



PROFILE THEATRE

2019-20: GENERATIONS

Brenden Jacobs-Jenkins/ Lynn Nottage/ Paula Vogel

FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE:

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Profile Theatre Presents Paula Vogel's *Baltimore Waltz*

A Wistful Comedy about Loss and the Desire to Hold Our Loved Ones Close

"...a crazy-quilt patchwork of hyperventilating language, erotic jokes, movie kitsch and medical nightmare...that spins before the audience in Viennese waltz time, replete with a dizzying fall." —New York Times

"An immensely likable winning comedy-drama" —Hollywood Reporter

PORTLAND, OREGON. September 18, 2019- PROFILE THEATRE presents Paula Vogel's play that premiered in 1991. Dedicated to her brother who died of AIDS, the play tells the story of two siblings who run off to Europe in search of romance and a cure to the "Acquired Toilet Disease" with which sister Anna has recently been diagnosed. Winner of a 1991 Obie for best new play, *Baltimore Waltz* established Vogel's gift for language play and stylistic mash ups. Shifting between European language lessons, mysterious encounters, and nonsense medical diagnoses, the play uses the tropes of film noir to satirize the desperate search for a cure for AIDS.

Profile's *Baltimore Waltz* is a chance to celebrate Paula Vogel's evolution as a high priestess of American Theatre, whose plays often have a way of turning personal pain into joyous, life-affirming gifts. Directed by Josh Hecht, and featuring Jen Rowe



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and Dan Kitrosser in the sibling roles and Josh Weinstein as “The Third Man”, Profile’s production will highlight the contemporary relevance and insight of the play that is one part European sex-farce, one part heartfelt tribute to sibling love, and one part scathing political indictment written at the height of the AIDS crisis.

Hecht affirms the resonance of this production thirty years on: “Let it be known that in 2019 AIDS is not “over.” Though most Americans-- those with access to high quality healthcare-- will not die of AIDS, 1 million Americans live with HIV, and the ongoing stigma it brings in many communities. And there is the generation of LGBTQ-identified people who have come of age with shadow of the trauma of the 1980s and 90s looming over us, and with the profound loss of mentorship, guidance and inter-generational transmission that every community needs.” In honor of *Baltimore Waltz*, this season will include a year-long series of activities and workshops with a group of community members impacted by HIV and AIDS through Profile’s **Community Profile** program.

Baltimore Waltz is the first of the new double season **Generations**, which explores Lynn Nottage, Paula Vogel, Brendan Jacobs-Jenkins. Spread over two years, **Generations** will present three full productions from each writer, plus an array of concert stagings, panel discussions, community engagement activities and playwright residencies, allowing patrons to go in depth into each writers’ body of work while also drawing out the connections that emerge from holding up these master artists in an extended conversation. The first year of this double season will focus largely on Vogel and Nottage, with two full productions of each. The second year will focus on Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, with three productions of his, alongside one production each of Vogel and Nottage. This clustering is designed to enhance the experience of going in-depth in a playwrights’ body of work.

Baltimore Waltz is directed by Profile Theatre Artistic Director Josh Hecht. The creative team includes: Playwright Paula Vogel and Director Josh Hecht with design by Daniel Meeker (set —*In the Wake* at Profile), Matt Wiens (sound — *Well* and *Let Me Down Easy* at Profile), Sarah Gahagan (costumes — *Teenage Dick* at Artists Rep), and Alex Pletcher (costumes- *Let Me Down Easy* at Profile). Cast includes Jen Rowe (*The Secretaries* at Profile), Dan Kitrosser (‘We the Animals’ screenwriter), Josh Weinstein (*Body Awareness* at CoHo Productions).

WHEN: October 17 - November 3. Thursday-Saturday @ 7:30 pm. Previews 10/17-10/19. Matinees on Sundays at 2 pm, 10/20, 10/27 and 11/3. **ASL interpretation on Friday 10/25**

WHERE: Imago Theatre, 17 SE 8th Ave., Portland OR, 97214

TICKETS: Now available online at www.profiletheatre.org
Contact box office at (503)-242-0080 or boxoffice@profiletheatre.org



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Season Subscriptions on sale now for \$160-\$220

Single Tickets on sale now for \$20-\$40

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

NEXT UP: Concert stagings of *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage and *Mother Courage* by Bertolt Brecht. Between a staged reading and a full production, these stagings will illuminate the links between Brecht's canonical play and Nottage's recent one, both of which evoke the resilience of the human spirit during times of war. December 4-8 @ Imago Theatre

ABOUT Profile Theatre is one of only three theaters in the country to dedicate their season to an in-depth exploration of a playwright's vision, using that unique vision as a lens to broaden perspectives on our shared world. Now, in an innovation that deploys Profile's mission to unique effect, we present **Generations**: two seasons of plays from three of America's most beloved playwrights whose plays dramatize life, labor and death in the United States and beyond from three different generational vantage points. These visionaries are all connected through the prizes and programs that have shaped them. A gifted playwright, Vogel mentored a generation of playwrights, including Lynn Nottage, who studied with Vogel at Brown. Jacobs-Jenkins was the Paula Vogel Playwright-in-Residence at the Vineyard Theatre, and was on the Susan Smith Blackburn committee that awarded the prize to Nottage for *Sweat*.

All Pulitzer Prize nominated (or winning), all heralded for the beauty of their writing, their innovative theatricality and deep humanity, Vogel, Nottage and Jacobs-Jenkins' work stands as a testament to the brilliance of American theatre. Artistic Director Josh Hecht notes: "I have loved all three of these playwrights for some time. Paula Vogel helped shape my theatrical aesthetic; Lynn Nottage opened my heart with her fierce portraits; Branden Jacobs-Jenkins continues to explode my sense of what plays can look like and speak to. I'm thrilled to share their work with a Portland audience in an extended two-year artistic conversation."

ABOUT Paula Vogel — PLAYWRIGHT

One of the most prolific and celebrated writers of her generation — and a gifted teacher who has mentored many of our most important writers, including past Profile Featured Writers Sarah Ruhl and Quiara Alegria Hudes — Vogel remains at the height of her powers, producing some of her most exciting work forty years after her plays first premiered in New York and regionally. Her play *The Baltimore Waltz* brought her national prominence when it received an Obie Award in 1990. Her most recent play, *Indecent*, was nominated for 2017 Tony Award and has had productions at leading theatres across the country. Profile will bring this stunning new play to Portland in a co-production with Artists Repertory Theatre and Portland State University.



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ABOUT Josh Hecht— DIRECTOR

Josh is the Artistic Director of Profile Theatre where he recently directed the rotating repertory productions of Lisa Kron's *Well* and Anna Deavere Smith's *Let Me Down Easy*, Lisa Kron's *In The Wake*, the concert staging of Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* and the rotating repertory productions of Quiara Alegria Hudes' *Water by the Spoonful* and *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. Other Portland productions include *Teenage Dick* at Artists Repertory Theatre and the upcoming *Indecent*, a co-production between Artists Rep and Profile. He is a Drama Desk Award-winning director whose productions have been seen in New York at MCC Theater, The Cherry Lane, The Duke on 42nd Street, New World Stages, Culture Project, regionally at The Guthrie Theater, the Berkshire Theatre Group, the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Signature Theatre (DC) and internationally at the Dublin Arts Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and elsewhere. His collaboration with Ping Chong and Company was commissioned by and premiered at The Kennedy Center before touring the northeast. His writing has received the support of the Jerome Foundation. He is formerly the Director of Playwright Development at MCC Theater and the Director of New Play Development at WET. He's served on the faculty of the New School for Drama MFA Directing program, the Fordham University MFA Playwriting program, Purchase College SUNY's BFA Dramatic Writing program and has been a guest artist at The Juilliard School, NYU's Dramatic Writing MFA, Carnegie Mellon's MFA Playwriting, University of Minnesota's BFA Acting program and others.

ABOUT Profile Theatre

Founded in 1997, Profile Theatre quickly established itself as a leading voice in Portland's cultural scene. In 2010, Profile was awarded the inaugural New National Theatre Company Award from the American Theatre Wing, designed to bring national attention to "the most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape." More recently, Profile has twice been recognized by Advance Gender Equity in the Arts for its leadership in the field, and its Diversity and Inclusion Initiative has been profiled in [Howlround](#). 2018-2019, Hecht's first fully programmed season as Artistic Director, included the commission and world premiere of *(Un)Conditional* by National Medal of Arts Awardee Ping Chong + Company, a community-invested work amplifying the themes of the Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith season, and brought Lisa Kron to Portland for a week-long Playwright's Residency.

*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 ###