

IRON CROW THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRON CROW THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW 18/19 SEASON OF BECOMING

EXAMINES THE MANY WAYS WE BECOME WHO WE ARE

BALTIMORE, Maryland – August 3, 2018: Today, Iron Crow Theatre announced the 18/19 Season of Becoming, a further exploration of self from its 17/18 Season of Identity. Filled with new programs and initiatives, the upcoming season will include the launch of CrowLabs: Masterclass. This new educational program at Iron Crow Theatre offers Baltimore's local artist community **free access** to a new type of creative laboratory – an innovative workshop experience where artistic exploration is celebrated alongside some of the nation's most renowned and accomplished theatre artists and organizations. Iron Crow Theatre is honored to welcome the Tectonic Theater Project to Baltimore for the first ever CrowLabs: Masterclass.

The 18/19 Season of Becoming includes *The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project in memoriam of the 20th anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard; a whole new winter holiday take on Baltimore's favorite tradition and Iron Crow Theatre's annual fundraiser benefiting Baltimore's Moveable Feast, *The Rocky Horror Show*; a new play direct from Lincoln Center Theatre in NYC, *The Mystery of Love and Sex*, by the critically-acclaimed playwright Bathsheba Doran; and from Tony award-winning authors William Finn and James Lapine, the brilliant, sarcastic, and heart-warming musical *A New Brain*.

"Thematically, this season follows characters from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds as they struggle to defy the 'shoulds' of society and begin the oftentimes grueling and difficult journey of expressing and celebrating their true authentic selves, something that is especially challenging for queer populations," said Mr. Sean Elias, Iron Crow Theatre's Artistic Director. "This season dares us all to engage with our pain, our fear, and our ability to love both ourselves and others in hopes of becoming who we wish to be. For Iron Crow Theatre, the Season of Becoming renews our commitment to becoming the best theatre we can, to serving our community of artists and patrons in meaningful new ways, and to laying the foundation for becoming Baltimore's next Equity theatre."

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

By Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by John Knapp

Friday, September 14 - Sunday, September 23, 2018

In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old openly gay student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, beaten, tortured, and left to die – tied to a fence in the middle of a prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming, simply for being gay. His name was Matthew Shepard. Matthew's murder brought national

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and international attention to the lack of hate crime legislation across the nation and forced a small community to wrestle with its identity on both the local and national levels. In this groundbreaking docudrama, Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project capture the human voice of Laramie. With just 8 actors playing over 60 roles, *The Laramie Project* weaves together interviews, journal entries, and published news reports to create a breathtaking theatrical collage exploring the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.

In coordination with the 20th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death, Iron Crow Theatre will be hosting a series of special events and talkbacks, including welcoming the Tectonic Theater Project to Baltimore for the inaugural CrowLabs: Masterclass. The following events have been scheduled:

STAGED READING: *THE LARAMIE PROJECT: 10 YEARS LATER*

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 7:00pm

The cast of *The Laramie Project* will present a staged reading of the sequel to *The Laramie Project*, entitled *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*. A portion of proceeds from this reading will benefit the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

AFTER SHOWS WITH THE CROWS: TALKBACK / CATHY RENA, FORMER COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR OF GLAAD

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Cathy Rena, former Communications Director of GLAAD, will join Iron Crow Theatre's cast and crew members in a dialogue following the 7:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*. Cathy Rena was on assignment in Laramie, Wyoming, when the events surrounding Matthew Shepard's death took place and will offer our audiences a unique inside perspective on one of queer history's most defining moments.

AFTER SHOWS WITH THE CROWS: TALKBACK / TECTONIC THEATER PROJECT'S CO-FOUNDER JEFFREY LAHOSTE

Friday, September 21, 2018

Tony and Emmy award-nominee and co-founder of the Tectonic Theater Project, Jeffrey LaHoste, will join Iron Crow Theatre cast and crew members in a dialogue following the 8:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*. Jeffrey LaHoste will provide rare insights into Moment Work, the technique developed by the Tectonic Theater Project and used to create *The Laramie Project*. Mr. LaHoste founded the Tectonic Theater Project with Moisés Kaufman and has contributed to the development and production of all of Tectonic's works, as well as serving as one of the original interviewers during the creation of *The Laramie Project*.

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CROWLABS: MASTERCLASS - TECTONIC THEATER PROJECT / MOMENT WORK

Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 10:00am

Join two certified Moment Work Teaching Artists (Tectonic Theater Project's co-founder Jeffrey LaHoste and D.C.-based theatre artist Billie Krishawn) for CrowLabs: Masterclass - Tectonic Theater Project / Moment Work. Moment Work is the process used at Tectonic Theater Project to create such classic works as *The Laramie Project*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, and *33 Variations*. Moment Work explores the theatrical potential of all the elements of the stage (props, sound, architecture, lights, costume, etc.) in order to create strong theatrical and dramatic narratives. The technique is the Tectonic Theater Project's approach for "writing performance" as opposed to "writing text." In this way, company members are encouraged to dream about the material they find compelling in a theatrical setting. Moment Work gives artists the freedom to create individual, self-contained theatrical units (Moments) and then sequence these units together into theatrical phrases or sentences that will eventually become a play. Registration for this free workshop is available online by visiting www.ironcrowtheatre.org/crowlabs.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Book, Music and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien

Directed by Sean Elias

Friday, December 14 - Sunday, December 16, 2018

This year, Baltimore's award-winning and favorite tradition, *The Rocky Horror Show*, goes holiday! Join us for a winter holiday mashup and experience this quintessential queer theatrical experience like never before! You'll be helping to raise funds for Baltimore's Moveable Feast just in time for the winter holidays. In this cult classic film turned live stage musical, sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, seek shelter at a mysterious old castle on a dark and stormy night, where they encounter transvestite scientist Dr. Frank-N-Furter. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker and a creepy butler. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Dr. Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky." Complete with call-outs, cascading toilet paper, and an array of other audience participation props included with every ticket purchased, this deliberately kitschy rock 'n' roll sci-fi gothic thriller will be more outrageous than ever!

The Rocky Horror Show is Iron Crow Theatre's Yearly Fundraiser. All proceeds from *The Rocky Horror Show* benefit Baltimore's Moveable Feast and Iron Crow Theatre's Sustainability Fund to increase artist honorariums and production quality, ensuring that Iron Crow Theatre remains a vibrant and sustainable theatre in Baltimore. Since 2016, over \$4,000 has been donated to Moveable Feast through Iron Crow Theatre's annual production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

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THE MYSTERY OF LOVE & SEX

By Bathsheba Doran

Directed by Dr. Natka Bianchini

Friday, January 25 - Sunday, February 3, 2019

Straight from Lincoln Center Theatre in NYC and from critically-acclaimed playwright Bathsheba Doran, comes a new play heralded by the New York Times as, "Perfectly wonderful! Among the season's finest plays." Deep in the American South, Charlotte and Jonny have been best friends since they were nine. She's Jewish, he's Christian; he's black, she's white. Their differences intensify their connection, and they are now trying to determine whether their close friendship might be something more. When they discover exactly what "more" entails, sexual desire complicates everything in surprising, compulsive ways, as it comes as a surprise to them both – and to Charlotte's parents, who are holding secrets and resentments of their own. An unexpected love story about where souls meet and the consequences of growing up, this compelling and spirited narrative of intricate relationships is an entertaining and explosive look at race, sexual identity, and family dynamics.

A NEW BRAIN

Music and Lyrics by William Finn

Book by William Finn and James Lapine

Directed by Sean Elias

Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 9, 2019

From the Tony Award-winning authors of *Falsettos*, William Finn and James Lapine, with vocal arrangements by Tony Award-winning Jason Robert Brown, *A New Brain* is an energetic, sardonic, and often comical musical about unforeseen life events reminding us of who we are, what we're made of, and who we hope to be. Gordon, a composer for a children's TV show that features a human frog named Mr. Bungee, dreams of quitting his 'talent killing' job and writing Broadway's next hit musical. At lunch, Gordon collapses into his meal and wakes up in the hospital, surrounded by his maritime-enthusiast boyfriend, his overbearing mother, a co-worker, and a team of medical professionals. Thought to have a tumor inside his brain, Gordon finds the courage to confront not only his mortality as he agrees to the necessary yet life-threatening surgery, but also the specter of Mr. Bungee and the music still left unwritten.

The story of *A New Brain* is drawn from Finn's own life. Back in 1992, shortly after the successful opening of *Falsettos* on Broadway – the culmination of years of work – Finn suffered a brain seizure and was hospitalized. During this painfully difficult time, his doctors could not immediately pinpoint the cause of the seizure and were not sure if he would survive. Finn also feared that, even if he lived, he still might lose his ability to write. From such dire source material came this surprisingly joyous and funny musical.

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All performances and programming, including After Shows with the Crows and CrowLabs: Masterclass, take place at the historic Baltimore Theatre Project located at 45 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. All programming follows the performance schedule outlined below:

The Laramie Project, The Mystery of Love & Sex, A New Brain

Thursday: 7:00pm

Friday: 8:00pm

Saturday: 2:00pm and 8:00pm

Sunday: 5:30pm

The Rocky Horror Show

Friday: 8:00pm and 11:30pm

Saturday: 5:30pm, 8:00pm and 11:30pm

Sunday: 5:30pm

Season Pass holders receive the best seats in the house at the most discounted rate, saving over 20%! In addition, you'll receive the following benefits:

First access to special events and promotions

Free ticket exchanges and transfers

Discounted parking vouchers

Iron Crow Theatre branded merchandise

Exclusive opportunities to meet and dialogue with members of our creative and production teams for this season's most exciting shows

More importantly, as a Season Pass holder, you'll become a part of the Iron Crow Theatre Family and help us continue to bring award-winning queer theatre to Baltimore and pursue our dreams of becoming Baltimore's next Equity theatre, changing the cultural landscape in the city forever.

Season Pass prices for all four shows, including the VIP Experience for *The Rocky Horror Show*:

General Admission: \$125

Educator / Military / Senior: \$110

Student: \$85

Individual ticket prices for *The Laramie Project, The Mystery of Love & Sex, and A New Brain*:

General Admission: \$35

Educator / Military / Senior: \$30

Student: \$20

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Individual ticket prices for *The Rocky Horror Show* Annual Fundraiser benefiting Baltimore's Moveable Feast:

VIP Experience: \$55

General Admission: \$45

Special group rates are available for all productions by visiting www.ironcrowtheatre.org/groups or by emailing boxoffice@ironcrowtheatre.org.

For the staged reading of *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*, a fundraiser benefiting the Matthew Shepard Foundation, a suggested donation of \$20 is requested.

New this season: all ticket fees have been removed; pay one flat rate, online or in person. In addition, any individual with difficulty attending a production at the ticket prices set are encouraged to reach out to the theatre directly at boxoffice@ironcrowtheatre.org as additional discounts and sponsorship opportunities may be available.

Auditions for the 18/19 Season of *Becoming* will be held on August 14th in Baltimore, MD and on April 15th in Washington, D.C. from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. Callbacks will be held on August 16th and August 17th in Baltimore, MD. Actors can find more information and sign up for an audition appointment online at www.ironcrowtheatre.org/audition. All roles are paid a multi-hundred dollar honorarium. Walk-in's and actors without an appointment will be seen as time permits.

IRON CROW THEATRE is Baltimore's award-winning queer theatre and produces queer theatre for a queer city, celebrating the renegade and the unorthodox in all of us.

PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRES: pr@ironcrowtheatre.org