investigation into the Hollywood Motion Picture Industry it was not long before he was called to give evidence. Mostel denied he was a member of the Communist Party, but he refused to provide information about the political opinions of his friends. Mostel was now blacklisted and this made it very difficult for him to work in the entertainment industry. For the next few years, Mostel found it difficult to find work in clubs and theatres and had to supplement his income by trying to sell his paintings. In 1958, a friend managed to get him the part of Leopold Bloom in the Off-Broadway production of *Ulysses*. He was a great success and won an Obie. With the blacklist over, Mostel returned to work in TV. In January, 1960, Mostel was involved in a serious road accident and spent over five months in the hospital. After his recovery he appeared in several hit Broadway shows including *Rhinoceros*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Mostel also appeared in the films *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1966), *The Producers* (1968), *The Great Bank Robbery* (1969), *Rhinoceros* (1973), *Once Upon a Scoundrel* (1973) and *Journey Into Fear* (1975). In 1976, Mostel appeared in *The Front*, a film about the Hollywood Blacklist. Zero Mostel died of a heart-attack on the 8th of September, 1977.



PIPER LAURIE (*Director*) was born Rosetta Jacobs in Detroit, Michigan, to parents of Russian and Polish ancestry. Piper had been studying acting with Benno and Betomi Schneider for three years when she auditioned for Universal Studios, who signed her to a long term contract. They made more than twenty films starring the teenage girl opposite such actors as Tony Curtis, Rock Hudson and Tyrone Power. Disgusted with the lack of serious roles, Laurie finally broke her lucrative Hollywood contract, moved to New York, lived on a budget, worked on live television and theater, and within two years changed her life and her career. Piper Laurie is a three-time Oscar nominee, nominated by BAFTA as well as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for best performance by an actress in *The Hustler* with Paul Newman. She stopped working for fifteen years after *The Hustler* to devote her energies to the Civil Rights movement and to the Vietnam War, feeling acting was less important. When she accepted work again she was nominated for an Academy Award as best supporting actress for the original *Carrie* with Sissy Spacek, and

again as best supporting actress in *Children of a Lesser God* with Marlee Matlin. She won the Golden Globe for her role in the David Lynch cult favorite *Twin Peaks* and was nominated for an Emmy for both best actress and best supporting actress in *Twin Peaks*. She has been nominated twelve times for an Emmy, including one for the original and celebrated live broadcast of *The Days of Wine and Roses* with Cliff Robertson, directed by John Frankenheimer, as well as for her comedic performance in *Frasier*. She won the Emmy for *Promise* opposite James Woods and James Garner. She was Harvard's Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year, and she also received an SFECA award for her performance as Dolly in the film of *The Grass Harp*.

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 and click on the OvationTix logo.

Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS:

The Berger Performing Arts Center 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.

ABOUT THIS PRESS RELEASE:

This mailing list is for members of the professional media and allied organizations who have requested e-mail press releases from The Invisible Theatre. If you no longer wish to receive e-mail press releases or if there is someone else with your organization that should be added to our list, send a message to cathy@invisibletheatre.com or phone Alayna at (520) 884-0672 with your request.

ONLINE MEDIA MATERIALS:

Photos of Jim Brochu are attached to this press release. This press release and photos will also be available at www.invisibletheatre.com/press beginning December 20, 2018.

Invisible Theatre
1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman
Tucson, AZ 85719
Box Office – (520) 882-9721
Administration – (520) 884-0672
Fax – (520) 884-5410
www.invisibletheatre.com

###