

**SEP 29-OCT 29** 



**DEC 1-17** 



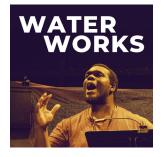
**MAR 29-APR 20** 



SEP 29-OCT 29



**FEB 16-MAR 10** 



**MAY 12-JUN 2** 

# 2023/24 SEASON AT A GLANCE



The Expectations Season is generously presented by **Elizabeth LeVaca, remembering Joe LeVaca.** 

# As the curtain rises and the lights come up ...

An element of **magic** is built into the fabric of live theater. Audiences sit and prepare to be surprised, expecting the unexpected. Even with a well-known play, live performances are always tangibly tingling with the unknown.

The shows in our 2023/24 Season are stories about **expectations.** People hoping for love, or expecting disappointment in love but getting the happy reverse. Expecting failure but wondrously finding success. Waiting, anticipating, and holding their collective breath, as the curtain is whisked aside.

How glorious to leave a show surprised by what you just saw, just heard, just experienced—all in community with others! It is our hope that the theater you experience this season at Live Arts leads you to **new and unexpected** places.

SUSAN E. EVANS Artistic Director

## expect powerful stories

### **STAFF**

**Ti Ames** Education Director

Jeremy Duncan Pape Technical Director

Susan E. Evans Artistic Director

Karen Hays Grants Writer

Anne Hunter Executive Director

Chris Kelly Data Manager

Kathleel Mueller Production & Volunteer Manager

Ray <mark>Nedzel</mark> Fringe Director

Adrienne Oliver New Works Director

Katie Rogers Marketing Manager

Darryl Smith Audience Experience Manager

Annie Temmink Associate Technical Director

Charles Woodfolk Jr. Custodian

Linda Zuby Bookkeeper

### BROCHURE

Design by Katie Rogers

Photos by Jamie Addington, Will Kerner, and J. Stoll

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CCA Representatives: Dr. Nsofwa Jaronda Chanda Karen Pape – expect **community** –

"EVERYONE AROUND WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW WARM THE ENVIRONMENT IS, INCLUDING NEWCOMERS"

2022/23 AUDIENCE SURVEY

# ANTON CHEKHOV'S UNCLE VANYA

# **LIFE SUCKS.** *sort of adapted from uncle vanya* BY AARON POSNER

# **Classic Meets Contemporary**

**UNCLE VANYA** by Anton Chekhov **LIFE SUCKS.** by Aaron Posner

We told you to expect the unexpected! Instead of one show, we're opening the season with two. UNCLE VANYA and LIFE SUCKS. (sort of adapted from UNCLE VANYA) will run in rotating repertory this fall. This unique opportunity allows you to enjoy a classic masterpiece and a contemporary riff on the same story—back to back!

### — expect conversation

FOUNDERS THEATER											<b>UNCLE VANYA</b>						
SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 29												LIFE SUCKS.					
S	М	T	W	Т	F	S		S	М	T	W	T	F	S			
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31							

### learn more about the shows

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# **UNCLE VANYA**

By Anton Chekhov Directed by Susan E. Evans

Translated by Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear, and Larissa Volokhonsky

When a pretentious, gouty professor and his much younger new wife return to his country estate, tensions escalate to the tipping point. The professor's brother-in-law and his longsuffering niece have been keeping the estate afloat for 25 years, but the professor has plans. Throw a few more intensely volatile and fascinating houseguests into the mix, and the tedium of their provincial life is upended.

Sponsored by George Worthington & Cameron Mowat

### expect passion

### "LIFE IS A TRAGEDY BECAUSE IT'S SO FARCICAL"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

**WISE, PROFOUNDLY HUMANE, HILARIOUS, QUIRKY, ENDEARING, AND BRILLIANTLY FAITHFUL TO ITS SOURCE** 

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

### expect to laugh

# LIFE SUCKS.

By Aaron Posner Directed by Fran Smith

LIFE SUCKS. is "sort of adapted from UNCLE VANYA," playwright Aaron Posner says. His delightfully comic contemporary riff is faithful in its essence to Chekhov's classic. Seven disgruntled old friends, ex-lovers, estranged inlaws, and lifelong enemies gather and grumble, tangle, carouse, yearn for love, and generally contemplate the meaning of it all.

#### Sponsored by Barbara & Jay Kessler

A sequel to Jane Austen's **Pride and Prejudice** 

# CHASS BERNECK CHRISTERSTARS ADDEMBERLEY BY LAUREN GUNDERSON AND MARGOT MELCON

## **MISS BENNET:** CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

### By Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon Directed by Marianne Kubik

Journey to Pemberley and the grand estate of Elizabeth and Fitzwilliam Darcy! This romantic holiday comedy continues Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* two years after the novel ends now with bookish middle-sister Mary as the heroine. As the Bennet sisters Mary, Jane, and Lydia gather at Lizzy's for Christmas, an unexpected gentleman arrives. Has Mary finally met her intellectual match, and perhaps found true love?

### — expect romance

GIBSON THEATER DECEMBER 1-17

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31						

### "A PERFECTLY CONSTRUCTED LOVE STORY DESTINED TO POPULATE FUTURE HOLIDAY SEASONS"

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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# "GOTTA SAY, YOU GUYS MAKE THEATER SO MUCH FUN!"

expect an unforgettable season -

EXIT

## Tony Award® Winner for **BEST MUSICAL**

Music & Lyrics by CYNDI LAUPER

### Book by HARVEY FIERSTEIN

# **KINKY BOOTS**

Music & Lyrics by **Cyndi Lauper** Book by **Harvey Fierstein** 

Directed by **Jude Hansen** Musical Direction by **Abby Smith** Choreography by **Cory Douylliez-Willis** 

Charlie inherits his father's shoe factory, but it's going under. Along comes Lola (a fabulous drag entertainer in need of a sturdy pair of stilettos), and an unlikely partnership is born! In this hugehearted musical inspired by a true story, Charlie and Lola turn the fortunes of the factory around and discover that we can change the world when we change our minds.

Sponsored by Woodard Properties & Story House Real Estate

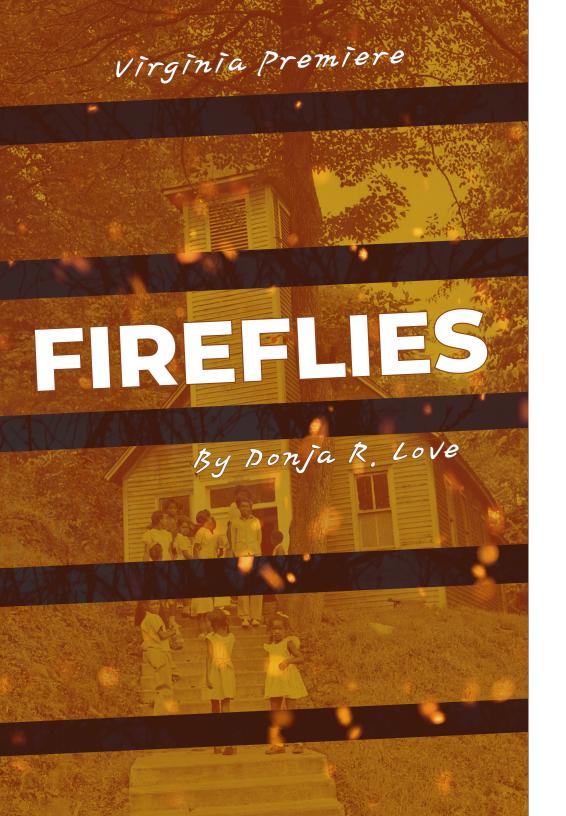
### —— expect the fabulous

### GIBSON THEATER FEBRUARY 16-MARCH 10

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#### "A SPLASHY, BOUNCY, SMART SHOW WITH A HEART, BELTABLE SONGS AND HILARIOUS NUMBERS." THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

**Image Credits:** Photo from the Digital Public Library of America/ PD-US; Photo by Sebastian Callejas/ Pexels.



# **FIREFLIES**

By **Donja R. Love** Virginia Premiere directed by **Ti Ames** 

It's the fall of 1963 and four Black children have just been killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Olivia is the speechwriter for her charismatic husband, the Reverend Charles Emmanuel Grace, a galvanizing leader in the civil rights movement. As he returns home, we witness their marriage at a crisis point, as secrets are laid bare in this story of endurance and empowerment.



#### FOUNDERS THEATER MARCH 29-APRIL 20

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31														

#### "A JAW-DROPPING AND EXPLOSIVELY DRAMATIC TWO-HANDER. LOVE CRAFTS AN INTIMATE STORY THAT COMES TO FEEL COSMIC IN ITS ENORMITY" THEATERMANIA.COM

Image Credits: Photo from the National Archives and Records Administration/ PD-US; Photo by Vasily Kozorez/ Unsplash.

### "MY NEW FAVORITE FESTIVAL IN TOWN!"

2023 WATERWORKS FEEDBACK

### expect to play

# WATERWORKS 2024 New Works Festival

Presented by **The Madwoman Project** New Works Director **Adrienne Oliver** 

Launched in 2023, WATERWORKS celebrates new theatrical voices in Charlottesville and beyond. The second annual WATERWORKS festival continues a long-standing tradition of supporting new and emerging playwrights while diversifying the stories told on the Live Arts stage.

### May 17-June 2, 2024

# **2024 Spotlights**



**BLUE RIDGE MAMA** A new musical by Ti Ames

One-act plays developed in the Live Arts Playwrights' Lab



THE COLOUR WOMAN by Petron Brown



## What else you can expect...



**TO IMMERSE** We presented more than 50 individual performances in WATERWORKS 2023!



**TO CONNECT** Take time to mingle, join a community intensive, or stay for a talkback.



**TO PARTY** Celebrate with us at parties and events! Season subscribers get exclusive access.

### SUBSCRIBE

### expect great theater

"My friends and I talk after every show about Live Arts' clever staging, quality of productions, and instinct for identifying incredible talents in Charlottesville"

2022/23 AUDIENCE SURVEY

\*Packages include tickets for five productions and a WATERWORKS festival show\*

#### **DIRECTORS WILD CARD/\$270**

Choose any performance for each production. The only package with reserved seating, pre-paid parking, and a \$25 concessions card!

#### WILD CARD/\$160

Our most popular package! Choose any performance for each production.

#### → \*NEW\* EDUCATOR DISCOUNT/\$100

We appreciate you, educators! Enjoy a discounted Wild Card package that caters to your busy schedule.

### SPECIFIC SHOW NIGHT/\$160

Reserved seats for the performance you prefer:

- □ Champagne Opening Nights (8pm) Sep 29, Sep 30, Dec 1, Feb 16, Mar 29, + WATERWORKS
- Second Fridays (8pm) Oct 6, Oct 13, Dec 8, Feb 23, Apr 5, + WATERWORKS
- Second Saturdays (8pm) Oct 21, Oct 28, Dec 9, Feb 24, Apr 6, + WATERWORKS
- Early Bird Thursdays (7:30pm) Oct 5, Oct 12, Dec 7, Feb 22, Apr 4, + WATERWORKS
- □ Talkback Thursdays (7:30pm with post-show talkback) Oct 19, Oct 26, Dec 14, Feb 29, Apr 11, + WATERWORKS
- Sunday Matinees (2pm) Oct 8, Oct 15, Dec 10, Feb 25, Apr 7, + WATERWORKS

#### \*NEW\* UNDER 30 CLUB/\$100

This brand new discounted package includes Friday night performances and pre-show happy hours to mingle with other young theater lovers: *Oct 20, Oct 27, Dec 15, Mar 1, Apr 12, + WATERWORKS* 

#### FAN CLUB/\$90

The most bang for your buck at just \$15 per show! Choose between the Saturday or Wednesday fan club packages (show dates listed).

- SATURDAY FAN CLUB (8pm) \*Only 60 Available\* Oct 7, Oct 14, Dec 2, Feb 17, Mar 30, + WATERWORKS
- WEDNESDAY FAN CLUB (7:30pm) \*Only 60 Available\* Oct 4, Oct 11, Dec 6, Feb 21, Apr 3, + WATERWORKS

#### FOR SINGLE TICKET PRICING: livearts.org or 434.977.4177 x123

We reserve the right to substitute productions based on the availability of performance rights.