



ILLUSION THEATER

small stage. giant impact.

612.339.4944 | illusiontheater.org

3754 Pleasant Avenue South, Ste 321w
Minneapolis, MN 55409

For immediate release (revision 01)
September 2, 2022

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Date	Revision Notes
08/30/2022	Initial Release
09/02/2022	Update for Miss Richfield show name. "Cancel Culture Pearls for the Holidays" to "Cancel Cultured Pearls for the Holidays"

Illusion Announces its 2022-2023 Season

WE WELCOME NEW ARTISTS & FAMILIAR ARTISTS IN IMPORTANT WORK TO OUR NEW HOME at the CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Minneapolis, MN

Illusion is excited to announce its Season Lineup for 2022- 2023. The offerings include T. Mychael Rambo’s invitation to be **PRESENT; FIVE MINUTES OF HEAVEN** a World Premiere about reconciliation by Michael Eagan; the joyful return of Transatlantic Love Affair to Illusion’s stage with **IN THESE SHOES**; a collection of artists who respond to our community and how we’ve changed in the past three year with **IN THIS MOMENT**; our new play development series, **FRESH INK** and, of course, another exhilarating edition of **MISS RICHFIELD 1981’S** mixed-up mayhem for the Holidays.

September: T. Mychael Rambo’s PRESENT Comes to Saint Paul

Illusion is pleased to bring T. Mychael Rambo’s show **PRESENT** with music direction and arrangements by Roberta Carlson to the Lowry Theater in downtown Saint Paul. T. Mychael is a much-loved Twin Cities performer, teacher and healer. In his life he has experienced setbacks, including homelessness and addiction, as well as the spiritual insights he was schooled in by his family. Director Michael Robins says, *“He willingly shares the knowledge he has gained from the heartaches and joys he has experienced. And he also shares the hard-won wisdom his cherished family members gave him, passing it forward to us. This show is truly a gift, a "present" for the audience.”*

T. Mychael invites us, “*Now, more than ever, it’s time to be present!*”
With support from the St. Paul Cultural Star Program, **PRESENT** will be performed in the **Lowry Theater** in downtown Saint Paul at 350 St. Peter Street, Saint Paul 55102

Performances - September 8 to September 18, 2022

At our home in the Center for Performing Arts: 3754 Pleasant Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55409 (entrance on 38th Street between Pleasant and Grand
Avenues, South Minneapolis):

**October: Five Minutes of Heaven Adapted for the stage by Michael Eagan
from Guy Hibbert’s screenplay**

World Premiere

Five Minutes of Heaven is a play about the effects of violence and the possibility of reconciliation. The story is based on an actual event. In 1975 during the Troubles Alistair Little, a 17-year-old member of the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force, murdered Jim Griffin, a 19-year-old Catholic. Griffin’s younger brother Joe, who was 11 at the time, witnessed the killing. Joe is haunted by the killing.

Alistair Little goes to prison for 12 years and after being released becomes deeply involved in anti-violence, restorative justice, and peacebuilding throughout the world. Years later, Joe and Alistair are invited by a Television Program promoting healing to meet for the first time since the killing. The Producers plan to film Alistair and Joe to film their moment of reconciliation.

Carlyle Brown, Mellon playwright in residence at Illusion, had this to say about **Five Minutes of Heaven**, “*It is a taut, poignant, suspenseful drama that takes us into the heart of political violence and asks the question, truth, and reconciliation, is there forgiveness? Is it possible?*”

Playwright Michael Egan adapted **Five Minutes of Heaven** from Guy Hibbert’s award-winning screenplay which was released as a film by the same title in 2009.

Directed by Illusion’s Executive Producing Director Michael Robins, the Performing Company features Pierce Bunting as Alistair Little and Michael Egan as Joe Griffin, it also features Ansa Akyea, Shana Berg, and Laura Esping.

Performances - October 7 to October 23, 2022

December: Miss Richfield 1981 in Cancel Cultured Pearls for the Holidays

Miss Richfield 1981 returns to bring her annual, always irreverent, always different every night Holiday Pro'gram back to Illusion. Todd Price joins Miss R on the piano. This show always sells out, so don't hesitate to make your reservations. Miss R never disappoints - she appears in fabulous outfits, her hair is never out of place, and she is always totally inappropriate.

Performances - December 7 to December 18, 2022

February: Transatlantic Love Affair presents These Old Shoes

After an absence of three years the Transatlantic Love Affair Company returns to Illusion to present **These Old Shoes**, a story of memory, regret and second chances. Using no scenery and no props, TLA asks the audience to use our imagination to see the worlds they create. Broadway World saw **These Old Shoes** in 2015 and wrote "*You cannot call yourself a true Twin Cities theater fan if you've never seen Transatlantic Love Affair, and there's no better place to start than with this achingly lovely show.*"

Founding TLA Member Diogo Lopes conceived and directs the TLA Ensemble which includes Derek Lee Miller, Heather Bunch, Eric Marinus, Peytie McCandless, Adelin Phelps, and Allison Vincent

Performances - February 3 to February 19, 2023

April: In This Moment 2023

In 2020 as a response to the trauma of George Floyd's murder and the disruption and uncertainty the COVID epidemic created, Illusion commissioned African American Artists associated with Illusion to create work that responded to the moment we were all living. The works were curated by Illusion Mellon Playwright-in-Residence Carlyle Brown, artist and healer T. Mychael Rambo, Founder of Black Table Arts Keno Evol, Producing Directors Michael Robins and Bonnie Morris. Now, Illusion is again commissioning artists to speak to this moment in 2023. As T. Mychael Rambo said, "*We are summoned to be forces of action creating, calculating, and cultivating spaces where we can find peace... A peace where our voices in song and poetry, in photograph and painting, in narrative and nuance illuminate with authenticity, agency and abundance that only art can excavate.*"

Performances - April 6 to April 22, 2023

Fresh Ink Series

Illusion's Annual Fresh Ink Series where artists showcase new works with an audience who has an opportunity to respond to these fresh offerings.

TBA June 2023

At The Amphitheater at Lyndale Gardens, 6400 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423:

July to September: Illusion Theater Outside. LIVE at Lyndale Gardens 2023

Through the generosity of the Cornerstone Group, for the past two summers, Illusion has programed a Free Summer Series in the Amphitheater at Lyndale Gardens, 6400 Lyndale Avenue South in Richfield, Mn. Illusion has invited some of the most outstanding Twin Cities artists to perform, attracting over 400 people nightly to see LIVE Theater in this "hidden gem" on the shores of Richfield Lake.

Wednesdays at Lyndale Gardens Amphitheater in Richfield

July through September 2023

Illusion Theater 2022-2023 Performance Schedule

T Mychael Rambo's PRESENT at the Lowry Theater in Downtown Saint Paul 350 St. Peter Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Opens Thursday September 8 at 7:30pm
Friday September 9 at 7:30pm
Saturday September 10 at 7:30pm
Friday September 16 at 7:30pm
Saturday September 17 at 7:30pm
Closes Sunday September 18 at 2pm Matinee

**At Illusion's new home in the Center for Performing Arts
3754 Pleasant Ave South/ Minneapolis, MN 55409**

Five Minutes of Heaven by Michael Eagan

Adapted from Guy Hibbert 's screenplay

Opens Friday October 7 at 7:30pm Opening
Saturday October 8 at 7:30pm
Sunday October 9 at 2pm
Wed October 12 at 7:30pm
Thursday Oct 13 at 7:30pm
Friday Oct 14 at 7:30pm

	Saturday	Oct 15	at 7:30pm
	Sunday	Oct 16	at 2pm Matinee
	Wednesday	Oct 19	at 7:30pm
	Thursday	Oct 20	at 7:30pm
	Friday	Oct 21	at 7:30pm
	Saturday	Oct 22	at 7:30pm
Closes	Sunday	October 23	at 2pm Matinee

Miss Richfield 1981 Holiday Pro'gram

Opens	Wednesday	December 7	at 7:30pm
	Thursday	December 8	at 7:30pm
	Friday	December 9	at 7:30pm
	Saturday	December 10	at 7:30pm
	Sunday	December 11	at 7:00pm
	Wednesday	December 14	at 7:30pm
	Thursday	December 15	at 7:30pm
	Friday	December 16	at 7:30pm
	Saturday	December 17	at 7:30pm
Closes	Sunday	December 18	at 7:00pm

In These Shoes by the Transatlantic Love Affair 2023

Opens	Friday	Feb 3	7:30pm
	Saturday	Feb 8	7:30pm
	Sunday	Feb 9	2pm Matinee
	Wednesday	Feb 12	7:30pm
	Thursday	February 13	7:30pm
	Friday	February 14	7:30pm
	Saturday	February 15	7:30pm
	Sunday	February 16	2pm Matinee
	Wednesday	February 17	7:30 pm
	Thursday	February 20	7:30pm
	Friday	February 21	7:30pm
Closes	Saturday	February 22	7:30pm

In This Moment 2023
Performance Schedule TBA

Fresh Ink Series
Dates TBA June 2023

Illusion Theater Outside. LIVE at Lyndale Gardens

Wednesdays, July through September 2023 an hour before sunset

Tickets

All tickets are **NAME YOUR PRICE** and can be purchased through Illusion's web site: www.illusiontheater.org or via phone at 612-339-4944

Location

Illusion Theater

Illusion Theater is located on the corner of 38th and Pleasant Avenue South, a few blocks east of 38th and Lyndale in the Center for Performing Arts 3754 Pleasant Ave South. The Theater is wheelchair accessible. Please call the box office at 612-339-4944 for ticket information, performance days and times, or go to www.illusiontheater.org. Please note: T Mychael Rambo in **PRESENT** will be performed at the **Lowry Theater 350 Saint Peter Street in downtown St. Paul.**

About Illusion Theater

Illusion Theater was founded in 1974 and presents its season in its new home in the Center for Performing Arts in South Minneapolis. Since the beginning, Producing Directors Michael Robins and Bonnie Morris have led Illusion Theater in illuminating the illusions, myths, and realities of our times and in using the power of theater to catalyze personal and social change. Tree O'Halloran joined Illusion as Associate Producer in 2021. Illusion has generated over 500 plays, developed thousands of artists, and created ground-breaking educational works. Plays developed at Illusion have been produced in theaters throughout the world. Illusion's work has catalyzed conversations in living rooms, kitchens, coffee houses, and boardrooms, and has led to transformations in policy, in organizations, in students, and in individuals.