



THE UMBRELLA SEASON OPENS WITH FIERY “NETWORK” ADAPTATION

Edgy Multimedia Production Pairs Innovative Director Ashley Tata and Designer Afsoon Pajoufar

CONCORD, MA— August 6, 2024—Nearly a half-century after Paddy Chayefsky’s chillingly prescient, Oscar-winning black comedy *Network* became a cinematic classic, Lee Hall’s potent and provocative new stage adaptation remains as relevant as ever as we grapple with truth, authenticity, and the search for meaning in a digital age.

Veteran news anchor Howard Beale isn’t pulling in the viewers. But when his on-air meltdown sparks a revolution, Howard suddenly becomes the biggest thing on TV – a “mad prophet of the airwaves” determined to speak truth to power, but buffeted by industrial, political and economic forces with ultimately dire consequences.

Hall’s adaptation “takes on fresh fury in a sizzling stage production...that feels less satiric but more urgent” (*Variety*) in today’s polarized and media-saturated landscape. Fittingly, this production is helmed by Ashley Kelly Tata, a noted multimedia director whose immersive works have been called “fervently inventive,” by the *New York Times*. Like the award-winning West End and Broadway productions, The Umbrella’s production will employ thoroughly integrated multimedia storytelling elements evocative of the film’s masterful use of television ads and industrial sets, courtesy of innovative NYC-based designer Afsoon Pajoufar.

“*Network* remains one of the most remarkable, if not eerily prescient films of all time,” says Producing Artistic Director Brian Boruta. “That something written almost 50 years ago could speak so singularly to our present moment is astonishing. It’s a thrill to bring this landmark play to The Umbrella’s stage.”

The cast features some of Boston’s biggest names like Barlow Adamson, Amy Barker, Steve Barkhimer, Will McGarrahan, and Bill Mootos as Howard Beale.

Running Sept. 20-Nov. 3 (press opening Friday Sept. 27, 7:30PM), the play will run in rotation with The Umbrella’s production of *Now. Here. This*, a new musical from the team that brought you [title of show], that tackles life’s big questions with inimitable humor and humanity.

Select performances will feature additional engagement opportunities for audience members:

- Dinner & A Show packages are available for all Thursday night performances

- Talk Backs are scheduled following performances on Oct. 13 and Oct. 24
- Childcare with art activities for youth ages 5-12 is available through The Umbrella's Kid Care program for parents interested in attending the Oct. 13 matinee

The Umbrella is ADA accessible, a proud partner in the Massachusetts Cultural Council's EBT Card-to-Culture program, and provides free parking and free admission to its visual arts galleries. See <https://TheUmbrellaArts.org/Network> for more information.

CALENDAR LISTING & PRESS OPENING DETAILS

Theater | Performing Arts

WHAT

Network

WHO

Adapted for the Stage by Lee Hall based on the Paddy Chayefsky film. Directed by Ashley Kelly Tata. Featuring Barlow Adamson, Amy Barker, Steve Barkhimer, Will McGarrahan, and Bill Mootos.

WHEN

PREVIEWS: Sep 20–Sep 22, 2024

REGULAR RUN: Sep 27–Nov 3

PRESS OPENING: Friday Sep 27, 2024, at 7:30PM

Thursdays & Fridays 7:30PM; Saturdays 8PM; Sundays 3PM

(Note: Sunday, Oct 20 performance will be at 2PM)

WHERE

The Umbrella Arts Center, 40 Stow Street, Concord, MA 01742

ABOUT SUMMARY

Potent, provocative new multimedia stage adaptation of the cinematic masterpiece.

Tickets \$48-58 regular adult

Discounts for students, seniors, groups, Card-to-Culture eligible attendees

Group Discounts: Groups of 10 – 14 save 10%; groups of 15 and up save 15%. EBT, WIC, ConnectorCare Card-to-Culture discounts available. Contact the Box Office for more details.

Press Photos available in September from Stewart@TheUmbrellaArts.org, 978-371-0820 x211, [or online here](#).

ACCESS

The Umbrella is wheelchair accessible. Assistive Listening Devices are available by advance request to boxoffice@theumbrellaarts.org or 978-371-0820 x204. Marked all-gender bathrooms available.

BOX OFFICE & PRESS TICKETS CONTACT

boxoffice@theumbrellaarts.org or 978-371-0820 x204

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