

THE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES FRESH, AND FORESHORTENED, 2021 SEASON

For Covid Reboot, a Short Season of Diverse, Relevant Titles

July 13, 2020

Concord, MA— The Umbrella Stage Company has announced a revised roster of shows planned for its 2020-2021 season, as it retools its newly built theaters at 40 Stow Street to follow public health protocols.

With all in-person performances delayed until after the new year, the Company's shortened four-show season comprises four impactful titles.

- ***The Revolutionists*** - January 15 - 31, 2021
- ***War Paint*** - February 26 - March 21, 2021
- ***Detroit '67*** - April 2-25, 2021
- ***Head Over Heels*** - May 14 - June 6, 2021

The Umbrella Stage Company had previously announced a different, six-show lineup, but as the closure continues, and the extensive requirements for reopening become clearer, the company has decided to re-prioritize and re-strategize.

In addition to the previously announced French revolution-themed comedy, *The Revolutionists*, and the dazzling musical *War Paint*, about pioneering entrepreneurs Elizabeth Arden and Helena Rubinstein, are two exciting new titles. Set against explosive Detroit riots of 1967, Dominique Morisseau's *Detroit '67* has striking relevance for today's audiences. It will be directed by Michelle Aguillon. And wrapping up the season, under the direction of Brian Boruta, is the Boston premiere of *Head Over Heels*, a hilariously uplifting celebration of love set to the iconic music of 80s smash group, The Go-Gos!

The Umbrella Stage Company has announced it also intends to backfill the fall portion of the season with additional streaming and smaller venue or outdoor programming that can be presented with safe social distancing. It hopes to emphasize supporting new local playwrights and talent, and will release details later in 2020.

For info, contact: Stewart Ikeda, 978-371-0820 x211, stewart@theumbrellaarts.org

MEDIA ADVISORY: THE UMBRELLA STAGE COMPANY 2020/2021

40 Stow Street, Concord, MA | TheUmbrellaStage.org/Pressroom

PRESS OPENINGS

The Umbrella Stage Company is pleased to invite members of the press to the following Press Openings for our revised 2020/2021 Season. To reserve tickets, or request an alternate date, please email Brian Boruta at brian@theumbrellaarts.org.

- ***The Revolutionists*** - January 16, 8PM
- ***War Paint*** - February 27, 8PM
- ***Detroit '67*** - April 3, 8PM
- ***Head Over Heels*** – May 15, 8PM

PERFORMANCES

THE REVOLUTIONISTS - January 15 - 31, 2021

By Lauren Gunderson, Directed by Nancy Curran Willis

Four beautiful, badass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. Playwright Olympe de Gouges, assassin Charlotte Corday, former queen (and fan of ribbons) Marie Antoinette, and Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle hang out, murder Marat, and try to beat back the extremist insanity in 1793 Paris. This grand and dream-tweaked comedy is about violence and legacy, art and activism, feminism and terrorism, compatriots and chosen sisters, and how we actually go about changing the world. It's a true story. Or total fiction. Or a play about a play. Or a raucous resurrection...that ends in a song and a scaffold.

WAR PAINT- February 26 - March 24, 2021

Book by Doug Wright; Music by Scott Frankel, Lyrics by Michael Korie; Directed by Julia Deter

Hailed as "thoroughly compelling and masterfully entertaining" *War Paint* is the true-to-life story of Elizabeth Arden and Helena Rubenstein, masters of self-invention and titans of the cosmetics industry who became the country's first major female entrepreneurs in a time when only men were thought to be capable of building international empires. This fascinating, female-forward bio-musical spans their 50 year rivalry, is a master-class for two stars and will feature Boston's own leading ladies, Leigh Barrett and Shana Dirik in one of the first productions in the country since the musical closed on Broadway in November, 2017.

DETROIT '67 – APRIL 2-25, 8PM

By Dominique Morisseau, Directed by Michelle Aguillon

It's 1967 in Detroit. Motown music is getting the party started, and Chelle and her brother Lank are making ends meet by turning their basement into an after-hours joint. But when a mysterious woman finds her way into their lives, the siblings clash over more much more than the family business. As their pent-up feelings erupt, so does their city, and they find themselves caught in the middle of the '67 riots. Morrisseau's powerful portrait of an explosive moment in American history with striking relevance for today's audiences.

HEAD OVER HEELS - MAY 14 - JUNE 6, 8PM

Music & Lyrics by The Go-Go's; Original Book by Jeff Whitty; Adapted by James Magruder;
Directed by Brian Boruta

Boston Premiere! *Head Over Heels* is the bold new musical comedy from the visionaries that rocked Broadway with *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Avenue Q* and *Spring Awakening*. This laugh-out-loud love story is set to the music of the iconic 1980's all-female rock band The Go-Go's, including the hit songs, "We Got the Beat," "Our Lips Are Sealed," "Vacation," Belinda Carlisle's "Heaven is a Place on Earth" and "Mad About You." A hilarious, exuberant celebration of love, *Head Over Heels* follows the escapades of a royal family on an outrageous journey to save their beloved kingdom from extinction—only to discover the key to their realm's survival lies within each of their own hearts.

ABOUT THE UMBRELLA

The Umbrella Stage Company is part of the expansive Umbrella Arts Center (formerly Emerson Umbrella), a multifunction 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization founded in 1983 in Concord, MA. Its modified four-show season will alternate between a 344-seat mainstage and flexible 100-seat blackbox in The Umbrella's new multi-theater performing arts facilities at 40 Stow Street, in the heart of the Concord Center Cultural District. Season passes and individual tickets with special pricing for Groups, Students, Military Families and Seniors are available. The Umbrella is wheelchair accessible. Large Print playbills and Assistive Listening Devices are available by advance request. Learn more at **TheUmbrellaStage.org**

MEDIA IMAGES

Courtesy images or media use are available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/16dyqhb5lhyealz/AAAB7WEpi2unXr_qS7uSasNKa?dl=0