



2014 SEASON: SAM SHEPARD

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PROFILE THEATRE ANNOUNCES

TRUE WEST

FINAL PRODUCTION OF 2014 SAM SHEPARD SEASON PLUS ADDITIONAL IN DIALOGUE READING

PORTLAND, OR, February 18, 2014 – **PROFILE THEATRE (Adriana Baer, Artistic Director)** proudly announces Sam Shepard’s savage and comic **TRUE WEST** will be the final production in its 2014 season dedicated to the work of the playwright. This play replaces the previously announced *Kicking a Dead Horse* in Profile’s current season and will begin performances November 6, 2014 on the Alder Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre. Tickets are currently on sale at Profiletheatre.org.

Originally premiering in 1980 at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco, Sam Shepard’s **TRUE WEST** follows a few tumultuous days in the lives of brothers Lee and Austin, examining their relationship as they manage fraternal conflicts through brutal, and sometimes disturbingly funny, means. Reviewing the Broadway revival in 2000, New York Times Theatre Critic Ben Brantley noted **TRUE WEST** is “a great American play, arguably Mr. Shepard’s finest.”

Many critics see this work as one in Sam Shepard’s “family quintet.” The other four plays include *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Buried Child*, *Fool for Love*, and *A Lie of the Mind*. A 1985 Newsweek feature on Shepard points to the writer’s central themes: “...the family as the source of the greatest pain and greatest comfort; America as the maddening landscape of promise and desolation. ... [His plays] make up the most searching exploration of family dynamics since Eugene O’Neill.”

“Having just returned from visiting the Sam Shepard Archives in the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University, I realized that in leading a discussion of the work of Sam

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Shepard for our community, it was vital we provide Portland audiences an opportunity to see the quintet of family plays in its entirety,” commented Profile’s Artistic Director, Adriana Baer.

In November 2013 Profile partnered with the Hollywood Theatre to present the film version of *Fool for Love*. *Buried Child* is scheduled as a main stage production beginning May 29, and *A Lie of the Mind* will be presented as a staged reading, for two performances, July 12 and 13. In addition to adding **TRUE WEST**, Profile will also be producing a reading of Shepard’s play **CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS** as part of its In Dialogue staged reading series to fill out the quintet. The reading will be free of charge, and take place on October 20 2014 on the Alder Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre. Tickets can now be reserved online at Profiletheatre.org.

“I am excited to bring both **TRUE WEST** and **CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS** into our discussion of Shepard’s work,” continued Baer. “Seeing the entire family quintet alongside Shepard’s cache of short plays being produced in our Festival of One Acts will allow us to have a fuller and more encompassing exploration of this playwright.”

Ticket holders for *Kicking a Dead Horse* will receive new tickets for **TRUE WEST** for the same dates and seats as purchased previously, automatically assuring them seating for this event.

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 season continues with the In Dialogue Staged Reading of *Hungry*, by Amy Claussen, being presented March 15-16 on the Alder Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre. In Dialogue staged readings include new and contemporary plays in conversation with Sam Shepard’s body of work, as well as readings of Shepard plays not included in our Main Stage season or Festival of One Acts.

Profile is currently offering subscription packages and single tickets for the season. For

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more information, visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080.

TRUE WEST Ticketing and Performance Information:

Profile Theatre provides a variety of ticketing options for the 2014 Main Stage Season, including season subscription packages.

For subscription and single ticket information, visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080.

Ticket Prices:

\$30 for all regular performances. \$25 for all preview performances.

30-and-under Rush: \$15 tickets can be purchased on the day of the performance only, 1 hours prior to curtain time at the box office, subject to availability, by people 30 years old and under.

Groups of ten or more receive a discount off single tickets. Contact the box office at 503.242.0080 for details.

Production Schedule:

Previews begin Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 7:30pm. Opening night is Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 7:30pm.

Performances run Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30pm; Sunday at 2:00pm.

Location:

Profile Theatre's 2014 Season 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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