

For Immediate Release:
Live Arts Announces 2021/22 Season Lineup
Solo Gem, Timely Drama, Fabulous Comedy,
Eco-Thriller, and Explosive Political Farce



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Charlottesville, VA - Live Arts is thrilled to announce five dynamic productions for its **2021/22 Season: reIGNITE Live Arts**. The season opens with **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**, an uplifting solo show by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe. It continues with **A NEW PLAY** by Dominique Morisseau, followed by Matthew Lopez's fabulously

sassy comedy **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE** and the chilling eco-thriller **THE CHILDREN** by Lucy Kirkwood. The season closes with Dario Fo's classic political farce **ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST**. Subscription package sales are now available.

"The creative flames never went out at Live Arts," says Artistic Director Susan E. Evans. "During the past 18 months, Live Arts demonstrated impressive creative resiliency. Our volunteers continue to sustain us, and they ensure that theater and community-building continue to thrive. Like fire, live theater doesn't exist in a vacuum. As we open the doors of these beautiful theaters, we're excited to reignite the joy that happens when we commune and connect."

The plays in this 31st Live Arts Season all reflect the "eternal flame" theater keeps lit. These five playwrights celebrate the desire to keep on living, to push back against broken systems, to transform one's identity, to be responsible to future generations, and to boldly to laugh at overweening authority.

The 2021/22 Live Arts Season is generously sponsored by Elizabeth and Joe LeVaca.

reIGNITE Live Arts: Season 2021/22

What does a six-year-old do to cheer up their mom after she's tried to kill herself? They make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world, everything worth living for, and leaves it for her on her pillow. The 2021/22 Season kicks off in October with **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**, an uplifting and humorous solo show about depression and resilience by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe, where the audience becomes part of the story. In a unique Live Arts twist, three different performers will appear in

rotating repertory during the run.

Starts in October 2021. Gibson Theater. Directed by Clinton Johnston

In January 2022, Live Arts introduces Charlottesville to a dynamic **NEW PLAY** by award-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau, with a title to be announced. David Vaughn Straughn makes his Live Arts directorial debut in January 2022 at the helm of this new play by Morisseau, the Tony-nominated book writer on the new Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations*. Straughn recently appeared on the Live Arts stage in *THE ROYALE* (2019).

Starts January 2022. Gibson Theater. Directed by David Vaughn Straughn

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE arrives on the Live Arts stage in a Central Virginia premiere in March 2022. It's "Showtime" at Cleo's Lounge, a dilapidated, small-time club in the Florida Panhandle. Casey needs to get a new act together fast—he's broke, and his wife just told him there's a baby on the way. Can this young Elvis impersonator transform himself into a platform-pump-panty-hose-wearing drag queen? Outrageous and campy, sweet yet spicy, *GEORGIA MCBRIDE* is a heartfelt valentine to drag queens, a celebration of divas and difference.

Starts March 2022. Gibson Theater. Directed by Perry Medlin.

Named one of the greatest theatrical works since 2000 by *The Guardian*, **THE CHILDREN** by Lucy Kirkwood opens in Live Arts' Founders Theater next spring 2022. A thought-provoking and challenging eco-thriller, *THE CHILDREN* was part of Live Arts' 2019/20 Season cut short by the pandemic. "We are excited to now share *THE*

CHILDREN with Charlottesville audiences in a Central Virginia premiere" says Evans. "Kirkwood's pressure-cooker of a play, centered around three retired nuclear scientists with an intertwined past, demands that we consider our generational and social responsibilities."

Starts April 2022. Founders Theater. Directed by Betsy Rudelich Tucker

Closing out the season is **ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST** by Nobel Prize-winning playwright Dario Fo. The play is based on an actual case from 1969, where an Italian railway worker "accidentally" fell to his death from a window in a police interrogation room. ACCIDENTAL DEATH is a searingly hilarious exposé of rampant, and thoroughly institutionalized, corruption of the police. Seen by over a half million people in the first two years after its 1970 premiere, performed in more than 40 countries, Fo's political farce is considered a classic of 20th century theater.

Starts May 2022. Gibson Theater. Directed by Susan E. Evans

Looking Ahead

In addition to the five shows included in 2021/22 subscription packages, the Live Arts teen musical returns in July 2022 with Stephen Sondheim's **INTO THE WOODS**. This enchanting, topsy-turvy musical weaves together the journeys of familiar storybook characters as they attempt to fulfill their deepest wishes. What would you wish for? And if that wish was granted, what consequences would you be willing to accept in return? INTO THE WOODS is a twisted musical fairytale unlike anything you've seen before.

Starts July 2022. Gibson Theater.

About Live Arts

Live Arts is a nonprofit community theater in Downtown Charlottesville, powered by more than 1,200 volunteers. Founded in 1990, Live Arts is celebrating 31 years of forging theater and community. Live Arts is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The 2021/22 Season is also supported by the Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, Albemarle County, and by philanthropic gifts from hundreds of theater lovers in our community.

Live Arts offers a myriad of ways to engage, bringing volunteers together for all types of theater-making. Accessible educational opportunities for all ages include classes, workshops, audience talkbacks, Playwrights' Lab, Readers' Circle, and more.

Live Arts is committed to centering the values of diversity, equity and inclusion in every aspect of forging theater and community.

Subscribers to Live Arts get substantial savings of up to 40% off affordable prices, premium or preferred seating, and other perks. Packages include Directors Wild Card, Wild Card, Specific Show Night, and Fan Club. Single ticket prices range from \$25 to \$30 with discounts available for students and senior citizens, as well as selected Pay-What-You-Can performances for all shows.

For more information

Please contact Marketing & Design Coordinator Katie Rogers at katie@livearts.org or visit livearts.org.

CALENDAR Information on SEASON 2021/22

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

By Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe

Directed by Clinton Johnston

Opening Night: October 15, 2021

Through: November 7, 2021

Audience Talkback: October 21, 2021

A NEW PLAY

By Dominique Morisseau

Directed by David Vaughn Straughn

Opening Night: January 14, 2022

Through: January 30, 2022

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE

By Matthew Lopez

Directed by Perry Medlin

Opening Night: March 4, 2022

SPECIAL EVENT: Boozy Drag Brunch Fundraiser March 20, 2022

Through: March 27, 2022

THE CHILDREN

By Lucy Kirkwood

Directed by Betsy Rudelich Tucker

Opening Night: April 15, 2022

Through: May 7, 2022

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

By Dario Fo, translated by Jon Laskin and Michael Aquilante

Directed by Susan E. Evans

Opening Night: May 20, 2022

Through: June 5, 2022

INTO THE WOODS

Teen Summer Musical

July 15-31, 2022

WHERE: Live Arts Theater, 123 East Water Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902

TICKETS:

Season Tickets: \$75-\$250

Single Tickets: \$20-\$30

BOX OFFICE: 434.977.4177 x123 or online at livearts.org/tix

INFO: katie@livearts.org or visit livearts.org

SAFETY: Live Arts prioritizes the health and safety of our volunteers, patrons, and staff by requiring indoor masks and full vaccinations for all guests over 18. Please visit livearts.org for our current COVID policies.