

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Announces Resident Acting Company Casting for its 80th Season

The Season Features Timeless Classics, Playfulness and Two world premieres

HOUSTON, TX – Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director Rob Melrose announces the Resident Acting Company casting for its 80th Season.

The Alley's Resident Acting Company is a cornerstone of its artistic identity. Comprised of seven actors, the Company brings a unique and vital element to Alley's productions. They are not just performers; they are the heart and soul of the Alley.

"The Resident Acting Company is the backbone of Alley Theatre," shares **Melrose**. "I'm biased but I am most excited for you to see them all speaking Shakespeare's words once again in *Romeo and Juliet*. Our Resident Acting Company Members are so good with language because acting is really a muscle that needs to be exercised and our actors are in constant practice. Hearing them say the Bard's words will be a treat. You can also see most of them this Christmas in *A Christmas Carol* and then all of them will rejoin director Richard Nelson on *The Cherry Orchard*. They all felt that working with Richard on Chekhov's *Little Comedies* was a life-changing experience and I can't wait for you to see what they do with Chekhov's last play. Then they will all be in Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile*. Our actors probably have more experience with Agatha Christie than any actors in the world and it will be exciting to watch them do one of Christie's most famous mysteries in a new version by Ken Ludwig. It promises to be an exciting season for the Resident Acting Company."

The 2025-26 Resident Acting Company includes **Elizabeth Bunch**, **Michelle Elaine**, **Dylan Godwin**, **Chris Hutchison**, **Melissa Molano**, **David Rainey**, and **Christopher Salazar**.

2025-26 Season

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Rob Melrose

September 25 – October 11, 2026 in the Hubbard Theatre

Timeless Love, Eternal Risk

Set in timeless Verona, two star-crossed souls defy the forces that seek to keep them apart. This production of Shakespeare's classic tragedy shows how each generation reinvents what it means to love and risk everything for it. Discover why this tale continues to inspire artists, dreamers, and lovers.

The cast includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Lady Capulet, **Michelle Elaine** as Nurse, **Dylan Godwin** as Benvolio, **Chris Hutchison** as Tybalt, **Melissa Molano** as Juliet, **David Rainey** as Lord Capulet, and **Christopher Salazar** as Friar Lawrence.

ALLEY THEATRE

A Christmas Carol

From the novella by Charles Dickens
Adapted and originally directed by Rob Melrose
Remount directed by Amber D. Gray
Nov. 15 - Dec. 28, 2026 in the Hubbard Theatre
Houston's Holiday Tradition!

Rediscover the timeless tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation as he encounters the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Be transported into Victorian England with dazzling costumes and stunning sets. Join us for a Dickensian celebration of love, redemption, and the true spirit of Christmas!

The cast includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members **Michelle Elaine** as Mrs. Fezziwig, **Dylan Godwin** as Bob Cratchit, **Chris Hutchison** as Marley, **Melissa Molano** as Belle, **David Rainey** as Ebenezer Scrooge, and **Christopher Salazar** as Fred.

The Cherry Orchard

By Anton Chekhov
Translated by Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear, and Larissa Volokhonsky
Directed by Richard Nelson
Feb. 12 – March 7, 2027, in the Neuhaus Theatre

Chekhov's Masterpiece Stripped Down

One of theatre's most celebrated works is stripped down to its essentials. An aristocratic family and their servants grapple with the imminent loss of their beloved estate. Meanwhile, their country faces radical, irreversible change. Step into Chekhov's world as never before.

The cast includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Liubóv Andréevna Ranévskaia (Lyúba), **Michelle Elaine** as Charlóttá Ivánovna, **Dylan Godwin** as Pyótr Sergéevich Trofímov (Pétya), **Chris Hutchison** as Semyón Panteléevich Epikhódov, **Melissa Molano** as Vára (Varvára Mikháilovna), **David Rainey** as Leoníd Andréevich Gáev (Lyónya), and **Christopher Salazar** as Ermolái Alexéevich (Alexéich) Lopákhin.

Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile

Adapted for the Stage by Ken Ludwig
Directed by Eleanor Holdridge
April 9 – April 25, 2027, in the Hubbard Theatre

Luxury Cruise, Deadly Secret, Poirot's Puzzle

Step aboard for a lush and opulent journey up the Nile! A luxurious honeymoon cruise turns deadly when a murder occurs among wealthy passengers. Hercule Poirot must untangle a web of jealousy and suspicion to identify the killer aboard the ship. Prepare for a thrilling, witty, and dazzling whodunit where everyone has a secret.

The cast includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Salomé Otterbourne, **Michelle Elaine** as Linnet Ridgeway, **Dylan Godwin** as Rames Praed, **Chris Hutchison** as Septimus Troy, **Melissa Molano** as Jacqueline de Bellefort, **David Rainey** as Atticus Praed, and **Christopher Salazar** as Arthur Hastings.

ALLEY THEATRE

Full casting and creative teams for all productions will be announced later.

Season Subscriptions are available at alleytheatre.org/subscribe.

SEASON SPONSOR: Alley Theatre is supported by the Season 80 sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and The District, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

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 Jennifer Bielstein. 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 350 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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