



# DORSET THEATRE FESTIVAL 2023 PLAY IN VERMONT

**“The 2023 Season will be thrilling, thoughtful, adventurous, and surprising. We are so honored and excited to be joined by such talented theater-makers in bringing these smart and funny plays to life, including another Dorset World Premiere production.”**

-Interim Executive Producing Director Will Rucker

**JUNE 23 - JULY 8**

**MISERY**  
NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING  
PLAY BY WILLIAM GOLDMAN

**JULY 21 - AUGUST 5**

**STILL**  
BY LIA ROMEO

**AUGUST 11 - 26**

**MS. HOLMES & MS. WATSON, APT 2B**  
BY KATE HAMILL

**SEPTEMBER 1 - 10**

**The THANKSGIVING Play**  
BY LARISSA FASTHORSE



Now in its 46th year, Dorset Theatre Festival produces a professional Main Stage season at the historic Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, VT, highlighting both new plays and classic works. Enlightening, entertaining, and inspiring audiences since 1977, the Festival’s annual celebration of great plays runs June through September and features top theatre-makers from around the country.

Increasingly known for high-quality world and regional premiere productions, in 2017 the Boston Globe dubbed the Festival, “Just north of the Berkshires, a new destination for playwrights.” In addition to Main Stage productions of new plays, the Festival’s new play development programs showcase works-in-progress and provide the Southern Vermont region an opportunity to play a key role in the evolution of new plays in consideration for future productions at the Festival and beyond.

The World Premiere of SCARECROW  
written and performed by Heidi  
Armbruster (2022). Photo by Joey Moro



"This is high quality  
theatre, just what we  
have come to expect  
from this fine company."

**- BERKSHIRE ON STAGE**

# ANNOUNCING THE 46TH SEASON

## MISERY



NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING  
PLAY BY WILLIAM GOLDMAN  
DIRECTED BY JACKSON GAY

## STILL



BY LIA ROMEO  
Directed by Adrienne Campbell-Holt

The season will open with **Misery**, William Goldman's edge-of-your-seat adaptation of Stephen King's terrifying novel that inspired the 1990 Oscar-winning film starring Kathy Bates and James Caan.

After being rescued from a wintery car crash, acclaimed romance novelist Paul Sheldon finds himself incapacitated in the secluded home of Annie Wilkes, his "Number One Fan." Events take a nightmarish turn, and the injured Paul realizes the unhinged Annie has no intention of letting him leave. This spine-tingling stage adaptation traps audiences in the room with Paul, who must outsmart Annie if he wants to escape the tense game of cat-and-mouse that captivates until the very end.

Jackson Gay returns to Dorset to direct after helming the Festival's 2022 season opener, *Wait Until Dark*, and the acclaimed 2019 production of *Slow Food* that reunited actors Dan Butler and Peri Gilpin, both alums of the hit TV comedy, *Frasier*.

**"Misery is an old-fashioned thriller, where terror and humor intertwine to keep you on the edge of your seat, or hiding under it."**

-Jackson Gay, the director of *Misery*

The season will continue with the World Premiere of **Still** by Lia Romeo, directed by four-time Festival director, Adrienne Campbell-Holt.

Campbell-Holt's previous Dorset World Premiere, *Downstairs* by Theresa Rebeck starring Tim and Tyne Daly, went on to an Off-Broadway production at the Cherry Lane Theatre in NYC produced by Primary Stages in 2017.

Thirty years ago, Helen and Mark broke up, but they never completely forgot about each other. When they meet for dinner to catch up, the flame is rekindled... but Mark is running for Congress, and Helen has a secret that could derail his bid. Lost love is revisited and an avocado goes flying in Lia Romeo's whirlwind world premiere comedy about getting older, political divisions, and roads not taken. A story for anyone who's ever wondered: "what if?"

**"I am so happy to be returning to Dorset Theatre Festival, after spending so many wonderful summers there. I have no doubt audiences will be as moved by Lia's play as I was, and I can't wait to collaborate with the incredible actors who will bring the play to life."**

- Adrienne Campbell-Holt, the director of *Still*

# PROFESSIONAL SUMMER THEATRE SINCE 1977



## MS. HOLMES & MS. WATSON - APT. 2B



BY KATE HAMILL

Next on the 2023 Main Stage will be ***Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B***, a new play written by one of America's hottest playwrights, Kate Hamill.

Fast-paced and wildly entertaining, *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B* is a brilliantly theatrical take on the famous sleuth and sidekick that re-examines Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic adventure stories through a bold new female lens. In this highly theatrical, small-cast escapade, oddball female roommates Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Joan Watson join forces to emerge from the pandemic fog as a deeply codependent, quasi-dysfunctional, Odd Couple adventure duo - careening from caper to caper in a rollicking murder mystery that packs in non-stop laughs and hijinks galore!

The season will conclude with **Larissa FastHorse's hilarious *The Thanksgiving Play***, directed by **Raz Golden**. Slated for an upcoming limited engagement on Broadway, the play is one of the country's most-produced comedies.

An undeterred elementary school teacher desperately attempts to devise a pageant about the first Thanksgiving - one that challenges stereotypes, meets all the requirements of a Native American Heritage Month grant, and pacifies the parents. Wanting to avoid any un-PC missteps, three "woke" white thespians quickly find themselves sabotaged by myth, confounded by history, and drawn into a hysterical roast of the politics of entertainment and well-meaning political correctness alike.

Raz Golden returns to direct after his acclaimed World Premiere production of *Queen of the Night* by Travis Tate during Dorset's 2021 outdoor season at the Southern Vermont Arts Center.

"As an artist obsessed with how Americans tell the stories of our past, *The Thanksgiving Play* has been a dream of mine to work on. The play dissects the foundational American myth of the 'First Thanksgiving' and reconstructs it in both familiar and jarring ways. Not to mention, it's very, very funny,"

- Raz Golden, director of *The Thanksgiving Play*.

## The THANKSGIVING Play



BY LARISSA FASTHORSE  
Directed By Raz Golden



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



**WILLIAM GOLDMAN (Playwright)** was a two-time Academy Award winner for his screenplays of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *All the President's Men*. His novels *The Princess Bride*, *Marathon Man*, *Magic*, *Heat* were all turned into films. Theater credits include *Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole* with his brother James Goldman, and *A Family Affair* with James Goldman and John Kander.



**JACKSON GAY (Director)** is a freelance director, writer and co-Producing Artistic Director of New Neighborhood. Jackson's directing work includes *The Seagull* (Juilliard); *Kleptocracy by Kenneth Lin* (Arena Stage); *These Paper Bullets!* by Rolin Jones with music by Billie Joe Armstrong (Critics Pick Time Out NY, Best Production and Adaptation LA Sage Awards, Time Out Los Angeles, Connecticut Critics Circle Award Best Production and Best Director).



**LIA ROMEO (Playwright)** is a playwriting fellow at Juilliard. Her plays have been developed at the O'Neill, La Jolla Playhouse, the Lark, and elsewhere, and have been produced off-Broadway at 59E59 as well as regionally. Four of her plays have been recognized by the Kilroys List. She is the associate artistic director with Project Y Theatre Company, and teaches playwriting at Primary Stages/ESPA and in the M.A. program in creative writing at Fairleigh Dickinson University.



**ADRIENNE CAMPBELL-HOLT (Director)** is a NYC-based director and choreographer and the Founding Artistic Director of Colt Coeur. She is the recipient of the Lucille Lortel Visionary Director Award. Adrienne was profiled in *Women in Hollywood* and featured in *American Theatre* magazine. In 2022 Adrienne was featured in *People.com* and featured in *Broadway Women's Fund* "25 Women to Watch on Broadway." In 2022 her production of *Afterwords* at the 5th Avenue won the Heileman & Haver Awards for "Best original production" and "Best new musical."



**KATE HAMILL (Playwright)** Kate was named 2017's Playwright of the Year by the *Wall Street Journal*. She has been one of the 10 most-produced playwrights in the country for the last 5 years. In both 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, she wrote two of the top 10 most produced plays in the U.S.; many of her plays have been produced internationally.



**ANEESHA KUDTARKAR (Director)** is a New York-based theatre director. She likes plays that start out normal and then get weird. As a trained Indian Classical dancer, she creates compositionally-driven pieces of theatre that centralize historically excluded voices. Aneesha was a Drama League Director's Project Fellow in 2015, and the recipient of the 2019 Kauffman Memorial Prize at Yale. Recent directorial projects include *Queen* (National Asian American Theatre Company, Longwharf Theatre) *The Cherry Orchard* (The New School), *The Who* and *The What* (TheaterWorks Hartford).



**LARISSA FASTHORSE (Playwright)** (Sicangu Lakota Nation) is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow, award winning writer/choreographer, and co-founder of Indigenous Direction, the nation's leading consulting company for Indigenous arts and audiences. She is the first Native American playwright in the history of American theater on the list of top ten most produced plays in America. Additional produced plays include *What Would Crazy Horse Do?* (KCRep), *Landless* and *Cow Pie Bingo* (AlterTheater).



**RAZ GOLDEN (Director)** Raz is a 2019 Drama League Classical Directing Fellow and a former Resident Director at The Flea. He has developed work with the Public Theatre, The National Black Theatre, NYU Tisch, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Waterwell, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and McCarter Theatre. He is currently a member of the Drama League Director's Council and the Roundabout Directors Group.



DORSET  
THEATRE  
FESTIVAL  
PLAY IN VERMONT

Kathy McCafferty and David Mason in  
THIRST by Ronan Noone (2022). Photo by  
Joey Moro



"...the very best that American theater has to offer with a drive up to the cool woods of Dorset..."

**- NIPPERTOWN**



# OUR NEED THIS SEASON

## 2023 Projected EXTRAORDINARY Expenses

As we head into 2023 we still feel the pandemic's effects. Since 2019 ticket sales have been down industry-wide while total expenses are up, and continue to rise. Like many businesses, we are facing housing shortages and increases in the cost of living. Deliveries and lumber have been more expensive and shortages affected physical production. Theater unions require strict safety protocols and rules have great consequences for our budget and capacity. Our reality that a single case of Covid among our union artists could threaten an entire production and a quarter of the annual projected earned income continues to be a great risk.

### Over \$240,000 in increased housing, staffing, production, and Covid expenses

Below are just some examples of essential investments required for the Festival to maintain its 46-year history of producing professional theatre in Southern Vermont.

#### RENTAL HOUSING

2023 Projected Cost: \$192,000

+ \$115,700 since 2019

152% Increase



#### SEASONAL STAFFING

2023 Projected Cost: \$262,670

+ 105,170 since 2019

67% Increase



#### CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

2023 Projected Cost: \$60,374

+ \$13,038 since 2019

43% Increase



#### PPE SUPPLIES & SAFETY

2023 Projected Cost: \$15,000

\$86,000 spent since 2019


100% Increase





**DORSET  
THEATRE  
FESTIVAL**  
PLAY IN VERMONT

SARA HAIDER as Susan Hendrix in *Wait Until Dark*  
(2022). Photo by T Charles Erickson Photography



“ the scariest stage  
denouement this reviewer has  
ever seen — rather, experienced.  
This was truly exciting — and  
rewarding — theater.”

**— RUTLAND HERALD**



# BUSINESS SPONSORS TAKE CENTER STAGE

## Audience base in...

- Vermont
- The Berkshires
- Boston
- Albany
- New York City
- Saratoga Springs

## Online Community



over 125,000 website visitors every season



more than 50,000 views on promoted Facebook posts



over 8,000 weekly e-newsletter followers



over 1,800 Instagram followers

## Press Coverage in...

The New York Times - The Boston Globe - American Theatre Magazine - Broadway World - WAMC Radio - Vermont Public Radio - New England Newspapers - Vermont News Guide - Playbill.com

## SPONSORSHIP STARTING AT \$500!

### Some sponsorship benefits include:

- Physical & digital branding opportunities at the Playhouse with hundreds of visitors daily
- Complimentary tickets for you & 50% off employee tickets all season long



## HELP BRING WORLD-CLASS ART TO OUR REGION

Every summer the Festival produces professional bold new work and reinvigorated classics, attracting over 8,000 patrons and award-winning stars of both stage and screen.

## EXPAND ACCESS TO THE ARTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dorset Theatre Festival is committed to the ongoing work and practice of making our theatre a place that welcomes all. The Festival's ticket access programs help expand the reach of our productions by providing free and reduced-cost tickets to groups who serve our community.

# Levels & Benefits

**FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS \$500 +**

**SUPPORTERS \$1,500 +**

**CO-PRODUCTION SPONSORS \$3,000 +**

**PRODUCTION SPONSORS \$6,000 +**

**MAIN STAGE SPONSORS \$10,000 +**

**SEASON SPONSORS \$15,000 +**

**BRAND RECOGNITION**

**TICKETS**

**EXPERIENCES**

Sponsorship recognition on all Dance Party advertising and announced live at event

Sponsorship recognition in printed audience materials

Listing on each show page of digital season playbill

Sponsorship recognition in recorded pre-show announcement

Logo on production pages of Festival website

Inclusion in press releases and e-newsletters throughout the season

Full-page color ad in digital season playbill

1/2 page color ad in digital season playbill

1/4 page color ad in digital season playbill

Logo listing in digital season playbill

Live linked logo on Current Sponsors page of website

Listing on production lobby display and sponsor board

20 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production

16 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production

12 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production

8 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production

6 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production

4 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production

50% off Employee Tickets (limits apply)

Invitation to behind-the-scenes rehearsals

Invitations to opening night receptions and special events

	SS	MSS	PS	CPS	S	FN
Sponsorship recognition on all Dance Party advertising and announced live at event	SS					
Sponsorship recognition in printed audience materials	SS	MSS				
Listing on each show page of digital season playbill	SS	MSS				
Sponsorship recognition in recorded pre-show announcement	SS	MSS	PS			
Logo on production pages of Festival website	SS	MSS	PS	CPS		
Inclusion in press releases and e-newsletters throughout the season	SS	MSS	PS			
Full-page color ad in digital season playbill	SS	MSS	PS			
1/2 page color ad in digital season playbill				CPS		
1/4 page color ad in digital season playbill					S	
Logo listing in digital season playbill						FN
Live linked logo on Current Sponsors page of website	SS	MSS	PS	CPS	S	FN
Listing on production lobby display and sponsor board	SS	MSS	PS	CPS	S	FN
20 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production	SS					
16 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production		MSS				
12 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production			PS			
8 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production				CPS		
6 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production					S	
4 complimentary tickets to use as you wish for any Main Stage production						FN
50% off Employee Tickets (limits apply)	SS	MSS	PS	CPS	S	FN
Invitation to behind-the-scenes rehearsals	SS	MSS	PS			
Invitations to opening night receptions and special events	SS	MSS	PS	CPS	S	FN



**DORSET  
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The World Premiere of *DOWNSTAIRS* by  
Theresa Rebeck starring Tim and Tyne  
Daly (2017). Photo by Gerry Goodstein



“Just north of the Berkshires, a  
new destination for actors and  
playwrights.”

— **THE BOSTON GLOBE**

Dorset Theatre Festival's

# DANCE PARTY BALL

FRIDAY, JULY 14

***YOU'RE INVITED***

*You won't want to miss the best party of the summer...*

**OPEN BAR – FOOD – CHANCES TO WIN – DJ –  
PHOTO BOOTH – DANCING – LIVE AUCTION**

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**

**SOUTHERN VERMONT ARTS CENTER**

Come celebrate the 46th Season, party with friends, dance the night away, and help keep the tradition of professional theatre alive in Southern Vermont by supporting Dorset Theatre Festival.

Showcase your business or  
be an underwriter at the  
hottest party of the summer  
with over 200 guests!

Be an event VIP SPONSOR

**\$5,000**

- Sponsor recognition on all Dance Party advertising and announced live at event
- Complimentary indoor premium dance floor table for 8 at the event OR 20 complimentary single tickets for friends/employees.

Be an event PREMIUM SPONSOR

**\$3,500**

- Sponsor recognition on all Dance Party advertising and announced live at event
- Complimentary reserved outdoor table for 8 at the event OR 15 complimentary single tickets for friends/employees.

Be an event UNDERWRITER

**1,500**

- Sponsor recognition on all Dance Party advertising and announced live at event
- 5 complimentary single tickets for friends/employees.

# BE A SPECIAL EVENT EVENT SPONSOR



"...this is one party you  
wont want to miss..."

**- NIPPERTOWN**

# FEATURE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE 2023 AUCTION!



We are asking local merchants and businesses to support us as generously as possible in our goal of bringing first class, innovative, professional theatre to our community.

Any donations of services or merchandise with a minimum value of at least \$50 will be gratefully accepted. The auction will begin online this June offering your business exposure not only to our local Vermont markets, but also to over 8,000 patrons who visit Dorset Theatre Festival every year.

## WHEN YOU DONATE YOU RECEIVE:

Donor credit -- Live link to your website & recognition on the Festival's website -- Recognition in email blasts & local print advertising -- Inclusion in promoted digital campaigns and 2023 Digital Playbill -- Physical display and branding opportunities at the Playhouse throughout the 2023 Season

- Your Name or Business Name to be Credited: \_\_\_\_\_
- Item(s) to be donated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Value of donation: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Name (if different), Phone, & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ask questions or return completed forms to Ryan Koss- [ryan@dorsettheatrefestival.org](mailto:ryan@dorsettheatrefestival.org) / (802) 867-2223 EXT 104*

*Dorset Theatre Festival is a registered 501(c)3 organization*