



INVISIBLE THEATRE - PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Invisible Theatre Concludes its 47th Anniversary Season
with the Premiere of
MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON**

by

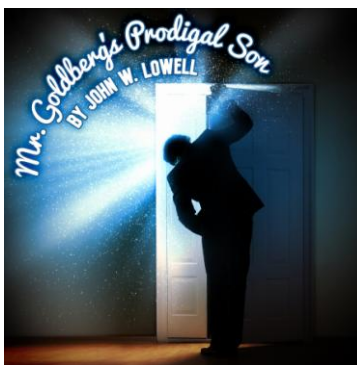
John W. Lowell

April 24* – May 6, 2018

***Tuesday low cost preview**

(March 28, 2018, Tucson, AZ); Invisible Theatre concludes its 47th Anniversary Season with **MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON** by John W. Lowell and directed by Molly Lyons. What's the point of a family gathering if the food isn't good, the people aren't loving, and a long-missing prodigal son doesn't show up to disrupt the proceedings? This charming comedy featuring David Alexander Johnston, Susan Cookie Baker, Susan Claassen, Christopher Koval and Andrey Lull has all those ingredients! It tells the story of three generations of the Goldberg family learning to accept one another, foibles and all, and isn't that what always happens over a well-cooked brisket? Fortunately, there are plenty of laughs, a moral or two, and some delicious insights into what makes a family, a family!

**This production is made possible in part through the generous support of
Dr. Bella Eibensteiner**



MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON by John W. Lowell will play from April 24 – May 6, 2018 with the official press opening on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 7:30 PM. A low cost preview (\$20) takes place on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 7:30 PM. The Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman), Tucson, AZ 85719.

The single show ticket price for **MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON** is \$34. 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 85 minutes with no intermission.

MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON is PG and is appropriate for ages 13 and up.

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, student matinees, 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 47th 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

JOHN W. LOWELL's (*Playwright*) plays include DRAWING FIRE, THE STANDBY LEAR, THE LETTERS, SHERIDAN SQUARE, AUTUMN CANTICLE, LEO TOLSTOY IS IN THE NEXT ROOM DYING, TWO WOMEN IN A GARDEN, THE GENIUS OF THE SYSTEM, TAKEN IN and RENSSELAER. Following its triumphant premiere in Los Angeles, THE LETTERS has been produced in Chicago, Berkeley, Alexandria Santa Cruz, Orlando, and at Invisible Theatre. His other work has been featured in theatre festivals around the country, including The Denver Center Festival of New Plays, which did the premiere professional reading of THE GENIUS OF THE SYSTEM. AUTUMN CANTICLE has received productions at the Walnut Street Theatre and the Celebration Theatre (2003 LA GLAAD award nominee), following a workshop production with the Eureka Theatre Company. LEO TOLSTOY... premiered at the San José Stages, and readings by The Acting Company Circle Repertory Company, etc. Mr. Lowell's TAKEN IN premiered at the Richmond Triangle Players Theatre, and has since been produced in London, Lima, and Santa Cruz.

MOLLY LYONS (*Director*) is a director/actor who currently hails from Chicago and is thrilled to make her IT directing debut. Molly has directed such shows as: TWELFTH NIGHT, JULIUS CAESAR, BARBER OF SEVILLE, MAGIC FLUTE, CARMEN, THE FOREIGNER, DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, THE CLEARING, and an award-winning GLASS MENAGERIE. As an actor, some of her favorite roles include: Cabdriver - HELLCAB, Quickly & Worcester - FATHER RUFFIAN, Paola - CHEWING ON BECKETT, Nurse - ROMEO & JULIET, Beatrice - MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, Cecilia - AT WATER'S EDGE and, as the last queen of Ireland in her solo show, A MOST NOTORIOUS WOMAN. Molly has worked across the US and internationally in Canada, France, Ireland and Tblisi-Republic of Georgia, where she was so fortunate to meet Susan Claassen. Molly's education includes: Santa Clara University, California Institute of the Arts, and Royal Shakespeare Company. Molly has been Artistic Director of Green Wood Studios, actor training, since 1994, which has taken her across North America and Europe.

SUSAN CLAASSEN (*Hettie/Producer/Designer*) is concluding her 43rd anniversary with IT. As Managing Artistic Director, she has produced over 400 productions and directed over 90 including SHEAR MADNESS (MAC award Nominee for comedy director) LEBENSRAUM and most recently BLACK PEARL SINGS! Suz was nominated for the 2011 LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award and BroadwayWorld LA Award as Best Actress for her portrayal of Edith Head in A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD (www.edithhead.biz). She was most recently seen as Olive in IT's OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS (MAC Award Winner). Suz was selected as one of Arizona's "48 Most Intriguing Women", is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women, was August's selection as "Notable Person" for *Tucson Lifestyle*, and has been a clown in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade since 2001. She has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 1969 and dedicates her work to the living memory of her beloved mother, Goldie.

DAVID ALEXANDER JOHNSTON (*Milton Goldberg*) made his IT debut in IT's DON'T TALK TO THE ACTORS and then appeared here in LEAVING IOWA, AN EMPTY PLATE IN THE CAFÉ DU GRAND BOEUF, 2 ACROSS, MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD, OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS, I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES, LEBENSRAUM and most recently, THE VALUE OF NAMES. He has been seen in ATC's TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING and MY FAIR LADY. David appeared in AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY and CABARET with Winding Road Theater Ensemble. He then joined the ensemble and appeared in ROUGH MAGIC, UNITED, SAINT JOAN and SOVEREIGN BODY. He proudly played Willy Loman in Winding Road's DEATH OF A SALESMAN and won a Tucson MAC award for playing Mr. Green in VISITING MR. GREEN at Live Theatre Workshop. David has been seen in multiple other shows since coming to Tucson in 1990. His television and movie credits include *Day of Redemption*, *Spin*, *The Unflyable Plane for BBC*, *Fast Getaway II*, and *Tank Girl* as well as regional and national commercials and industrial films.

SUSAN COOKIE BAKER (*Joyce Goldberg*) made her long overdue IT debut in the 2009 LEAVING IOWA and followed it with the world premiere of LOOK MA WE'RE DANCING, MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD, and BAKERSFIELD MIST. She was most recently seen in the critically acclaimed I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES, SHEAR MADNESS and LET'S LIVE A LITTLE! Some of Susan's favorite productions include OLIVE AND THE BITTER HERBS, THE FIFTH OF JULY, LEND ME A TENOR, 6 RMS RVR VU, and DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER. A former high school drama and art teacher, she has also appeared in nearly 100 interactive murder mysteries where she variously died, killed someone, or brought a murderer to justice. A B.F.A. Graduate of Rockford College, Susan also studied at Regents College in London. When not on stage, Susan is... on stage - teaching aerobics and fitness classes at Canyon Ranch.

ANDREY LULL (*Charlie Goldberg*) is making his Invisible Theatre debut and IT is thrilled! Andrey is currently a theatre student at the University of Arizona after receiving his AFA from Scottsdale Community College. Prior to moving to Tucson, some favorite roles include Nathan in THE FULL MONTY, Jack in INTO THE WOODS, and Charlie Brown in YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN. Andrey also spent a year at Walt Disney World playing Peter Pan and many other characters. Andrey most recently played Solyony in THREE SISTERS at the University of Arizona. He received the National Youth Art award in 2013, 2015 and 2016. He would like to thank his Dramaturgy Professor, Elaine, for pointing him in the right direction, Suz and Molly for giving him this amazing opportunity, and the cast and crew for being so welcoming.

CHRISTOPHER KOVAL (*Jerry Goldberg*) is making his long overdue Invisible Theatre debut. He received his training in the Stanislavsky tradition and Active Analysis through Physical Actions at the Bennett Theatre Lab in San Francisco. Christopher's most recent performance was at The Road Runner Theatre, where he played the eccentric acting legend, John Barrymore in I HATE HAMLET. Some of his other Tucson credits include, GOD'S FAVORITE, THE WINTER'S TALE, Clean and Sober Theater, a youth outreach program of Compass Mental Health Clinic, and Tucson Theatrical Mime Troupe. Some of his San Francisco credits include, MID SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, CABARET, DINNER WITH FRIENDS, and BOBBY GOULD IN HELL. As a member of California Desert Regional Theatre, he performed JOHN BROWN'S BODY and LONE STAR. Christopher has also instructed and directed at The Theatre Lab and Conservatory, Live Theatre Workshop, and Catalina High School.

BEVERLY IHLI (*Stage Manager*) MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON is Beverly's premiere as stage manager for the Invisible Theatre. She has previously stage managed THE FANTASTICKS for Winding Road Theater Ensemble, THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL, IN THE HEIGHTS and CRAZY FOR YOU for Arizona Theatre Company's Summer on Stage, as well as being assistant stage manager for SPAMALOT at Pima Community College. Along with stage managing, Beverly has been video designer for IN THE HEIGHTS and CHARLIE AND CHOCOLATE FACTORY, sound designer for DRACULA and acted in a number of other Pima shows such as A PIECE OF MY HEART and LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST. Beverly began studying theater about four years ago at Pima and has received an Associates of Fine Arts in the field.

FACTS ABOUT MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON

WHO:

Written by John W. Lowell

DIRECTOR:

Molly Lyons

CAST:

CHRISTOPHER KOVAL (*Jerry Goldberg*)

SUSAN BAKER (*Joyce Goldberg*)

DAVID ALEXANDER JOHNSTON (*Milton Goldberg*)

ANDREY LULL (*Charlie Goldberg*)

SUSAN CLAASSEN (*Hettie Goldberg*)

WHAT:

The Premiere of MR. GOLDBERG'S PRODIGAL SON

WHERE:

The Invisible Theatre

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

WHEN:

Season Ticket Holders will be seated first and then general admission.

Tuesday	April 24, 2018 at 7:30 PM	(Preview)
Wednesday	April 25, 2018 at 7:30 PM	(Opening)
Thursday	April 26, 2018 at 7:30 PM	(Seminar)
Friday	April 27, 2018 at 7:30 PM	
Saturday	April 28, 2018 at 7:30 PM	
Sunday	April 29, 2018 at 3:00 PM	

Wednesday	May 2, 2018 at 7:30 PM	
Thursday	May 3, 2018 at 7:30 PM	
Friday	May 4, 2018 at 7:30 PM	
Saturday	May 5, 2018 at 3:00 PM	
Saturday	May 5, 2018 at 7:30 PM	
Sunday	May 6, 2018 at 3:00 PM	

PRODUCTION STAFF:

DIRECTOR: Molly Lyons

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: James Blair

SET DESIGN: Susan Claassen and James Blair

LIGHT DESIGN: James Blair

SOUND DESIGN: Gail Fitzhugh and Rob Boone

PROP DESIGN: James Blair

COSTUME DESIGN: Maryann Trombino

STAGE MANAGER: Beverly Ihli

GRAPHIC & PROGRAM DESIGN: Karen Scott & Christine Simpson, Great Scott Design, Inc

RUNNING TIME:

85 minutes with no intermission

RECOMMENDATION:

PG, ages 13 and up

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 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.

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:

Production photos will be available on April 12, 2018 at www.invisibletheatre.com (Press)

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