

ALLEY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 23, 2023

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Alley Theatre Announces the Cast & Creative Team of *Little Comedies* by Anton Chekhov

Alley Theatre Commission will feature Alley's Resident Acting Company for an extraordinary theatre experience

HOUSTON TX - The Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre announces the cast and creative team of the world premiere of ***Little Comedies*** by **Anton Chekhov**, translated by **Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear,** and **Larissa Volokhonsky**. Directed by Tony-Award® playwright and legendary director **Richard Nelson**, *Little Comedies* runs **October 6 – October 29, 2023** in the Neuhaus Theatre.

What do *Swan Song*, *The Bear*, *The Proposal*, *The Wedding*, and *The Harmfulness of Tobacco* have in common? They are all one-act comedies written by Anton Chekhov that will be performed by the Alley's Resident Acting Company and directed by the Tony-Award® winning playwright and legendary director Richard Nelson. Acclaimed Russian literature translators Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky collaborated with Nelson to create a new English translation which will make for an extraordinary theatre experience.

"I'm so honored to be able to announce the Alley's commission of new translations of Chekhov's short plays by world-renowned playwright and director Richard Nelson and super-star translators Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky," shares Artistic Director **Rob Melrose**. "I'm especially excited for Richard Nelson to direct our resident acting company in his unique style that achieves a level of intimacy unlike anything I have experienced in the theatre before. Chekhov considered himself a comic playwright and his short comedies really demonstrate to the world his sense of humor and humanity. This is a rare chance to see these wonderful short plays."

"This production of *Little Comedies* by Anton Chekhov is both an experiment and a celebration." shares director and translator **Richard Nelson**. "An experiment because these short plays are usually produced as short farces or even one-note jokes. However, we hope we can present them as one would Chekhov's great plays, where characters struggle, are lost, unaware, scared – and are always recognizably human, and so like us. The 'comedy' of these 'comedies' then, is that of being profoundly human. As for the celebration, this production honors Alley's wonderful acting company. These five plays, newly translated by Larissa Volokhonsky and Richard Pevear (the foremost translators of Russian literature into English alive today) and myself, were commissioned expressly for the Alley acting company, which has become the last standing acting company in the American non-profit theatre. These actors and the company's continued survival are worth celebrating."

The cast of *Little Comedies* includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members as listed: *The Bear* will include **Melissa Molano, Christopher Salazar,** and **Todd Waite**. *The Proposal* will include **Elizabeth Bunch, Chris Hutchison,** and **David Rainey**. *The Wedding* will include **Elizabeth Bunch, Dylan Godwin, Shawn Hamilton, Chris Hutchison, Melissa Molano, Melissa Pritchett, David Rainey, Christopher Salazar,** and **Todd Waite**. *The Harmfulness of Tobacco* will include **David Rainey**. *Swan Song* will include **Melissa Pritchett** and **Todd Waite**.

The creative team of *Little Comedies* includes Scenic Designer Alley Theatre's Director of Design **Michael Locher**, Costume Designers Tony-Award® winner **Susan Hilferty** (*Funny Girl*, *Wicked*) and **Camilla Dely**, Tony-Award® winning Lighting Designer **Jennifer Tipton** (*Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, *The Cherry Orchard*), Tony-Award® winning Sound Designer **Scott Lehrer** (*Rogers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*), Stage Manager **Krissy Larson**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Kaylee Sarton McCray**.

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30pm. Invitations will be sent later.

SPONSORS: Alley Theatre is supported by the 2023-24 Season sponsors United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites Downtown Houston, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

TICKETS: Tickets to *Little Comedies* are now on sale and start at \$51. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, and any student or educator, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. The first five performances are preview performances, allowing audiences to be a part of the development process of shows. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

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PHOTO OF ALLEY THEATRE'S RESIDENT ACTING COMPANY: [Link Here](#)

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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