



# MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

## 2017-18 STUDENT MATINEES

**MRT STUDENT MATINEES** provide many young people with their first experience with professional theatre. To enrich your experience, teachers are provided with the script beforehand, and we offer a Post Show Discussion with members of the cast following the play. Student Matinees start at 10:30 am and are only available on certain dates—contact us today!

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### STUDENT MATINEE DATES:



#### THE ROYALE

*ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE FIGHT*  
BY MARCO RAMIREZ  
DIRECTED BY MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN

The next time Jay Jackson enters the ring, he'll become the first black man ever to fight for the title of World Heavyweight Champion. Tickets are going by the tens of thousands, the press conferences are harrowing and intense—and as America gears up for the fight of a lifetime, Jackson and his colleagues greet the dawn of a new era that none of them can begin to comprehend. With power and grit, *The Royale* brings staggering focus to a pivotal moment in sports history.

September 26, 27, 28; October 3, 4, or 5, 2017\*



#### SILENT SKY

*FIND YOUR LIGHT*  
BY LAUREN GUNDERSON  
DIRECTED BY SEAN DANIELS

Astronomer Henrietta Leavitt trades the comforts of her Midwestern home for a job at the Harvard Observatory in Massachusetts. Her ambition leaves both her family and her new colleagues (women known simply as “computers”) perplexed. But with a single discovery, their views of themselves, each other, and the universe itself will be upended for all time. An incredible story of bold love, boundless determination, and the vast grandeur of the cosmos—an unparalleled treat for the heart, mind, and senses. (From the creator of MRT’s hit *I and You!*)

October 31; November 1, 2, 7, 8, or 9, 2017\*



#### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

*THE BELOVED CLASSIC RETURNS!*  
ADAPTED BY TONY BROWN  
DIRECTED BY MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN

The greatest Christmas story of all time returns to MRT for the first time in 21 years: Joel Colodner (*It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Going to See the Kid*) uses his dexterous voice and inventive acting to bring Ebenezer Scrooge and the rest of your favorite characters to life. Inspired by Charles Dickens’ own live storytelling performances—and with your favorite carols played by live onstage musicians—we’ll remind you of the true meaning of Christmas: the singular joy of fellowship and compassion.

December 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, or 22, 2017\*

## STUDENT MATINEE DATES:



### KNYUM

*FAMILY: THE TOUGHEST LANGUAGE TO LEARN*

BY VICHET CHUM  
DIRECTED BY KJ SANCHEZ

Guy works the night shift at a New York hotel and goes to class by day, downing cups of coffee as he tries to navigate oceans of squiggly letters and words with no spaces between them: he's learning Khmer, the language of his family's home, Cambodia. He will stumble awkwardly towards fluency. He will embarrass himself and his parents. And he will awaken to parts of his heritage, both beautiful and excruciating, which shine through only in his wildly luminous dreams.

January 23, 24, 25, 30, 31; February 1, or 2, 2018\*



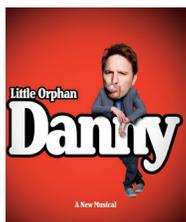
### LOST LAUGHS: THE SLAPSTICK TRAGEDY OF FATTY ARBUCKLE

*HOLLYWOOD LEGEND, HISTORIC SCANDAL*

WRITTEN BY ANDY BAYIATES AND AARON MUÑOZ  
DIRECTED BY NATHAN KEEPERS

Charlie Chaplin. Buster Keaton. In silent film's golden age, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle ranked with the funniest of the funny, the greatest of the great. Then, overnight, he found his reputation savaged, his work pulled from nearly every movie house. What happened? And what could possibly come next? To MRT's stage comes an explosive theatre event of big laughs and shocking truths, where the line between comedy and tragedy is thinner than you ever imagined.

February 27, 28; March 1, 6, 7, 8, or 9, 2018\*



### LITTLE ORPHAN DANNY

*"DANNY WAS A PAIN IN THE A\*\*."* –SISTER MARY MARGARET

ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED BY DANNY FINNERTY  
CREATED BY SEAN DANIELS AND DANNY FINNERTY  
BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY DANNY FINNERTY  
ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY DAN LIPTON  
DIRECTED BY SEAN DANIELS

The uproarious musical memoir of The Dan Band's brilliant frontman Dan Finnerty: Growing up a small town altar boy in a nice conservative family doesn't always suit our adopted protagonist. Childhood outbursts of blasphemy in church only lead to pathetic adolescent attempts at playing sports. But of the many lessons he'll learn, none could prepare him for the fateful day he and his mother meet the woman who gave birth to him. An irreverent-yet-tender story of a boy and the women who made him.

April 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, or 13, 2018\*



### THE VILLAINS' SUPPER CLUB

*A COMEDY ABOUT MOTHERHOOD AND VILLAINY*

BY LILA ROSE KAPLAN  
DIRECTED BY SEAN DANIELS

Kapow! Galactic Girl fends off multiple dastardly villains. *Woosh!* She's home in time to feed her baby and maybe even feed herself. When the last superhero on earth is also a new mom, there's no time to lose. Can she save the planet and call back the pediatrician? Or will she fall victim to her arch rival's many nefarious schemes? From Lila Rose Kaplan (*Home of the Brave*) comes an epic, irresistible comedy for anyone who's ever had to be a superhero.

May 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, or 18, 2018\*

\* To book any particular Student Matinee date: we request you have at least 100 students, book at least 3 weeks beforehand, with a 50% deposit and a signed Agreement. If you have fewer students, please contact us about coming to an already-existing matinee.