

# ALLEY THEATRE

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## Alley Theatre Presents *Spicy Comedy Seared*

***Neuhaus Theatre will transform into a working restaurant kitchen with high-level dishes cooked stage!***

HOUSTON, TX—Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director **Rob Melrose** announce the cast of *Seared*. Directed by Associate Artistic Director **Brandon Weinbrenner**, *Seared* is a sizzling comedy by **Theresa Rebeck** that dives into the high-stakes world of an up-and-coming restaurant. Houston Chef **Justin Yu** will consult and teach the cast and creative team the innerworkings of a fast-paced high-end restaurant.

“When I first moved to Houston, I was impressed by the city’s vibrant food scene,” mused **Melrose**. “This dynamic culinary world makes it so exciting to immerse our audience in the high-stakes drama of the restaurant industry. What excites me most, however, is welcoming Theresa Rebeck’s work back to our stage. *Seared* marks the seventh play of hers that we’ve produced at the Alley, a testament to the special place she holds here. Beyond her writing, Theresa has also directed at the Alley, helming unforgettable productions of *All My Sons* and *Crimes of the Heart*. It’s always a joy to experience her words brought to life, and we’re thrilled to share her work once again.”

**Weinbrenner**, known for his dynamic and fast-paced direction, shared his insights on the production, “I couldn’t be more thrilled to direct *Seared* in a city like Houston. Like any other sensible Houstonian, I love dining out. And not just for the delicious food but also for the drama! There are high stakes, urgent timing, opinions galore, relationships in the kitchen and on the floor, and *all* of that in Theresa Rebeck’s *Seared*. And I get to collaborate with friends! Theresa and I have been friends for a decade. The cast is made up of our beloved Resident Acting Company members and a big local talent. My friend, renowned Chef Justin Yu (Theodore Rex, *Squable*, *Better Luck Tomorrow*), will serve as our Chef Consultant. What more could you ask for? We’re all ready to take a bite out of *Seared*!”

Audiences are invited to indulge their senses in this spicy comedy of culinary chaos, where artistic vision clashes with the hard realities of business. The arrival of a seasoned restaurant consultant adds fuel to the fire, igniting a battle that promises to leave everyone craving more. Set in the Neuhaus Theatre, transformed into an intimate restaurant kitchen, the action unfolds up close, immersing viewers in the heat of the moment.

The cast of *Seared* includes Resident Acting Company members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Emily, **Chris Hutchison** as Mike, and **Christopher Salazar** as Harry.

Rounding out the cast is **Kory LaQuess Pullam** (Alley All New Reading of *Uhuru* and *Christa McAuliffe’s Eyes Were Blue*) as Rodney.

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Riw Rakkulchon**, Costume Designer **Erica Griese**, Lighting Designer **Aja M. Jackson**, Sound Designer **Fredrick Kennedy**, Chef Consultant **Justin Yu**, Fight Director & Intimacy Specialist **Adam Noble**, Stage Manager **Amy Ramsdell**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Brandon Clark**.

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**SPONSORS:** *Seared* is generously supported by Jillian Jopling & Peter McGillivray, Victoria & Alex Lazar, and Amy & John Miller (Associate Producers). Alley Theatre is supported by the 2024-25 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites Downtown Houston, the official hotels of Alley Theatre.

**ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES:** Captioned Performance on Sunday, February 16 at 2:00 PM, Audio Described Performance on Sunday, February 16 at 7:00 PM and ASL Interpreted Performance on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 PM.

**TICKETS:** Performances run **Friday, February 7 to Sunday, March 2** in the Neuhaus Theatre. Tickets are on now sale, starting at \$58. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, educators and any student, regardless of age, with a valid ID for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700).

**PRESS NIGHT:** Wednesday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m. Invitations to be sent at a later date.

**CONNECT WITH US:** @alleytheatre, #AlleySeared

## **ABOUT ALLEY THEATRE:**

Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Alley produces up to 11 plays and nearly 400 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors and expert artisans in all theatre crafts, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, directors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

Alley Theatre performs at the Meredith J. Long Theatre Center which is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs.

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