



PROFILE THEATRE

2018-19 DOUBLE SEASON:

Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith



FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE:

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Profile Theatre presents *In the Wake*:

A Play Set in the Bush Years Offers Comic, Aching Insight Into the White, Liberal Psyche

"Kron marries vigorous political probing with pitch-perfect humor and heartache." —The New Yorker

PORTLAND, OREGON, USA. October 26, 2018 - PROFILE THEATRE presents Lisa Kron's political comedy set in the Bush years- *In the Wake*. Spanning five years, the play is set against the back drop of two presidential election cycles from George W. Bush's disputed election victory, through 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq and on into the national catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina.

When Kron wrote the play she was contemplating Bush's second term, asking "how far can we fall?" and "how bad can it get?". Eight years since its premiere, *In the Wake* will undoubtedly resonate with Portland audiences facing the first stretch of the Trump years, but be forewarned: *In the Wake* offers no easy answers or simple villains.

At the story's center is Ellen, an every woman of white liberal America— affable, self-reflective, and obsessively up on current events. She is a New Yorker with a burgeoning career as a writer, and a loving partner the public school teacher Danny. When Ellen meets Amy and decides to pursue an extra-marital relationship, she must grapple with her "blind spots" and the hurt caused when one's pursuit of pleasure and adventure eclipse all else.

As Ellen's behavior starts to look a lot like American exceptionalism (and the pursuit of opportunity at all costs), *In the Wake* leaves us to consider our own blind spots, and ways we might be complicit in our national narratives.

In The Wake is directed by Profile Theatre Artistic Director Josh Hecht. The creative team includes: Playwright **Lisa Kron** and Director **Josh Hecht** with design by **Dan Meeker** (set — *The Language Archive* at Portland Playhouse), **Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew** (lights and projections - *Paris Commune* at BAM), **Matt Wiens** (sound — *Water By The Spoonful / The Happiest Song Plays Last* at Profile) and **Elyse Grimaldi** (costumes — *The Wolf* at Shaking The Tree). Cast includes **Beth Thompson** (Ellen — *Tender Napalm*), **Jamie Rea** (Amy — *The Secretaries* at Profile), **Chris Murray** (Danny — *Radiant Vermin* at CoHo), **Alissa Jessup** (Laurie— Ape Theatre Artistic Director), **Danielle Weathers** (Kayla — *Luna Gale* at CoHo), **Jane Geesman** (Judy— *The Udmurts* at Defunkt Theatre) and **Tamera Lyn** (Tessa — *Skeleton Crew* at Artists Rep).



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WHERE: Morrison Stage, Artists Repertory Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison Street, Portland OR 97205

WHEN: November 29 - December 16, 2018, Thursday-Saturday @ 7:30 pm. Matinees on Sundays 12/2, 12/9 and 12/16. Opening Saturday, December 1. Previews November 29 and 30. **ASL interpretation on December 7**

TICKETS: Now available online at www.profiletheatre.org.

Contact box office at (503)-242-0080 or boxoffice@profiletheatre.org

Season Subscriptions on sale now to see 4 plays for \$80-\$144

Single Tickets on sale now for \$20-\$38

*Discounts offered for groups, students, teachers, ASL, 30-and-under, Arts for All and previews.

NEXT UP:

Don't miss **Lisa Kron in conversation** with Josh Hecht during her Portland residency, December 2-10. **WHEN:** Sunday, December 9 at 11 am on the Morrison Stage

TICKETS: Now available online at www.profiletheatre.org. \$50 premium / \$35 general / \$30 subscriber / \$20 student

Lisa Kron, Playwright has been writing and performing theater since 1984. Her work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. Her play *Fun Home*, a musical written with composer Jeanine Tesori and based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel, earned her 2 Tony Awards in 2015, for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score (with Jeanine Tesori); the show also won the Tony Award for Best Musical. Other plays include *The Ver**zon Play*; *In The Wake* which received Lortel and GLAAD Media Award nominations, was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, named a "Best Play of 2010" by TimeOut and Backstage; *Well*, was named a "Best Play of 2004" by the New York Times, the Associated Press, the Newark Star Ledger, Backstage, and the Advocate. *2.5 Minute Ride* which received OBIE, L.A. Drama-Logue, New York Press, and GLAAD Media Awards; *101 Humiliating Stories*, which received a Drama Desk nomination. *In the Wake* was Lisa Kron's first "well-made play" in which she didn't feature as a character. Oskar Eustis, the artistic director of the Public Theater, described *In the Wake* as "a portrait of the way we live now" and compared it to the work of Tony Kushner. "Lisa has for some time been moving away from her definition as a performer-writer. This is her embracing that what she is a great American playwright." (New York Times)

Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew, Lighting & Projection Designer creates visual environments for theatre, opera, dance, and dance that are organically integrated into the landscape and language of the production. Her designs have been described as "clever" and "inventive" (New York Times) and with "the vibrant richness of a Caravaggio painted in neon". Her designs have been seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Rose Theater Jazz at Lincoln Center, Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC), HERE Arts Center, St. Ann's Warehouse, and many other venues around the world. Jeanette received the Bel Geddes Design Enhancement award for her lighting and projection design for *Ludic Proxy*. She was the recipient of the 2009-2011 NEA/TCG Career Development Program.

*For additional bios or to arrange interviews with artists, please contact Marketing Consultant Jen Mitas. For more information, visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080

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