

2018 WILLIAM INGE SEASON



NATURAL AFFECTION

Directed by Rachel Lamber

April 12 - May 20, 2018

(Opening April 15th & 17th)

Awaiting the Christmas visit of her teenage son, Donnie, Sue Barker is torn between motherly love and the fear of a disruption in the life that she has built in his absence. Having been deserted by the boy's father before his birth, Sue was forced to support herself, leaving Donnie to a childhood of orphan homes and ultimately a term at the penal farm. Now the head lingerie buyer for a Chicago department store, Sue has a small apartment and a lover, Bernie Slovenk. When Donnie announces that he will not have to go back to the farm if she will give him a home, the crisis is broached. The inescapable showdown comes on Christmas Eve when the couple from next door joins the others for a party. Rachel Lambert makes her Eclipse directorial debut.

BUS STOP

Directed by Ensemble Member Steve Scott

July 12 - August 19, 2018

(Opening July 15th & 17th)

In the middle of a howling snowstorm, a bus out of Kansas City pulls up at a cheerful roadside diner. All roads are blocked, and four or five weary travelers are going to have to hole up until morning. Cherie, a nightclub chanteuse in a sparkling gown and a seedy fur-trimmed jacket, has been pursued and finally kidnapped by a twenty-one-year-old cowboy with a ranch of his own and the romantic methods of an unusually headstrong bull. Meanwhile the proprietor of the cafe and the bus driver at last find time to develop a friendship of their own; a middle-age scholar comes to terms with himself; and a young girl who works in the cafe also gets her first taste of romance. Ensemble member Steve Scott directs.

THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

Director TBD

November 15 - December 16, 2018

(Opening November 18th & 20th)

The setting is a small Oklahoma town in the early 1920s and the home of the Flood family -- Rubin, a traveling salesman for a harness firm; Cora, his sensitive and lovely wife; Sonny, their little boy; and Reenie, their teenage daughter. A series of short stories unfolds -- the fight between a husband and wife; the fear of an overly shy young girl on going to a dance; the problems of an introverted little boy who feels that the whole world is against him; the corroding marriage of Cora's rowdy sister; and the tragedy of a military school cadet who suffers from the stigma of being a Jew in an alien community. There is dark at the top of everyone's stairs, but it can be dissipated by understanding, tolerance and compassion.

All performances Thursday - Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2pm at The Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago.

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Please tell us your preferred dates:

NATURAL AFFECTION

 Thurs, Fri & Sat at 7:30pm, Sun at 2:00pm

BUS STOP

 Thurs, Fri & Sat at 7:30pm, Sun at 2:00pm

THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

 Thurs, Fri & Sat at 7:30pm, Sun at 2:00pm

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- A Peek into the Process** -- You'll be invited to first rehearsals, post-show discussions and Playwright Scholar Series events to get the full Eclipse Experience!