



OUR MISSION

SpeakEasy Stage Company produces intimate, entertaining plays and musicals that are new to Boston and compel thoughtful conversation. We champion new talent and future arts leaders, alongside a diverse community of experienced local theatre professionals who share our devotion to excellence. We treat our artists, audiences, and supporters as collaborators, working with us to make Boston a city that is sustainable for artists.

OUR VALUES

Heart, Loyalty, Excellence, Courage, Respect, and Joy



FROM THE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



I am pleased to present to you our Annual Report for Season 28, which covers the period from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

I am so proud of our company and its extraordinary accomplishments this year. Our work facilitated very important conversations about truth, identity, longing, pain, heart, inspiration, self-confidence, and more – so many of the human emotions and values with which we all wrestle every day. No matter

where we are in the world – be it smack in the middle of urban chaos or in the tranquil silence of a mountain retreat – we long to connect with others and feel a sense of belonging. This season presented us with some powerful themes to discuss with our patrons, and we are thrilled by the deep impact these conversations have made in the community.

Thank you – from the bottom of my heart – to all of the talented actors, musicians, designers, directors, and technicians who shared their gifts with us this season. Your creative and visionary work inspires my own artistic process and provides an incredible source of entertainment for the Boston community. And to the SpeakEasy boards and volunteers, your dedication and support has had a transformative impact on the company this year. Truly, we could not have done this without you!

And finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our amazing community of donors and subscribers. Your belief in our mission, your generosity, and your participation motivates us everyday – thank you.

With gratitude,

Paul Daigneault
Producing Artistic Director





BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY

SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 13, 2018

CREATING MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

The artistic team curates SpeakEasy's seasons to include plays and musicals that are not only entertaining, but also relevant, thought-provoking, and impactful. We produce shows that explore timely issues and themes that are prevalent in today's society, tackling the topics that "everyone is talking about." Our selections include shows that are hot off of New York, London, and Chicago stages, re-imagined in our intimate theatre space with the best of Boston's talent. Then we engage the audience in post-show conversations, social media discussions, and community events that deepen the shows impact on our patrons.

"SpeakEasy Stage Company has emerged from its fringe beginnings to become one of the finest theatrical troupes in the city – period. SpeakEasy has made a habit of bringing some of the best that Broadway has recently offered here, and this latest effort does the troupe – and, by extension – the rest of the city's theatrical scene proud."

–Rich Fahey, *On Boston Stages*

By **Stephen Adly Guirgis**

Directed by **Tiffany Nichole Greene**

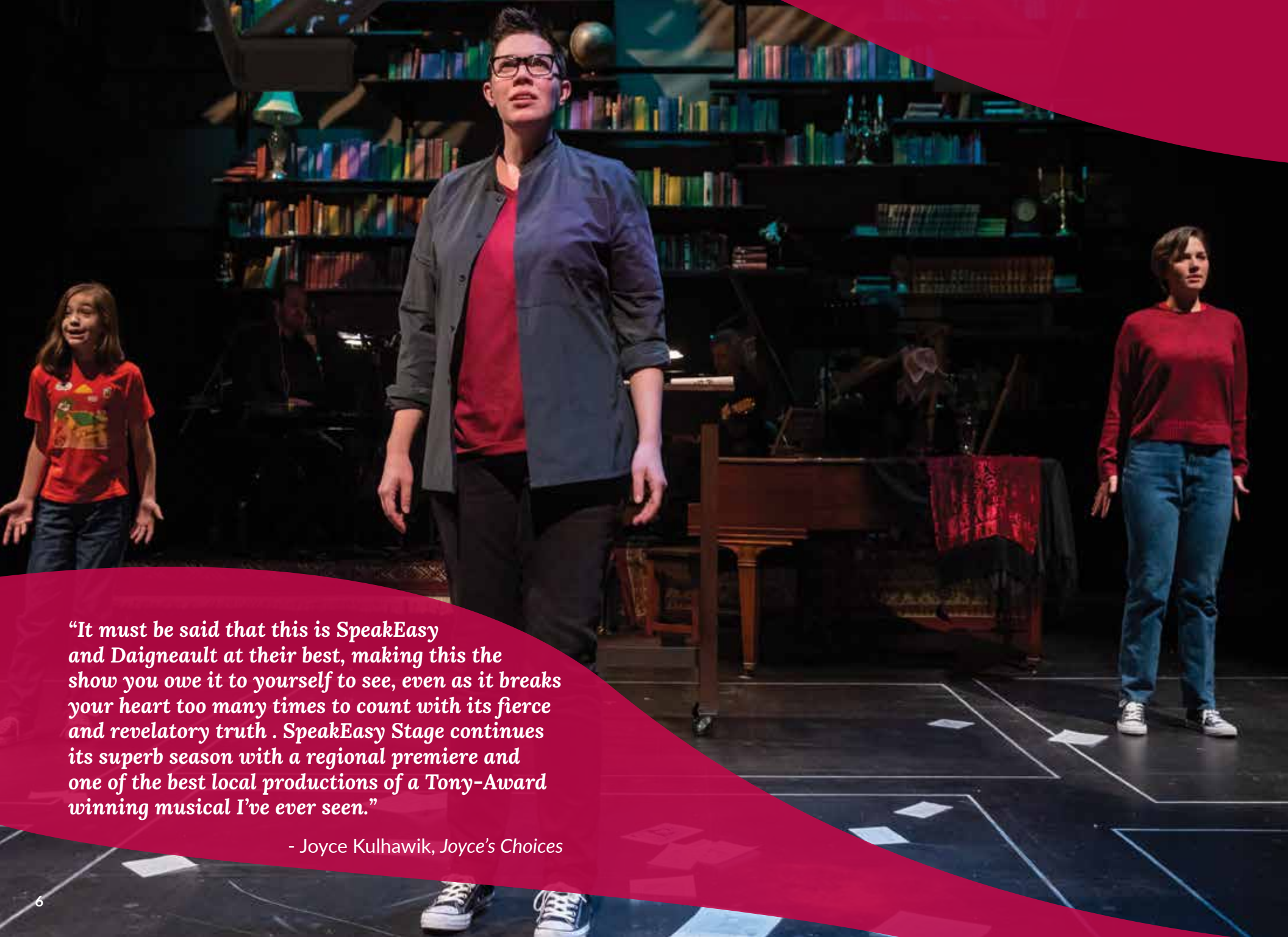
"Show me a cop who actually does his job, sees what we see, becomes what the streets make us become – show me one cop who did what I did for thirty years who 'likes' himself."

Stephen Adly Guirgis' Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Between Riverside and Crazy* explores the slippery nature of justice, the instability of the truth, and the grit it takes to move on. The play follows a retired New York City policeman (Walter "Pops" Washington) and a cast of memorable characters as they struggle for survival in one of the last great rent-stabilized apartments. Raw, poignant, and disarmingly honest, this emotional piece encouraged audience members to debate the complex realities of the American Dream. SpeakEasy's remarkable cast garnered exuberant praise and critical acclaim, and the show won Elliot Norton Awards for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Actor (Tyrees Allen). Recognized universally for the brilliance of the script and the truths it conveys, *Between Riverside and Crazy* gave audiences an inside look at the glorious contradictions that make up human nature.



"Virtually everyone...is on the edge and at least half-broken but none are beyond repair – or, crucially, redemption – in the outstanding SpeakEasy Stage Company production of this perceptive, humane, frequently funny play. Under the sure-handed direction of Tiffany Nichole Greene and persuasively acted across the board by a strong SpeakEasy cast, it's a work that engages the ear (...), the conscience, and the heart."

- Don Aucoin, *The Boston Globe*



“It must be said that this is SpeakEasy and Daigneault at their best, making this the show you owe it to yourself to see, even as it breaks your heart too many times to count with its fierce and revelatory truth . SpeakEasy Stage continues its superb season with a regional premiere and one of the best local productions of a Tony-Award winning musical I’ve ever seen.”

- Joyce Kulhawik, Joyce’s Choices

FUN HOME

OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 24, 2018 AND JUNE 8 - 30, 2019

Music by **Jeanine Tesori**
Book and Lyrics by **Lisa Kron**
Based on the Graphic Novel by **Alison Bechdel**

Directed by **Paul Daigneault**
Music Direction by **Matthew Stern**
Choreography by **Sarah Crane**

“I want to know what’s true, dig deep into who and what and why and when, until now gives way to then.”

Few productions have resonated so profoundly with SpeakEasy audiences as the soaring, Tony Award-winning musical *Fun Home*. Following cartoonist Alison Bechdel as she navigates her complicated family dynamic and discovers her sexual identity, the piece jumps through time with a unique storytelling device. Alison is shown at three ages – 10, 18, and 42 – and is played by three different actresses, each maneuvering their way to new discoveries through powerful, inspiring, and deeply emotional musical numbers. Director Paul Daigneault commented on how significant the process was for him, noting “There was nothing more rewarding than watching the young women in the audience recognizing themselves in the moments of joy and exploration shown on stage.” *Fun Home* made a enormous impact on the Boston community, completely selling out the last two weeks of the run and prompting the company to bring the show back for an additional four weeks in June. The remounted production again played to nearly sold-out houses, making it one of the best-selling shows in the history of the organization.



LAUNCHING EMERGING ARTISTS

At SpeakEasy, we make it a priority to cultivate the next generation of theatre artists by providing them the opportunities they need to develop their potential. We intentionally hire talented young actors to work alongside experienced actors, designers, directors, and stage managers who will encourage their professional growth. To support this program, in 2017 we created the Thomas Derrah Emerging Artist Fund in honor of the late Tommy Derrah, who was an outstanding mentor to young artists. During this 28th season, we recognized three artists with the Thomas Derrah Emerging Artist Award: Ellie Van Amerongen (Medium Alison in *Fun Home*), Geraldine Bogard (Gifty in *School Girls; or, The African Mean Girl’s Play*) and Abby Shenker (Scenic Designer for *The View UpStairs*). Mr. Derrah’s husband — actor, educator, and playwright John Kuntz — presented the awards to the artists.

“Performing in Fun Home helped me find myself in a lot of ways. Having just graduated from college, I am still very much figuring out who I am and where I belong. Doing Fun Home at SpeakEasy told me a lot about myself and challenged me in a way that has really inspired me. I’m so thankful for this production and all those involved, especially Paul.”

— Ellie Van Amerongen



SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 2, 2019

By **Bess Wohl**

Directed by **M. Bevin O'Gara**

“Feelings come. They go. They pass. As all things. Always. Do.”

One of the most unique plays SpeakEasy has ever produced, *Small Mouth Sounds* delighted audiences with its unconventional form of storytelling. The show followed six strangers as they searched for healing by participating in a silent retreat in the woods. Other than the omnipotent presence of an unseen teacher, the play is almost entirely without dialogue, focusing instead on facial expressions, gestures, movement, and emotional nuances to tell the characters’ stories. *Small Mouth Sounds* was critically acclaimed and widely loved by our audiences, due primarily to the legendary Boston-based cast, which took home the Elliot Norton Award for Best Ensemble. Tackling the query of how to address life’s biggest questions when words fail us, this funny, surprising, and deeply moving play managed to say a lot with very few words.

TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

Fellowship Program sponsored by the George & Alice Rich Foundation

At SpeakEasy, we are committed to helping prepare the leaders of tomorrow’s theaters and arts organizations through fellowship and internship programs. We give real work experience to college students and recent graduates to help them advance their careers while benefiting from their energy, talent, and dedication to our mission. In Season 28, we had 26 college interns for arts administration, production, and marketing (two of which are pictured above working our Season Wrap event). In addition, David Keohane served as Artistic Fellow, assisting with casting, student matinees, community engagement, and play selection as well as working on *Small Mouth Sounds* as Assistant Director.

“SpeakEasy’s fellowship provided me with valuable insights into how a successful nonprofit theater must function: with kindness, heart, consciousness, immense dedication, and, above all else, the ability and willingness to say “yes.” SpeakEasy is a gift to the Boston theater scene and I could not be more thankful for their knowledge and trust.”

- David Keohane, 2018-2019 Artistic Fellow

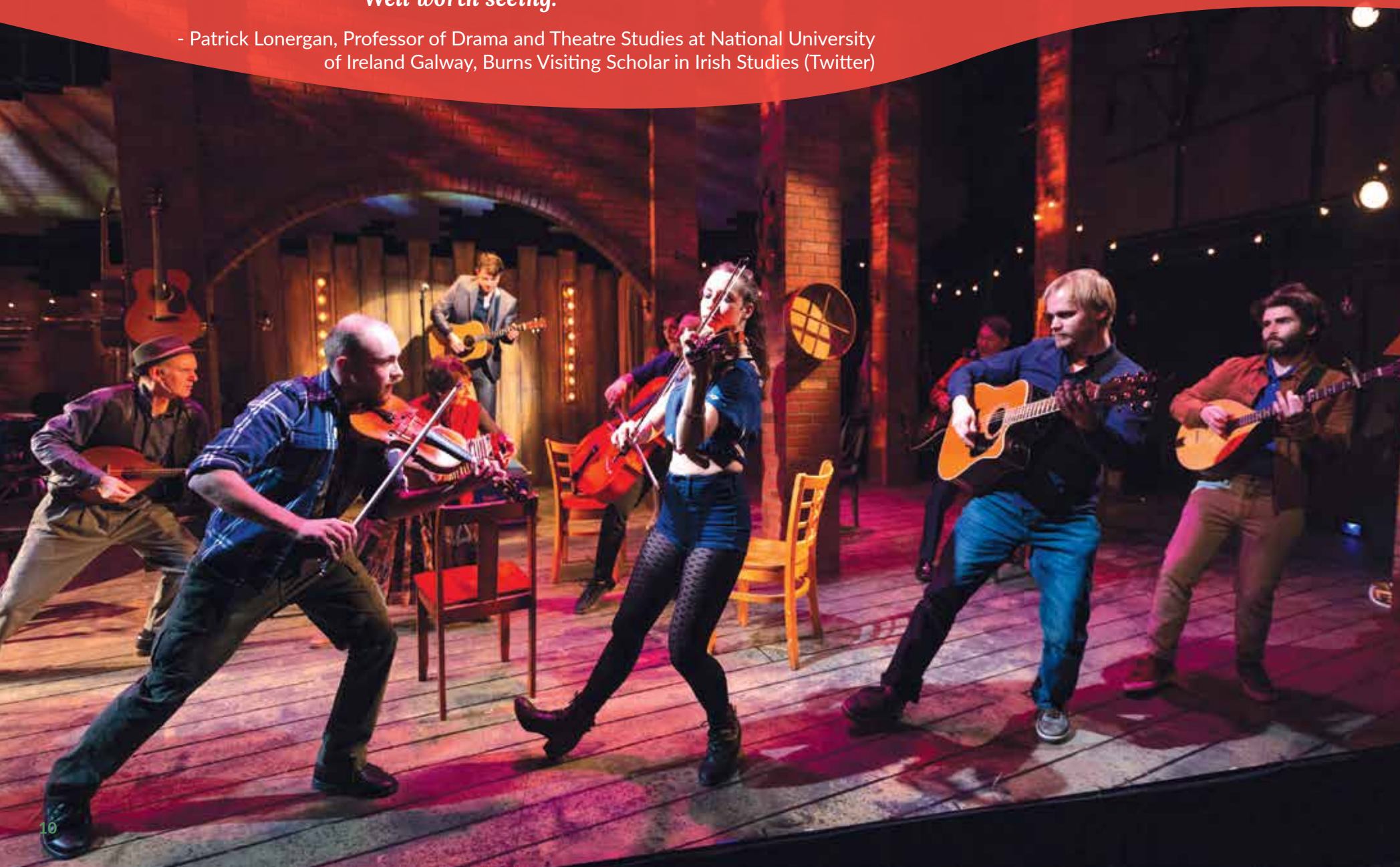
*“I organized a large group to see *Small Mouth Sounds*, and the reviews across the board have been glowing. Discussion around the show continues a week later as the characters permeate and themes percolate. A truly superb and lingering experience.”*

- Robby Morse Levy, Board of Advisors



Very enjoyable production of *Once* at @SpeakEasyStage on now. I loved the original John Tiffany production; this one does things differently - it's more intimate, raw and down-to-earth, but just as funny and moving as original. Well worth seeing."

- Patrick Lonergan, Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at National University of Ireland Galway, Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies (Twitter)



ONCE

MARCH 1 - APRIL 7, 2019

Book by: **Enda Walsh**
Music and Lyrics by: **Glen Hansard & Markéta Irglová**
Based on the Motion Picture Written and Directed by **John Carney**
Directed by **Paul Melone**
Music Directed by **Steven Ladd Jones**
Choreographed by **Ilyse Robbins**

"I know now what it was to be scared. That's a terrible lesson ya have to learn, isn't it? Wastin' life 'cause you're frightened of it."

Based on the widely-loved indie film of the same name, the intimate yet dynamic musical *Once* highlighted the power of music to connect us all. The story of an unexpected romance between a "down-on-his-luck" Irish musician and a determined Czech immigrant enthralled audiences with its charming characters, beautiful melodies, and distinct artistry. The superb cast also played multiple instruments throughout the show, serving as both actors and orchestra. The lush folk melodies, including the well-known "Falling Slowly", tugged at audience heart-strings and made us believe in the importance of dreams. Steven Ladd Jones won a well-deserved Elliott Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Supervision/Direction as did MacKenzie Lesser Roy for Outstanding Musical Performance, Actor. This production was SpeakEasy's blockbuster of the season, setting a company sales record, playing to sold-out houses, and receiving acclaim throughout the Boston community, proving how deeply audiences are inspired by the power of music.



CELEBRATING THE CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN MUSICAL

Composer Leonard Bernstein once described musical theatre as "an art that arises out of American roots, out of our speech, our tempo, our moral attitudes, our way of moving." We at SpeakEasy share this passion for the art form, and as such, are committed to presenting contemporary American musicals that are bold and relevant in both form and content. This season, SpeakEasy produced three American musicals that explore contemporary social issues, push the boundaries of the form, and pioneer new storytelling techniques (*Fun Home*, *Once*, and *The View UpStairs*). To celebrate, we hosted a series of free, post-show panels with local experts in musical theatre who discussed each show and how it fit into the musical theatre canon.

"With its current homegrown production [of Once], SpeakEasy Stage Company demonstrates once again its penchant for capturing the essence of an award-winning musical and successfully molding it to fit the expectations of their audience and the parameters of the Roberts Studio Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts."

- Nancy Grossman, *Broadway World*



SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY

MAY 3 - 25, 2019

INVITING STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE

Student Matinee Series sponsored in part by MassHousing and Berkshire Bank

Each season, SpeakEasy offers exclusive performances for middle and high school students with subjects uniquely relevant to their everyday lives. In Season 28, we hosted 550 students from eight schools for special matinees of *School Girls; or, The African Mean Girls Play*. Most students came from Boston Public Schools while others came from surrounding suburbs. More than half of the students reported that they had never before experienced live theatre! SpeakEasy provided a curriculum packet for teachers as well as a post-show conversation with the actors. In addition, Crystin Gilmore (actor who played the Headmistress) visited a number of schools before and after the play to help the students process its themes.

"I learned that no matter how people act or how they dress or talk, no one is perfect. You shouldn't think that their lives are better than yours because you never know what people are going through. It makes me feel less judgmental and more aware of how I act and talk around people."

-Brittany C, New Mission High School

By **Jocelyn Bioh**

Directed by **Summer L. Williams**

"I want, for once in my life, to FINALLY be seen!"

Set in a girls' boarding school in Ghana in the 1980s, *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* gives voice to a demographic not often heard or celebrated. The play follows a group of young Ghanaian women as they compete for the opportunity to represent their country as Miss Ghana in the Miss Universe pageant. When a light-skinned Ghanaian girl emigrates from the U.S. and immediately becomes a front-runner in the competition, the girls are forced to confront the power of Western beauty standards and the impact they have on the world. SpeakEasy's production was enthusiastically embraced in the Boston community, with a record number of student and community groups eager to experience the production. We were fortunate to have a visit from playwright Jocelyn Bioh, who spoke with community members and students about the experiences in her life that shaped this play. Hilarious and deeply moving, this piece explored the universal similarities (and glaring differences) that young women face across the globe.



"The production, it must be said from the outset, is that rare instance of perfect theatrical harmony where all the components coalesce into something that is both unmissable and unforgettable, a gorgeously acted production of a play that goes down easy yet stings with some uncomfortable truths."

- Christopher Ehlers, Dig Boston



“While some of the material was challenging, the pain and humanity of each of the characters shines through ... and challenging is what I expect from SpeakEasy. This is an important story ... I’m glad you have told it in such a bold and engaging production! Bravo!”

— Audience member

THE VIEW UPSTAIRS

MAY 31 - JUNE 22, 2019

Music, Book, and Lyrics by **Max Vernon**

Directed by **Paul Daigneault**

Music Directed by **Adam Bokunewicz**

Choreography by **Alessandra Valea**

“... and in a world of darkness, we create our own paradise.”

To fit in this important story, we stretched our season to add a sixth show and returned to our former home in the Plaza Theater at the Boston Center for the Arts (all other SpeakEasy shows took place in the Roberts Theatre in the Calderwood Pavilion). A more intimate and rugged space, the Plaza Theater was transformed into the UpStairs Lounge, a 1970s New Orleans gay bar that had been the site of a devastating fire, resulting in the death of 33 people. This immersive theatre experience brought the audience very close to the actors to follow the journey of Wes, a contemporary young fashion designer who is transported back in time and connects deeply with the bar’s fascinating characters. With a gritty, glam-rock score, this humorous and vibrant piece explored what has been lost, and what has been found, in the fight for equality. With a dynamic production team of emerging artists and designers, the show celebrated what it means to be yourself and find a community that embraces you for who you are.



ENGAGING GENERATIVE ARTISTS

Early in June, we were thrilled to welcome Max Vernon, author and composer of *The View UpStairs*, to speak about the play in the Boston Center for the Arts. In conversation with Michael Wartofsky, Professor at Berklee College of Music, the award-winning playwright discussed the creation of this musical, which spans several generations of gay history. They were joined by Robert Fieseler, author of *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the UpStairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*, which details the fire-bombing of the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans in June 1973, and how that little-known event led to the rise of a new national gay liberation movement. SpeakEasy audiences were deeply engaged in the conversation about the inspiration, process, and impact of the show.

“The point of this musical, I would argue, is to give you an emotional picture of a radical queer past, to take you on a personal rainbow-ride that, instead of telling you precisely how it was, shows you what it was like.... The View UpStairs, then, does the impossible work of taking you to that bygone party.”

- Robert Fieseler, author of *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*

THE BOSTON PROJECT



DIASPORA!

By Phaedra Michelle Scott

June 10, 2019

This play explores the world of Sunny, a writer on the edge of success, whose life is shaken when she discovers the truth about her family's connection to the diaspora.

"What I learned by writing this is that humans all have agency. We all make choices, even if our loved ones don't agree. It's up to us left behind to share those stories."



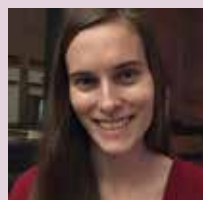
The Usual Unusual

By MJ Halberstadt

June 20, 2019

This play takes place in Boston's last LGBTQ+ community bookstore as it undergoes a significant leadership change, calling into question generational loyalties, the definition of inclusion, and how to mend a fractured community.

"I think it's a very special thing to be accepted and loved for the person you are. I think that should be the usual way a person lives. But some of us have to fight a little harder to get that."



Just Cause

By Laura Neill

June 21, 2019

This play is set in the abandoned MBTA tunnel under City Hall, where greedy corporate bigwigs compete with protesters and mysterious gory creatures in a harrowing epic about Boston's economy and what we do to survive.

"Don't you understand? If it IS the forces of righteousness – or evolution—or whatever – then being good, being on the side of the good, [...] that could save our lives."

Capturing Life in the Hub

Through our new works initiative, The Boston Project, we are creating more plays for the theatre canon that explore what it means to be in this city at this moment, tapping into the full breadth of experiences and identities that make up life in Boston.

In the fourth season of The Boston Project, SpeakEasy chose two new plays for development from 40 applicants – *The Usual Unusual* by MJ Halberstadt and *Just Cause* by Laura Neill. Working with SpeakEasy artistic staff and professional dramaturgs, the playwrights worked on their plays over the course of the year, culminating in staged readings to full houses in Deane Hall in the Calderwood Pavilion. SpeakEasy also brought back Phaedra Michelle Scott's play *DIASPORA!* for a second year, moving it through the next stage toward production.



"I am not able to work due to a disability and so I greatly appreciate being afforded the opportunity to go to the theater. Thank you for your generosity and good luck with the season. The actors were fantastic!"

- Eileen, Opening Doors to the Arts

Increasing Access to Theatre

We believe strongly in the power of theatre to make an impact on people's lives. When we see ourselves reflected on the stage or connect with the journey of a character, we develop empathy, compassion, and a better understanding of the world in which we live. At SpeakEasy, we believe that everyone deserves this opportunity, and so through several partnerships, we offer significant discounts and complimentary tickets to individuals and families with various needs. For example, we donated 125 tickets to the Opening Doors for the Arts program, which serves low income members in mental health recovery, and we offered 773 tickets through the Huntington Community Membership Initiative which serves 120 need-based community organizations in greater Boston. We also served 32 individuals and their families through the MCC's "EBT Card to Culture" program and donated tickets to 125 nonprofit organizations for their fundraisers. And finally, we offer seniors, students, and artists more affordable prices to encourage their participation.



BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sponsored in part by The Boston Foundation and MassHousing

SpeakEasy's production of *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* inspired many conversations about standards of beauty, colorism, and bullying. In partnership with The Boston Foundation and MassHousing, SpeakEasy invited 150 residents of subsidized housing units to experience the play with their families. We also invited playwright Jocelyn Bioh to participate in several conversations within the community. On May 7, Ms. Bioh, director Summer L. Williams, and Karen Holmes Ward from *CityLine* at WCVB publicly discussed the themes of the play at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury's Dudley Square. Ms. Bioh also talked with students from the Boston Public Schools at one of our student matinees and inspired them with her optimism and confidence.

"I am really grateful to MassHousing and SpeakEasy Stage for the opportunity to see this play. It touched on some relevant issues, such as racism, colorism and self-love. I wish every young woman of color had a chance to see this play to explore the topics and know there are other young women around the world grappling with these same issues."

-Annie Russell, New Academy Estates

Honoring Jeanine Tesori
Artistic Excellence Award
Spring Gala, April 5, 2019



At this year's Spring Gala, SpeakEasy recognized legendary Broadway composer Jeanine Tesori with the SpeakEasy Artistic Excellence Award for her outstanding musical compositions which have made her the most honored female theatrical composer in history. Tesori has changed the face of musical theatre by creating powerful female protagonists and giving voices to communities often ignored. SpeakEasy has presented three of her works: *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award for Best Original Score), *Violet*, and *Caroline, or Change* (2004 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music). By presenting artistically challenging and timely work like Tesori's, SpeakEasy has grown as a company and has raised the bar for professional theatre in Boston. Ms. Tesori was not able to be present at the Gala but sent along a video message to be played at the event, which included this comment:

"I can't quite express my love for SpeakEasy. Not only because they have done my work, but for everything they do for Boston. I have been up there, and I see the caliber, and it's really heartening and amazing to watch."

- Jeanine Tesori

With Gratitude to the Roberts

Thomas M. Menino Memorial Award for
Inspired Support of the Arts



Remarks from Alex Baker, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director, at the Spring Gala, April 5.

"We are here tonight to celebrate two Boston philanthropists who have been instrumental to the success of our organization, Nancy and Edward Roberts.

The Roberts have been longtime supporters as subscribers, leadership donors, and ambassadors for our company. Nancy has also

served on our Board of Directors for the past eight years, while Ed has acted as an advocate for the company and personal advisor to our leadership for over a decade. Thanks to their generosity and belief in the power of the arts to transform a community, SpeakEasy has its artistic home – the Nancy & Edward Roberts Studio Theatre at the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, where we host most of our productions.

The Roberts are not just generous to SpeakEasy – their support of the arts and education extends throughout our greater Boston community to organizations like Huntington Theatre Company, the Museum of Fine Arts, Lesley University, and MIT, to name just a few. They have also made significant contributions in their professions. Nancy was a faculty member at Lesley University for forty years, where she founded the Master's program in Technology in Education. And Ed is the David Sarnoff Professor of Management of Technology at MIT and is an expert in advanced technology management and entrepreneurship.

Ed and Nancy fully understand the resources it takes to produce high quality theatre, and they are committed to supporting those organizations about whose work they are passionate. It is because of their inspired, unwavering support of the arts and all that they have done for SpeakEasy that we present Nancy and Ed Roberts tonight with the Thomas M. Menino Memorial Award."

Leadership Giving

We are deeply grateful to these leadership donors for their extraordinary contributions to our Annual Fund and special events throughout the year. Their gifts make it possible for us to continue pursuing our mission, and we sincerely appreciate this generous community.

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THE KLARMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION





POP-UP PROHIBITION PARTY

Fall Benefit on November 4, 2018

Thirteen of SpeakEasy's board members and volunteers performed at the Fall Benefit alongside a talented group of local artists to present the entertaining and hysterical Pop-Up Prohibition Party at Carrie Nation Cocktail Club. Despite a visit from the "fuzz," and "Carrie Nation" herself, SpeakEasy's generous flappers and fellas helped raise over \$64,000 to support SpeakEasy's mission!



Annual Fund Support

Thank you to these generous donors who have made a gift in the past year to support our season. We are inspired by their continued commitment to our mission.

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\$500 - \$999

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Steven Littlehale & Howard Berman
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Cathy Marotta
Michael Maso & Lisa Coady
Joseph Misdraji
Thomas Norris
Aaron J. Nurick & Diane M. Austin
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Sarah & Jimmy Rich
Sharon & Howard Rich
Bruce & Christina Schneider
Chuck Schwager & Jan Durgin
Brian Shin
Mark Staloff & Greg Bowne
Jill Stauffer & Cyd Berry
Leslie & Daniel Sullivan
Rick Summers & Bill Thompson
Crystal Tiala

Donald Vaughan & Lee Ridgway
Jean Walsh & Graham Davies
Steven Weinstein & Joellen Gavin
Kerry Weiss-Pena & Gus Pena
Maxine Wolf
Anonymous (2)

\$250 - 499

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Suzy Applegate
Doris Axelrod
Rebecca Backman & Stephen Cotton
Julie & Michael Bailit
Henry & Sue Bass
Clara & James Batchelor
Ross & Midge Benjamin
Walter Prayzner & Allan Blume
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Owen Doyle
Holly Edmonds
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Esther Messing
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Terrance Gaetz
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Sterling B. Giles *in memory of*
Rudy Kikel
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Greg Gordon & Freya Emspak
Robert Gordon
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Charles Walsh
Patrick Ward & Roger Lovejoy
Robin Weinberger
Alan Weiner
Joan Weintraub
Jim Young
Stephen H. Zinner & S. Wade Taylor
Anonymous (5)

This list recognizes donors with gifts to our Annual Fund of \$100-999 from 7/1/18 - 6/30/19.



ANNUAL SPRING GALA

Friday, April 4, 2019

At SpeakEasy's Spring Gala, over 270 supporters came together to celebrate another spectacular year of theatre in Greater Boston. The event honored philanthropists Nancy and Edward Roberts, as well as Tony Award-winning composer Jeanine Tesori (see page 18). The event raised a record \$238,000 to support SpeakEasy's mission.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

EARNED REVENUE	
Subscriptions	\$500,618
Single Tickets	\$935,090
Other	\$4,784
Total Earned Revenue	\$1,440,492
EXPENSES	
Programs	\$1,705,172
General & Administrative	\$221,405
Fundraising	\$226,952
Total Expenses	\$2,153,529
Operating Deficit Before Contributions and Fundraising	\$(713,037)
CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDRAISING	
Individual Giving	\$305,148
Foundations & Businesses	\$243,385
Special Events	\$306,497
Bequest	\$66,000
Total Contributed Revenue	\$921,030
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$207,993

STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Current Assets	\$488,933
Fixed Assets	\$3,548
Other Assets	\$23,379
Total Assets	\$515,860
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	\$300,647
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$215,213
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$515,860

Fiscal year: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019
Preliminary Statements as of 9/30/19

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



I am so proud to present the results of SpeakEasy’s outstanding Season 28. Not only was it an artistic success, but it was also the best year we have ever had financially.

The preliminary financial statements to the left are a bit unusual, in that they include not only a sixth show in the season, but also an extension of *Once* and the remount of *Fun Home*. With 198 performances in the season

and 35,367 patrons coming through the doors, you will see the highest Earned Revenue we have ever achieved.

You will also see the highest Contributed Revenue we have ever achieved – mainly due to two extraordinary factors. First, we received our first-ever bequest, from Donald E. Fulton. Mr. Fulton was a long-time supporter of SpeakEasy and a loyal supporter of the arts throughout New England. His gift of \$200,000 (divided over three years) will be the first gift in a new Capital Fund that will provide a foundation for SpeakEasy’s long term sustainability.

Second, we were fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative of \$375,000 divided over three years. This gift comes with training and consulting on Capitalization, Adaptive Capacity, and Cultural Competency to guide the Board and staff in developing its long term plans. Together with the company’s leadership, the Board is evaluating the financial strategies and management priorities that will secure the company’s future. More on that next year!

I have been honored to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the past six years. I love the company’s mission and artistry and am thrilled to be a part of this great organization. Thank you so much for your support as we keep moving the company forward.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Baker
Chair, SpeakEasy Board of Directors



SPEAKEASY LEADERSHIP

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Catherine Cotton
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Mark Hickey

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Jim Stiles
Ann Teixeira
Barney Weinstein
Tom Weisend
Clea Winneg

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Gene Bauer & Ellen Shortell
Susan Black
Jon & Dixie Lee Borus
Gregory Bulger & Richard Dix
A. Joseph Castellana & Jim Seligman
Bob Chabot
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Susan Darnell
Susan Ellerin
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Robert Pascucci
Ellen Piccioli
Stephen Strout
Hal Tepfer
Sandra Weinstein
Hannah Weisman
Neal Winneg
Julianne Yazbek



Staff

Paul Daigneault, *Producing Artistic Director*
Paul Melone, *General Manager / Production Manager*
Jim Torres, *Director of Marketing & Communications*
Cathi Ianno, *Director of Development*
Dawn Saglio, *Company Manager*
Alex Lonati, *Development Operations & Special Events Manager*
Dominique D. Burford, *Associate Manager of Productions and Operations*
Evan Turissini, *Creative Services Associate*
Pascale Florestal, *Boston Project Coordinator*
David Keohane, *Artistic Fellow*

Interns

Julien Alam, Tara Balan, Rosalind Bevan, Jacqueline Bonnet, Colin Budzyna, Bella Cavicchi, Georgina Coffey, Allie DiBiase, Meghan Dorian, Bianca Estensen-Tijerino, Megan Fitzgerald, Kate Franklin, Ryan Gardner, Jenna Glazier, Sarah Haber, Samantha Jokela, Caroline Knapp, Amanda LoCoco, William Lynn, Victoria Lyons, Ali Molaei, Amy Ollove, Sophie Irina Pels, Meryl Prendergast, Rachel Smith, Mac Wylie

All photos courtesy of Nile Scott Studios; except page 2, page 3 (top photo), page 10, page 13, page 22 (left photo), and the back cover (top photo, and bottom left), Maggie Hall; page 20-21, Justin Saglio; and page 4, page 7-8, page 15, and page 17, SpeakEasy staff or artists.



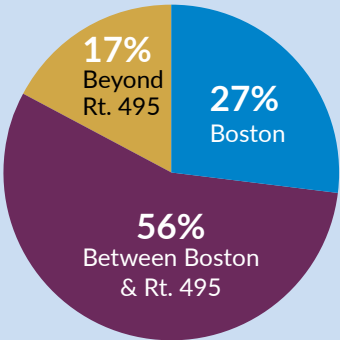
AUDIENCE FACTS



35,367 patrons
198 performances
85% occupancy



1,796 subscribers
83.2% retention
(74.6% national average)



AUDIENCE NETWORK



9,207 likes
8,121 check-ins



4,489 followers
2,371 likes



1,756 followers



25,954 active contacts

For more information on the Annual Report or SpeakEasy’s giving programs, contact Cathi Ianno, Director of Development, at cathiianno@speakeasystage.com or 617-482-3279.



“I am so glad that SpeakEasy continues to do shows that are entertaining but also meaningful. These are the sorts of conversations that are so important to be having, and it is wonderful when the art around us helps encourage those conversations.”

– Audience member for School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play

