



***ALLEGIANCE, CURIOUS INCIDENT, SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE,
MEN ON BOATS, and EVERY BRILLIANT THING***
HIGHLIGHT SPEAKEASY'S 2017-2018 SEASON

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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(BOSTON) - A new version of the acclaimed American musical **ALLEGIANCE**; the Tony Award-winning drama **THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME**; the gender-flipping phenomenon **MEN ON BOATS**; the life-affirming charmer **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**; and the sparkling British comedy **SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE** will make up SpeakEasy Stage Company's 2017-2018 Season, the company's Founder and Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault announced today.

The schedule for SpeakEasy Stage Company's 27th Season will be:

MEN ON BOATS – by Jaclyn Backhaus / Sept. 8 - Oct. 7, 2017

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME – Based on the novel by Mark Haddon,
Adapted by Simon Stephens / Oct. 20-Nov. 18, 2017

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE –Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard,
Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall / Jan. 12 - Feb. 10, 2018

EVERY BRILLIANT THING – by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe / Mar. 2 - 31, 2018

ALLEGIANCE – Book by Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, and Lorenzo Thione; Music and Lyrics by Jay Kuo /
May 4 – June 2, 2018

"Once again I am excited to offer Boston audiences an ambitious and entertaining slate of the very best contemporary plays and musicals," said Daigneault, in announcing the new line-up. "Each of these shows is uniquely theatrical and celebrates the importance of sharing our stories to better appreciate our common humanity."

"I am also excited for the many opportunities these shows offer a diverse group of local artists, both young talent and experienced professionals. It's going to be a very exciting year!"

All 2017-2018 shows will be performed in SpeakEasy's home in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

For more information on SpeakEasy's 27th Season or to subscribe, the public can call the SpeakEasy Administrative Office at 617-482-3279 or go online to www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

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Here is more information on each of SpeakEasy's 2017-2018 shows. Please note that all dates, artists, and repertoire are subject to change.

"A thrilling, gender-flipped slice of manifest destiny" – Time Out New York

1) MEN ON BOATS

by Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Dawn M. Simmons

Boston Premiere! September 8 – October 7, 2017

Press Performance - Sunday, September 10 - 3PM

Roberts Studio Theatre

MEN ON BOATS is a rollicking adventure tale brought thrillingly to life by a gender-bending cast of diverse performers who use carefully exaggerated theatrics to tell the story of an actual 1869 expedition to chart the Colorado River. Comedic but never camp, pointed but never political, this rousing historical saga is a provocative meditation on gender and historical memory that offers a new lens through which to view our shared past.

"Triumphant. It's a production that retunes the way you see and hear" – The New York Times

2) THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon, Adapted by Simon Stephens

Directed by Paul Daigneault

Boston Regional Premiere! October 20 – November 18, 2017

Press Performance – Sunday, October 22 - 3PM

Roberts Studio Theatre

Winner of five Tony Awards including Best Play, **THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME** is a truly remarkable theatrical experience that will change how you experience everyday life. Based on the best-selling novel, the play takes us inside the mind of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old math savant who talks in loud declamatory sentences, doesn't do "chat," and can't stand to be touched. When he discovers one night that his neighbor's dog has been murdered, Christopher sets out to solve the crime, embarking on a thrilling journey that will upend both his world, and ours.

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"Sheer stage poetry mixed with effervescent fun. Makes you feel grateful to be alive" - The Independent

3) SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard

Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall

Directed by Scott Edmiston

New England Premiere! January 12 – February 10, 2018

Press Performance – Sunday, January 14- 3PM

Virginia Wimberly Theatre

Based on the Academy Award-winning film, **SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE** tells the story of young Will Shakespeare, who is suffering a severe case of writer's block as the deadline fast approaches to deliver his new play, *Romeo and Ethel, The Pirate's Daughter*. Enter Viola, a headstrong noblewoman and admirer of Will's, who disguises herself as a boy so she can skirt the law and appear (as a girl) in his play. But when the playwright and his muse fall in love, the plot undergoes some surprising rewrites. Mistaken identities, courtly intrigue, and backstage bickering are all part of the fun in this raucous romantic comedy of errors that reminds us that all the world's a stage and love is unrehearsed.

"Heart-wrenching, hilarious, possibly one of the funniest plays you will ever see" – The Guardian

4) EVERY BRILLIANT THING

by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe

With Adrienne Krstansky

Boston Premiere! March 2 – 31, 2018

Press Performance – Sunday, March 4 - 3PM

Roberts Studio Theatre

1. Ice cream 2. Water fights 3. Staying up past your bedtime and being allowed to watch TV. These are just a few items on a list of things worth living for compiled by a young girl trying to ease her mother's depression at the start of the charming and miraculous new play **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**. Through adulthood, as the list grows, she learns the deep significance the list has on her own life, as she goes to college, falls in love, and builds a home. A tribute to the irrepressible resilience inside all of us and the capacity to find delight in the everyday, **EVERY BRILLIANT THING** is a very funny and moving new play that enlists members of the audience to help tell its story.

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"See it and cheer" - NY Observer

5) ALLEGIANCE

Book by Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, and Lorenzo Thione

Music & Lyrics by Jay Kuo

Directed by Paul Daigneault

East Coast Regional Premiere! May 4– June 2, 2018

Press Performance – Sunday, May 6 - 3PM

Roberts Studio Theatre

Inspired by the true childhood experience of TV/film actor and social media icon George Takei (Mr. Sulu on "Star Trek"), **ALLEGIANCE** tells the story of the Kimura family, whose lives are upended when they and 120,000 other Japanese-Americans are forced to leave their homes following the events at Pearl Harbor. Sam Kimura seeks to prove his patriotism by fighting for his country in the war, but sister Kei fiercely protests the government's treatment of her people. An uplifting testament to the power of the human spirit, **ALLEGIANCE** follows the Kimuras as they fight between duty and defiance, custom and change, family bonds and forbidden loves. SpeakEasy Stage is proud to breathe new life into **ALLEGIANCE** by presenting the East Coast regional premiere of an intimate version of this important musical.

Subscription Information

Subscriptions for SpeakEasy Stage Company's 2017-2018 Season are now on sale by calling 617-482-3279 or online at www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

Information on all of SpeakEasy's 2017-2018 shows and subscription options can be found by visiting www.SpeakEasyStage.com/Season27.

Patrons with subscription questions may also call Jim Torres at 617-482-3279 or write Jim at JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com.

Tickets to individual shows in SpeakEasy's 2017-2018 Season go on sale in August.

Press inquiries should be directed to **SpeakEasy Marketing Director Jim Torres**.

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