



2014 SEASON: SAM SHEPARD

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**PROFILE THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW PLAY PROGRAMMING FOR
IN DIALOGUE SERIES**

PORTLAND, OR, January 23, 2014 – **PROFILE THEATRE (Adriana Baer, Artistic Director)** is excited to announce the titles for its 2014 In Dialogue Staged Reading Series, a program intended to explore and augment the mainstage season of plays by Sam Shepard. The plays are **HUNGRY by Amy Claussen**, **BUENA VISTA by Edith Freni**, and **A LIE OF THE MIND by Sam Shepard**. The readings will each have two performances, held at Profile’s new home at Artists Repertory Theatre. Tickets are currently on sale at Profiletheatre.org.

The **In Dialogue Staged Readings** are a series of new and contemporary plays in conversation with Sam Shepard’s body of work, as well as readings of Shepard plays not included in Profile’s mainstage season or Festival of One Acts. This is part of the newly expanded In Dialogue Series, Profile’s additional set of lectures, pre- and post-show discussions, concerts, and other supplemental programming exploring the season’s featured writer’s world.

“Profile Theatre is committed to providing our audiences with opportunities to engage with our featured writer in unique and varied ways,” says Artistic Director Adriana Baer. “With the development of our In Dialogue programming, we expand the prism through which we view our featured writer’s work.”

Baer continues, “This season, we have the opportunity to share the work of two young female playwrights whose work speaks directly to Shepard’s themes exploring family dynamics, hidden pasts, sexuality, violence and mysterious surroundings. These two very different plays both resonate with Shepard’s writing - and yet are distinct. These writers are important contemporary voices in the American theater. Finally, we add

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Shepard's *A Lie of the Mind*, an important conclusion to his Family Trilogy unseen in Portland in many years."

About the readings:

HUNGRY

By Amy Claussen

Directed by Adriana Baer

March 15, 2014 at 7:30 PM and March 16, 2014 at 2:00 PM

Taking place at The Phoenix Flower Cafe, deep and dry in New Mexico, a comically dysfunctional, fiercely cruel, and deeply loving family awaits the bloom of their namesake flower. **HUNGRY** has previously been presented at Primary Stages and Penguin Repertory Theatre in New York.

Amy Claussen is a game designer, freelance writer, and director based in the Bay Area. She most recently directed Lauren Gunderson's *The Heath* for Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor Festival and is a Drama League Directing Fellow, having spent a season directing for the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca. She was the assistant director on Nora and Delia Ephron's off-Broadway hit *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, starring a rotating cast of the actresses, including Rosie O'Donnell, Rita Wilson, Kristen Chenoweth, and Tyne Daly. Ms. Claussen holds a theatre degree from Carnegie Mellon in Directing.

BUENA VISTA

By Edith Freni

Directed by Desdemona Chiang

April 12, 2014 at 7:30 PM and April 13, 2014 at 2:00 PM

BUENA VISTA follows Noah, who shows up at his family's isolated Colorado cabin, discovering his estranged mother has been squatting there for months. When his Dad walks in—questioning the reason for his son's retreat—Noah's weekend getaway turns into a bizarre, snowed-in family nightmare, unfolding in a frozen wooden box at 12,000 feet above sea level.

Edith Freni's work has been produced, and developed at theatre across the country including Steppenwolf Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, LAByrnth Theatre Company, The Public Theatre, Williamstown Theater Festival, and Ensemble Studio Theater. Current commissions include a trilogy of classics adaptations for the

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University of Miami—where she is on faculty—and a new play for Steppenwolf. Ms. Freni is a former competitive amateur boxer and received her BFA and MFA in Dramatic Writing from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

A LIE OF THE MIND

By Sam Shepard

Directed by Megan Ward

With members of Third Rail Repertory Theatre's acting ensemble

July 12, 2014 at 7:30 PM and July 13, 2014 at 2:00 PM

First staged off-Broadway in 1988, **A LIE OF THE MIND** explores the dysfunction of two families following an incident of spousal abuse. The gritty play is considered, by some critics, to be the conclusion of Shepard's Family Trilogy which includes *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Buried Child*, and *True West*.

Profile's 2014 playwright, **Sam Shepard** was born in 1943 in Fort Sheridan, Illinois. He worked as a farmhand and musician before moving to New York to begin his career as a playwright. At the start of his career, Mr. Shepard spent several seasons with La MaMa and Caffe Cino in New York and as playwright-in-residence at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco. In 1979, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Buried Child*. His screenplay for *Paris, Texas* won the Golden Palm Award at the 1984 Cannes Film Festival. In 1986, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and in 1992 he received their Gold Medal for Drama. Of his 57 plays, 11 have won Obie Awards. Mr. Shepard is also a director and accomplished film actor.

About Profile Theatre:

Now in its 17th season, Profile Theatre's mission is to produce a season of plays devoted to a single playwright, engaging with the community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large.

Profile Theatre's 2014 Season is supported in part by The Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Oregon Arts Commission, The Oregon Cultural Trust and the Oregon Community Foundation.

Profile's opening mainstage production of the 2014 Sam Shepard Season, **EYES FOR CONSUELA**, is currently running through February 2, 2014 on the Morrison Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre.

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Profile is currently offering subscription packages and single tickets for the season. For mainstage ticketing information, visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080.

In Dialogue Ticketing and Performance Information:

Tickets for the In Dialogue Reading series are on sale now. To purchase tickets for these events, please visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080.

Ticket Prices:

All seats for In Dialogue Readings are \$15.

Location:

Profile Theatre's 2014 Season, including the series of In Dialogue Readings, is performed at Artists Repertory Theatre, located at 1515 SW Morrison Street in Portland.

For directions and parking information, visit Profiletheatre.org/plan-your-visit.

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