



AMERICAN BLUES

An Evening of One-Act Plays

This Property Is Condemned
by Tennessee Williams
Directed by Abby Gray*

The Blue Hour: City Sketches
by David Mamet
Directed by Keller Goldstein*

Killer's Head
by Sam Shepard
Directed by Ash Aranha*

Dark Pony
by David Mamet
Directed by Eliza Dorf*

Poof!
by Lynn Nottage
Directed by Jada Greer*

Scenery by Ash Aranha* Costumes by Ella Brauer*
Lighting by Sahar Bhutto*

May 5 - 7, 2023 in the Price Theater

**Member of the International Thespian Society*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

These one act plays were selected because they all address how we use our voice. Sometimes we speak to tell stories, sometimes to soothe ourselves or others. Sometimes the voice goes unheard, and sometimes a simple spoken phrase has consequences of biblical proportions. These plays also showcase the voices of some of the best American playwrights of the 20th century, thus the name of tonight's show.

This Property is Condemned - The economy wasn't the only casualty in the Great Depression. Society's collapsing middle class pushed whole families into moral ruin. We are reminded of this collateral damage forgotten by historians in Tennessee Williams' iconic one-act play - AG

The Blue Hour: City Sketches - Human connection can truly be one of the loneliest things. This show captures human connection in a very real and vulnerable way. They're moments we experience every day, these snapshots capture the essence of how strenuous it is to form and maintain authentic connections. Although we are together, we often find ourselves alone. - KG

Killer's Head - There's an abundance of life to be found on the deathbed of a killer. It might point towards acceptance of, or conversely, a deep denial of death itself. Or maybe, just maybe, in order to reconcile with death, you must come to terms with the life you lived.. - AA

Dark Pony - Initially, I wasn't a huge fan of this play. However, as soon as I heard it read by actors, I fell in love with it. The dialogue between the father and the daughter that came across to me as stiff and unnatural transformed into a charming, emotional scene. In performance, there are nuance and depth in the story,. - ED

Poof!- This is a period piece that is unique because it shows women speaking up in a time period where doing so was not only frowned upon, but had the power to ruin your life. One of the most powerful tools of the marginalized is their voice, and this show makes sure you know it.. - JG

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

David Mamet was born in 1947 in Chicago, IL. Though he was educated in Vermont and has worked extensively in New York as a playwright and director, and in Los Angeles as a screenwriter, his unique theatrical voice will always be associated with his hometown of Chicago. He is the master of writing vernacular dialogue, language in the rhythm of everyday speech.

Lynn Nottage was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1964. At age eight, she had already written her first play. Her inspiration came from the women in her family. She has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for drama twice, for her plays *Ruined* and *Sweat*. Last year she was nominated for Tony awards for the Best Play (*Clyde's*) and for the Best Book of a Musical (*MJ: The Musical*.)

Sam Shepard was born in Fort Sheridan, IL in 1943. He grew up in the Southwest, and filled his plays with cowboys, drifters, and other people living on the edge. He was also a successful actor and screenwriter. He passed away in 2017.

Tennessee Williams was born in Columbus, Mississippi in 1911, and moved to St. Louis with his family when he was 8 years old. After graduating from University City High School, he enrolled in the University of Missouri-Columbia to study journalism, but quickly dropped out. He then studied at Washington University, where he entered (and lost) a competition with his first play, *Me, Vashya*. He first achieved fame in 1944 with his play *The Glass Menagerie*, and established himself as the premier writer of “Southern Gothic” plays, which depict beautifully broken people living in the margins of Southern American society. Williams died in 1983 and is buried (against his wishes) in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

THE CAST

This Property is Condemned

Willie Katherine Rose Ellenhorn

Tom.....Samuel Glasser

The Blue Hour

Prologue: Man Nolan Jones

Doctor:Doctor.....Laurion Nicholson

Doctor: WomanLainie Zimmer

The Hat: Saleswoman Lilia Oulamine

The Hat:Customer..... Robyn Davies

Businessmen: Gray Anik Jukanti

Businessmen:Black..... Lucas Allgeyer

Cold: A Nolan Jones

Cold:BSamuel Glasser

Killer's Head

Mazon..... Eli Meissner

Dark Pony

Father..... Anik Jukanti

Daughter Grace Powell

Poof!

Laureen Cadence Strong

FlorenceRiley Crawford

Samuel..... Jack Jerlecki

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PRODUCTION STAFF

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (*BLUE HOUR*).....Natalie Benoist
STAGE MANAGER Alice Ma*
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Isabel Link
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Raina Compton*
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR Dalton Costick
PROJECTION/SOUND OPERATOR..... Ace Derdeyn
PROPS Gigi Koster
MASTER ELECTRICIAN Greysen Brown*
SET/PAINT CREW Raina Compton*
..... Isabel Link
..... AJ Turnell*
..... Charlie Mills
..... Sahar Bhutto*
..... Ace Derdeyn
..... Dalton Costick
..... Ash Aranha*
..... Laurion Nicholson
..... Greysen Brown*
..... Anik Jukanti
..... Max Charnond
..... Jack Jerlecki
..... Natalie Benoist
..... Gigi Koster
..... KR Ellenhorn
..... Evie Strobe

* *Member of the International Thespian Society*

PRODUCTION STAFF *(continued)*

..... Penny Chen*
..... Nithya Reddy
..... Robyn Davies
..... Grant Nicholson*
..... Alice Ma*
BOX OFFICE MANAGER Robyn Davies
POSTER DESIGN..... Dalton Costick

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

the Faculty and Staff of MICDS; MICDS Arts Bakers; the Hamidovic Family; MICDS Physical Plant Department; Trudie Davies, Wende Meissner, Mary Chou, Evelyn Crawford, Sarah Glasser, Kristina Jones and Kathy Nicholson - the Drama Mamas; Mary Chou; Frank Wasserman; Emily Huber.

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR THEATER PATRONS

Arun and Olivia Aranha
Riley Crawford
Christina and Brian Dolan
Eliza Dorf
David and Sarah Glasser
The Link Family
The Meissner Family
Bryan and Kathy Nicholson
Jayme Zimmer

Join us on Thursday, May 18th
in the Orthwein Theater for
The Annual
MICDS UPPER SCHOOL THEATER AWARDS
6:30PM