

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Announces Programming for the 2025 Alley All New Festival

The Alley presents bold new plays by Mark Bedard & John Tufts, Lisa D'Amour, Chisa Hutchinson, and Marisela Treviño Orta.

HOUSTON, TX – Alley Theatre's All New Festival is back this fall as it features a three-day festival of staged readings on October 24-26. The Festival welcomes five of the boldest voices in American playwriting: **Mark Bedard & John Tufts, Lisa D'Amour, Chisa Hutchinson, and Marisela Treviño Orta.**

Since its inception in 2016, Alley All New Festival has become an incubator for American theatre as 30 of 42 plays represented have gone on to world premiere productions. This season, *Born with Teeth* by Liz Duffy Adams will be produced in London's West End and *Torera* by Monet Hurst-Mendoza and Thornton Wilder's *The Emporium* will be produced off-Broadway, all developed through the Alley All New Festival. In addition to productions at the Alley, the Festival has consistently seen its plays move on to Broadway and off-Broadway, as well as Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Washington, D.C., Seattle, and Dallas.

"The Alley All New Festival has become an important part of our work," shares Artistic Director **Rob Melrose**. "It is in many ways the launching pad for lots of great new plays that eventually make their way onto Alley stages and beyond. *Born with Teeth*, *Pictures from Home*, *The Emporium*, *Torera*, *Amerikin*, and *December: a love years in the making* all started as a part of Alley All New before they received full productions on our stages. I'm really excited to welcome Chisa (*Amerikin*) and Marisela (*December...*) back this year. I've admired Lisa D'Amour's work for years and now that she is teaching at the University of Houston, it is fun to celebrate her wonderful writing. I've also been a huge fan of John Tufts and Mark Bedard for years, especially their brilliant adaptation of *Coconuts: a Marx Brothers Musical*, and it is exciting to have them at the Alley working on their next new play: a slap-stick comedy / murder mystery. And of course, the world premiere of *The Body Snatcher* will be your chance to see what Katie Forgette is up to next after her huge success at the Alley with *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*. It is going to be a wonderful festival!"

All readings are free and open to the public, with weekend packages offering VIP treatment – priority seating, artist access and a celebratory dinner with Alley artists and more.

Single reservations will be available at a later date. Alley All New programming is recommended for mature audiences. All updates and schedules will be available at alleytheatre.org/allnew.

Full casting will be announced later.

Additionally, single tickets for the Alley's 2025-26 Season are on sale today.

2025 ALLEY ALL NEW FESTIVAL

DATING COMPREHENSION

By Chisa Hutchison

Directed by Amber D. Gray

One eligible bachelorette. Five sexy singles. Like, a million possible endings.

Meet Bliss, a perpetually single thirty-something looking for her soul mate. So far, she hasn't had much luck. But that's where you come in. Make your opinion known, while helping Bliss to navigate a sea of scrubs, duds, and potential true loves. It's like those dating shows you secretly love to watch, but LIVE and in person.

Sunday, October 26 at 10:30AM

A LOCO-MOTIVE FOR MURDER

By Mark Bedard and John Tufts

Directed by Rob Melrose

All aboard for murder, mystery, and mayhem! Newspaper tycoon Edmand Blablüt is dead, and one of his fellow passengers pulled the trigger. There's only one man brilliant enough to solve the crime. What's that? There are two? Okay, there are *two* detectives, and one of them may or may not be brilliant enough to catch the killer. Get ready, because *A Loco-Motive for Murder* is pulling into the station!

Saturday, October 25 at 10:00 AM

THE SMOKER

By Lisa D'Amour

Directed by Shelley Butler

Remember smoke breaks? Somewhere on the neutral ground between private apartments and public streets, four humans' bond in three-to-five-minute intervals. The cigs bring pleasure and calm nerves, even as each drag brings them closer to death. But then again, can you really stay healthy in a country that's trying to kill you?

Saturday, October 25 at 4:30 PM

WOMB 2.0

By Marisela Treviño Orta

Directed by Tatiana Pandiani

In the not-so-distant future, an undetectable virus has turned childbirth into a terrifying gamble. It's Claudia's first day on the job at WMB, an ultra-secure, ultra-sterile, and ultra-exclusive birthing clinic. Her task is simple: welcome the patients to their nine-month stay in this state-of-the-art facility. Just make sure the wrong things don't get inside.

Friday, October 24 at 4:30 PM

Sunday, October 26 at 4:30 PM

**All readings are for mature audiences. Check alleytheatre.org for updates and the current schedule.*

WORLD PREMIERE ADD-ON

In addition to the Alley All New Festival readings, guests may choose to add on a ticket to the world premiere of *The Body Snatcher*, which runs concurrently:

THE BODY SNATCHER

By Katie Forgette

Directed by Brandon Weinbrenner

October 3 – 26, 2025

Just in time for spooky season, Robert Louis Stevenson's famous Victorian Gothic classic comes alive onstage. A father's love for his ailing daughter and her growing affection for his medical assistant create an ethical dilemma as they push medical boundaries. As the bodies stack up, the question is asked – how deep will you dig for the one you love?

WEEKEND PACKAGES

Weekend packages for October 24-26 are available for an early bird price of \$145 until September 14. Prices will then increase to \$165. Packages include:

- Preferred seating at all four readings
- Preferred seating to both Up Close with the Artists Panels
- An invitation to the Welcome Reception with Alley Artists
- An invitation to the exclusive Festival Dinner
- Exclusive lounge with complimentary snacks, beverages, and WiFi
- A ticket to the world premiere of *The Body Snatcher*

PRESS

All workshop performances and readings at the Alley All New Festival are works in progress and not available for review

ALLEY ALL NEW

Alley All New is comprised of a variety of public and in-house programs designed to support playwrights and cater to the needs of each new project. Through this initiative, the Alley produces world premieres, commissions new plays, and supports playwrights year-round. The Alley All New Festival made its debut in 2016. Join the Alley Insider Group by emailing alleyinsider@alleytheatre.org and learn more about new work in development and be the first to hear about Alley All New events. More information and updates can be found on alleytheatre.org/allnew

SPONSORS: Special thanks to the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for Supporting Alley Theatre. Alley Theatre is supported by the 2025-26 Season sponsors United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites Downtown Houston, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

CONNECT WITH US: @alleytheatre, #AlleyAllNew

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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