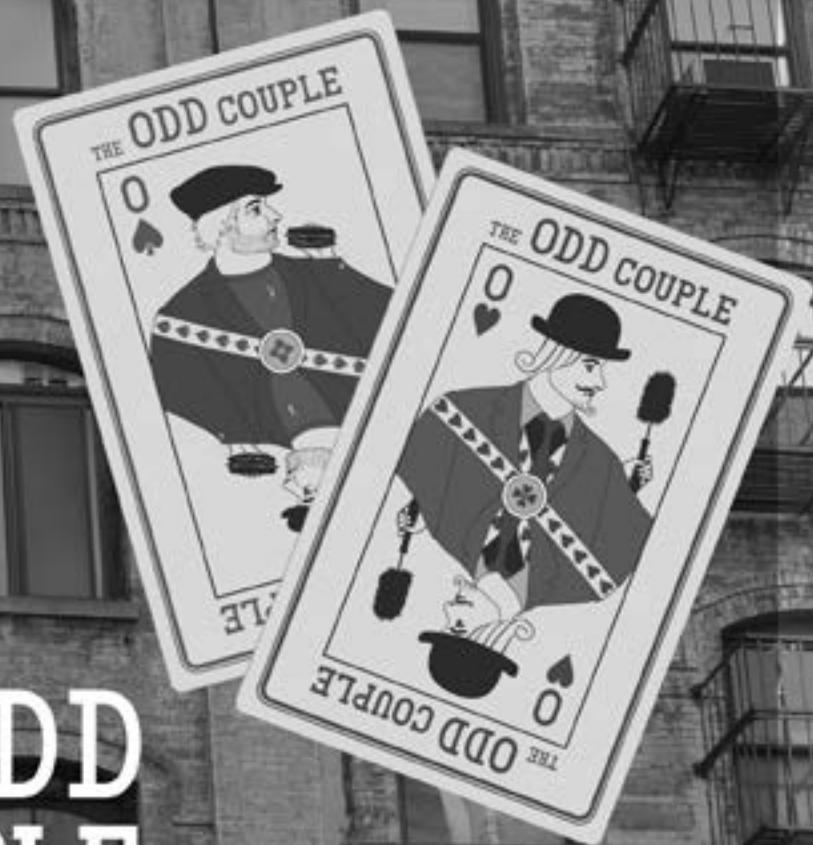


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Theatre's
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**THE ODD
COUPLE**

WRITTEN BY NEIL SIMON
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL STEVENSON



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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Each season at Perseverance Theatre, brings you an American classic like Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*. This famous play, better known for the television phenomenon it inspired, is celebrating its 50th birthday in 2015. Neil Simon's original won the Tony award back in 1965 for best new play. Back then, it featured Walter Matthau and Art Carney, it was directed by the great Mike Nichols, and it was designed by Oliver Smith who started the department of design at New York University where my wife Akiko and I would study theatre years later.

Theatre is thousands of years old: it began with women and men using speech to tell stories to understand each other more deeply, to remember the past, and to simply pass the time. The American play as we most often see it is a much more recent innovation. Modern theatre is characterized by a narrative, performed by actors who become characters in the story. It often asks audiences to look through an imagined 'fourth wall' into a reality that is the character's world. *The Odd Couple* is one of the most famous examples of this modern tradition that may go back only about 100 years in America. Historians debate the finer points, but without a doubt, Eugene O'Neill's naturalistic plays such as *A Long Days Journey Into Night*, *The Icemen Cometh*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten* brought these modern characteristics to the American stage making audiences and writers take notice.

O'Neill, and later Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, and their peers, also set their writing apart by whom they left out: kings and queens, princes and duchesses. Theirs are plays about everyday characters, middle or working class folks, immigrants, sailors, salesmen, and soldiers. They are about characters who we might actually meet, like Oscar and Felix.

As our playwrights continue to build the library of works about varied American characters, we have a great opportunity to understand real lives of the past hundred years. Well-crafted fifty year-old scripts like *The Odd Couple*, when faithfully put back on their feet by a fine cast, give us a chance to meet characters like our friends Oscar and Felix who lived in another time, with all their flaws and foibles. Enjoy them!

Here at Perseverance, we're working to create our own library of Alaskan classics. We regularly commission and premiere new plays, seeking work written by Alaskan playwrights and about our state. Perseverance is not as old as *The Odd Couple*, but our 40th anniversary is coming up in a few years. Our theatre will continue to support the finest Alaskan writing for the stage in the hope that future audiences will have a wide variety of plays that will bring to life moments and people and stories to audiences like you many years from now. In our just-announced 2015-2016 season, you will find new and contemporary plays, as well as some classics that will connect audiences to the rich traditions of the theatre. Becoming a season subscriber is the best way to support our work and see it all at a savings to you.

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Art Rotch
Executive Artistic Director

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Alaskan classics.”**



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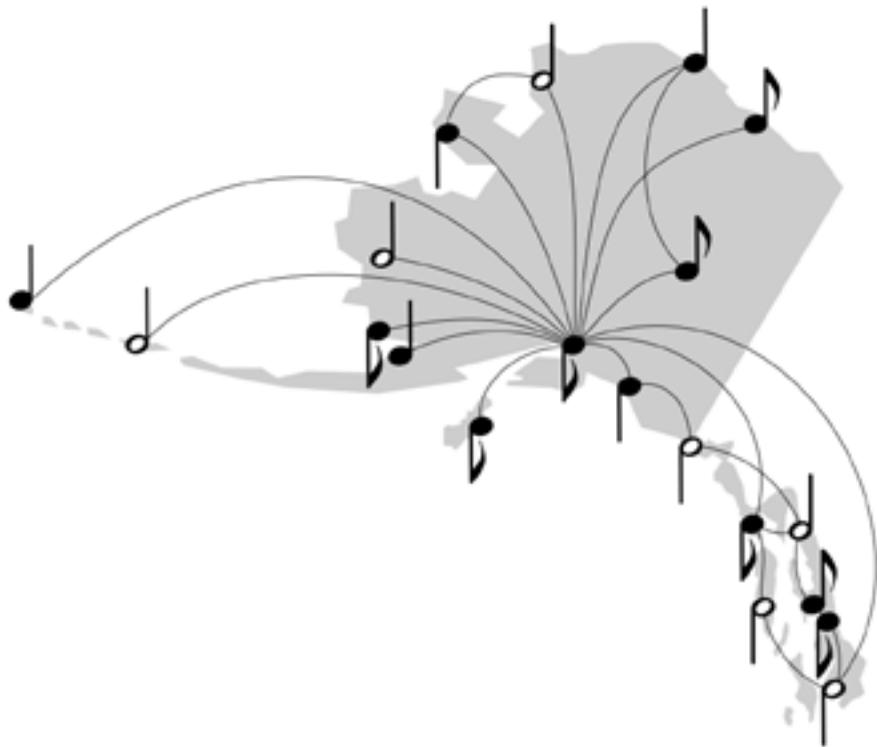
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The Odd Couple
Juneau Run:
March 6 -29, 2015
Anchorage Run:
April 10 -26, 2015

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Perseverance Theatre's production of



THE ODD COUPLE

Written by
Neil Simon

Directed by
Michael Stevenson

Assistant Director
Julia O'Connor

Lighting/Set Designer
Art Rotch*

Stage Manager
Bj Brooks

Costume Designer
Meaghan Wills

Sound Designer
Andy Kline

* United Scenic Artist Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees 

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“Creativity is intelligence having fun.” —Albert Einstein



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CAST

Bostin Christopher*	Oscar
James Sullivan	Felix
Jeff Hedges	Speed
Enrique Bravo*	Murray
Ben Brown	Roy
Corin Hughes-Skandijs	Vinnie
Olivia Shrum	Gwendolyn
Heather LaVerne	Cecily

*Members of Actors Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers



PRODUCTION STAFF

Kathleen Harper	Juneau Production Manager
Christina Apathy	Dialect Coach
Earnest Eckerson	Technical Director / Scenic Artist
Scott Weddell	Assistant Technical Director / Scenic Artist
Jenna Heo	Scenic Artist / Technical Intern / Run Crew
Cameron Thorp	Props Master / Production Intern
Jessica Jones	Assistant Stage Manager
Todd Hunt	Juneau Master Electrician
Jason Ginter	Juneau Assistant Master Electrician / Assistant Lighting Designer
Val Snyder	Costume Shop Manager
Susan Oshida	Costume Shop Assistant
Betsy Sims	House Sound Engineer
Joshua Lowman	Playbill Design

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Art Rotch	Executive / Artistic Director
Shona Strauser	Artistic Associate & Director of Education
Maggie Rabb	Development Director
Sharon Lowe	Finance Manager
Joshua Lowman	Anchorage General Manager
Amy O'Neill Houck	Outreach & Development Associate
Tom Robenolt	Marketing and Box Office
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James Sullivan	Artistic Company
Julia O'Connor	Artistic Intern
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SETTING

An apartment on Riverside Drive in New York City in the 1960s.

DRAMATURGY

About Neil Simon

Neil Simon is arguably one of the most successful living playwrights today. Simon has written over thirty plays, twenty screenplays, and worked on a dozen television series. With his work translated into over a dozen languages, his plays are being widely produced all across the world.

Simon began his career by writing strictly for television. He got a huge jump when his work on the television comedy series, *Your Show of Shows*, earned him two Emmy Award Nominations...and the awards did not stop there. His writing has been awarded more Academy, Tony, and Emmy Award nominations than any other writer. Since starting to write solely for Broadway in the early 1960s, he became a recognizable figure in the American theater. He is the only playwright who has had four of his plays run simultaneously on Broadway.

His most recognizably famous play, *The Odd Couple*, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. When it was first produced in 1965 it did not take long for it to become a smash hit. Simon won the Tony Award that year for Best New Author in recognition of *The Odd Couple*. Three years later in 1968, Simon sold off the entirety of the rights to *The Odd Couple* for a mere \$400,000. After a full-length movie, a hit-TV series, a remount of a the TV series about a decade later, and now a new sitcom that just aired mid-February of this year, *Felix and Oscar* are still providing laughs.

Simon's way of capturing the American spirit through fast-paced comedic conflict and characters filled with quick quips keep his work as relevant today as it was in the 1960s. Of Simon, actor Jack Lemmon said, "Neil has the ability to write characters — even the leading characters that we're supposed to root for — that are absolutely flawed. They have foibles. They have faults. But, they are human beings. They are not all bad or all good; they are people we know."

Divorce in the 1960s

Divorce has become less of an unfamiliar term in our contemporary times. Over the years the perception regarding this topic has changed drastically. As the separation of a marriage became more prevalent between couples in the 1960s, it was closely regulated by the state. A couple could only obtain a divorce where it is clear that one member has performed acts defined by the state to constitute a fault, such as adultery, cruelty, desertion, crimes, homosexuality, insanity, and drug addiction. However, this fault system became hazy and irrelevant once couples started spewing their marital problems in front of judges and became more of a counseling session than a legal action. This led to the idea that a failure of a marriage cannot be defined by a simple "fault," but it is more a complex situation between two people. At the time when *The Odd Couple* was becoming a nationally known story, divorce rates rose astronomically due the sexual revolution and the acceleration of the feminist movement. The gender roles within a household were being challenged and society's perception of a marriage was shifting.



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific and performed playwrights in the world. In addition to *Lost In Yonkers*, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *London Suite*, *Proposals*, *Hotel Suite*, *The Dinner Party*, *45 Seconds from Broadway*, *Oscar and Felix*, and *Rose's Dilemma*. In addition to the film adaptations he has written of many of his plays, his screenplay credits include *After the Fox*, *The Out-Of-Towners*, *The Heartbreak Kid* (original 1973 version), *Murder by Death*, *The Cheap Detective*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Only When I Laugh*, *Max Dugan Returns*, *The Slugger's Wife*, *The Marrying Man* and *The Odd Couple II*. Other motion pictures based on stage plays include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Sweet Charity* and *The Star-Spangled Girl*. For television Mr. Simon has written series, teleplays and motion pictures including *The Tallulah Bankhead Show*, *The Sid Caesar Show*, *The Phil Silvers Arrow Show*, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *The Garry Moore Show*, *The Trouble with People*, *ABC's Broadway Bound* and *Jake's Women*. Books by Neil Simon include *Rewrites*, *A Memoir*, *The Play Goes On*, *four omnibus collections of Neil Simon's plays*, *The Comedy Of Neil Simon*, *The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon, Vol. II*, *The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon, Vol. 3*, *The Collected Plays Of Neil Simon, Vol. 4* and *Lost In Yonkers* (screenplay). Mr. Simon has received more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer. Awards he has received include the Pulitzer Prize for *Lost In Yonkers*, Emmy Awards for *The Sid Caesar Show* and *The Phil Silvers Show*, Tony Awards for *The Odd Couple*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Lost In Yonkers* and a special Tony Award For Overall Contribution To The Theatre. His nominations include Tony Award Nominations for *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*, *Lost in Yonkers* and *The Goodbye Girl* (musical). Other nominations include a Writers Guild Screen Award for *The Odd Couple* and *The Out-Of-Towners*, a Writers Guild Laurel Award, an American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement and a Writers Guild Screen Award Nomination for *Barefoot in the Park* as well as an Oscar Nomination for *The Odd Couple*, an Evening Standard award a Sam S. Shubert Foundation award, Kennedy Center Honors, a UCLA Medal, a Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award and a William Inge Theater Festival award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater.



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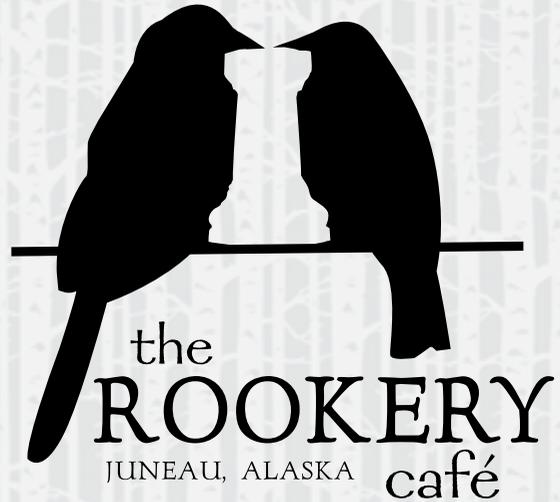
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PROFILES

Bostin Christopher (Oscar) appeared earlier this season as The Poet in *An Iliad*. Previous Perseverance acting credits: *Treasure Island*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Seminar*, and *Amigos Blue Guitar*. For Perseverance he directed *Rush at Everlasting*, *Betrayal*, and *The 39 Steps*. Bostin received his BA from University of Alaska, Anchorage and his MFA from the Professional Actor Training Program at PlayMaker's Repertory Company/UNC-Chapel Hill. He is a member of Actors Equity, the professional union of Actors and Stage Managers in America, as well as the Screen Actors Guild. Website: www.bostinx.com

James Sullivan (Felix) See Building a Future Company pg ??

Jeff Hedges (Speed) is thrilled to be appearing in *The Odd Couple*. He has loved this play since doing the spaghetti scene with Jake Waid in Donna Breeden's acting class at JDHS. Jeff has had a busy year on stage, most recently he was in *A Lifetime to Master* with Generator Theater Company and before that *Chicago* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Perseverance Theatre. He would like to thank Michael, the production staff and this cast for creating so much fun. Jeff would also like to thank his friends and family for their unwavering support.

Enrique Bravo* (Murray) See Building a Future Company pg ??

Ben Brown (Roy) is a lifelong Alaskan actor who came to Perseverance Theatre in 1996. His most recent Perseverance role was Vanya in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Prior shows at Perseverance include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Doc Baugh), *Raisin in the Sun* (Lindner), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (the Rev. Chasuble), *Leading Ladies* (Duncan), *Mr. Marmalade* (Bradley), *Tommy* (Uncle Ernie), *Hamlet* (Guildenstern), *The Crucible* (Judge Hathorne), and *Death of a Salesman* (Bernard). Ben played Crumpet the Elf in the Juneau and statewide touring productions of *The SantaLand Diaries* for seven years at Christmastime, and performed Glen Berger's *Underneath the Lintel* on Perseverance's Phoenix Stage for two years.

Corin Hughes-Skandijs (Vinnie) has worked with Perseverance Theater for 9 years since moving to Alaska. Other than video designs for *Hair* and *The Who's Tommy*, his acting credits include, *Of Mice and Men*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Equus*, *The 8 Reindeer Monologues*, *Battles of Fire and Water*, *Hamlet*, and most recently *Seminar*. He is very happy to be a part of this production and looks forward to being back in Anchorage mixing it up with the whole damn crew and loving every minute of it. He thanks his loving and supportive family, and would like to dedicate this performance to his father, Thomas Hughes.

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PROFILES

Olivia Shrum (Gwendolyn) is ecstatic to be performing on the stage where she first fell in love with theatre. Theatre credits include 'Go-To-Hell Kitty' in *Chicago*, 'Meg' in *Crimes of the Heart*, 'Helena' in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and 'Devon' in *Elemeno Pea*. Olivia graduated with a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance from the University of Evansville. She will be attending The International Stunt School this summer and can't wait to "take the leap" into television and film so to speak. Olivia would like to thank her brother and her mother for their unconditional love and support, wouldn't be here without 'cha!

Heather LaVerne (Cecily) has been performing from an early age, starting off by reenacting cartoons and movies for her parents. She loves improv, filmmaking, theatre, and doing silly voices and characters with her best buddy, Spud. She recently performed in the last two S.C.R.I.P.T. productions at UAS, *The Country Club* and *F2M*. This is her first Perseverance production. She would like to thank her family and friends for always being so supportive and playing with her when creative outlets are limited. She would like to dedicate her performances in this production to her Grandpa Joe. "Lalalalala. Like that."

Michael Stevenson (Director) is thrilled to return to Perseverance, where he last directed *Wittenberg*. Directing credits include: *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Of Mice and Men* and *Noises Off*, *STC*; *Ideation*, *Clybourne Park*, *Mauritius*, *Erratica*, and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Capital Stage*; *The Castle of Otranto*, Orlando Shakespeare Theatre; *Born Yesterday*, River Stage; *Becky's New Car*, *Boom*, Boston Marriage, *Jack & Jill*, *Junie B. Jones* *Jingle Bells* *Batman Smells*, and *The Last 5 Years*, B Street Theatre. He is co-director of the B Street Theatre Conservatory and a member of the B Street Acting Company. M.F.A. from American Conservatory Theatre.

Art Rotch (Set Designer/Artistic Director) See Leadership pg ??

Meaghan Wills (Costume Designer) is returning to the PT fold after a nearly 5 year hiatus, and is happy to once again be using her Master's Degree! Meaghan worked as PT's Costume Shop Manager and Resident Designer for 2.5 seasons, building costumes for many others, including such memorable shows as *Leading Ladies*, *Wittenberg*, & *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, and building costumes for dozens others, including such memorable shows as *Yeast Nation* and *Battles of Fire and Water*. Before moving to Juneau, Meaghan spent 12 years and countless hours in nearly a dozen different states working, learning, and teaching as a designer and technician. Meaghan moved to Juneau almost 8 years ago to work for Perseverance, and so gives PT some credit in her playbill for leading her to Jacob, the wonderful man she is marrying in April.



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PROFILES

Andy Kline (Sound Designer) learned the ways of audio working for public radio. This is his third sound design for Perseverance.

BJ Brooks (Stage Manager) is excited to explore Alaska with Perseverance Theater. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, BJ has been across the world on tour and is thrilled to be in the beautiful landscape of Alaska to continue working with talented artists. After receiving a BS from the University of Evansville, BJ has Stage Managed in Atlanta at The Center for Puppetry Arts, The Rialto Center for the Arts and Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre; in Annapolis with Compass Rose Theatre and spent summers in Holland, Michigan with Hope Summer Repertory Theater. When not Stage Managing, BJ can be found mixing concerts or experimenting in the kitchen.

Cameron Thorp (Props Master) is a graduate from Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) in Michigan with his BA in Theatre and Gender Studies. Cameron is the Production Intern and Props Designer for Perseverance Theatre. Cameron has been awarded the "Best Prop" Award from the Society of Property Artisans Managers (SPAM) at the 2013 Kennedy Center American College Festival, Production Leadership Award from SVSU, and the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 201. Cameron wants to thank his teachers, mentors, SPAM, past employers and coworkers, friends, family, my brother-in-law, sisters, and my parents. I know you all believe in me.



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WHO WE ARE

Perseverance Theatre's mission is to create professional theatre by and for Alaskans. Alaska is full of stories and characters that aren't found anywhere else in the world. We are committed to creating theatre that represents all that is great about Alaska, and to bringing great live theatre to our Alaskan audiences.

We believe that a vibrant cultural life is the hallmark of a healthy community, and we seek to bring together artists from all of Alaska to play to the broadest audiences possible. We value community engagement, cross-cultural collaboration professional rigor, and regional voice.

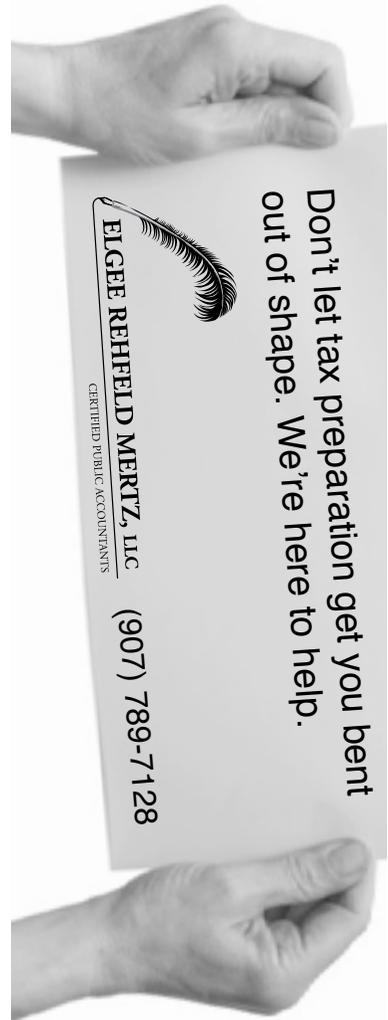
In 1979, Molly Smith founded Perseverance Theatre, following her dream of starting a professional theatre company in her home town. Over thirty five years, we've grown into a regional professional theatre, serving nearly 15,000 audience members, in both Juneau and in Anchorage, employing 150 artists, and working with 500 volunteers annually with classical, contemporary, and world premiere productions on our main and second stages.

Perseverance produces extensive education and training programs including Young Company, Summer Theatre Arts Rendezvous, the Alaska Summer Theatre Intensive youth theatre, and internships. We are also the resident theatre at the University of Alaska Southeast, where we develop curricula, provide teachers for the theatre minor program, and invite UAS students into the theatre to work and learn along-side working theatre professionals from all over the world.

Perseverance has premiered over 70 new plays by Alaskan and national playwrights. We have received national coverage in *American Theater* magazine and on National Public Radio. Perseverance Theatre was born as a grassroots organization firmly rooted in our community and state. We occupy a unique place in the heart of Alaska's artistic, cultural, and social life. We are committed to developing artists, volunteers, audiences, and programming reflective of the Alaskan community, and to delivering the finest professional theatre anywhere to our loyal, local audience.

LEADERSHIP

Art Rotch (Executive Artistic Director) has worked in Alaskan theatre for twenty five years, and is in his sixth season as Artistic Director at Perseverance Theatre. He holds a BA in history from Harvard and a MFA in theatre from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. His home is in Juneau with his wife, Akiko Nishijima, who is also a theatre artist. As Artistic Director at Perseverance, Art has commissioned half a dozen plays, and produced the premieres of *Battles of Fire and Water* (performed in Russian, English and Tlingit) by Dave Hunsaker and *The Blue Bear* by Luan Schooler and Leon Ingulsrud. Art is a set and lighting designer, one of only a handful of designers to lead regional theatre. He has designed dozens of productions for Perseverance, Anchorage Opera and many more Alaskan producers; for regional theatres including the People's Light and Theatre Company, Sacramento Theatre Company, Aspen Opera Center; and, in New York City, Juilliard, The Manhattan School of Music. Art is a member of the National Theatre Conference (nationaltheatreconference.org), and is a graduate of the Foraker Group's Catalyst for Non Profit Excellence program. Art was recently selected as one of 50 arts leaders from around the world by National Arts Strategies to participate in their Chief Executive Program, which is designed to equip arts executives with ways to thrive in a changing world (artstrategies.org). Art has served as a grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation, and the Rasmuson Foundation.





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ANNUAL AWARDS

The Bishop Michael Kenny Award honors an artist in our company who is talented, generous, and supportive of the collaborative process. It recognizes artists who, like Bishop Kenny, give joyfully to those around them and build bridges between Juneau and the arts. We are proud to honor artistry and the spirit of generous collaboration in the Bishop's memory.

Bishop Michael Kenny was a long-serving member of Perseverance Theatre's board of directors, and the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Juneau. He was known for his gorgeous tenor voice. Bishop Kenny was an advocate for theatre, and he loved to visit cast members to congratulate them after performances. He was a heroic example of service, standing up for political and social issues from the pulpit. His strong belief in the power of theatre and community continues to inspire Perseverance board, staff, and the many artists, artisans, and volunteers who make up our company.

The Molly Smith Founders Award honors a staff member, board member, or supporter and was established to remember the deep commitment and visionary thinking of the generation who started Perseverance Theatre with Molly Smith. The award honors a person who has shown long-term dedication to the health, well-being, and growth of Perseverance Theatre. We are proud to honor service to community and stewardship for Perseverance Theatre with Molly's name.

Molly Smith founded Perseverance Theatre in 1979. She built a vibrant Alaskan theatre through a blend of determination and community-building while producing shows which embodied the spirit of the state. During her nineteen years as Artistic Director she championed regional voice and new plays including Paula Vogel's Pulitzer Prize-winning *How I Learned to Drive*. Molly Smith went on to become the Artistic Director of Arena Stage. Her vision of a theatre by and for Alaskans continues to ignite the imagination and inspire new work at Perseverance Theatre even decades later.

Bishop Kenny Award Recipients

Christina Apathy
Gary Waid
Bruce Hanson
Marta Ann Lastufka &
Patrick Moore
Terry Cramer &
Dian Martin
Anita Maynard-Losh
Anni Stokes
Kate Bowns
Aaron Elmore &
Katie Jensen
Marilyn Wright
Ed Christian

Molly Smith Founders Award Recipients

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Joe Ross
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Evan Rose	Member at Large Anchorage
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Bob Urata	Member at Large Juneau

Terry Cramer, Board Member What I love about Perseverance

Perseverance has challenged me to reach further than I thought I could, invited me to enter into the worlds and experiences of writers new to me, has encouraged me to giggle or guffaw at the human condition. Perseverance has been central to my adult life and I am richer for it.

We all contribute to Perseverance in many critical ways -- buying tickets, working on productions, providing housing and cars to guest artists, lending furniture or props for sets, and serving as ushers or on work crews. Perseverance Theatre would not exist without those contributions. Thank you.

In addition, we contribute money. Like many of you, because of my commitment and belief in the theatre, I've made a decision to make an annual gift to the theatre. This year, I decided to match my annual gift with a separate donation to support the 4th Decade Fund, because I want to see the theatre thriving when reaches its 40th and 50th anniversaries. By reaching more audiences and reinvesting in artists, we can make this possible. If you are able, please join me in making a special gift today or pledging a gift for the future.



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UPCOMING SHOWS

Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England

by Madeleine George

May 1 – 24, 2015

Dean Wreen is not having a good week. Her college is in dire financial straits and a plan to close its tiny, all-but-forgotten natural history museum is sending unexpected shock waves across campus and out into the local community. At home, her ex-lover, Greer, is staying with her—sending shock waves of a different sort through her relationship with her current (and much younger) girlfriend, Andromeda. Town-gown relations are in tatters! The local newspaper is erupting in protest! Even the awful, historically inaccurate dioramas in the museum have started mouthing off! A screwball sex comedy about the perils of monogamy, certainty, and academic administration.

TICKETS

Subscriptions and single tickets are available by calling us at 907.463.TIXS (8497) or toll free 1.855.462.TIXS or online at www.perseverancetheatre.org

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Othello
by William Shakespeare

Loyalty and trust crumble under the weight of a villain's push for power and revenge

September 11 -
October 4, 2015

*A Night with Janis Joplin**
by Randy Johnson

With a voice like whiskey and a laugh like pure joy, Janis Joplin took the music scene by storm.

November 6-
December 6, 2015

Our Voices Will Be Heard
by Vera Starbard

A powerful mother-daughter journey with a fierce call for healing and forgiveness

January 15 -
February 7 2016

In The Next Room (or the vibrator play)
by Sarah Ruhl

The dawn of the age of electricity births a groundbreaking piece of technology.

March 11 - April 3
2016

Annapurna
by Sharr White

A visceral, profound, and funny meditation on love and loss .

May 6 – 29, 2016

The lieutenant iago, Shakespeare's most fascinating villain, orchestrates the demise of the Moorish General Othello after being passed up for a promotion given to the soldier, Cassio. As iago seeks to ruin both men, he plants the seeds of doubt and mistrust by staging a token of affection—a handkerchief. Under the spell of the charismatic "Honest iago," Othello's new bride Desdemona becomes a pawn in his plot of revenge. Every loyalty is questioned in a tragic world where true love and irrational jealousy collide.

Janis Joplin was a shooting star of talent, burning brightly, and so suddenly she changed rock and roll forever. Her voice, fueled with emotion, and dipped in Southern Comfort, made unforgettable songs like "Piece of My Heart," "Me and Bobby McGee," and "Summertime" part of the American sound. This explosive musical revue showcases her classics and gives audiences a taste of the artist that made them. "Get it while you can," and see Janis, a musical legend, shining briefly in the night at Perseverance Theatre this season.

**Rights pending. Dates subject to change.*

A powerful mother-daughter journey that reveals how generations face the choice of continuing to perpetuate—or disrupt—family violence. Through the lens of fiction, and the palette of Alaska Native Storytelling, the playwright tells the true story of her mother's strength against impossible pressure. *Our Voices Will Be Heard* weaves together legend and truth in a fierce call for healing and forgiveness.

Come discover how psychology and technology intersect at the dawn of the electric age. Perfect gentleman and inventor, Dr. Givens has created a new device to treat "hysteria" in his patients by inducing "paroxysms" that attract the attention of his wife, who hears the sounds of success through the walls of his operating theatre. Meanwhile, Mrs. Givens struggles with a new baby and her own urgent desires. *In The Next Room (or the vibrator play)* is a modern comedy of manners full of exploration and fulfillment.

Twenty years ago, Emma walked out on her husband—cowboy-poet Ulysses—in the middle of a night that he can't remember, and that she will never forget. When she hears he's in trouble and alone, she returns to him in the wilds of a low-rent Colorado trailer park. He's working on his epic poem, hooked to an oxygen tank, and cooking breakfast in the buff. While they get reacquainted, Ulysses battles poor health, and Emma struggles with her luggage and her past life. Their bizarre reunion contains both rage and compassion, framing a story that rides the fine line of tragedy and comedy, laughter and loss.

Subscriptions have many benefits, including:

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- Bring-A-Friend - Perseverance "Companion Fare" coupons with every package
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WILLOUGHBY ARTS COMPLEX

Modern and inviting, the Willoughby Arts Complex (WAC) will provide new arts and performance space that builds on and nourishes Juneau's rich arts tradition. Perseverance Theatre will house the mainstage, administration, education and support programs here. A replacement Mainstage will be designed to maintaining the much-loved intimacy of the current 150 seat space, while adding more capacity behind the scenes to make the most of your investment in the theatre's productions. The Juneau Arts & Humanities Council will also operate a separate theatre here, along with proposed community spaces such as a gallery, gift shop, and café. The WAC will bring a variety of arts and cultural events together under one roof, inspiring artistic collaborations and dynamic experiences.

In 1979, Perseverance Theatre purchased the former Taku Bar in Douglas, and in 1983, a group of volunteers and staff added the 160 seat theatre – designed by Bill C. Ray with the help of architect Frank Maier – onto the back of the building. This building was designed to last twenty years while the theatre established itself. Thirty years later, the temporary solution has served well but is past its designed life, and Perseverance seeks a new home to keep the theatre strong well into the 21st century.

During the same timespan, the community of Juneau created and held onto a vision of a building devoted to the arts; one with vitality worthy of Alaska's capital city. Now, the timing is right for this dream to be realized. Enthusiasm for, and participation in the arts is at an all-time high. Season ticket holders, audience participation, and a diverse variety of arts performances signal keen interest. Community calendars are chock full of cultural and arts events. Energetic people are moving to town excited by the quality of life that Juneau offers.

Early in 2014, the Boards of Directors of Perseverance Theatre and the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council decided to pool resources and supporters to consider a new, shared facility for both organizations. One they could design, build, and operate cooperatively. Together they formed a new nonprofit, the pARTnership, with the distinct Mission of developing, constructing, owning, and operating this new facility, the Willoughby Arts Complex (WAC).

Still in pre-development, current plans for the WAC include two theatres, a flexible black box performance space, rehearsal space, production support facilities, class and meeting rooms, administrative offices, a café, a gift shop, and a large, welcoming lobby space. It will meet Perseverance Theatre's specific needs, and it will embody Alaska's deep commitment to the performing arts in our Capital City: a place to tell our own stories for each other and the world.

For more information on how to become involved, contact info@wacjuneau.org or call 586-5099.



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WAC Frequently Asked Questions

What is the WAC?

The Willoughby Arts Complex, or WAC, is envisioned as a community arts facility that is owned and operated jointly by Perseverance Theatre and the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. The facility is still in pre-development; current plans include two theatres, a flexible black box performance space, rehearsal space, production support facilities, class and meeting rooms, administrative offices, a café, a gift shop, and a welcoming lobby space large enough to host simultaneous performances. The WAC will be more than just a facility; it will become a vital, lively center for the arts, fostering community connections and artistic inspiration. It will be used throughout the day, and become a part of the tapestry of Juneau's arts community.

What is the pARTnership?

Perseverance Theatre and the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council established a new nonprofit organization called 'The pARTnership' in order to equitably develop, construct, own, and operate the new WAC building. The pARTnership will be involved in fundraising, design, construction management, and operating common spaces in the finished WAC building.

Is the WAC a public performing arts center?

The WAC will be a public/private partnership designed to make the most of Juneau's existing community assets. It will be a privately-built and privately-operated facility on land leased from the CBJ, similar to the Zach Gordon Youth Center and Dimond Park Fieldhouse.

What about parking?

Parking for the entire Willoughby District is an issue under discussion between the City and the State. It will be important that the pARTnership is part of that conversation. The pARTnership is still exploring all options for meeting CBJ requirements and serving theatre patrons, but you can rest assured that solving the parking challenge is a priority for the theatre and its partners.

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BUILDING A FUTURE COMPANY

Last Season, Perseverance Theatre began a multi-year project to build a new Artistic Company. Our ability to support Alaskan actors and artists with paid work is a key measure of our success. Since we began, Perseverance has always filled our productions with a mix of Alaskan talent and guest artists who act, direct, and design.

Our new presence in Anchorage offers us a regular connection to a statewide pool of performers, artists, and artisans. For Alaskan theatre artists, Perseverance offers an opportunity to work with colleagues from around the nation. The networks they build through working at our theatre enhances their ability to find opportunities elsewhere.

The new Artistic Company initiative will provide another tool to invest more in artists, especially actors, living in our state. The first phase of the company began last season with hiring one of our most productive actors, Enrique Bravo, as the 2013-2014 Artistic Company Lead and this season continues with the addition of James Sullivan.

Enrique's Perseverance credits include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Treasure Island*, *Oklahoma!*, *Seminar*, *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *O Lovely Gloworm*, *Yeast Nation*, *Equus*, *Tommy*, and *Hair*.

Enrique is an ensemble member of Generator Theater Company with whom he has performed in *True West*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Dying City*, and *[title of show]*. Enrique is also a regular at The Colonial Theater, in Westerly, Rhode Island and has performed in *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and recently, *The Tempest*. Enrique holds a B.F.A. in Regional Theatre from Webster Conservatory in St. Louis, MO and an M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Texas at Austin.

Over the coming season, in addition to playing roles in *Vonya and Sonia* and *Masha and Spike* and *Chicago*, Enrique will be working with Perseverance's artistic staff, current company, and guest artists both in Juneau and Anchorage, conducting research into artistic companies elsewhere, convening meetings with Alaskan theatre artists, and helping us craft proposed models of what an Alaskan theatre's artistic company might look like.

James Sullivan's past performances with Perseverance Theatre have been *God of Carnage*, *Oklahoma!*, *Animals Out Of Paper*, *Vashon*, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, and

Circle Mirror Transformation. He has a BFA in Theatre from Syracuse University. James comes from Portland where he performed in Jakers' production of *Silence*, Integrity's production of *Wonder of the World*, in Public Playhouse's *The Nerd*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. James also performed in Chicago, including 5 years of long-form improvisation at ImprovOlympic and several plays with Zeppo Productions.

To share your thoughts about this project, or learn more about training and employment with Perseverance Theatre as an artist, contact us at info@ptalaska.org.



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Announcing Perseverance Theatre's Double Date

We're teaming up with local restaurants to provide you with discounts to all mainstage plays and your pre or post-show dining.

How does it work?

If you start at a participating restaurant, tell your server you're doing the Double Date and they'll give you a sticker for your receipt. Bring that receipt when you buy your tickets to get 10% off your purchase.

If you start at a play, bring your ticket stub to a participating restaurant to get your dining discount. Don't forget to tell your server you're doing the Double Date! You can use your restaurant receipt to get a discount on another mainstage show.

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ALASKA BUSINESS PARTNERS

Perseverance Theatre's Alaska Business Partners are a consortium of local and statewide businesses who band together around Perseverance Theatre to show their support for excellence in the arts, educational opportunities, and outreach activities in our community. Ticket sales account for about 25% of the theatre's revenues, so your contribution is critical to the theatre's long-term sustainability.

As an Alaska Business Partner, you can choose to support Perseverance Theatre's programming as a whole, or designate your donation for a specific program.

For more information contact:

Amy O'Neill Houck at 364-2421 ext. 230 or amy@ptalaska.org



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Kathleen Harper,
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FOURTH DECADE FUND

In 2010, Perseverance Theatre launched its Fourth Decade Plan to secure a future for professional theatre in Alaska by expanding audiences and employing more Alaskan theatre artists. The theatre set a goal of raising \$1,000,000 to support this growth strategy and is excited to announce that we have met this goal! The below donors gave \$250 or more, beyond their annual gifts, and will receive continued acknowledgement through Perseverance Theatre's 40th Anniversary season in 2018-2019. Donors will be credited in the theatre's programs, lobby display, and on the website. They will also receive exclusive invitations to Perseverance Theatre's 40th Anniversary Celebration in 2019!

Perseverance Theatre's mission is to create professional theatre by and for Alaskans. Become a Fourth Decade Donor and show that you believe in expanding the audience and supporting artists to create more vibrant and resilient Alaskan professional theatre.

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