

# ALLEY THEATRE

## New Play QUACK Injects Comedy On Stage at Alley Theatre February 8 – March 10

*The play is directed by Tony Award-winner Judith Ivey who previously directed the Alley's 2005 production of Steel Magnolias*

HOUSTON –The Alley Theatre and Interim Artistic Director, James Black, announce the cast and crew of the regional premiere of **Quack** by Eliza Clark and directed by two-time Tony Award-winner Judith Ivey. *Quack* was developed during the 2018 Alley All New Festival and the Alley's production will be the second time the play has been produced. *Quack* runs February 8 – March 10, 2019, in the Neuhaus Theatre. Tickets are available at [alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at 713.220.5700.

Eliza Clark's hilarious new comedy *Quack* follows famed TV doctor, Dr. Irving Baer. Millions of women across America watch his daytime talk show for advice on losing weight, manifesting their destinies, and taking 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. *Quack* exposes the shaky foundations of the wellness industry, the fleeting nature of 21st-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.

The *Quack* cast includes Alley Resident Company members Chris Hutchison (*Twelfth Night, Dry Powder*) as Dr. Irving Baer and Jay Sullivan (*Twelfth Night, The Mousetrap*) as Brock Silver. Michelle Elaine (*The Carpenter* workshop, *All the Way*) and Julia Krohn (*Freaky Friday, Peter Pan*) return to their roles from the *Quack* festival reading as River Thumbolt and Meredith Baer, respectively. Actor Christina Liang (New Jersey Repertory: *Issei, He Say*, Project Y Theatre: *In The Line*) makes her debut at the Alley playing the role of Kelly Henning.

*Quack* is directed by Texas native Judith Ivey who returns to the Alley after having previously directed the 2005 production of *Steel Magnolias* and the 2002 production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Additional *Quack* creative team members include scenic design by Linda Buchanan, costume design by Andrea Lauer, lighting design by John Ambrosone, sound design by David Remedios, New York casting by Binder Casting and stage manager is Rebecca R.D. Hamlin.

*Quack* playwright Eliza Clark has developed plays at Manhattan Theatre Club, the Studio at Cherry Lane Theatre, Page 73 Productions, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and others. She has received commissions from South Coast Repertory and Yale University's O'Neill Studio. Clark was a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre's emerging writers group, Youngblood, and was the 2010 Page 73 Playwriting Fellow. Most recently, she was a member of Center Theatre Group's writers group. Her play *Edgewise* was co-produced by Page 73 and The Play Company in 2010 and her play *Recall* was produced by Colt Coeur at The Wild Project in 2012. Her play *Future Thinking* was featured on The Kilroy's List and produced at South Coast Repertory in spring 2016. *Edgewise, Recall, and Future Thinking* are published by Samuel French. Clark also has written for television including AMC's "Rubicon" and "The Killing." She is a writer and co-executive producer on "Animal Kingdom" for TNT.

The Alley Theatre held a reading of *Quack* in the 2018 Alley All New Festival. The play premiered last fall at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles where the *Los Angeles Times* described the play as "invigorating fun!" and "a lively, chilling new comedy".

*Quack* begins previews February 8, opens February 13 and runs through March 10 in the Neuhaus Theatre. Performances of *Quack* 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. *Quack* is recommended for mature audiences, ages 13 and up.

**SPONSORS:** The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2018-19 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre; Four Seasons Hotel Houston, the official hotel of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt.

**TICKETS:** Tickets to *Quack* are now on sale and start at \$45. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. Tickets can be ordered online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700).

**ALLEY IN CONTEXT:** The Alley Theatre will present a post-show discussion following the Tuesday, February 10 (7:30 p.m.) performance with director Judith Ivey. After the 7:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, February 16, civic leaders, distinguished academics, and area professionals will discuss the themes of the play and how they are reflected in our lives today.

The *Quack* cast will be featured during a post-show discussion following the Tuesday, February 19 (7:30 p.m.) performance.

**DESIGNER TALK:** An hour before the Sunday, February 10 matinee preview performance (2:30 p.m.), a member of the artistic staff will lead a discussion with the production's creative team to give audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the design process. These pre-show talks will offer audiences an exclusive opportunity to ask questions about the designer's work and learn how they brought the script to life. Designer Talks will take place in the Texas Room.

**PRESS PHOTO:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r6yk676o4wx78vh/AACXk6bllbYZ7cusdzMmuayPa?dl=0>

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#### **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. Rob Melrose will serve as the Alley's Artistic Director beginning with the 2019-20 Season. 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.

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