

ALLEY THEATRE

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Media Contacts:

Caroline Austin, PR and Communications Manager, carolinea@alleytheatre.org, 713.315.3335

Alley Theatre Announces Programming for the 2026 Alley All New Festival

The Alley presents bold new plays by

Liz Duffy Adams, Jake Brasch, Gloria Majule, and Luis Quintero.

HOUSTON, TX – Alley Theatre's All New Festival is back this fall as it features a three-day festival of staged readings on October 23-25, 2026. The Festival welcomes four of the boldest voices in American playwriting: **Liz Duffy Adams, Jake Brasch, Gloria Majule, and Luis Quintero.**

Since its inception in 2016, Alley All New Festival has become a leading incubator for new American plays, with 33 of 46 featured works going on to receive a world premiere. In addition to productions at the Alley, Festival shows have moved to Broadway, Off-Broadway, and London's West End, as well as Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Washington, D.C., Seattle, Dallas, and more.

"If you've never been to the Alley All New Festival, this year is the perfect year to go. The Alley All New Festival is one of my favorite times of the year at the Alley," shares Artistic Director **Rob Melrose**. "It is the one week in our season when we have four teams of playwrights, directors and actors working on projects at the same time. The whole theatre feels alive with energy and excitement. Then the amount of work, ideas, and inspiration you are able to experience in one weekend is really exciting."

Melrose continues, "This year's offerings are especially worth your time. Our full production is the world premiere of *Uhuru* by Gloria Majule, which was an audience favorite as a reading in our 2024 Alley All New Festival. I'm so excited for the audience to get to know Gloria's work, and especially her delightful sense of humor. In addition to this full production, will also be doing a reading of Gloria's play *African Mom's Book Club*. Frequent Alley actor Luis Quintero was nominated for a Lortel award for his hip-hop, battle-rap version of *Medea: Re Versed* and now we are so excited to be a part of his next adaptation of an ancient Greek story: *Hippolytus / Phedra*. I was a big fan of Jake Brasch's Off Broadway hit *The Reservoir* last year, and I'm an even bigger fan of his new play *Family Weekend* - it is hilariously funny and remarkably poignant at the same time. Alley audiences know Liz Duffy Adams' work from *Born with Teeth* and *Dear Alien*. What they might not know is that Liz's most successful play prior to *Born with Teeth* was a comedy about the first woman ever to make her living as a writer in the English language: Aphra Behn. Liz Duffy Adams' newest play, *Lunacy*, uses Aphra Behn's *The Emperor of the Moon* as a jumping off point for a new science fiction play, set on the first moon colony. It is a rich collaboration across many centuries! With so many of our past Alley All New plays going on to full productions at the Alley, in New York, London, across the country and across the world; this really is your chance to see it first!"

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.

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 Season 80 are on sale today.

2026 ALLEY ALL NEW FESTIVAL

LUNACY

OR,

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE MOON

by Liz Duffy Adams

For all of human history, we've wanted to go to the moon. This wildly imaginative spin on Aphra Behn's Restoration comedy is part period piece and part science fiction. It launches past the original, spanning time, genre, and space. Discover Alley veteran Liz Duffy Adams' latest play, written with input from real NASA scientists.

AFRICAN MOMS' BOOK CLUB

by Gloria Majule

A Milwaukee Repertory Theater original commission part of the John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program

Four ultra-wealthy Tanzanian women gather every month, to decide on their next book club read. This month, they chose the Bible. Again. With the arrival of a new member from abroad, tensions rise and cracks begin to form in the women's perfectly manicured lives and fiercely held beliefs.

FAMILY WEEKEND

by Jake Brasch

It's Family Weekend at Rocky Mountain Joy, a substance abuse treatment center in rural Colorado. In the wilderness, families contend with their loved ones, their counselor...and a pesky elk that won't get lost. Laugh along with this dark comedy about addiction, family, and the limits of love.

HIPPOLYTUS/PHEDRA

by Luis Quintero

Love is one heck of a drug. Phedra, Queen of Troizen, harbors a secret passion for her stepson, the Prince Hippolytus. With King Theseus nowhere to be found, tension in the household rises with each passing moment. Will love triumph over all? Or is it a shortcut to destruction? Experience this Ancient Greek hip-hop infused opera, inspired by Euripides, Seneca, Racine and Kane.

**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 *Uhuru* which runs concurrently:

UHURU

By Gloria Majule

Directed by Shariffa Ali

Developed in 2024 Alley All New Festival

October 16 – November 8, 2026

An unlikely group takes on a “Tanzanian-only” ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro in this sharp satire. The dramedy follows a Tanzanian-American tourist, two missionaries, and their guide as they make their way toward the “Roof of Africa.” They must confront questions of access, identity, and who deserves a place on the mountain.

WEEKEND PACKAGES

Weekend packages for October 23-25 are available for an early bird price of \$175 until September 4. Prices will then increase to \$195. 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 *Uhuru*

PRESS

All 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: Alley Theatre is supported by the Season 80 sponsors United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and The District, 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 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 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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