



# 2025

live arts theater



# 2026

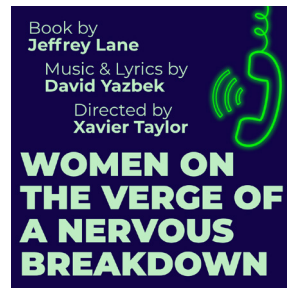
season of passion



[livearts.org](http://livearts.org)



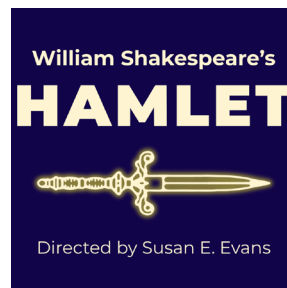
OCT 3-19



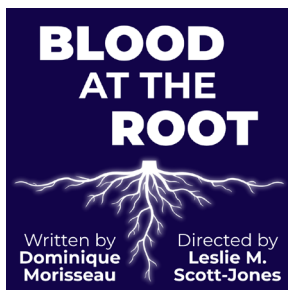
DEC 5 - JAN 3



JAN 23 - FEB 15



MAR 6-22



APR 10-26



MAY 14-31

## 2025/26 SEASON AT A GLANCE



Live Arts acknowledges that we occupy the unceded ancestral home of the Monacan and Manahoac Nations and that we are on stolen land.

We recognize them as the original stewards of this land and pay our respects to their elders—past, present, and emerging.

## What does *passion* mean to you?

A quick dive into the origin of the word reveals that the meaning of *passion* continues to shift, with a myriad of changes over the years. From its origins in Latin meaning "to suffer" or "endure," to its applications describing intense emotional states and episodes of madness. The word has now morphed into a way of describing any strong emotional response, including enjoyment, enthusiasm, and excitement.

Here at Live Arts, theater is our *passion*, and the shows this season explore that word in all its infinite variety. Party hard on Airline Highway, mambo in Madrid, savor the last onstage kiss, espy vengeful acts, and bear witness to injustice.

We invite you join us this year at Live Arts for compelling theater—in the audience, or onstage, or backstage, or in any iteration or combination—wherever your *passions* live!

**SUSAN E. EVANS**  
Artistic Director



## STAFF

**Aldrian Argante**  
Production & Volunteer Manager

**Andrew Bryce**  
Marketing Coordinator

**Lisa Capraro**  
Executive Director

**Jeremy Duncan Pape**  
Technical Director

**Susan E. Evans**  
Artistic Director

**Chris Kelly**  
Data Manager

**Daniel Kunkel**  
Education Director

**Chloe Morgan**  
Office Manager

**Darryl Smith**  
Audience Experience Director

**Annie Temmink**  
Associate Technical Director

## BROCHURE

Layout & Design by  
**Katie Rogers**  
**Susan E. Evans**

Photos by  
**Will Kerner**  
**Steve Haske**  
**Madison Patterson**  
**Matthew Ellis**  
**Henry Lee**

## BOARD

**Miller Susen**  
President

**Ckalib S. Nelson**  
Vice President

**Silas Byrne**  
Treasurer

**Rob Dunnenberger**  
Secretary

**Lisa Bowers**

**James Burnett**

**Sarah Cain**

**Nsofwa Jaronda Chanda, Ph.D.**

**Patti Hartigan**

**Kate Leslie**

**Jennifer Love**

**David Minton**

**Tobiah Mundt**

**Willa Mulhollan Neale**

**John Oprandy**

**Bonita Patton**

**Ashleé Thompson**

**Anda Webb**

CCA Representatives:

**Karen Pape**

**Nsofwa Jaronda Chanda, Ph.D.**

cultivating the next generation of theater lovers

# the 434 initiative

**\$4.34**  
**tickets**  
*to any performance*

for anyone 25 or under  
or new to Live Arts



**HELP UNDERWRITE 434**  
with a *sponsorship* or by adding  
an *extra donation* of any size  
to your ticket purchase today!





# AIRLINE HIGHWAY

By **Lisa D'Amour**

Directed by **Jude Hansen**

Sponsored by **Barbara & Jay Kessler**

Home Sweet Home. The parking lot of the Hummingbird Hotel, one of those old-school places with a neon sign, on Airline Highway. During the course of 24 hours, the residents throw a glorious party to celebrate "last call," a living funeral for Miss Ruby, former burlesque performer, Bourbon Street club owner and a mother figure to them all. **AIRLINE HIGHWAY** is a gentle portrait of this tight community, the bouncers, strippers, bartenders, hookers, handymen, poets, and other New Orleans outliers, who make their own family.

**GIBSON THEATER  
OCTOBER 3-19**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**"A beautiful and mesmerizing  
kaleidoscope of a play"**

*New York Magazine*

**BY LISA D'AMOUR**



based on the Academy Award  
nominated film by Pedro Almodóvar

# women on the verge of a nervous

book by Jeffrey Lane

music and lyrics  
by David Yazbek

breakdown

WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN  
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

## WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

*London West End Version*

Book by **Jeffrey Lane**

Music & Lyrics by **David Yazbek**

Based on the film by **Pedro Almodóvar**

Directed by **Xavier Taylor**

Choreography by **Liberty DeLeon**

**Sponsored by Woodard Properties**

A sizzling musical farce of female resilience, **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN** whisks us off to sexy 1980s Madrid, and to the unravelling world of a voice-over artist, Pepa, plus Pepa's wandering lover, the lover's ex-wife, their son and his fiancée, Pepa's angsty model friend and her suspicious boyfriend, a lawyer, and a talkative taxi driver. All this black comic chaos is served up with a very specially laced gazpacho, and an irresistible Spanish-flavored beat.

**GIBSON THEATER  
DECEMBER 5 - JANUARY 3**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31*				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**\*SAVE THE DATE: Special New Year's Eve fundraiser show!**

Image Credits: Façade of Carabanchel 24  
building in Madrid by xGaztelu

2025/26 PASSION | livearts.org 9



# stage kiss

by sarah ruhl



## STAGE KISS

By **Sarah Ruhl**

Directed by **Robert Chapel**

**Sponsored by Charles & Janet Cheeseman**

Ruhl's loving tribute to and sendup of theater, **STAGE KISS** is a charmingly "wink-wink" combination of romantic fantasy and backstage farce. Two actors with a steamy past are cast as lovers in an overwrought 1930s melodrama. After the pair share an infamous stage kiss – or two or three – reality evaporates, onstage blurs with offstage, and art and life, and love, all become just a little jumbled!

**FOUNDERS THEATER  
JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 15**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

**"Is life imitating art? Or is art imitating life? Ruhl, in her gleeful counterpoint, gets to have it both ways."**

*The New Yorker*



**"Superb actors, thought-provoking shows, and wonderful volunteers"**

*2024/25 Audience Feedback*

**"I love that our community has Live Arts"**

*2024/25 Audience Feedback*

**"Thank you for FABULOUS THEATER!!"**

*2024/25 Audience Feedback*

**"Live Arts delivered a great night at the theater"**

*2024/25 Audience Feedback*

**"I'm a new subscriber this year and looking forward to more"**

*2024/25 Audience Feedback*



**THE WIZARD OF OZ**  
November-December 2024

**SCAN TO  
SUBSCRIBE  
2025/26**

*Season of Passion*







# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET

## HAMLET

By **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Susan E. Evans**

Ghosts and swordplay, madness and murders, dark family secrets exposed, and fates sealed. ***The Tragedy of HAMLET, Prince of Denmark***, has all the trappings of a Revenge Tragedy: The ghost of Hamlet's father commands his son to avenge his death—he's been murdered by his own brother, Hamlet's uncle. Hamlet's mother has all too quickly remarried, and to that very same uncle. All this we know by the end of the very first Act. But what poetry will we hear! How will that family unravel, and who else gets coiled up in this ever-enduring tale?

### GIBSON THEATER MARCH 6-22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**A Live Arts Premiere**  
*Four and a quarter centuries on!*





# BLOOD AT THE ROOT

By **Dominique Morisseau**  
Directed by **Leslie M. Scott Jones**

In 2006, a Black high school student in Jena, Louisiana, reportedly sat under a tree where only White students congregated. Three nooses appeared, hung from the tree, provoking a schoolyard fight. A White student was injured and six Black teenagers were charged with attempted murder; those responsible for the nooses got a three-day suspension. Based on the case of the Jena Six, Morisseau's potent and timely ensemble drama **BLOOD AT THE ROOT** calls out racial double standards and bigotry, harsh injustices, and the shattering impact on Black lives.

*Southern trees bear strange fruit  
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root ...*

Excerpt of lyrics from the song "Strange Fruit" by Abel Meeropol

**FOUNDERS THEATER**  
**APRIL 10-26**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19*	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

*\*Two shows! Matinee & Evening*

**"Dominique Morisseau knows where the truth lies, and it is rarely on solid ground ... expect no easy answers"**

*New York Times*

**Image Credits:** Tree on Jena High School campus in Jena, Louisiana, by Whileseated at English Wikipedia;  
Free Jena Six Rally at UC Berkeley, Hossam el-Hamalawy

# BLOOD AT THE ROOT

By Dominique Morisseau





## **WATERWORKS 2026** **MAY 14-31**

### **Readings Galore**

A multitude of readings of new works selected from festival submissions

### **Locally Sourced**

An annual short play festival showcasing original pieces developed in the Live Arts Playwrights' Lab

### **Spotlight Shows**

Featured pieces performed in the Gibson Theater

### **Workshops & Special Events**

... and so much more!

LIVE ARTS  
**WATER**

**WORKS**  
NEW WORKS  
ON WATER ST.

**"I am in awe of the way you  
champion stories that challenge,  
heal, and awaken."**

*Tlaloc Rivas, 2025 WATERWORKS Playwright*



## **WATERWORKS FESTIVAL 2026**

### **New Works on Water Street**

#### *Putting the playwright center stage!*

The fourth annual "fringe-adjacent" festival of new theatrical work at Live Arts! It's a celebration of new voices, building on Live Arts' long history of showcasing new works and diversifying the stories told on our stage.





# EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES

*find your passion*

youth & adult classes

summer camps

teen musicals

community partnerships

mentor-apprentice

Playwrights' Lab

Readers' Circle

Fringe Team

costume guild

scenic guild

weekly set builds

front-of-house

... and more!

**THE LIGHTNING THIEF:**  
**THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL**  
Teen Summer Musical, July 2024

## SUBSCRIBE

*Packages include tickets for five productions + two WATERWORKS shows*

### **DIRECTORS WILD CARD/\$300**

Choose any performance for each production. Get premium reserved seating, pre-paid parking, a \$25 concessions card, and special discounts for participating downtown restaurants!

### **WILD CARD/\$180**

Most popular! Choose any performance for each production.

### → **\*SPECIAL SAVINGS\* EDUCATOR PACKAGE/\$130**

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

### **SPECIFIC SHOW NIGHT/\$175**

Reserved seats for the performance you prefer:

- ☐ Champagne Opening Nights (8pm)  
Oct 3, Dec 5, Jan 23, Mar 6, Apr 10, + WATERWORKS
- ☐ Second Fridays (8pm)  
Oct 10, Dec 12, Jan 30, Mar 13, Apr 17, + WATERWORKS
- ☐ Second Saturdays (8pm)  
Oct 11, Dec 13, Jan 31, Mar 14, Apr 18, + WATERWORKS
- ☐ Early Bird Thursdays (7:30pm)  
Oct 9, Dec 11, Jan 29, Mar 12, Apr 16 + WATERWORKS
- ☐ Talkback Thursdays (7:30pm with post-show talkback)  
Oct 16, Dec 18, Feb 5, Mar 19, Apr 23, + WATERWORKS
- ☐ Sunday Matinees (2pm)  
Oct 12, Dec 7, Feb 1, Mar 15, Apr 12, + WATERWORKS

### **UNDER 30 CLUB/\$125**

→ **\*SPECIAL SAVINGS\*** Friday night performances, pre-show happy hours, and discounts for Friday Night Live events:

Oct 17, Dec 19, Feb 6, Mar 20, Apr 24, + WATERWORKS

### **FAN CLUB/\$125**

The most bang for your buck! Choose between the Saturday night or Wednesday night fan club packages below:

- ☐ SATURDAY FAN CLUB (8pm) \*Only 60 Available\*  
Oct 4, Dec 6, Jan 24, Mar 7, Apr 11, + WATERWORKS
- ☐ WEDNESDAY FAN CLUB (7:30pm) \*Only 60 Available\*  
Oct 8, Dec 10, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 15, + WATERWORKS

**FOR SINGLE TICKET PRICING:** [livearts.org](https://livearts.org) or 434.977.4177 x123

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



# MAKE YOUR IMPACT

support live local theater  
35 years strong!

sponsor  
donate  
volunteer  
subscribe

livearts.org



SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE

THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL  
March-April 2025

## SEASON TICKET PACKAGES PAYMENT INFO

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here to be added to our email list!	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK ENCLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER / VISA / MASTERCARD / AMEX
CARD #	EXP. DATE	CVV
NAME (as it appears on card)	SIGNATURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> HEY! I'd rather get a call from Darryl than fill out this form!		
SUBSCRIPTION TOTAL	# _____ x \$ _____	\$ _____
Processing fee (per subscription)	# _____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Consider an additional gift to support the volunteer-powered theater you love!		\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____



← Donate today  
and help make  
theater more  
accessible for all!

ting



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the  
ARTS  
arts.gov

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.





123 East Water Street  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

**BOX OFFICE**

[livearts.org/tix](https://livearts.org/tix)

434-977-4177 x123

The **2025/26** Season  
Opens on October 3  
**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**