

ALLEY THEATRE

Alley Theatre's Popular ExxonMobil Summer Chills Series Returns With Agatha Christie's Spider's Web

*Alley Company Members cast in **Spider's Web** (July 12 – August 14) marking the theatre's 23rd Agatha Christie production*

HOUSTON, TX – Alley Theatre Artistic Director Gregory Boyd announces the cast and creative team for **Agatha Christie's Spider's Web**, Agatha Christie's only comedy thriller, beginning performances July 12 in the Hubbard Theatre. The popular ExxonMobil Summer Chills series returns to the Alley after a two-year break and offers a cool escape from the summer heat. The series is the perfect introduction to live theatre for first-timers.

The comic whodunit by Dame Agatha Christie kicks off the summer season and features Alley Company Members Jeffrey Bean (*Born Yesterday, The Christians*) as Sir Rowland Delahaye, John Tyson (*The Seafarer, Pygmalion*) as Hugo Birch, Jay Sullivan (*Born Yesterday, Around the World in 80 Days*) as Jeremy Warrender, Josie de Guzman (*The Nether, All My Sons*) as Clarissa Hailsham-Brown, Todd Waite (*Born Yesterday, Around the World in 80 Days*) as Elgin and Paul Hope (*All the Way, One Man, Two Guvnors*) as Henry Hailsham-Brown.

Agatha Christie's Spider's Web also features Michael Brusasco (*All the Way, A Christmas Carol*) as Oliver Costello, John Felch (*The Nether, One Man, Two Guvnors*) as Inspector Lord, McKenna Marmolejo (*A Christmas Carol*) as Pippa Hailsham-Brown, Margaret Daly (*Centerstage: As You Like It*) as Mildred Peake and Trace Pool (*One Man, Two Guvnors*) as Constable Jones.

Spider's Web unravels at the English countryside home of Henry and Clarissa Hailsham-Brown. Clarissa, the second wife of Henry Hailsham Brown, is adept at spinning tales of adventure for her bored diplomatic circle. When a murder takes place in her drawing room, she finds real life much harder to cope with. Clarissa's fast talking places her in hair-raising situations, as she comes to learn that the facts are much more exciting than fiction.

Directed by Gregory Boyd, **Agatha Christie's Spider's Web** features scenic design by Linda Buchanan (*The Hollow, Black Coffee*) and costume design by Tricia Barsamian (*As You Like It, Dracula*). Lighting design is by Michael Lincoln (*The Hollow, Black Coffee*) with sound design by Joe Pino (*After the Fall, Unexpected Guest*).

The Alley has produced many of Agatha Christie's plays, among them *The Hollow, Death on the Nile, Witness for the Prosecution, The Mousetrap, Towards Zero, and Black Coffee*.

Dame Agatha Christie, the most famous creator of murder mysteries, was born in 1890 and worked as a hospital dispenser during World War I. Her first detective novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920), introduced Hercule Poirot, the Belgian hero who was to appear in many subsequent novels and plays. Over the next 56 years, Christie wrote 66 novels and more than a dozen plays, including *Murder on the Orient Express, The Mousetrap, The Unexpected Guest, And Then There Were None*, and the Miss Marple mysteries – which served as the basis for the films *Murder, She Said* and *Murder at the Gallop* and the inspiration for many television programs.

Agatha Christie's Spider's Web begins preview performances at the Alley Theatre on July 12, opens July 14, and continues through August 14, 2016 in the Hubbard Theatre. The run time is 2 hours and 40 minutes with two intermissions. *Recommended for general audiences.*

TICKETS

Tickets to **Agatha Christie's Spider's Web** are now on sale and start at \$21. Discounted tickets are available for any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for \$16 for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700). Discounts are available for groups of 10

or more.

HOUSTON SUMMER CHILL-OUT PACKAGE

Step out of the Texas sun and inside the doors of the Alley Theatre this summer. In celebration of our Summer Chills Series, we are offering special pricing on select entertainment and dining – the coolest Houston has to offer! The Summer Chill-Out package includes discounts on Alley Theatre's ExxonMobil Summer Chills production of Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*, accommodations at The Lancaster Hotel, dinner at Birraporetti's, passes to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and passes for the Houston METRORail.

SUMMER THRILLS

Beginning August 19 audiences can escape the Texas heat with the musical **A Night With Janis Joplin**. The musical experience is a celebration of Janis and her biggest musical influences—icons like Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Odetta, Nina Simone and Bessie Smith, who inspired one of rock & roll's greatest legends. Like a comet that burns far too brightly to last, Janis Joplin exploded onto the music scene in 1967 and, almost overnight, became the queen of rock & roll. The unmistakable voice, filled with raw emotion and tinged with Southern Comfort, made her a must-see headliner from Monterey to Woodstock.

ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company lead by Artistic Director Gregory Boyd 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 renovation of the Hubbard Theatre at the Alley was completed in October 2015 – and created a new 774-seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the 310-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.

The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2016-2017 season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre.

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