

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* Brings Summer Chills to the 2017-2018 Season

Alley Resident Artists Elizabeth Bunch and Todd Waite, and director Mark Shanahan create a new 2017 Summer Chills production July 21 through August 20 in the Hubbard Theatre

"Theatre at its finest! ... Absurdly enjoyable!" – *The New York Times*

HOUSTON, TX – The Alley Theatre announces the cast and creative team for [Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*](#), the Exxon Mobil Summer Chills production offering a fun and exciting escape from the sizzling summer heat. Based on the classic film by Alfred Hitchcock, *The 39 Steps* is adapted by Patrick Barlow, directed by **Mark Shanahan**, and runs July 21 – August 20 in the Hubbard Theatre. Tickets are available now at alleytheatre.org.

Comedy-thriller adventure *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps*, packed with nonstop laughs and over 150 eccentric characters all played by four actors, is a riotous blend of virtuoso performances and wildly inventive stagecraft that amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure. A mysterious organization "The 39 Steps" is hot on an ordinary man's trail in a nationwide manhunt, after a woman who claimed to be a spy is murdered. What follows is an exhilarating mix of Hitchcock masterpiece, juicy spy novel intrigue, and a dash of Monty Python madcap in a fast-paced whodunit perfect for all ages.

Alley Resident Company Members **Elizabeth Bunch** (*As You Like It, Dracula*) and **Todd Waite** (*An Act of God, Around the World in 80 Days*) lead the cast of *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps*. Houston native **Mark Price** (*Sherlock Holmes and the Suicide Club, Broadway: Mary Poppins*) returns to the Alley while **Bruce Warren** (*Theatre Squared: The Ding Dong, Off-Broadway: The Road to Qatar!*) makes his Alley debut.

Director and Alley veteran **Mark Shanahan** (*Hand to God, Around the World in 80 Days*) returns to direct *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps* at the Alley.

Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps creative team includes scenic design by **Hugh Landwehr**, costume design by **Alejo Vietti**, lighting by **Rui Rita**, sound design by **Ryan Rumery**, dialect and text coaching by **Pamela Prather**, movement coaching by **Jen Waldman** and stage managers **Rebecca D. Hamlin** and **Kristen Larson**.

Performances of *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps* are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Tickets to *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps* are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for \$16 for designated performances in designated sections. Military and senior discounts are available. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

2017-2018 SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: Season Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700). Subscribers can purchase a 5-play package containing **Cleo, The Great Society, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Satchmo at the Waldorf, and Holmes and Watson**; prices range from \$125-\$465. An 8-play package is also available containing all the plays in the 5-play package plus **Describe the Night, Lover, Beloved;** and **The Cake**, with prices from \$198-\$649.

SPONSORS: The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2017-2018 season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt. *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps* is sponsored by Presenting Sponsor Exxon Mobil and Supporting Sponsor Four Seasons Hotel Houston.

PRESS MATERIALS: <https://www.alleytheatre.org/press/thirty-nine-steps-photos>

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ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE: The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Gregory Boyd and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. Home to a Resident Company of actors, the Alley creates a wide-ranging repertoire and innovative productions of classics, neglected modern plays, and premieres. Alley All New, the initiative to commission and develop new work year round, features the Alley All New Festival each season presenting workshops and readings of new plays and musicals in process. Additionally the Alley serves 65,000 students annually with award-winning education and community programs including in-school arts integration residencies, school tours and student matinees. A recipient of the Special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, the Alley has brought productions to Broadway, 40 American cities including New York's Lincoln Center and internationally to London, Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg throughout its 70 year history.

After a year-long, \$46.5 million renovation during the 2014-15 season, the Alley Theatre now has one of the most technically advanced non-profit theatre complexes in the nation. With more than 450 performances in 2017-2018 and as a recent recipient of an NEA Our Town program grant, the Alley will produce more shows on and off-campus than all other performing arts organizations in the Houston Theater District combined.

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