

OF THE

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE 2022-23 SEASON WWW.MRT.ORG | 978.654.4678

STEP UP NOW AND SAVE 25%

place,

s of



EVERY STORY NEEDS AN AUDIENCE. WE WANT YOU TO BE OUR AUDIENCE. COME BE A PART OF LIVE THEATRE.

TOUGH TIMES REMIND US OF WHAT MATTERS MOST:

THE OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER TOGETHER AND SHARE STORIES WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS.



TOP (I-r) Leenya Rideout in *Wild Horses*. Photo by Megpix/Meghan Moore. | Robertson Witmer and guests at MRT's 43rd Anniversary Gala. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore. BOTTOM (I-r) Executive Director Bonnie J. Butkas with theatregoers at our first performance back in Liberty Hall. | Yewande Odetoyinbo in our first pandemic play, and first video offering, *Fannie Lou Hamer: Speak On It!* Photo by Kevin J.P. Hanley | Kalean Ung reading her play *Letters From Home*. You were in the audience for one of our shows. You had the experience of stories illuminated by our artists. You told your friends about the actors, the lights, the costumes. You had dinner before the show or drinks at the theatre. You were here.

We want you back. Subscriptions come with loads of benefits, and they guarantee you five nights out. You get the best seats, and you're boosting a small business.



In Service,

Contury Sale

Courtney Sale Nancy L. Donahue Artistic Director

Bonnie J. Butkas

Executive Director





ARE YOU READY? PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SEASON OF HEARTY LAUGHS, SPINE-TINGLING SUSPENSE, AND SOUL-STIRRING MUSIC— **THE KIND OF STORIES YOU EXPECT FROM MRT**









EVERY STORYTELLER NEEDS AN EAGER AUDIENCE. **WE NEED YOU.**

TOP (I-r) Milicent Wright and Karen MacDonald in *The Rise and Fall of Holly Fudge*. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore. Christina Acosta Robinson and Ken Robinson in *Back Together Again: The Music of Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway*. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore. BOTTOM (I-r) Maiesha McQueen in *Until The Flood*. Photo by Kathy Wittman. | Karen MacDonald in *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End*. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore.

WHY SUBSCRIBE?

- GET THE BEST PRICES—SAVE 25%!
- GRAB THE **BEST SEATS** BEFORE THE GENERAL PUBLIC
- FREE UNLIMITED TICKET EXCHANGES we know stuff happens*
- SAVE \$15 OFF EACH TICKET FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
- YOU DESERVE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN YOUR LIFE! GUARANTEE YOURSELF FIVE NIGHTS OF BOLD, THRILLING LIVE THEATRE.







*Exchanges are free when exchanged within the same series (Peak, Off-Peak, etc.) and the same seating zone. An exchange to another series or seating zone may incur a fee.

(I) Amanda Collins and Vichet Chum in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore. | (r-TOP) Aja Wiltshire and Greg Watanabe in *Cambodian Rock Band*. Photo by Liz Lauren, courtesy of Victory Gardens. | (r-BOTTOM) Ariel Richardson, Dionne Addai, and Deanna Reed-Foster in *Nina Simone: Four Women*, our last show before the pandemic shutdown. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore.



ADAPTED BY **PATRICK BARLOW** FROM THE NOVEL BY **JOHN BUCHAN**

THE

FROM THE MOVIE BY **ALFRED HITCHCOCK** DIRECTED BY **COURTNEY SALE**

SEPTEMBER 14-OCTOBER 2

Mix *Hitchcock*'s juicy spy flick with a dash of vintage *Monty Python*, and you have *The 39 Steps* – equal parts hilarious whodunit, espionage thriller, and quick-change comedy. A beautiful woman, who claims to be a spy, plunges our hero into a series of misadventures, involving an on-stage plane crash, missing fingers, cool romance, and a territorial flock of sheep. With four actors creating over 100 crazy characters, *The 39 Steps* will be an unforgettable evening of nonstop laughs.

By Arrangement with Fiery Angel Limited Licensed by ITV Global Entertainment Limited And an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

"DELIGHTFULLY DIZZY...VIRTUOSIC, GALLANT, AND GIGGLY!"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ADAPTED AND ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY LEE SUNDAY EVANS

DIRECTED BY **ROSA JOSHI** ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **HEATHER CHRISTIAN**

OCTOBER 19-NOVEMBER 6

ЛАСВЕТН

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Something wicked this way comes . . . In this brisk, unnerving version of *Macbeth*, the three witches, or Weird Sisters, play out the entire story of a man who becomes so possessed by power and ambition that he will destroy anyone who gets in his way. Are these witches ancient prophets or contemporary witnesses? *Double, double toil and trouble.*

"THIS IRREDUCIBLE, TRANSCENDENT *MACBETH* COMMANDS ENGAGEMENT . . . [THE WITCHES] RECEIVE THE PLAY'S HARSH TRUTHS AS MUCH AS ISSUE THEM, QUIETLY ABSORBING THE HORRIBLE BEFORE UNLEASHING THE VOLCANIC."

THE NEW YORK TIMES



BY CHARLES DICKENS

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY COURTNEY SALE

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 24

A holiday treat for the entire family! Experience Charles Dickens' timeless yuletide story of transformation and redemption, featuring Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and all of your favorite characters, including some played by local youngsters. Spooky, heartwarming, and joyful - with a touch of Lowell lore, it's the perfect way for families to recapture the spirit of Christmas and create memories for the future.

"THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD SO IRRESISTIBLY CONTAGIOUS AS LAUGHTER AND GOOD HUMOR."

EAST COAST PREMIERE

LETTERS FROM HOME

ARTWORK BY JOSHUA LIPTON

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY KALEAN UNG ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CHINARY UNG

DIRECTED AND DEVELOPED WITH **MARINA MCCLURE**

JANUARY 18-FEBRUARY 5, 2023

With humor, passion, and a touch of Shakespeare, Kalean Ung weaves together her Cambodian family's refugee story with her own as a bi-racial, second-generation American. Inspired by family members' letters sent to her father from refugee camps after the Cambodian genocide, *Letters from Home* unearths the myths and mysteries of her family's past as a ritual for intergenerational healing.

"I BEGAN TRANSCRIBING THE LETTERS, AND THE GHOSTS CAME BACK. NOW THEY ARE HERE IN MY OFFICE. I CANNOT SHUT MY EYES WITHOUT SEEING THEM."

how high the moon THE MUSIC OF ELLA FITZGERALD



STARRING TINA FABRIQUE CONCEIVED BY ROB RUGGIERO

MUSIC DIRECTION BY **GEORGE CALDWELL**

MAY 3-21, 2023

A beguiling tribute to "The First Lady of Song!" Broadway performer Tina Fabrique, who captivated theatregoers here in *The Haunted Life*, will treat our audiences to a new version of her award-winning hit, *Ella*. Reviewing Fabrique in the original, *The New York Times* said, "She has a strong, big, emotion-rich voice and considerable charm." *How High the Moon* features Fitzgerald's greatest hits, including "A-Tisket, A-Tasket," "Dream a Little Dream of Me," and "Mack the Knife." (Final song list TBA)

"SOMEONE NEEDS TO HAND FABRIQUE A BIG, JUICY ROLE IN A FULL-ON MUSICAL AS SOON AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE!"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE!

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO MRT. If we learned anything these past few years, it is that sharing a live experience together is a treasured gift. There is no substitute. Merrimack Repertory Theatre is an economic engine for a thriving downtown, a dynamic destination in the City of Lowell, an educative center for young people, and a civic space that offers many accessible programs for all its citizens.

Through a contribution to MRT you turn your love of theatre, your love of our region, your love of civic dialogue into action. In times like this, we're reminded of how interconnected we all are.

AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WE DIRECTLY BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

Thank you for being part of our community.

WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE.





(I) Victoria Grace and Alexis Bronkovic in *Silent Sky*. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore. (r) Aaron Munoz, Celina Dean, Nael Nacer, and Terrell Donnell Sledge in *45 Plays For 45 Presidents*. MegPix/Meghan Moore.

OR YOUNG AUDIENCES | THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES | THEATRE FOR YOUNG AU

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

D RIDING

BY ALLISON GREGORY APRIL 5-16, 2023

Wolfgang, the greatest actor in the world, is interrupted while performing his "one-man extravaganza" by a delivery person with a mysterious package. But the show must go on, and the two of them take on all the roles in this fast, funny, and surprising adaptation. The wolf may have dinner plans, but this Red is courageous, clever - and talented!

(Recommended for ages 5 and older.)

GRANN







MRT YOUNG COMPANY

The MRT Young Company offers an educational theatre experience for students 14-18 years old. During our



summer program, students participate in an intensive course of performance, scene analysis, and collaborative playwriting. Our generous funders guarantee admission through scholarships and grants.

STUDENT MATINEES

More than 2,000 local students attend our student matinees each season. The matinees offer many students their first exposure to professional theatre and teaches them new ways to explore storytelling and literature. Our **Partners in Education** program keeps the program affordable for all. **CONTACT** | Eve Foldan, Enterprise Box Office; box_office@mrt.org | 978.654.4678







Photos of Merrimack Repertory Theatre's Young Company and student matinees by MegPix/Meghan Moore.

SUBSCRIBE NOW AND **SAVE 25%**

GET THE BEST SEATS, **BEST PRICES, AND FREE TICKET EXCHANGES**

REGULA

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\$181 \$77

\$101 \$77

65 | \$133 | \$77

D



5-Play Season: The 39 Steps; Macbeth; A Christmas Carol; Letters from Home; and How High the Moon: The Music of Ella Fitzgerald. Full details at www.mrt.org/2223season.

5-PLAY ADULT

| PEAK | FRI (8PM), SAT (8PM), SUN (2PM) |
|-----------------------|--|
| OFF-PEAK | TUE (7 PM), WED (2PM or 7 PM), THU (7 PM), SAT (4PM) |
| PREVIEWS (FIRST WEEK) | WED (7 PM), THU (7 PM), FRI (8PM) |

5-PLAY SENIOR (62+)

| PEAK | FRI (8PM), SAT (8PM), SUN (2PM) |
|-----------------------|--|
| OFF-PEAK | TUE (7 PM), WED (2PM or 7 PM), THU (7 PM), SAT (4PM) |
| PREVIEWS (FIRST WEEK) | WED (7 PM), THU (7 PM), FRI (8PM) |

| | | | | ADULT | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------|---------|--|
| 4-PLAY (Choo | se any four plays.) | SAVE 20% | A | ZO B | NE C | |
| PEAK | FRI (8PM), S | AT (8PM), SUN (2PM) | \$257 | \$217 | \$181 | |
| OFF-PEAK | TUE (7 PM), WED (2PM or 7 PM), T | HU (7 PM), SAT (4PM) | \$197 | \$165 | \$133 | |
| PREVIEWS (FIRST WEE | K) WED (7 PM), T | HU (7 PM), FRI (8PM) | \$157 | \$129 | \$101 | |
| FLEXPASS | | SAVE 20% | | | | |
| 5 TICKETS | | | | \$2 | 45 | |
| 4 TICKETS | | | | \$1 | 96 | |
| 3 TICKETS | | | | \$1 | 47 | |

| SAVE 20% | | | SAVE 25% | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|------|---|
| ZONE B C D | | | ZONE A B C D | | | | | |
| 19 | . 269 | \$22 | \$94 | \$304 | \$254 | \$214 | \$89 | I |
| 44 | \$20 | \$164 | \$94 | \$229 | \$194 | \$154 | \$89 | İ |
| 94 | \$159 | \$124 | \$94 | \$184 | \$149 | \$119 | \$89 | İ |
| 4 | В | с | D | A | B | с | D | |
| 89 | \$244 | \$204 | \$94 | \$274 | \$229 | \$194 | \$89 | |
| 19 | \$184 | \$149 | \$9 | \$209 | \$174 | \$139 | \$89 | Ī |
| 74 | \$144 | \$114 | \$94 | \$164 | \$134 | \$109 | \$89 | |
| | | | | | | | | |

SENIOR (62+)

ZONE

\$233 \$197 \$165 \$77

\$117 \$93

\$220

\$176

\$132

D

\$77 \$77

В C

\$177 | \$149 | \$121

Δ

\$141

THE NANCY L. DONAHUE THEATRE



SUPER SUBSCRIBER

Add a gift of \$100 or more. Additional benefits include exclusive invitations to special events, including our behind-the-scenes tours!

STUDENTS

See all five shows for only \$59.

SENIORS

See previous page (14) for pricing details.

FLEX PASSES

The ultimate in flexibility! Any show, any time, any seats in our best zones (A and B). And the same benefits as subscribers. \$39 per pass, good for one ticket. Minimum 4.

DON'T DELAY! THE 39 STEPS STARTS SEP 14!

VISIT WWW.MRT.ORG FOR DETAILS, OTHER PRICING, SCHEDULES, AND ORDER FORMS

(front cover) Shawn K. Jain, Vichet Chum, and Jesse Hinson in Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley. Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore. (back cover) Matthew Yee and Aia Wiltshire in Cambodian Rock Band, Photo by Liz Lauren, courtesy of Victory Gardens





SEE ALL 5 SHOWS FOR AS LOW AS \$18 EACH! (PREVIEW SERIES/ZONE D)

