

Main Street Theater Announces 36th MainStage Season and Continues the New/Now Series

Main Street Theater will open its 2011-2012 MainStage season with the world premiere of Y York's intense drama, *Woof*, September 15 – October 9, 2011. The season continues with the world premiere of funny, poignant, 2-woman play *Cakewalk* by Nalsey Tinberg November 3 - 27, 2011. The focal point of MST's 36th season is the 2nd U.S. production of Tom Stoppard's sweeping trilogy, *The Coast of Utopia*, with part I running at MST – Chelsea Market January 12 – 29, 2012 and parts II and III playing in rep at MST – Rice Village February 9 – March 11, 2012. A co-production with the Prague Shakespeare Festival of *Richard III* will run April 26 – May 13, 2012. The season will close with the regional premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's bittersweet comedy, *My Wonderful Day*, May 24 – June 17, 2012.

MST continues its New/Now series of world premieres and new scripts from other regional theaters in the summer of 2012 with Liz Duffy Adams' *Dog Act*, a theatrical, post-apocalyptic dark comedy playing July 13 – 29.

WOOF

By Y York

World Premiere

Directed by Troy Scheid

September 15 - October 9, 2011

MST – Rice Village

L J Freeman - beloved quarterback for the current Super Bowl champs, "American hero," husband to a beautiful woman, father to 2 young children – has made a really terrible, really stupid mistake. His senseless crime was caught on a security video which is now all over the media; his football career is over; his family is falling apart – and his 9 year old has seen what her daddy did. This powerful drama by Y York is a very raw, honest story of one man watching his world crumble around him and what he must do to move forward.

CAKEWALK

By Nalsey Tinberg

World Premiere

Directed by Steve Garfinkel

November 3 - 27, 2011

MST – Rice Village

Cakewalk is a funny, poignant, tour-de-force for Holocaust refugee, Sprintze, and her only daughter, American-born Bersahla (Barrie). Both are story-tellers in their own right, and their deepest beliefs are questioned as the mother grows from refugee to survivor and from mother to skeptic - and her daughter becomes a mother herself – and then a cancer survivor. These two strong, passionate women take this ten year journey together with great humor, dignity, and the proper amount of disrespect!

THE COAST OF UTOPIA

By Tom Stoppard

2nd U.S. Production

Directed by Rebecca Greene Udden

Stoppard's magnificent trilogy chronicles a group of real-life Russian intellectuals dreaming of revolution. Spanning 1833 to 1866, the three plays are anchored by the presence of anarchist Michael Bakunin, literary critic Vissarion Belinsky, literary giant Ivan Turgenev, and revolutionary thinker Alexander Herzen, four men who came of age under Tsar Nicholas I and whose passion for political and intellectual change is mirrored in their personal pursuit of love and happiness. As the arcs of their lives intersect repeatedly, the seeds of the great social revolutions of the late nineteenth century are sown.

More...

VOYAGE

January 12 - 29, 2012
MST - Chelsea Market

In *Voyage*, Stoppard creates a Chekhovian portrait of life on a Russian estate as he introduces the Bakunin family: Michael, his four sisters, his parents, their social circle, and his growing intellectual circle.

SHIPWRECK

Opening February 9, 2012 at MST – Rice Village

Shipwreck shifts the focus to philosopher Alexander Herzen and the location to Paris against the backdrop of the Revolution of 1848. Herzen articulates the search for a Utopia, but even as he strives to reach it, it eludes him in a series of personal catastrophes.

SALVAGE

Opening February 24, 2012 at MST – Rice Village

In *Salvage*, a disillusioned Herzen finds solace in London within a community of political émigrés which includes Bakunin, who has escaped from Siberia, and even Karl Marx.

SHIPWRECK and SALVAGE will run in repertory through March 11, 2012.

RICHARD III

By William Shakespeare

Co-production with Prague Shakespeare Festival

Directed by Guy Roberts

April 26 – May 13, 2012

MST - Chelsea Market

“Now is the winter of our discontent / made glorious summer by this sun of York...” Shakespeare’s Richard III is the villain everyone loves to hate. Deliciously wicked and cruel, the ultimate usurper leaves only destruction in his path. Yet when he finds himself weak upon the battlefield crying “My horse! My horse! My kingdom for a horse!”, he knows the end of his reign is near. A co-production with the Prague Shakespeare Festival. The production will transfer to Prague after its Houston run.

MY WONDERFUL DAY

By Alan Ayckbourn

Regional Premiere

Directed by Jonathan Gonzalez

May 24 – June 17, 2012

MST – Rice Village

Nine year old Winnie Barnstairs wasn’t feeling well and had to come to work with her mother today. She settles in to do her homework (an essay entitled “My Wonderful Day”) while her very pregnant mother cleans house for the exceptionally chaotic Tate household. A foul-tempered, TV personality, his baby-talking mistress, his enraged and vindictive wife, and his hungover friend put on quite a show for the often-ignored young observer who has more than enough fodder for her essay. “...a startling play full of Ayckbourn’s rueful, comic wisdom.” [*Guardian*]

New/Now Series

DOG ACT

By Liz Duffy Adams

Houston Premiere

Directed by Andrew Ruthven

July 13 - 29, 2012

MST – Rice Village

More...

A theatrical, post-apocalyptic dark comedy, *DOG ACT* follows Zetta Stone, a traveling performer, and her companion Dog (a young man undergoing a voluntary species demotion) as they walk through the wilderness of the former U.S.A. with their vaudeville troupe. They are heading toward a gig in China, if they can find it...

Performances are Thursdays at 7:30pm,
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, and Sundays at 3:00pm.

For more information, including information about subscriptions and single & group ticket pricing,
please call 713-524-6706 or visit www.mainstreettheater.com

Since 1975, Main Street Theater has produced high quality professional theater for audiences of all ages through its MainStage productions and Theater for Youth. The Main Street Education Department program offers performing arts classes, camps, and outreach opportunities for children ages 4 – high school. The organization produces plays at two locations, 2540 Times Boulevard in Rice Village and 4617 Montrose Boulevard at Chelsea Market as well as hosting classes and camps at satellite locations around the Greater Houston area.

Main Street Theater is a member of the Fresh Arts Coalition, a collaboration of 25 arts organizations that work collectively to raise awareness of the size and diversity of the arts in Houston, and a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theaters. Main Street Theater offers a lively year-round repertory of classic and contemporary plays for audiences of all ages and provides a much-needed showcase for Houston theater professionals. Main Street Theater is also a member of Actors' Equity Association and of ASSITEJ, the world theatre network of theatre for children and young people. Main Street Theater is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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