

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Profile Theatre presents Paula Vogel's *The Mineola Twins* as the first livestream and video on demand production in the company's history**

"a bright cartoon of a play...divinely funny." -Variety.

**PORTLAND, OREGON. February 24, 2021** - On **March 5**, Profile Theatre will present their first of three livestream performances of *The Mineola Twins* written by Pulitzer prize-winner Paula Vogel with direction by Josh Hecht. The production will also be available as video on demand for two weeks following the live performances through **March 21**.

***What is the difference between good and evil?*** Myrna and Myra, almost identical twins, battle each other through the Eisenhower, Nixon and Reagan/Bush years over virginity, Vietnam and Family Values. "The political and cultural divides of American life are roundly decried even as they are exuberantly spoofed in Paula Vogel's *THE MINEOLA TWINS*. Vogel's text is...like The Carol Burnett Show with a political consciousness...its go-for-broke adventurousness is endearing." -Variety.

*The Mineola Twins* uses doppelgangers and mistaken identity to explore the opposing sides of the culture wars from the 1950's through the 1990's including women's sexual freedom and the ongoing fight for reproductive rights. Myrna is the "good" twin and Myra is the "evil" twin and Portland actor **Miriam Schwartz** plays both, sometimes switching quickly between the two in the same scene showcasing her dazzling range and comedic timing. **Jennifer Lanier** plays the love interests of both twins: the ill-fated Jim, and Myra's lesbian partner Sarah. **Blake**

**Stone** plays the sons of both twins: Myrna's counter-cultural flower-child Kenny, and Myra's Young Republican Ben.

This is the first time in a year since Profile Theatre has produced a play featuring real-time performances, adding to their repertoire of digital programming [ON AIR](#) including audio plays, community podcasts and virtual events over Zoom. Actors will be broadcast from their homes over 5 performances and are using theatrical elements including costumes, props, wigs and virtual sets paired with lighting design and green screens. Video and Lighting designer Jeanette Yew is using new technology to put the 3 actors in 9 different locations spanning 4 decades. Returning to Profile for another digital program, Matt Wiens will layer in music and a rich soundscape to enhance what you see. With multiple costumes and nearly a dozen wigs designed by Sarah Gahagan and Amanda Cobb and props designed by Emily Wilkin they'll make gestural movements in big and bold ways.

Artistic Director Josh Hecht says:

“Paula Vogel tells us ‘there are two ways to do this play: 1. With good wigs. 2. With bad wigs. I prefer the second way.’ She does this because she has a long-standing love of *camp*, but also because she is interested in misbehaving bodies. All of us live in bodies that fail in some way to live up to gender norms. The “bad wigs” in this production help us perform gender and perform American suburbia, and expose the space between those ideals and, well, all of us. As only Paula can do, she takes important and topical socio-political issues like reproductive rights and sexual regulation and finds a way to be funny and irreverent and even a little naughty with them.”

*The Mineola Twins* by Paula Vogel is directed by Josh Hecht with lighting, video and OBS design by **Jeanette Yew** (Hewes Design Award-winner and Head of Lighting Design Training at Tisch School of the Arts). Sound design and original music composition by **Matt Wiens** (*The Baltimore Waltz* and *Claudia, A Viral Love Story* - Profile Theatre). Costume design is led by **Sarah Gahagan** (*Teenage Dick* - ART) with co-costume design by **Amanda Cobb**. **Alan Cline** (*Hot 'N' Throbbing Illustrated* - Profile Theatre) is serving as associate video and OBS designer. **Jamie M. Rea** (*Hot 'N' Throbbing* - Profile Theatre) is serving as the line producer and stage management is by **Jamie Lynne Simons** (*Las Meninas* - Profile Theatre). **Iain Chester** (*Burn This* - Asylum Theatre) is serving as the production associate.

*The Mineola Twins* is playing **Mar. 5-Mar. 21, 2021** at [profiletheatre.org/the-mineola-twins](https://profiletheatre.org/the-mineola-twins)  
Run-time is approximately 1 hr. 45 min.

**WATCH VIA LIVESTREAM FOR \$20 MARCH 5-MARCH 8, 2021**

Friday, March 5, 2021 @ 7:30pm - \$20 Opening Night

Saturday, March 6, 2021 @ 7:30pm - \$20 Evening

Sunday, March 7, 2021 @ 2pm - \$20 Matinee

## **WATCH ON DEMAND FOR \$10+ MARCH 8-MARCH 21, 2021**

After the three livestream performances a recording will be available to play on demand through March 21. *The Mineola Twins* will then be available free for members and available for 24-hour rentals for non-members at a sliding scale \$10+. Members have unlimited access to all of Profile's programming through June 2021 as well as bonus content and virtual event invites. Memberships are on sale for **\$75** [profiletheatre.org/membership](https://profiletheatre.org/membership)

## **COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE**

Profile prioritizes the health and safety of their artistic teams. They are creating, rehearsing and broadcasting *The Mineola Twins* following strict social distancing and sanitation guidelines in accordance with union, local, state and federal guidelines.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

Originally from Seattle, WA, **Miriam Schwartz** has spent the majority of her career in Minneapolis where past credits include roles at the Guthrie Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Artistry MN, 7th House Theatre Company, Arrow Theatre Company, and The Playwrights' Center. She is the recipient of a 2018 MN Theatre Award for Exceptional Individual Performance for her work in the Guthrie's production of INDECENT-- a role she was thrilled to play again at Artists Rep in collaboration with Profile Theatre in 2020. Miriam is a graduate of the Guthrie Theatre's BFA Actor Training Program.

**Jennifer Lanier** received her classical acting training at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and improvisation training from Paul Sills. Jennifer is currently Co-Artistic Director of Original Practice Shakespeare Festival (OPS Fest) in Portland Oregon. She has worked in regional theatre (Portland Center Stage, American Stage, Third Rail Repertory), touring theatre (Artist's Repertory Theatre, Lesbian Thespians, United Stage), television ("Leverage", "Hawaii", "Grimm"), and film ("Thin Skin", "Scrapper", "Woodstock or Bust"). Jennifer is delighted to return to Profile Theatre.

**Blake Stone** is delighted to appear as Kenny and Ben in *The Mineola Twins*, his first Profile Theatre production. Blake has had the pleasure of creating several memorable performances in the Portland area, where he has worked in the industry since 2014. You may have seen Blake's work in a few notable roles and productions such as Anthony in Artist Repertory Theatre's *I and You*, Claude in Staged!'s *Hair*, and most recently as Jimmy in Bonnie Ratner's *Blind*, presented by Chapel Theatre Collective. Next, Blake will be Co-Producing Chapel Theatre Collective's upcoming play festival, set for virtual release in the first week of March.

## **ABOUT PAULA VOGEL**

Pulitzer Prize-winner, Tony nominee, and American Theatre Hall of Fame inductee Paula Vogel is one of today's most prolific and honored working writers.

A native of the DC - Baltimore area, Vogel has been writing plays since the late 1970s. Her early work was developed and produced at the legendary Circle Repertory Theatre in New York. *The Baltimore Waltz* first brought her national prominence when it won the Obie Award for Best New Play in 1991. Throughout the 1990s, Vogel made a name for herself with strongly feminist wide-ranging work like *Hot 'N' Throbbing* and *The Mineola Twins*. Her 1997 play *How I*

*Learned to Drive* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, launched the career of actor Mary Louise Parker, and has received hundreds of productions the world over.

The 2000s saw adventurous works like *A Civil War Christmas*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *Don Juan Returns from Iraq*. But it is her most recent play *Indecent* that has re-established Vogel as a master artist at the height of her career. Commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions project, the play transferred to Broadway in 2017 where it earned a Tony nomination for Best Play.

A gifted teacher and mentor, Vogel has trained a generation of prominent playwrights, including Adam Bock, Edwige Danticat, Nilo Cruz, and past Profile Featured Writers Sarah Ruhl, Quiara Alegria Hudes and Lynn Nottage, with whom she shares this special double-season at Profile Theatre.

### **ABOUT JOSH HECHT**

At Profile, Josh has directed Paula Vogel's *The Baltimore Waltz* and *Indecent* (co-production with Artists Rep), Lisa Kron's *In The Wake and Well*, Anna Deavere Smith's *Let Me Down Easy* and the concert staging of *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 Mike Lew's *Teenage Dick* (Artists Rep). His 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, 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 directing has received the Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience and Fringe First Awards in Dublin and Edinburgh for Best Production, as well as GLAAD and IRNE nominations; 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 and has worked at most of the play development centers across the country including The O'Neill, New York Stage and Film, The Playwrights Center, The Lark, PlayPenn, New Harmony Project, JAW at Portland Center Stage and others. He is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect and an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab.

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 program, Carnegie Mellon's MFA Playwriting program, 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." 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. The 2018–2019 season was Hecht's first fully programmed season as Artistic Director and 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.

Profile's 2019-2021 double season **[GENERATIONS](#)** uses their unique mission to dedicate their season to an in-depth exploration of a playwright's vision. By featuring Paula Vogel, Lynn Nottage and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins they are diving deep into artistic lineage and reflecting the diversity of humanity's lived experiences.

Until it's safe to gather again, Profile Theatre On Air is their digital platform for sharing audio plays, community podcasts and more. In 2020, they released a serial audio play **[Claudia, A Viral Love Story](#)** inspired by Paula Vogel's "bake-off" method for playwriting. You can still listen to all 5 episodes on their website or on your favorite podcast listening app. Also in 2020 they produced full-length audio play adaptations of **[Mlima's Tale](#)** and **[Las Meninas](#)** by Lynn Nottage. Now playing ON AIR through June 2021 is **[Hot 'N' Throbbing](#)** by Paula Vogel directed by Jamie M. Rea. This audio play features incredible voice acting, dynamic illustrations by Ant Proctor and original music by Lo Steele.

In addition to audio plays Profile Theatre is producing two bi-weekly community podcasts, **[Community Profile: Voices From the Real World](#)** featuring participants from their signature community engagement program; a free monthly writing workshop and affinity space for the LGBTQIA+ community and Black Women. **[Satellite: Beyond the Page](#)** is akin to post-show discussions and features artists and guests who speak on topics relevant to their audio plays.

\*For additional bios or to arrange interviews with artists, please contact Director of Patron and Donor Relations, Krina Turner. For more information visit **[profiletheatre.org](http://profiletheatre.org)**  
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