



PROFILE THEATRE

2019-20: GENERATIONS

Brenden Jacobs-Jenkins/ Lynn Nottage/ Paula Vogel

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Profile Theatre Press Contact:

Jen Mitas, Marketing Consultant

jenmitas@gmail.com

503-804-2402



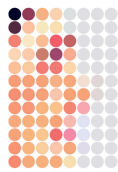
Profile Theatre's 2019-20 Season Celebrates the Voices and Visions of Three Playwrights Across Generations

Lynn Nottage, Paula Vogel and Brenden Jacobs-Jenkins

PORTLAND, OREGON. May 20, 2019- PROFILE THEATRE'S next season will feature three of America's most widely celebrated contemporary playwrights: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (b. 1984), Lynn Nottage (b. 1964), and Paula Vogel (b. 1951).

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."



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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 writer's 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. Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' work will be introduced through concert stagings and other supplemental programming. In honor of Vogel's play *Baltimore Waltz* (which is in part a eulogy for a brother lost to AIDS), 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. 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.

SEASON 2019-20

***The Baltimore Waltz* by Paula Vogel, directed by Josh Hecht**

Part heartfelt tribute, part political indictment written at the height of the AIDS crisis.

Winner of the Obie for Best New Play

October 17 - November 3 at Imago Theatre

Ruined (a concert staging) by Lynn Nottage and *Mother Courage* by Bertholt Brecht, in rotating repertory

December 5-15, Location TBD

Sweat by Lynn Nottage, director TBD

A group of friends in industrial town of Reading, Pennsylvania find themselves pitted against each other in a heart-wrenching fight to stay afloat.

January 16 - February 2 at Imago Theatre

Indecent by Paula Vogel, directed by Josh Hecht

Indecent combines high energy Yiddish theater with the heartbreak of cultural loss to tell the story of the 1923 Broadway debut of Sholem Asch's controversial play.

Tony nomination Best Play 2017

February 18 - March 12 at Lincoln Hall. Co-Production with Artists Repertory Theatre

Concert Staging TBD by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

April 30 - May 3, Location TBD

Meet Vera Stark by Lynn Nottage, director TBD

A sly satire that tells the story of African American actress and house maid Vera Stark, hailed for her trailblazing role in an antebellum epic starring...her boss.

Nominated for a 2012 Drama Desk Award for Best Play

May 28 - June 21 at Portland Playhouse

TICKETS: Subscriptions and tickets available now www.profiletheatre.org.



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

Season Subscriptions 4 plays plus two concert stagings for \$120-\$220

Single Tickets for \$20-\$55

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

ABOUT the Playwrights

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins is a Brooklyn-based playwright. His plays include *Everybody* (Signature Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *War* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *Appropriate* (Signature Theatre; Obie Award), *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep; Obie Award) and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). A Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre, his most recent honors include the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright from the London Evening Standard, a London Critics Circle Award for Most Promising Playwriting, a MacArthur fellowship, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award. He sits on the board of Soho Rep and is an associate co-director of the Hunter College MFA program in playwriting.

Lynn Nottage is a playwright and a screenwriter, and the only woman to have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize twice. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. Her most recent play, *Mlima's Tale*, premiered at the Public Theater in May 2018. In the spring of 2017, *Sweat* (Pulitzer Prize, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Tony Nomination, Drama Desk Nomination) moved to Broadway after a sold out run at The Public Theater. It premiered and was commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Arena Stage. Other plays include *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Las Meninas*, *Mud, River, Stone*, *Por'knockers* and *POOF!*.

Nottage is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award, Merit and Literature Award from The Academy of Arts and Letters, Columbia University Provost Grant, Doris Duke Artist Award, among others.

Paula Vogel has written *How I Learned to Drive* (Pulitzer Prize, New York Drama Critics Award, Obie Award, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and many more.) and *Indecent* (Tony, Drama Desk, Obie and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for Best Play). Other plays include *A Civil War Christmas*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Mineola Twins*, *Hot 'N' Throbbin*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Desdemona*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, and *The Oldest Profession*.



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John Simon once remarked that Paula Vogel had more awards than a “black sofa collects lint.” Some of these include Induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame, Thornton Wilder Award, Lifetime Achievement from the Dramatists Guild, the William Inge Award, the Elliott Norton Award, two Obies, a Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Award, a TCG residency award, a Guggenheim, a Pew Charitable Trust Award, among others. But she is particularly proud of her Thirtini Award from 13P, and honored by three Awards in her name: the Paula Vogel Award for playwrights given by The Vineyard Theatre, the Paula Vogel Award from the American College Theatre Festival, and the Paula Vogel mentorship program, curated by Quiara Hudes and Young Playwrights of Philadelphia.

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 where she developed the film script for *Fun Home*, led a writing workshop for community members and gave a performance of some of her solo work on the Profile stage.

*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 ###