

## INVISIBLE THEATRE – 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

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# THE INVISIBLE THEATRE IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ITS 2019 - 2020 SEASON OF PERFORMANCES

*(May 27, 2019, Tucson, AZ);* Invisible Theatre's Managing Artistic Director, Susan Claassen, announced six plays and two special events for the company's 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. Claassen said, "The year was 1971 ... the war in Viet Nam was raging, Nixon was president of the United States, the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified granting the right to vote to 18 year olds, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (the most heavily endowed arts institution in the United States) opened in Washington D.C. while in Tucson, Arizona a group of poor, idealistic, young artists got together to create an arena for new playwrights and produce a different kind of theatre for an adventuresome audience. Now, well over four decades later our commitment and passion to creating quality theatre experiences for all facets of the community is even stronger.

The name Invisible Theatre was chosen because of that invisible energy that flows between performers and an audience that makes the magic of theatre - a magic that's based on pure imagination. Playwright George Bernard Shaw wrote, "Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will."

Our 2019-2020 theatrical line-up is one of our most imaginative, diverse, entertaining and creative seasons in our 48 year history! Each of our selections will provide unforgettable moments that will thrill, inspire, delight and engage you like never before!"

**Let the "magic" begin with our 2019 – 2020, 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season!**

# INVISIBLE THEATRE'S 2019 - 2020 MAIN STAGE SEASON

## 49 Years of Greatness!

### **NOW AND THEN by Sean Grennan**

September 3 - 15, 2019

Southwest Premiere

A magical romantic comedy-drama about love and its unpredictable ways. Jamie is a young aspiring pianist working as a bartender when an amiable older gentleman enters and engages him in a friendly conversation. Jamie's girlfriend Abby walks in and before you know it, the gentleman offers them a thousand dollars – each – to sit and just talk to him for one hour. They agree, and what they hear is an incredible story that changes their lives. This surprising tale about what it means to really love someone will touch your heart in unexpected ways.

### **LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC by Arlene Hutton**

October 22 - November 3, 2019

Southwest Premiere

This is a funny touching portrait of two people searching for happiness set in December of 1940. An east-bound cross-country train carries the bodies of the great American writers Nathanael West and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Also on board is May, who shares her seat with a charming young flyer, Raleigh. A change in plans sets the course for a journey filled with emotional struggles, family differences, and ultimately – love.

### **Tony Award-Winning and Broadway Stars Lillas White and Scott Wakefield in TEXAS IN PARIS**

January 18 - 19, 2020 • Berger Performing Arts Center

Arizona Premiere

Based on true events, TEXAS IN PARIS is the musical journey of a man and a woman – one white and one black – invited to France to perform at the Maison des Cultures du Monde. They have never met, have no professional singing experience, and face the challenge of working together and co-existing in an unfamiliar world. Apprehensive of each other, they struggle with preconceptions but forge a surprising spiritual bond that transforms their on-stage performance and their lives.

### **BECOMING DR. RUTH by Mark St. Germain**

February 11 - 23, 2020

Arizona Premiere

Everyone knows Dr. Ruth Westheimer from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist. Few, however, know the incredible journey that preceded it. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport and joining the Haganah in Jerusalem as a scout and sniper, to her struggles to succeed as a single mother coming to America, BECOMING DR. RUTH is filled with the humor, honesty and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became “Dr. Ruth”, America's most famous sex-therapist.

**Award-Winning Broadway Star Steve Solomon in  
FROM BROOKLYN TO BROADWAY**

March 14 - 15, 20120 • Berger Performing Arts Center  
Arizona Premiere

Presenting an evening of hilarious comedy with the author and star of one of the longest running one-man comedies in Broadway history: My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy. This will be a night of pure enjoyment as Steve, using his gift for acting, dialects and voices, brings to life more than twenty oddball people in hysterical situations that we can all relate to. From family to friends, from TSA officers to Steve's doctors ... from Brooklyn to Broadway! You'll recognize these characters from your own life and leave the theater wiping tears of laughter from your eyes!

**FILMING O'KEEFFE by Eric Lane**

April 21 - May 3, 2020  
Southwest Premiere

An emotional, lyrical, and funny play that tells the story of Max and his classmate Lily, who are making a film about legendary artists Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz. Max and his mother, Melissa, live on the Lake George property that was once part of the artists' home. When Max's estranged grandfather unexpectedly shows up the family's hidden and mysterious past is revealed.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**MADE FOR EACH OTHER by Monica Bauer**

**November 15 - 16, 2019**

This not-to-be-missed play by acclaimed Tucson Playwright Monica Bauer has been performed to rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Orlando Fringe, Boulder Fringe, Off Broadway at the United Solo Festival and The 2019 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Gay marriage, with an Alzheimer's twist. One actor plays four parts in this tour de force drama with lighthearted comedy about a gay couple, the power of memory, and the need to tell the truth. NY Guest Artist John Fico will reprise his award winning ("an incredible performance" *Three Weeks*) role in this five-star hit.

**DOWN TO EARTHA Starring film and TV star Dierdra McDowell**

**and directed by Marishka S. Phillips**

**November 22 - 23, 2019**

In 1968 while at the height of her career as a world renowned entertainer, Eartha Kitt was also working as one of the main lobbyists for a group of young activists called the "Rebels With A Cause". During this time, she was invited to a White House luncheon by Lady Bird Johnson to discuss the issue of the rising crime rates in America. Eartha stood up and expressed her views that the increase in crime was mostly due to America's involvement in the Vietnam War. Lady Bird Johnson was personally insulted and by order of President Lyndon Johnson, Eartha Kitt was blacklisted from work in the United States for the following 10 years!

DOWN TO EARTHA chronicles, through her music and actual testimony, this amazing woman's journey back to her own power. It is a brilliant affirmation that a woman's freedom of speech should never be compromised!

## **INVISIBLE THEATRE'S 2019 – 2020 SEASON TICKETS**

Invisible Theatre's 2019-2020 Season Ticket Campaign is now underway for only \$175 (with no handling fee!) for the six play, Main Stage, Season. Subscribers can save up to a 30% savings over the cost of purchasing individual tickets to shows and can enjoy exclusive benefits given to season ticket holders such as priority seating, \$5 discount on guest show tickets, flexible ticket exchange and discounts on all IT special events.

For more information about the Invisible Theatre's 2019-2020 Season, or to charge subscriptions with MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover, call the IT Box Office at (520) 882-9721 or online 24/7 through OvationTix at [www.invisibletheatre.com](http://www.invisibletheatre.com).

### **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 upcoming 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 49<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.

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