

OUR MISSION

WE CREATE GREAT AMERICAN THEATER BY DEVELOPING AND PRODUCING NEW WORKS AND WORLD MASTERPIECES THAT MOST RICHLY DIRECT OUR GAZE TO THE LIFE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. WE CULTIVATE AN AUDIENCE THAT CHERISHES THE INTIMATE JOY OF THEATER, ENRICHED WHEN SHARED BY A COMMUNITY OF OTHERS.

VISION

TO BE A THEATER WHOSE WORK CONTRIBUTES TO THE CANON OF WORLD THEATER AND IS A VITAL CULTURAL RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

CORE VALUES

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

We nurture and challenge the visions of adventurous theater artists. Our commitment to the artistic process is sustained over time through an investment in people, their creative process, and our dedication to the highest artistic standards.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We make our theater a welcoming resource for all. We create engagement programs and partnerships that encourage all voices to come together in conversation around the stories we tell. We invest in the next generation of artists and audiences by introducing students and lifelong learners to the possibility and adventure that theater brings to our lives.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We believe that the essence of theater is democratic: it invites us to encounter, consider and perhaps adopt other points of view, if only for a brief time in a darkened theater. We aspire to build an environment in which artists, audiences, employees, and Board members from different backgrounds and experiences together form an institution that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We dedicate ourselves to the highest standards in our governance, management, operational, and financial practices. We are committed to developing and retaining an experienced and accomplished staff, an engaged and informed Board of Trustees, and a working environment that attracts staff, volunteers, and artists of the highest caliber.

LEADERSHIP

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MICHAEL HURST

MANAGING DIRECTOR

ROBERT R. RECHNITZ JOAN H. RECHNITZ FOUNDERS

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A NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JOHN DIAS AND MANAGING DIRECTOR MICHAEL HURST



Michael Hurst and John Dias. Photo by Danny Sanchez.

2020/21 WAS A SEASON OF COURAGE, COMPASSION, AND CREATIVITY.

The Two River Theater stage was dark but our spirits shone brightly. While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to keep audiences at home, many theaters struggled with the expense of closed facilities. Throughout this challenging year, we were grateful for the guidance of our Finance committee and Board of Trustees, the generous support of our institutional funders and individual donors, and the hard work of our staff. With this incredible support system in place, we created a new space for our artists and audiences to come together to experience the shared joy of theater.

Over the last year, **TWO RIVER CREATED A VISION FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF THEATER EXPERIENCE.** Our virtual play reading series, *Two River Rising*, reflected the past, present, and future of our diverse range of programming. We launched *Radio Plays*, an audio-only play series for our audiences to enjoy newly commissioned work from the safety of their own homes. We reimagined our *A Little Shakespeare* program with an entirely virtual, experimental, video project *Tiny Shakes* which engaged students from across the state and the country to participate. With the support of our fantastic staff and our brilliant network of artists, we kicked off *Plaza Players*, a summer series of outdoor performances on our beautiful new pergola stage, with Lauren Marcus and Tony Award Nominee Joe Iconis (*Be More Chill* and *Love in Hate Nation*). For the first time in over a year, we invited audiences to sit *in person* and enjoy a show.

Compassion and empathy are at the heart of who we are as theater makers. We cannot be a cultural resource for our community without seeing and acknowledging the racial, social, and economic injustices that are ingrained in our country. **TWO RIVER THEATER IS COMMITTED TO BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST AND ANTI-OPPRESSIVE ORGANIZATION.** We have reconvened the staff-led Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee with a renewed purpose to create an ecosystem for transformative change within our organization. We are dedicated to examining the ways in which we can create an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued.

We yearn to be with you and share together, in one room, what it means to be human. To connect through joy, laughter, and great art; to heal together through the power of live theater.

THANK YOU BEING WITH US FOR 27 SEASONS. WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU HOME.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE LAND UPON WHICH WE GATHER IS PART OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE LENNI-LENAPE, CALLED "LENAPEHOKING."

Each season since 1994, Two River Theater has welcomed tens of thousands of audience members from Monmouth County and beyond. In the midst of our continued growth towards being an antiracist and anti-oppressive organization, Two River wishes to acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land where we proudly present our work and continue to be a vital cultural resource for our community.

The land acknowledgement below was generously provided by the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation for New Jersey-based organizations like Two River Theater who seek to honor these people and territory.

The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, "as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine."

To learn more about the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, please visit: nlltribe.com/about-us/

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI)

Two River believes the essence of theater is democratic: it invites us to encounter, consider and perhaps adopt other points of view, if only for a brief time in a darkened theater. WE ASPIRE TO BUILD AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ARTISTS, AUDIENCES, EMPLOYEES, AND BOARD MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES TOGETHER FORM AN INSTITUTION THAT IS EQUITABLE, DIVERSE. AND INCLUSIVE.

We acknowledge that the pandemic affected everyone differently, and Black, Indigenous, Mixed, and People of Color (BIMPOC) communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This, along with the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, and the urgent calls for systemic changes to the theater industry from the We See You White American Theater coalition, propelled Two River Theater to formally pledge to become an anti-racist and anti-oppressive organization. As a result, our EDI work has become more centered in the ethos, structure, and substance of Two River Theater.

TWO RIVER IS COMMITTED TO FEATURING WORK WRITTEN AND/OR PERFORMED BY ARTISTS REPRESENTING ALL BACKGROUNDS, ABILITIES, AGES, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER EVERY SEASON. While our commitment to diversity may be reflected in most of our productions and programs, we acknowledge that our actions internally and externally have at times been inconsistent and missed the mark. We know this must change – not incrementally and sporadically, but intentionally and fundamentally.

WHAT WE ARE DOING:

EDI Committee

In 2020, we reestablished our **EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI) COMMITTEE** to create an ecosystem for transformative change within our organization and with our relationship to the constituents and communities we serve. The Committee acts on behalf of the Theater to identify, manage, and provide oversight on EDI initiatives and processes while ensuring alignment

with the Theater's core values. In addition, the Committee helps assess the effectiveness of activities, creates accountability for results and promotes company-wide inclusion and communication on progress.

Comprised of up to 12 staff members from various departments, the Committee meets regularly and also plans for full-staff monthly meetings focusing on EDI themes as they relate to our work and the current times.

Staff Workshop

In December 2020, the Committee engaged consulting firm Equity Quotient to lead our entire organization in a two-day Virtual Dismantling Racism Learning Lab. Through this workshop, we identified the immediate action items on which we could focus our energies as well as broader institutional initiatives.

Committee Branches

In order to move this work forward we have established additional committee branches to focus on three distinct areas: Communications, Representation, and Workplace Practices.

With the three branches helping to guide our work, Two River created a system to engage the entire staff in EDI work through a constellation of task forces. Groups have been set up to alleviate hierarchical structures of power within the theater and allow for the elevation of all voices across the organization. Participation is mandatory. In addition, we have encouraged and supported staff to create several affinity groups including accessibility; caregivers; Black, Indigenous, Mixed, and People of Color (BIMPOC); and LGBTQIA+.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WORK IS ONGOING AND EVOLVING IN REAL TIME. As such, this is a living document which will continually be evaluated and revised as we progress and learn. We will share our evolution with you all throughout the season.

To learn more about Two River Theater's commitment and continued progress in our EDI work, please visit: tworivertheater.org/#edi

TWO RIVER THEATER

PRODUCES CLASSICS, CONTEMPORARY AND WORLD PREMIERE PLAYS & MUSICALS, AND SUPPORTS THE VOICES, AMBITIONS AND VISIONS OF AMERICA'S LEADING THEATER

ARTISTS. Since Two River was established 27 years ago, we have stayed true to our founding principles, even in the midst of a global pandemic, bringing a fresh eye to masterpieces from the European and American canons. We are also committed to the full range of newplay development and production. We believe that we are enlivened and enriched by the world's great classics as reimagined by contemporary artists, and that the American theater is truer, richer, deeper and more reflective of who we are as a culture if it includes new work.

Since its founding, Two River has **PREMIERED 18** original plays and musicals; **COMMISSIONED** original projects including *Be More Chill* by Tony Award nominee Joe Iconis and Joe Tracz (the theater's first Broadway production) and *Hurricane Diane* by Playwright-in Residence Madeleine George (which enjoyed an Obie Award-winning Off-Broadway run); and **DEVELOPED** numerous other plays and musicals.

WE ARE SUPPORTING NEW PLAYS IN

DEVELOPMENT by commissioned writers including: Rinde Eckert, who is working on a Mark Twain/Huckleberry Finn project with director David Schweizer; Jessica Hagedorn, who is writing a musical based on the allfemale band from the 1970s, Fanny, to be directed by May Adrales; and Daniel Maté and Marshall Pailet (*Middle School Mysteries*). Other new works in development include: the musical *Radiant Baby*, about the life and work of Keith Haring, written by Stuart Ross and Debra Barsha, directed by Stephen Bracket; the musical *Twelve Kinds of Ice*, written by Ben Steinfeld, based on Ellen Bryan Obed's children's book of the same title; as well as projects by Ngozi Anyanwu, Jaclyn Backhaus, Matt Barbot, Lisa Kron, and Eliana Pipes.

For the 2020/2021 season, we invited back our four writers from the 2019/2020 Emerging Playwrights group to continue on with us for another season. This program supports early career playwrights in the development of a new play and culminates in a public reading. Playwrights Eleanor Burgess, Jessica Huang, Kareem M. Lucas, and Emily Zemba all participated in another year of Zoom meetings led by former Literary Manager Taylor Barfield, and Playwright in Residence Madeleine George. Over the course of the season they joined together virtually to share their work, discuss topics relevant to working as a professional playwright and receive feedback on plays in development. The year ended with readings of each of their plays presented on Zoom and open to the public.

WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP CREATING THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE THEATER THAT

WE CAN. Reflecting the demographics of our community, Two River has cast our productions with diverse acting companies and made plays by African-American and Latinx theater artists an essential part of each mainstage season. In 2020/21, we continued this commitment by presenting virtual readings of plays written by Alice Childress, Tony Meneses, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, and José Rivera.

Two River launched a new series, "Radio Plays", to bring a different kind of theater to our patrons, one that could be safely enjoyed from the comfort of their own homes. We commissioned playwrights David Greenspan, Kimber Lee and Nilo Cruz to write plays that were meant to be listened to, rather than experienced in a physical space. The first of these, David Greenspan's *The Memory Motel*, premiered in May.

While our doors remained closed this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we invited our audiences to join us for Two River Rising, an online benefit series presented on Zoom and streamed for a limited time on YouTube. The series featured plays by Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Madeleine George, Tony Meneses, and Hansol Jung. We reached close to 2,900 streams of these online performances. The series supported Two River Theater and five social service organizations with a pressing need.



Charles Weldon and Brandon J. Dirden in our 2015 world premiere production of *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine* written and directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson. Photo by Michal Daniel.



Deirdre Madigan, Mercedes Herrero and Flor De Liz Perez in the 2011 world premiere production of Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England by Playwright-in-Residence, Madeleine George. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.



The workshop cast of Play Like a Girl with director May Adrales and playwright Jessica Hagedorn.



Mazvita Chanakira joined audiences for our virtual reading of Alice Childress's *The Wedding Band*.

TWO RIVER THEATER is committed to contributing to great American Theater by nurturing and producing the classics of tomorrow. Many of the shows at Two River, like *Be More Chill* and *Hurricane Diane*, are projects we commission writers to create just for us. The Artistic Department is responsible for overseeing the development of these shows from their inception all the way through to the full productions you see presented during our mainstage season. Even while our stages were dark this year, development of commissioned work continued.



Matt Barbot (El Coqui Espectacular and the Bottle of Doom) completed an initial draft of his new play, *Trilogy*, which chronicles a group of friends as they prepare to see the first film adaptation of a well-known fantasy series and discuss who amongst them deserves to be called a fan.



Writer/performer **Rinde Eckert** (*Pericles*) and director David Schweizer (*Pericles*) came to Red Bank for two weeks in summer 2021 to continue their work on *The Raft*, a reveriestyle play based on Mark Twain's imagined last hours on earth. Rinde and David were among the very first artists to use our gorgeous new studios in The Center for New Work, Education and Design.



Joan Rechnitz invited Playwright-in-Residence

Madeleine George (Hurricane Diane), director Sara

Holdren (Twelfth Night), and an ensemble of twelve actors to
her backyard, where they spent an afternoon reading through
the first draft of Madeleine's new translation of Chekhov's

Three Sisters. The day culminated in a discussion about the
play's themes and lasting relevance.



After an online workshop this past spring, playwright **Jessica Hagedorn** (*Dogeaters*) and director May Adrales (*Electric Baby*) were joined by eight actors for a two-day, in-person workshop to work on *Play Like a Girl*. This new Two River Theater commissioned musical explores the history and legacy of Fanny, a pioneering, aall-female rock band from the 1970s.



Fiasco Theater's **Ben Steinfeld** continued his work on *Twelve Kinds of Ice*, a commissioned chamber musical based on Ellen Bryan Obed's children's book of the same title. A two day Zoom workshop was held this spring and plans are underway for an in-person workshop in the Fall of 2021.

Two River Theater launched a new series in 2021 called "Radio Plays", giving audience members a new way to experience work from Two River's family of artists. The series kicked off on May 24 with *The Memory Motel* by Obie-award-winning playwright and actor David Greenspan and in 2022, two additional Radio Plays will be released by playwrights Kimber Lee and Nilo Cruz.



Obie-award-winning playwright and actor David Greenspan in *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (2017/18 Season). Photo by T. Charles Erickson.



THE MEMORY MOTEL

By David Greenspan Directed by Morgan Green May 24 - June 6/2021

Michael S. Michaels returns to a beach resort in order to piece together and better understand the fragments of his past. While he's there, he encounters a series of eccentric characters with whom he discusses art, philosophy, and the peculiarities of memory. Obie-award-winning playwright and actor David Greenspan (*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*) returns to Two River with this brand-new radio play crafted with his unique blend of fancy, theatricality, and wit.

UP NEXT!





TWO RIVER RISING

In July 2020, Two River Theater launched an online play reading benefit series that reflected the past, present and future of the theater's diverse range of programming.

Conceived as a way for artists and audiences to stay engaged in the present moment and "show-up" for each other, this new theatrical experience combined pre-recorded performances with live post-reading Q&As with the artists involved, hosted on Zoom. The series engaged more than 2,900 audience members on both Zoom and YouTube and while many viewers were long time Two River supporters, we welcomed new audience members from across the country.

All proceeds from Two River Rising supported the theater while our facility was closed. A generous donor matched all donations from the series and directed that matching gift to benefit five social justice and service organizations with a pressing need due to the impact of systemic racism and COVID-19. The following organizations were chosen to receive these funds by Two River Rising artists: The Actors Fund, The Audre Lorde Project, The New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, The Ruben Santiago-Hudson Fine Arts Learning Center, and the Asian Pride Project. The series grossed approximately \$111,000 for Two River and \$22,000 for each of our partner organizations.

TWO RIVER RISING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

MARY ANSELL
CAROLYN CUSHMAN DESENA

COMMITTEE

ANN BAGCHI
AMANDA BUTTERBAUGH
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SERIES SPONSOR:





YOUR BLUES AIN'T SWEET LIKE MINE Written and Directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson

July 27-30 / 2020

We launched the Two River Rising Series by revisiting our 2015 world premiere production *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine*, in an updated script by Tony-Award winner Ruben Santiago-Hudson. An explosive and hopeful examination of America's racial divides, the production challenges audiences to explore and discuss their own experiences of race relations on a personal, local and national level. The reading featured original cast members Brandon J. Dirden, Andrew Hovelson, Merritt Janson, and Roslyn Ruff with Glynn Turman coming on to play the role of Zebedee.



THE HOMBRES

By Tony Meneses Directed by Annie Tippe

August 20-23 / 2020

Originally scheduled to have its run at Two River Theater in April of 2020, the cast of *The Hombres* reunited for a reading of their much-anticipated world premiere production. This new play by Tony Meneses is a fresh and nuanced look at the complexity and intimacy of male friendship. Two River co-commissioned and developed *The Hombres* with the NJPAC Stage Exchange, a program of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and through a reading at Two River's 2018 Crossing Borders (Cruzando Fronteras) festival of plays and music by Latinx artists.



SEVEN HOMELESS MAMMOTHS WANDER NEW ENGLAND

By Madeleine George Directed by Leigh Silverman

September 17-20 / 2020

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Playwright-in-Residence Madeleine George began her relationship with Two River nine years ago with the world premiere production of her play Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England, a deliciously smart and funny "academic sex comedy" about life in a small university town.



ROMEO AND JULIET

By William Shakespeare Modern Verse Translation by Hansol Jung Directed by Chay Yew

October 1-4 / 2020

In partnership with Off-Broadway's NAATCO (National Asian American Theatre Company) and their Artistic Director Mia Katigbak (Two River's I Remember Mama), we presented this modern verse translation of the Shakespeare classic by South Korean playwright Hansol Jung (Wild Goose Dreams, Cardboard Piano). The translation was originally commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival as part of "Play on! 36 playwrights translate Shakespeare."







SCENE AT TWO STATES AND THE STATES A

- To stay in touch with our audiences while our stages were dark due to COVID-19, Two River kept the love of theater going through curated digital content!
- Our website and social media were filled with artist features, at-home activities and crafts, monthly story times, poetry nights, community readings, behind-the-scenes design spotlights from Production staff members, highly competitive social media bracket tournaments for Best Wig and Best Hat in TRT production history, and more!
- Special collaborative events included a Poetry Night with the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey centered around the theme of "home," and a Multicultural Book Club with the Red Bank Public Library and T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center.







ROMEO

CO-DIRECTED BY
ANEESHA KUDTARKAR AND EM WEINSTEIN

For seven years, Two River Theater has produced A Little Shakespeare, a 75-minute Shakespeare play directed and designed by theater professionals, and performed and supported backstage by high school students. This season, the program used the limitations of 2021 as a unique opportunity for students to delve deeply into the play and give them the agency to tell the story in their own way, by filming scenes from home. Over the course of the program, 21 students partnered with industry professionals to learn more about acting, visual design, music, fight choreography, and filmmaking. The result: an eclectic and energetic virtual production of *Romeo and Juliet* featuring original music, TikTok dances, FaceTime calls, and more.

"This year the Tiny Shakes company embraced a new way of exploring Shakespeare," said Co-Director Aneesha Kudtarkar. "Despite the distance between them, they found imaginative ways to come together, collaborate, and think deeply about the themes in the play. It's been a joy to watch the student's creativity blossom over the course of this process, and we're thrilled to share this production of *Romeo and Juliet* with Two River audiences!"

"I cannot thank you all enough for the hard work and love that everyone puts into this program. I am forever a fan of you all."

—Tiny Shakes Parent

"Tiny Shakes fostered a loving, creative, encouraging community that pushed everyone beyond the limits they thought they had."

—Tiny Shakes Student Participant

"The collaboration, creativity, professionalism, camaraderie are all unmatched. There isn't another program like this that he has ever been a part of.

Especially in the middle of a pandemic!"

—Tiny Shakes Parent















WE BELIEVE

ARTS EDUCATION PROMOTES
TWO CENTRAL GOALS: SUPPORTING
THE ARTIST WITHIN EACH STUDENT
AND BUILDING FUTURE AUDIENCES.

WE INSPIRE

EMPATHY, RISK-TAKING AND A SENSE OF ADVENTURE.

WE SUPPORT

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING.





ONLINE SUMMER CLASSES

Pivoting to an online format, we offered four classes per week for three weeks in July 2020. Twenty-two students signed up for 46 spots (meaning, most of our students took multiple classes over multiple weeks) in classes like Directing, Song Writing and Arrangement, Lighting, Costume Design, as well as Summer Intensives 2.0 where the students created a virtual performance in a week. With this online format, students joined us from Seattle, Virginia, and several towns in New York, in addition to local towns in New Jersey.



METRO SCHOLARS

In order to continue providing opportunities to New Jersey high school juniors, Two River Theater developed a new, mostly online format for its popular Metro Scholar program. Thirteen students from nine local high schools took a virtual tour of the costume shop and stock, and had workshops (nine virtual and one in-person) learning about props, costumes, lighting, and dramaturgy. Students also received access to virtual productions and participated in post-show discussions with their fellow Metro Scholars.

"It was a really fun and unique experience! It's a great way to experience professional theater first hand. I learned a lot about the professional theater world and I've realized how much fun and challenging it can be."



ONLINE WINTER EDUCATION SERIES

Two River kicked off the new year with a virtual Winter Education Series starting in January 2021. The series was open to those wishing to explore playwriting, stories from musical theater history, acting, and the work of Black, female playwrights. Classes were conducted by members of the Two River Theater family of artists, featuring award-winning stage and screen actress Barbara Andres (I Remember Mama), Broadway actress Crystal Dickinson (A Raisin in the Sun, Seven Guitars), Obie Award-winning actor and director Brandon J. Dirden (Radio Golf, Seven Guitars), and Playwright Tony Meneses (Guadalupe in the Guestroom, The Women of Padilla). This series of four workshops served just under 100 students of all ages.

"Delightful and informative session! The four women writers selected truly reflected the theme of Black women playwrights as revolutionaries. Scene selections were excellent and well delivered, each allowing for a spirited, yet respectful conversation."

MINORITY MALES INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

For the past few years, Two River has participated in the Minority Males Initiative Conference at Brookdale Community College and this year was no exception. The MMI conference was held virtually, serving high school juniors and seniors as well as Brookdale students, with the goals of promoting college success, educating minority males about various careers, and connecting students with professionals in different areas of work. Two River's Show Business panel featured former Literary Manager Taylor Barfield engaging in conversation with Ken-Matt Martin (artistic director for Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago) and Jody Reynard (Broadway/Tours include Fosse, Chicago, Memphis.)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS - THE ART OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Two River Theater offered a four-part virtual series of professional development workshops for teachers in collaboration with Red Bank's T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center and in compliance with the New Jersey Amistad Commission. Workshop topics included: Justice and Reconciliation: Conversations Beyond Conflict; Acts of Liberation: *The Escape* and *Gem of the Ocean;* Teaching Baldwin and Self Advocacy; Social Movements, and the Death of George Floyd. We served 60 educators from across N.J. and one determined teacher from Ohio!

"I was inspired by the conversation. We have a patchwork of teachers in our district who are trying to organize among many programs and academies. The questions and answers validated that we are moving in the right direction with our efforts. I am very interested in continuing to learn with your organization."



In April 2021, Two River released a series of virtual programming designed to engage people on the autism spectrum. Teaching artists Maria Paduano and Amanda Butterbaugh led theater exercises aimed to stimulate the imagination, explore environments, and create characters with the aid of found-at-home materials and props. Videos were released on a weekly basis and continue to be accessible on tworivertheater.org/ education/autism-acceptance-month/. Live events and supplementary activities also took place throughout the month including a Facebook Live Story Time reading of a children's book about a boy and his younger sibling who is on the autism spectrum. The month concluded with The Joy of the Arts in the Autism Community roundtable discussion which featured panelists from Two River Theater, Bluelaces Theater Company, and The Calm Within the Chaos.







Each season, Two River Theater hosts special events that bring our supporters together to meet our artists, learn about productions, and mingle with fellow theater lovers. In the spirit of the year, we mixed online gatherings with small, socially distanced in-person events.

On December 12, Two River helped spread some holiday cheer with a **Holiday Pop Up** on the Plaza. Patrons wandered in a winter wonderland through a holiday-themed selfie spot, picked up some to-go "crafts in a bag" for at-home fun, enjoyed a cup of grab-and-go hot chocolate with snacks from **JBJ Soul Kitchen** and a sampling of items for sale from **The Local Line**.

On April 22, we launched a new play reading series, **Read Through** with **Madeleine George**. For our first event, Madeleine teamed up with playwright Eliana Pipes to discuss Paula Vogel's groundbreaking and controversial play *How I Learned to Drive*. Participants received a copy of the script and a special box of treats to enjoy at home before the Zoom event.















We hosted an **outdoor luncheon** for donors on our plaza on May 20. Guests enjoyed a boxed lunch from one of our favorite caterers, **The Whistling Onion**, and were given a sneak peek about the upcoming season from Denyse Reed, Director of Development and John Dias, Artistic Director.

Our season closed on June 30, with an **intimate donor dinner** by **In Thyme Catering** followed by a rocking performance by Tony-Nominated writer and composer Joe Iconis (Be More Chill, Love in Hate Nation) and Lauren Marcus, (Be More Chill, Love in Hate Nation) with special guest artists Eric William Morris, David Alan Thornton, Seth Eliser, Morgan Siobhan Green, and Nygel D. Robinson













Yurik L. Lozano and Jacqueline Romeo

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

THANK YOU to the following generous individuals who made contributions to our Annual Fund, Events, and Capital Campaigns.

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June & Mort Seligman

William Shlala

Maureen Silliman & William Parry

Caryl Sills

Rita & Arthur Steinman

Barry V. Qualls KerryAnne Wolfe

Joan Zakanych

CHORUS (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (4) Dylan Barlett **Brookdale Community College** Annette Bukovinsky Amanda Butterbaugh Jill & John Caddell Thomas Carroll Isabella & John Chiappinelli Liz DeBeer & Ted Wardell Willie Dirden The Electron Stash Fund Ellis-Pringle Family Fund Dr. Karen Fahertv Dr. Harold Farin Carlo Fiorletta Therese Fitzgerald Judy & Richard Fuller David Greenspan Gale & Dr. Robert B. Grossman Darlene Grzegorski Lanae & Todd Herman Coralie & John Hoffman Charles Hood & Marianne Zychal Charitable Fund Cindi Howard Giovanna Kanu Christine Kleinatland & Mark Koehler Angela Kluwin & James Noll

Connie Murray New Jersey Theatre Alliance Katherine & Coulter Richardson Louis Rodriguez

Theresa & Charles Mattina

Paula & Larry Metz

Michael Rubin Sheila & Richard Sachs Margaret & Matt Shafai

Deborah Shields & Robert Feldman

Terry Stein

Dr. & Mrs. Steve Swartz

Joseph Vassallo

The Gavin Warren & Samantha Lee Fund

Cynthia Wilby

Wilder Family Charitable Fund Marjorie & Zeke Zaccaro

The Zager Family Fund

UNDERSTUDY (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous (2) Amy Antman Lucy & Irwyn Applebaum Dr. Ann Bagchi Barbara Benson Don & Ellen Byck

Edgar Byham

Joseph Calabro

Linda & Samuel Chororos

Sandra & Alfred Conhagen

Joan Cruz

Elizabeth & John Devlin

Alba DiBello

Donald O'Donnell

Rusty Eidman Hicks

Daniel Ford

Robert Gannon

Craig Garcia

Jeffrey Greczek

Eve Hershkowitz

Robert Kelley

Jerry Kootman

Lakehouse Music Academy

Natali Lori

G. Love

Brian MacGeorge

Alan Mallach

Renee R. Maxwell

Douglas McGuirk

Daphne & Steve Mishkin

Tanya Moore & Richard Stokes

Shane Mullery

Barbara Nevius

Olivia Negrón

Rosemarie & Dennis Owens

Karen C. Pajak

Karen Perry

Elizabeth Riegelman

Margaret Riker

Bettie Rogers

Erica Rosenblum

Barbara Sager

Carole Schoening

David Schrader

The Sickles Family

Kathryne & Richard Singleton

Deborah Shields & Robert Feldman

Alex & Thomas Skove

George Smuga

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Andrienne & Frederick Straus

Elena Tomkovich

Trinity Technologies Worldwide

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Penny & Lawrence Turtel Charitable Fund

Ronald P. Verdicchio

Allison Walker

Marian Wattenbarger

Barbara & Maurice Zagha

*Includes Matching Gift

MATCHING GIFTS

The following have provided matching gifts to Two River on behalf of their employees.

Apple

Black Rock Matching Gift Program
The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts

Prudential Financial, Inc.

Verisk Analytics

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

Stephanie Adams

In memory of Jane Adams

Anonymous

In honor of Ma Rainey

Esther Barcun

In honor of Brandon Dirden

Marie Bauso

In honor of Velia & Philip Bauso

Robin Blair

In memory of Howard Aronson

Candice Chirgotis

In honor of John Dias

Al and Sandra Conhagen

In honor of Todd Herman's Birthday

Kathleen Donohue

In honor of All Teachers

Harold Farin

In memory of Bonnie Farin

Geoff Gaunt

Celebrating Ned & Laraine Gaunt

Lauren Golden

In memory of James R. Golden

Ben Huber

In memory of Caroline Huber

Alexander Ingham

In memory of Nadine Lawson

Ginny Kamin

In memory of Madeline McWhinney Dale

Ginny Kamin

In memory of Enrique Marcatili

Ginny Kamin

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson's daughter Fiona

Giovanna Kanu

In memory of Stephanie Kanu & Johneva Harper

Mary Jo and Paul Kenny

In memory of Caroline Huber

Mary Jo and Paul Kenny

In memory of Howard Aronson

Terry Kowsaluk

In honor of Lauren Golden

Veronica A. Lake

In honor of Maureen & Patricia's lasting friendship

Bruce and Sandra Lefkon

In memory of Ed Borrone

Eric Levin

In memory of Mel Levin

Judith Luger

In honor of Max's 20th Birthday

Holly Lyttle

In memory of Edith Stacy Ackerman

Catherine Mandel

In honor of John Dias & Michael Cumpsty

Mary Kim McGuirk

In honor of Alma Malabanan-McGrath

Paula and Larry Metz

In memory of Edith Stacy Ackerman

Marlene and George Milner

In honor of Barbara Andres

Shane Mullery

In memory of Stuart Pistol

Michael Murphy

In honor of Felicia Grant

The Philip and Tammy Murphy Family Foundation

In memory of Caroline Huber

Joan Rechnitz

In honor of John Dias

Joan Rechnitz

In honor of Michael Hurst

Joan Rechnitz

In memory of Howard Aronson

Joan Rechnitz

In memory of Dr. Harold Chafkin

Joan Rechnitz

In memory of Caroline Huber

Joan RechnitzIn memory of Sidney Lerner

Sandy Riddle

In memory of Matt Smith

Georgiana RyanIn memory of John Ryan

Mr. and Mrs. William Schanck

In memory of Edith Stacy Ackerman

Alex and Thomas Skove

In honor of Todd Herman's Birthday

Tamar Small

In honor of Jesse Greif

Elizabeth and Joel Sobo

In memory of Caroline Huber

Lynn Spector

In memory of Mrs. Edith Stacy Ackerman & Dr. Ackerman

Rita and Arthur Steinman

In memory of Samuel & Bernice Steinman

Jacqueline and Barbara Sturdivant

In memory of Rev. Gilbert A. Caldwell

Suzanne Uber

In memory of Patricia Sutter

Therese Marie Wagner Photography

In memory of Matt Smith

Joyce Wingerter

In memory of Caroline Huber

Chryssa Yaccarino Charitable Trust

In loving memory of Robert Rechnitz

Joan Zakanych

In memory of Caroline Huber

Listing reflects gifts made between October 1, 2020-October 1, 2021

STAFF



ARTISTIC

Taylor Barfield
Literary Manager
Madeleine George
Playwright in Residence
Kamilah Bush
Artistic Assistant

ADMINISTRATION

Alma MalabananMcGrath
General Manager
Margaret Shafai
Director of Finance
Karen Pierce
Staff Accountant

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Director of Marketing
Jenna Castano
Associate Director of
Marketing
Hannah Walker
Institutional Marketing
Manager
Yurik L. Lozano
Multimedia Manager
Michele Klinsky
Box Office Manager
Maria Cortes

Box Office Supervisor

Lynn Kroll Box Officer/Group Sales Coordinator Vernette Spicer Box Officer/Access Coordinator Samantha Trualio Auslin Williams Matt Yee **Box Officers** Angela White House Manager & Volunteer Coordinator Tess Ammerman Carmen Balentine Briana Butler Kelsey Butler Myles Columbo

Tess Ammerman
Carmen Balentine
Briana Butler
Kelsey Butler
Myles Columbo
Bobby DiGenova
Thomas Dougherty
Doreen Fromage
Melissa Javorek
John Knodel
Matt Markowski
Janet Pepsin
Daniel Pino
Kayla Santry
Gabby Scerbo
Francesca Trerotola
Nicholas Trerotola
Elena Zambrowski
Front of House Staff

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Director of Development
Angela Kluwin
Associate Director of
Development
Katie Benson
Special Events Manager
Rachel Hulsart
Institutional Giving
Manager
Thomas Dougherty
Events Assistant

EDUCATION

Kate Cordaro Director of Education Amanda Espinoza **Education & Community** Engagement Manager Lea Anello Corinda Bravo Amanda Butterbaugh Devin Fletcher Shane O'Neil Maria Paduano Lucas Pinner Flliot Roth Steven Wilson Teaching Artists Aneesha Kudtarkar Em Weinstein Adaptor/Director

OPERATIONS

Julia Alvidrez
Operations Director
Wayne Van Sant
Maintenance Supervisor
Vinnie Gillick
Lamar Hicks
William Hinton
Building Maintenance

PRODUCTIONLauren Kurinskas

Director of Production Will Cruttenden Associate Production Manager Jackie Romeo **Production Management** Assistant Jacqueline Deniz Young Technical Director Colleen Dolan Scenic Charge Fiona Malone Assistant Technical Director Duane Noch Master Carpenter Christian Dilks Staff Carpenter Marlène Whitney

Properties Supervisor

Assistant Properties
Supervisor
Lesley Sorenson
Costume Shop
Supervisor
Jill DiGiuseppe
Draper
Maggie Barnett
Wardrobe Supervisor
Olga "Sue" Patino
Lighting Supervisor
Dan Montano
Sound Supervisor

Victoria Schilling

SPECIAL SERVICES

Gilda Rogers

Community Relations Social Sidekick Press & Publicity Design Army Graphic Design Suzanne Anan Graphic Design T. Charles Erickson Production Photography Michael Boylan Director, Cinematographer Litwin & Provence, LLC Legal Counsel WithumSmith + Brown Auditors

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

THE VISIONARY CIRCLE \$25,000+





















SHUTTERED VENUES OPERATORS GRANT



INNOVATOR CIRCLE \$10,000-\$24,999







THE PHILIP & TAMMY MURPHY FOUNDATION

BENEFACTOR \$5,000 - \$9,999



THE HILARIA AND ALEC BALDWIN FOUNDATION





COMMUNITY PARTNERS







The Merrill G. & Emita E. Hastings Foundation

















FINANCIAL RESULTS

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, Two River Theater is dedicated to creating great American theater while maintaining fiscal responsibility. For this fiscal year, curtailed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the theater was fortunate to receive relief funds through various government programs and contributed income from generous individuals, businesses and foundations to ensure Two River Theater remains a vital cultural institution. The \$1.48 million operating surplus realized in this fiscal year will provide essential stability as we continue to navigate the volatile financial circumstances and uncertainty in the coming year.

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30/2021

INCOME **FARNED INCOME** % OF TOTAL **AMOUNT** Single Ticket Sales 4,570 0.1% Subscription Sales 0.0% **INCOME** Single Ticket Sales — Fundraising Event 501,067 8.4% Federal Cares Act: Employee Retention Tax Credit 658,055 11.0% Federal Cares Act: Payroll Protection Program (net) **Business Interruption Insurance** 250,000 Other Earned Income 393,951 6.6% Other Farned Individuals 1,807,643 30.2% Income TOTAL EARNED INCOME **CONTRIBUTED INCOME** Corporate 164.308 2.7% Foundation 533.305 8.9% Fundraising Events (net) 59.481 1.0% Government 175.784 2.9% Corporate Individuals 519,109 8.7% Released from Temporary Restricted 2,729,702 45.6% Government TOTAL CONTRIBUTED INCOME 4,181,689 69.8% **TOTAL INCOME** 5,989,332 100.0% Foundation **EXPENSES** PRODUCTION EXPENSES **EXPENSES** Productions 162,662 3.6% **Production Department** 1,252,781 27.8% Productions PRODUCTION EXPENSES SUBTOTAL 1,415,443 31.4% Operations **DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES** Administrative 889.280 19.7% Artistic 12.0% 541.480 Production Development 356,161 7.9% Marketing and Department **Audience Services** Education 180,048 4.0% Marketing and Audience Services 12.2% 549.834 **Production and Operations** 574,232 12.7% DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES SUBTOTAL 68.6% 3,091,035 Development Education **TOTAL EXPENSES** 4,506,478 100.0% Artistic **OPERATING SURPLUS**

1,482,854



During our 2020/21 Season, we received our seventh consecutive four-star rating - the highest possible - from Charity Navigator, the leading charity evaluator, for our sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.







CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

RENOVATIONS

With the opening of The Center for New Work, Education and Design, we undertook a major renovation of our administrative offices at 21 Bridge Avenue. While COVID-19 paused the project in the spring of 2020, the IDR Construction team returned in the summer of 2020 and completed the job by the fall. The brightly lit new offices allowed Finance, Artistic, Marketing and Development staff to return to a safe, socially distanced work environment. The renovation project also included the installation of a new catering kitchen for concessions and special events; a true backstage area for the Marion Huber Theater; new carpeting backstage of the Rechnitz Theater; and new artwork for Scire Hall, the administrative office, and The Center.

PARKING

As we start to welcome audiences back to Two River, we do so with a fully restored parking lot. The completed parking lot has 100+ patron spots and 8 accessible parking spaces.

PAVE THE PLAZA

In Oct 2019, we launched Pave the Plaza, an engraved paver campaign to support the renovation of the plaza in front of our lobby entrance. In spring 2021, we reached our fundraising goal of \$425,000 through a leadership gift of \$250,000 from our dear longtime Board member, Caroline Huber, and approximately 200 generous donors who purchased pavers. We have many remaining pavers for donors to engrave over the coming years to help support other programs, activities, and capital projects to help keep Two River Theater beautiful.



Dylan Barlett
Marilyn Baldi
Marilyn & Bob Broege
Amanda Butterbaugh
Thomas Collard
Michael Cumpsty & John Dias
Brandon J. Dirden
Willie Dirden
Harold Farin
Therese Fitzgerald
Carlo Fiorletta

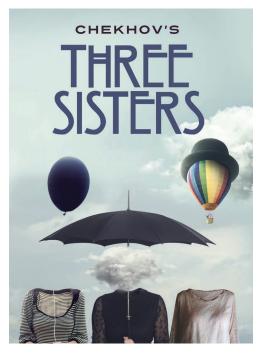
David Greenspan
Gale & Bob Grossman
Darlene Grzegorski
Lara Gomez
Michael Hurst
Mary Jane & Rick Kroon
Monmouth Civic Chorus
Michelle McCreary
The Honorable
Edward J. McKenna
Magda Muka

Thank you to all the donors who supported the Pave the Plaza campaign.
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Connie Murray
Jennifer Neill
William Parry
Karen Perry
Joan Rechnitz
Denyse, RJ, & Rosie Reed
Lilly Grace Riddle
Sandy Riddle
Richard & Sheila Sachs
Geoffrey Sadwith
Anne Marie Schultz

Margaret & Matt Shafai
Maureen Silliman
Kathryne & Richard Singleton
Lynn Spector
Steve Swartz
Kathy & Webster Trammell
Visiting Nurses Association of NJ
Kerry Anne Wolfe
The Leslie Miller &
Richard Worley Foundation
Marjorie & Zeke Zaccaro

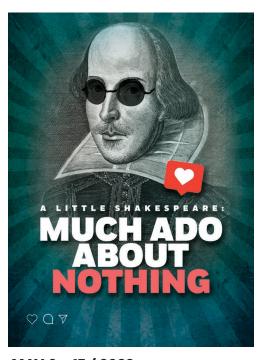
WE'VE MISSED
YOU AND
HOPE TO SEE
YOU AT THE
REST OF OUR
UPCOMING
SHOWS THIS
SEASON!



JAN 15 - FEB 6 / 2022

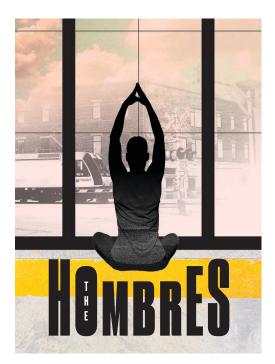
By Anton Chekhov Translated by Madeleine George Directed by Sara Holdren

A new translation of Chekhov's classic play about big souls trapped in tiny boxes.



MAY 6 - 15 / 2022

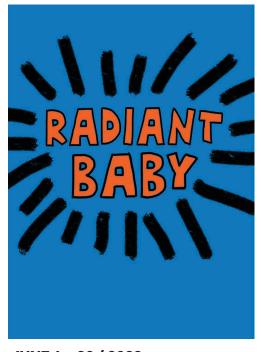
By William Shakespeare Adapted and Directed by Rakesh Palisetty



MARCH 12 - APRIL 10 / 2022

By Tony Meneses Directed by Annie Tippe

A fresh and nuanced look at the complexity and intimacy of male friendship.



JUNE 4 - 26 / 2022

Book by Stuart Ross Lyrics by Ira Gasman, Stuart Ross, & Debra Barsha Music by Debra Barsha Directed by Stephen Brackett

A musical celebrating artist and activist Keith Haring.