

# ALLEY THEATRE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY, APRIL 6**

## **Alley Theatre Announces 2018-19 Season**

*The new season includes world premiere THE CARPENTER by Texas playwright Robert Askins; timely play SKELETON CREW; Shakespeare's TWELFTH NIGHT; new play QUACK by Eliza Clark ; Tony-winning play THE HUMANS; Southern classic CRIMES OF THE HEART by Beth Henley; recent Broadway and London hit CONSTELLATIONS; and the lively action-packed THE THREE MUSKETEERS by Ken Ludwig*

HOUSTON – James Black, Interim Artistic Director of the Tony® Award-winning Alley Theatre, announces ten productions for its 2018-19 Season including two premieres of plays developed in the Alley All New Festival and the dates for the 2019 Alley All New Festival.

“I’m thrilled to bring a mixed repertoire of both familiar and new works to Alley audiences in the upcoming season. The productions truly center on the inter-connectivity we all share, the idea of family and what makes up a family. I hope to hold a mirror up to the community and utilize not only the exceptionally talented Alley Resident Company but also engage local artists on both sides of the footlights.

“In times of transition, we all are drawn to the familiar, traditional, productions - the timeless classics like *Twelfth Night* and the family-friendly *The Three Musketeers*. We surround ourselves with friends and returning artists like Theresa Rebeck and Jonathan Moscone, who have all made memorable impressions on the Alley in the past and I welcome them back to the Alley to direct. Yet, the upcoming season also asks audiences to go beyond the more recognizable titles and engage with work that represents the population around us. The characters on stage experience a span of emotions from heartbreak to fulfillment, so similar to what we as a community have recently experienced.

“We are also proud to present two plays we have developed right here at the Alley: *The Carpenter* by Robert Askins and *Quack* by Eliza Clark. And we are thrilled to introduce our audience to the fantastic voices of Stephen Karam, Dominique Morisseau, and Nick Payne, all three of whom have burst into international prominence within the past few years. We are stretching the limits and bringing new life to the Alley stages. I am honored to take our audience on the journey that is the 2018-19 season,” says Black.

### **THE 2018-19 ALLEY THEATRE SEASON:**

#### **A compassionate tale following a family of co-workers SKELETON CREW**

By Dominique Morisseau

**Previews Begin:** August 31, 2018

**Open:** September 5, 2018

**Close:** September 30, 2018

Neuhaus Theatre

2008. The start of the Great Recession. In the breakroom of one of Detroit's last auto stamping plants, a makeshift family of co-workers swaps stories, shares dreams, and takes pride in their work. When confronted with the life-altering choices they must face if the factory closes, dynamics shift and each is pushed to the limits of survival. Loyalties are tested and boundaries are crossed in this "deeply American play" (*The New York Times*). *Suitable for high school-aged audiences and up.*

#AlleySkeletonCrew

### **Shakespeare's comedy classic**

#### **TWELFTH NIGHT**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Jonathan Moscone

**Previews Begin:** October 5, 2018

**Open:** October 10, 2018

**Close:** October 28, 2018

Hubbard Theatre

Shakespeare's hilarious tale of unrequited love, *Twelfth Night* crackles with quick wit and gender-bending hijinks. Stranded on the coast of Illyria, Viola assumes the disguise of a page boy for Duke Orsino and finds herself at the center of an explosive love triangle in which identity, passion, and gender all threaten to come undone. Bursting with vitality and romance, *Twelfth Night* gives us one of Shakespeare's most dynamic heroines, matching wits with a host of captivating characters. *Suitable for high school-aged audiences and up.*

#Alley12Night

### **Holiday favorite returns!**

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

By Charles Dickens

Adapted and originally directed by Michael Wilson

Directed by James Black

**Previews Begin:** November 16, 2018

**Open:** November 18, 2018

**Close:** December 30, 2018

Hubbard Theatre

Houston's seasonal favorite returns! *A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas* is a 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. *Suitable for ages 6 and up.*

#ChristmasCarolHOU

### **A new comedy by a Texas playwright**

#### **WORLD PREMIERE**

#### **THE CARPENTER**

By Robert Askins

**Previews Begin:** January 18, 2019

**Open:** January 23, 2019

**Close:** February 10, 2019  
Hubbard Theatre

Developed during the 2016 Alley All New Festival, this world premiere farce comes from the author of the Alley's hit *Hand to God*. Dan is a self-made man from blue collar Houston while his fiancé is from Dallas — Highland Park, to be exact. As they arrive at her father's palatial mansion for their wedding, Dan starts to get cold feet. His college buddies are trying to get him drunk, his future father-in-law keeps shooting his rifle into the ceiling, and his sassy sister can't put the pill bottle down. When the carpenter shows up to build the wedding gazebo, looking suspiciously like Dan, all hell breaks loose. There are mistaken identities. Family secrets. Accidental partner swaps and laughs. So many laughs. *Suitable for ages 18 and up.*  
#AlleyTheCarpenter

**An Alley All New play with a healthy dose of drama**  
**TEXAS PREMIERE**

**QUACK**

By Eliza Clark

**Previews Begin:** February 8, 2019

**Open:** February 13, 2019

**Close:** March 10, 2019

Neuhaus Theatre

Developed during the 2018 Alley All New Festival. Millions of women across America rely on Dr. Irving Baer and his daytime talk show to help them lose weight, manifest their destinies, and take their health into their own hands. Then, a take-down piece of journalism goes viral, leaving his career hanging in the balance, his marriage on the rocks, and his carefully maintained public persona in peril. In the frenzy of crisis management that follows, one thing becomes clear...if Irving Baer is going to fall from grace, he's bringing everyone else with him. Eliza Clark's hilarious new comedy exposes the shaky foundations of the wellness industry, the fleeting nature of 21<sup>st</sup> century fame, and the relationship between the powerful men who dole out advice and the women who are supposed to receive it with a smile. *Suitable for ages 18 and up.*  
*Produced in association with Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles*  
#AlleyQuack

**A family drama pulsating with life**

**THE HUMANS**

By Stephen Karam

Directed by Brandon Weinbrenner

**Previews Begin:** March 1, 2019

**Open:** March 6, 2019

**Close:** March 24, 2019

Hubbard Theatre

Hopeful, heartbreaking, and at times "blisteringly funny" (*The New York Times*), *The Humans* takes place on Thanksgiving as three generations of the Blake family gather at the youngest daughter and her boyfriend's new apartment in Lower Manhattan's Chinatown. As darkness falls outside and around the pre-war duplex, tensions rise and secrets are divulged. The hopes and fears of each generation – and the American middle class – are revealed in this Tony® Award -

winning Best Play that *The New York Times* hailed as “the best play of the year.” *Suitable for ages 18 and up.*  
#AlleyTheHumans

**Pulitzer Prize-winning play**  
**CRIMES OF THE HEART**

By Beth Henley  
Directed by Theresa Rebeck  
**Previews Begin:** April 12, 2019  
**Open:** April 17, 2019  
**Close:** May 5, 2019  
Hubbard Theatre

Winner of the 1981 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle Award, Beth Henley’s first play brings you to the Mississippi home of the Magrath sisters. Babe has just shot her husband because she didn’t like his looks. This brings middle sister Meg back to town from Los Angeles, where she is unsuccessfully pursuing a music career. And poor Lenny, everyone has forgotten her birthday! Warm-hearted, irreverent, and imaginative, *Crimes of the Heart* teams with humanity as the sisters forgive the past, face the present, and embrace the future. Renowned playwright Theresa Rebeck returns to the Alley to direct. *Suitable for high school-aged audiences and up.*  
#CrimesOfTheHeart

**Recent Broadway and London hit**  
**CONSTELLATIONS**

By Nick Payne  
Directed by Leslie Swackhamer  
**Previews Begin:** May 3, 2019  
**Open:** May 8, 2019  
**Close:** June 2, 2019  
Neuhaus Theatre

One couple. Infinite possibilities. Science and romance collide in this spellbinding play that imagines what happens when boy meets girl. And when boy meets girl again. And again. Defying the boundaries of the world we think we know, *Constellations* delves into the universal truth of finding and losing love and questions the difference between choice and destiny. “Who knew that higher physics could be so sexy, so accessible—and so emotionally devastating?” (*The New York Times*). *Suitable for ages 13 and up.*  
#AlleyConstellations

**Action-packed adventure**  
**THE THREE MUSKETEERS**

By Ken Ludwig  
Adapted from the novel by Alexandre Dumas  
**Previews Begin:** May 31, 2019  
**Open:** June 5, 2019  
**Close:** June 30, 2019  
Hubbard Theatre

All for one and one for all! A swashbuckling romp of romance, danger, and comedy, perfectly suited for the whole family. Alexandre Dumas' timeless tale springs to life as the young D'Artagnan, joined by his sister Sabine, discovers honor amid intrigue and high-stakes adventure when he meets the famous Three Musketeers. En garde for this action- and humor-packed summer hit. *Suitable for ages 6 and up.*

In addition to the eight productions in the 2018-19 Season, one of which will be announced at a later date, ExxonMobil's Summer Chills returns in August with the classic whodunit **Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap***.

### **AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP**

By Agatha Christie

Directed by James Black

**Previews Begin:** August 10, 2018

**Open:** August 15, 2018

**Close:** September 2, 2018

Hubbard Theatre

The ExxonMobil Summer Chills returns with the longest running show in world theatre history, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. James Black, Interim Artistic Director will direct this classic whodunit that recently celebrated its 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary on London's West End and yet still thrills audiences today. A group of strangers find themselves trapped in a British boarding house during a snow storm with a murderer afoot. It's an Agatha Christie plot twist finish you won't want to miss. Come chill out with the Alley once again this summer. *Suitable for ages 12 and up.*

#AlleyMousetrap

The fourth annual **Alley All New Festival** will be held January 17-27, 2019. Dates and titles to be announced.

**TICKET AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Season Tickets can be ordered online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700). Subscribers can purchase a 5-play package containing *Twelfth Night*, *The Carpenter*, *The Humans*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *The Three Musketeers*; prices range from \$125-\$465. An 8-play package is also available containing all the plays in the 5-play package plus *Skeleton Crew*, *Constellations* and *Quack*, with prices from \$198-\$649. Subscribers may purchase priority tickets for **Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*** and **A *Christmas Carol*** before going on sale to the general public. Groups of 10 or more may reserve discounted tickets now by calling 713.315.3346.

Single tickets for **Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*** go on sale this spring and can be purchased either online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700). The remaining productions for the 2018-19 Season will go on sale on July 23, 2018. 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. Visit [alleytheatre.org/discounts](http://alleytheatre.org/discounts) for more information.

**NEW FLEX SUBSCRIPTION PASSES:** The Flex Subscription is 6 or 10 vouchers to use for any Alley subscription show in the 2018–19 season and includes all subscriber benefits. Passes

are valid September 2018 – July 2019 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 2018-19 Season sponsors are United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre; Four Season Hotel Houston, the official hotel of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt.

**PRESS MATERIALS:** [alleytheatre.org/press](http://alleytheatre.org/press)

### **ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE**

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Interim Artistic Director James Black 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 newly renovated 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.