

# ALLEY THEATRE

FOR RELEASE

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## **Alley Theatre Announces the World Premiere of *Noir*, a Duncan Sheik and Kyle Jarrow Musical, and Four Additional Shows as a Part of the 2020-21 Season**

HOUSTON, TX – The Tony® Award-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director **Rob Melrose** announces five productions as a part of the 74<sup>th</sup> season. Subscription renewals for the 2020-21 Alley Theatre season are on sale now. New subscriptions will be on sale May 18, 2020 at [alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org).

The Alley Theatre is thrilled to present the world premiere of a sexy, mysterious musical entitled *Noir* with music by **Duncan Sheik** (*Spring Awakening*), book by **Kyle Jarrow** (*The SpongeBob Musical*), and lyrics by both Sheik and Jarrow. *Noir* will be directed by **Darko Tresnjak** (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*) and is produced by special arrangement with **Robert Cole, Mary Beth O'Connor, and Carl Moellenberg**. Inspired by early radio plays and classic film noir, this new musical tells the story of a heartbroken man that never leaves his apartment, finding his only solace in the music on the radio. Then a couple moves in next door. Eavesdropping becomes his new entertainment—and his new obsession. Soon he finds himself drawn into a web of love, lies, deceit, and danger. *Noir* runs in the Hubbard Theatre from **January 21 – February 21, 2021**.

The popular ExxonMobil Summer Chills™ series is back to offer a cool escape from the summer heat with a nostalgic production of *Clue*, the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist. It's a dark and stormy night, and you've been invited to a dinner party. Murder and blackmail are on the menu when six guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they'll never forget. Was it Mrs. Peacock in the study with the knife? Or Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench? *Clue*, based on the classic Hasbro board game and cult 1985 screenplay by **Jonathan Lynn**, is written by **Sandy Rustin** with additional material by **Hunter Foster** and **Eric Price**. The play will be directed by Alley's Associate Producer & Casting Director, **Brandon Weinbrenner** and runs **July 24 – September 6, 2020** in the Hubbard Theatre.

An Alley Theatre holiday tradition, *A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas* by **Charles Dickens** and adapted by **Michael Wilson**, will be directed by **James Black** and returns to the Hubbard Theatre from **November 19 – December 30, 2020**. This year celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the premiere of Wilson's beloved adaptation of the Dickens classic.

After being a part of the Alley All New Reading Series in 2019, ***Born with Teeth*** by **Liz Duffy Adams** will have its world premiere in the Neuhaus Theatre and will be directed by **Rob Melrose**. An aging authoritarian ruler, a violent police state, a restless polarized people seething with paranoia: it's a dangerous time for poets. Two of them—the great Kit Marlowe and the up-and-comer Will Shakespeare—meet in the back room of a pub to collaborate on a history play cycle, navigate the perils of art under a totalitarian regime, and flirt like young men with everything to lose. One of them may well be the death of the other. *Born with Teeth* runs **April 2 – May 2, 2021**.

**Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*** will be directed by **Eleanor Holdridge** and runs from **March 12 – April 4, 2021** in the Hubbard Theatre. Ludwig (*The Three Musketeers, Murder on the Orient Express*) transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic *The Hound of the Baskervilles* into a murderously funny adventure. To find a killer, Holmes and Watson, our intrepid investigators, try to escape a dizzying web of deceit, silly accents, and disguises, as five actors portray more than 40 characters. The fun is elementary.

The 2020-21 season programming, the second season curated by Rob Melrose, will have a classic comedy, world premiere plays developed in our Alley All New Festival, a touching family tale, and a lineup of works highlighted by a diverse group of playwrights, directors, and designers. The full 2020-21 season will be announced in late March.

“I couldn't be more excited about our 2020-21 season. There's lots more news to come including an exciting number of world premieres,” said Rob Melrose. “I'm thrilled to share the news about two of those premieres in this announcement: *Noir* and *Born with Teeth*. Duncan Sheik's *Spring Awakening* was the kind of musical I had been waiting for. It was so groundbreaking and I just love the music. As a lifelong film noir fan, I couldn't be more excited to premiere Duncan's latest musical, an innovative mixture of rock music and noir. I've collaborated with *Born with Teeth* playwright Liz Duffy Adams since we were graduate students at the Yale School of Drama together. We go way back. She has created an amazing thriller about Shakespeare and Marlowe that is also extremely funny.”

“Our Summer Chills audience will be delighted with our offering of *Clue*. It is a fabulous play that will bring back memories of playing the board game with friends and family,” Melrose continued. “With *Noir*, *Born with Teeth*, and *Baskerville*, I've made sure to put a lot of thrills in the subscription season to tempt our Summer Chills audience into joining us throughout the year. Alley audiences love Sherlock Holmes and Ken Ludwig has found an ingenious way of telling the story of the entire novel with only five actors. The new season is going to be a lot of fun.”

**TICKET AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Current Alley subscribers may renew subscriptions now online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700). Five and 8-play subscription packages, which include *Noir*, *Born with Teeth*, and *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, will be available May 18, 2020 and can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700). Package prices range from \$125 - \$649. The full season will be announced in late March. Subscribers may purchase priority tickets for *Clue* and *A Christmas*

*Carol* before they go on sale to the general public. Groups of 10 or more may reserve discounted tickets now by calling 713.315.3346.

**FLEX SUBSCRIPTION PASSES:** The Flex Subscription is 6 or 10 vouchers to use for any Alley subscription show in the 2020–21 season and includes all subscriber benefits. Passes are valid September 2020 – July 2021 and good for any seat in the house. Prices range from \$420-\$600. For more information visit <https://www.alleytheatre.org/season>

**SPONSOR:** The Alley Theatre’s 2020-21 Season sponsor is United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre.

**PRESS MATERIALS:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/py9uezsg69zt0jk/AACMMXv9pIRsUbNJYDDTf5S4a?dl=0>

**ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE:**

The Alley Theatre, one of America’s leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley produces up to 16 plays each year in its newly renovated Theatre, ranging from the best current work, to re-invigorated classic plays, to new plays by contemporary writers. The Alley is home to a resident company of actors. In addition, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

The recent renovation of the Alley’s Hubbard Theatre created a new 774-seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the newly rebuilt 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre, the Alley offers nearly 500 performances each season. The Company reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance and education programs. Its audience enrichment programs include pre-show and post-performance talks, events, and workshops for audience members of all ages

2020-21 PARTIAL SEASON

HUBBARD

**EXXONMOBIL SUMMER CHILLS™**

*A New Comedy*

**CLUE**

Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn

Written by Sandy Rustin

Additional Material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price

Based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture

Based on the Hasbro board game CLUE

Directed by Brandon Weinbrenner

**July 24 – September 6, 2020** in the Hubbard Theatre

It's a dark and stormy night, and you've been invited to a dinner party. Murder and blackmail are on the menu when six guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they'll never forget. Was it Mrs. Peacock in the study with the knife? Or Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench? Based on the cult movie and the classic board game, *Clue* is the ultimate *whodunit* that will leave you *dying* of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.

*World Premiere Musical*

## **NOIR**

A new musical

Music by Duncan Sheik

Book by Kyle Jarrow

Lyrics by Kyle Jarrow and Duncan Sheik

Directed by Darko Tresnjak

By Special Arrangement with Robert Cole, Mary Beth O'Connor, and Carl Moellenberg

January 21 – February 21, 2021 in the Hubbard Theatre

A heartbroken man never leaves his apartment, finding his only solace in the music on the radio. Then a couple moves in next door. Eavesdropping becomes his new entertainment - and his new obsession. Soon he finds himself drawn into a web of love, lies, deceit, and danger. Inspired by early radio plays and classic film noir, this new musical is written by Broadway artists Duncan Sheik (*Spring Awakening*) and Kyle Jarrow (*The SpongeBob Musical*) and directed by Darko Tresnjak (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*).

*A Comedy-Mystery*

## **KEN LUDWIG'S BASKERVILLE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY**

By Ken Ludwig

Directed by Eleanor Holdridge

March 12 – April 4, 2021 in the Hubbard Theatre

Get your deerstalker cap on — the play's afoot! Comedic genius Ken Ludwig (*The Three Musketeers*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic *The Hound of the Baskervilles* into a murderously funny adventure. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one, but Sherlock Holmes is on the case! To find the killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of deceit, silly accents, and disguises, as five actors portray more than forty characters. Join the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be.

## NEUHAUS

*World Premiere Play*

## **BORN WITH TEETH**

By Liz Duffy Adams

Directed by Rob Melrose

April 2 – May 2, 2021 in the Neuhaus Theatre

An aging authoritarian ruler, a violent police state, a restless polarized people seething with paranoia: it's a dangerous time for poets. Two of them—the great Kit Marlowe and the up-and-comer Will Shakespeare—meet in the back room of a pub to collaborate on a history play cycle, navigate the perils of art under a totalitarian regime, and flirt like young men with everything to lose. One of them may well be the death of the other. *Developed in the Alley All New Reading Series.*

## HOLIDAY

### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL – A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS**

By Charles Dickens

Adapted and Originally Directed by Michael Wilson

Directed by James Black

November 19 - December 30, 2020 in the Hubbard Theatre

Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alley premiere of Michael Wilson's adaptation. *A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas* is a thrilling, family-friendly re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic story, which follows Ebenezer Scrooge's journey with the three ghostly spirits who visit him on Christmas Eve. *A Christmas Carol* instills a powerful message about redemption and the spirit of the holiday season.

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