

MATRIX

THEATRE COMPANY

JOIN US IN THE PRODUCERS CIRCLE

2018-2019 SEASON



WWW.MATRIXTHEATRE.ORG
(313)967-0999 / (313)967-0599
INFO@MATRIXTHEATRE.ORG

MATRIX THEATRE COMPANY
2730 BAGLEY / DETROIT, MI 48216



ABOUT MATRIX THEATRE COMPANY

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Shaun and Wes Nethercott, the award-winning Matrix Theatre Company is focused on a powerful vision of transformation for positive social change. We create outstanding, affordable, inclusive professional and educational theatre that addresses issues of community concern. Our work, which entertains, educates, and ignites conversation in the community, positions us as the premier organization that teaches, creates, and produces transformative, socially-conscious theatre in Detroit. As a nonprofit organization, Matrix specializes in creating spaces where unheard voices and stories are heard because we believe every voice matters.

We continue to present plays that stimulate meaningful dialogue and foster empathy and equity for all. The upcoming 2018-2019 Season is no exception.

In addition to our Mainstage Season productions, Matrix produces special events, staged readings, and informative talkbacks. In a strategic partnership with Casablanca Consultants, we presented a special talkback with Broadway's *Hamilton* cast member, Andrew Chappelle, which sold out within three days. Our annual Jazz Cabaret is a regular sellout.

Our School of Theatre continues to offer classes in playwriting, performance, and visual arts for Detroit's youngest artists, ages 5 – 14. The Matrix Teen Company offers high school students the opportunity to create and perform new works based on crucial issues in their community, giving them confidence in their ability to affect positive change.

With our continued success, we invite you to join us as we become a national model for socially-conscious, community-based theatre productions and education.

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PRODUCERS CIRCLE

INVEST IN “THEATRE THAT MATTERS.”

BECOME A PRODUCER AND
DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT OF
AWARD-WINNING,
COMMUNITY-BUILDING,
PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
THEATRE IN DETROIT.

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SEASON PRESENTER

\$30,000+

As the Season Presenter, you will be identified as the Season Sponsor. Your company will receive optimum exposure for the entire Matrix Mainstage Season. This also includes our School of Theatre and Second Stage Seasons, giving you the opportunity to reach an additional sector of the population.



You will receive the following benefits:

- A private performance of any show during the season; includes full use of the 50-seat theatre to entertain guests of your choice, while enjoying a wine and cheese reception before or after the performance and the opportunity to meet the cast and director
- Your company logo prominently featured on the Matrix Theatre website
- Company logo featured on the season brochure and all season playbills, posters, postcards, the annual report, and other marketing materials
- Full-page, full-color playbill advertisement for the entire season with priority placement
- Company support announced and thanked by Matrix personnel at the beginning of each of more than 50 mainstage performances, 4 special events, and 3 youth performances totaling more than 3,200 patrons.
- Eight complimentary tickets to each of the four shows in the season (a \$700+ value)
- Opportunity to attend opening night performances and champagne afterglows
- Company name or logo featured in all print ads
- Company leadership invited to major donor networking events
- Prominent lobby recognition and the opportunity to display company literature and promotional items in the Matrix Theatre lobby
- Invitation to all special events
- Exclusive invitation to the first read-through for each Mainstage Show



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

\$10,000

As an Executive Producer for Matrix Theatre's 2018-2019 Season, you will have a unique opportunity to enhance your corporate image and strengthen your relationship with your customers, as well as demonstrate your committed support for the arts. This includes our School of Theatre and Second Stage Seasons giving you the opportunity to reach an additional sector of the population.



You will receive the following benefits:

- Company logo prominently featured on season publicity materials, including the season brochure, season playbills, posters, postcards, and other pieces.
- Company logo prominently featured on the Matrix website
- Full-page, full-color playbill advertisement for the entire season with priority placement
- Wine and cheese reception for you and your guests prior to or following a performance, including the opportunity to meet the cast and director
- Company support announced and thanked by Matrix personnel at the beginning of each of more than 50 mainstage performances, 4 special events, and 3 youth performances totaling more than 3,200 patrons.
- Six complimentary tickets to each of the four shows in the season (a \$500 value)
- Company featured in all print ads
- Opportunity to attend opening night performances and champagne afterglows
- Company leadership invited to major donor networking events
- Prominent lobby recognition and the opportunity to display company literature and promotional items in the Matrix Theatre lobby



PRODUCER

\$5,000

As a Producer for Matrix Theatre's 2018-2019 Season, you will be able to heighten your corporate image by supporting professional theatre while making a commitment to provide critical arts education to youth. Your company will be highlighted at all of our School of Theatre and Teen Company performances.



You will receive the following benefits:

- Company logo featured in season brochure and season playbills
- Company logo featured on the Matrix website
- Full-page, black and white playbill advertisement for the entire season
- Your company's name announced and thanked by Matrix personnel at the beginning of each performance of one Mainstage production of your choosing and all School of Theatre performances
- Opportunity to display company literature and promotional items in the Matrix Theatre lobby
- Four complimentary tickets to each Mainstage production
- Company leadership invited to major donor networking events
- Invitation to all special events



CO-PRODUCER

\$3,000

The magic of Matrix Theatre Company's plays comes not only from great acting and compelling scripts, but from its scenic, lighting, and costume designs. Your contribution as a Co-Producer not only provides optimum exposure for your organization, but it allows us to continue providing high quality productions and educational arts opportunities for our School of Theatre youth.



You will receive the following benefits:

- Company logo featured in season brochure and season playbills
- Company logo featured on the Matrix Theatre website
- Half-page, black and white playbill advertisement for the entire season
- Opportunity to display company literature and promotional items in the Matrix Theatre lobby
- Two complimentary tickets to each Mainstage Show
- Company leadership invited to major donor networking events
- Invitation to all special events



ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

\$1,000

Matrix Theatre Company continues to provide plays that affect positive social change. As an Associate Producer, you will have the opportunity to highlight your organization, and to support a theatre that entertains, educates, and ignites conversation in the community.



You will receive the following benefits:

- Company logo featured in season brochure and season playbills
- Company logo placed on the Matrix Theatre website
- A quarter-page, black and white playbill advertisement for the entire season
- Opportunity to display company literature and promotional items in the Matrix Theatre lobby
- Four complimentary tickets to a performance of your choosing
- Company leadership invited to major donor networking events
- Invitation to all special events

2018-2019 MAINSTAGE THEATRE SEASON



By Rachel Lynett - Michigan Premiere

November 9 - December 2, 2018

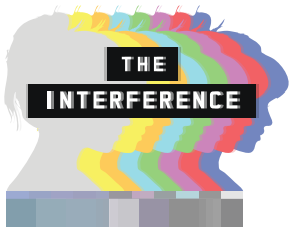
After an attack influenced by her race, a professor suddenly finds herself roped into planning a diversity day, trying to convince her (white) roommate not to plan a sit-in, and maintaining her sanity as the racial threats escalate. This play explores how the “good intentions” of some can be just as problematic as the discrimination of others.



By Caity-Shea Violette - Michigan Premiere

February 1 - 24, 2019

An estranged family reunites for their mother’s final days before she ends her life on her own terms following a terminal diagnosis. *Reap The Grove* is a poignant and darkly funny exploration of partnership, transgenerational trauma, and the anticipated grief of death with dignity.



By Lynda Radley

March 22 - April 14, 2019

In a culture of collegiate athletes being hailed as celebrities, everyone has an incentive to bury the truth. When a survivor speaks up, can her truth rise above the noise? *The Interference* is a story for a world in the midst of a tectonic cultural shift that is shaking our patriarchal society to its core.



By Kelly Rossi - World Premiere

May 17 - June 9, 2019

Faced with the sub-par elder-care facility options available to them, two sisters enroll their octogenarian father in a new and “radical” one-on-one medical program that involves housing him with an ex-doctor. Local playwright Kelly Rossi’s newest play explores the benefits and landmines of human interaction.

SECOND STAGE SEASON

Our Second Stage Season showcases many events and staged readings, as well as the original Matrix Teen Company production.

SCHOOL OF THEATRE SEASON

The Matrix School of Theatre gives more than 1,500 youths each year the opportunity to create new work and explore theatre and language arts. Students improve their literacy and language skills as they acquire self-confidence, communication, and social skills.

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AWARD-WINNING THEATRE

- 2018
- Wilde Award Nomination: Best One-Person Show; *Who Will Sing for Lena?*, Casaundra Freeman, Director
 - Wilde Award Nomination: Best Performance, One-Person Show; Ashley Lyle, *Who Will Sing for Lena?*
 - Wilde Award Nomination: Best Performance, Lead Actress; Kez Settle, *Kayak*
 - It's All Theatre: Best of the Season 2017-2018; *Who Will Sing for Lena?*
 - It's All Theatre: Best Actress in a Drama; Ashley Lyle, *Who Will Sing for Lena?*
- 2017
- Wilde Award: Best One-Person Show; *2.5 Minute Ride*, David Wolber, Director
 - Wilde Award: Best Performance, One-Person Show; Luna Alexander, *2.5 Minute Ride*
 - It's All Theatre: Best Actress in a Drama; Luna Alexander, *2.5 Minute Ride*
 - It's All Theatre: Best of the Season 2016-2017; *2.5 Minute Ride*; David Wolber, director
 - It's All Theatre: Best of the Season 2016-2017; *Dream Deferred: Detroit, 1967*; David Wolber, director
- 2016
- Wilde Award: Best Performance, Supporting Actress – Play; Allison Megroet, *Precious Little*
- 2015
- National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award Finalist
- 2014
- Michigan Municipal League: Placemaking Best Practice
 - Wilde Award: Best Actress; Linda Rabin Hammell, *Collected Stories*
 - Wilde Award: Best Properties Design; Carson Killmar, *Visiting Mr. Green*
- 2012
- Wayne County Council for Arts History and Humanities: Educator of the Year
- 2010
- Detroit Free Press: Michigan Green Leader; Dr. Shaun S. Nethercott
 - Nickelodeon Network: Parents' Selection
- 2008
- Special commendation, Michigan House of Representatives
 - Wilde Award: Best Supporting Actor; Eric W. Maher, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
 - Nickelodeon Network: votes "Best Artsy Class"
- 2007
- Marygrove College: Theresa Maxis Award for Social Justice
- 2006
- Michigan History Council Award: Local History Project
 - Special Commendation, Detroit City Council
 - National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award Finalist
- 2005
- Arts Organization Award; Wayne County Council for Arts History and Humanities
- 2004
- Ginsberg Center Award; University/Community Partnership
 - Inaugural Imagining Michigan Award; Homelands: Michigan Central Project
 - Detroit NOW: Special Award for Arts; Service to the Community
- 2003
- Governor's Arts Award for Arts and Culture: Cultural Organization
 - Proclamation by Detroit City Council for Matrix Theatre Company's service to youth arts
- 2001
- Youth Sports and Recreation Commission: Leonard Smith Award for Organizational Excellence
 - Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan honor; *Once Was Paradise* Project
- 1999
- National Mayor's Conference: Christina Mattin Arts Award; Work with at-risk youth
- 1995
- New Detroit: Silence the Violence Award; Beyond Violence Project
 - Casa de Unidad and Southwest Detroit Business Association: Unity in the Community Award
 - Michigan Humanities Council: Michigan Service to Humanities Award
- 1993
- National 4-H Council: Model Community program; *Fear and Faith* Initiative

SIGNIFICANT FUNDERS

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FOUNDATION



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for the Arts**
arts.gov



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Erb Family Foundation



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MAINSTAGE THEATRE

WHAT CRITICS ARE SAYING

“Ashley M. Lyle turns in an accomplished performance as Baker, in this, her professional debut. Hers is a compassionate and deeply moving performance that affects in many ways. Together with Liddell’s highly charged script and Casaundra Freeman’s unfaltering direction, Lyle’s performance makes for a truly memorable theatrical experience.”

-Daniel Skora, itsalltheatre.com, of *Who Will Sing for Lena?* by Janice L. Liddell

“*Kayak* is a story that will leave many a parent nodding in recognition, worrying about the last thing they said to their child and maybe questioning how they are managing the differences between themselves and their maturing kids. A play that makes you think is a good thing. That’s why we write them.”

-Encore Staff, encoremichigan.com, of *Kayak* by Jordan Hall

“Williams’ story is not just crossfire chatter. Some real stuff happens, but to go into it would be a spoiler. Let’s just say that this is a very worthwhile 70 minutes. Is it a “message play”? I suppose. But it’s a good one.

If the statistics and headlines and news footage can’t convince people we are doing this wrong, then perhaps a few more well-written plays can be one of the million points of light we need to illuminate the obvious.”

-David Kiley, encoremichigan.com, of *Church & State* by Jason Odell Williams

WHAT PATRONS ARE SAYING



“*Who Will Sing for Lena* is a riveting, funny, terrifying, sad, beautiful production that stays in your heart and soul for days after it ends. Lena Baker’s life and death are of tremendous historic significance from a social justice perspective, but her story has been largely untold, until now. All aspects of the production are first-rate: staging, lighting, set design, sound. It is the actress who plays Lena, however, who makes the production a “must see” event. She is, in a word, incredible in a role that is demanding both physically and emotionally. She brings Lena Baker to life and engages the audience so completely that, for much of the play, it feels like she is having a conversation with you alone. When it is over, you feel like you have lost a friend. Simply spectacular acting.

-Lynn Stevens Naoum, of *Who Will Sing for Lena?* by Janice L. Liddell

The play was mesmerizing - actors artistic skills complimented by on point stage setting/sounds to deliver a story line that inspired deep thought on so many points. This was not just entertainment, it was informative and inspirational - the kind of play that drives deep conversation.

-Nanette DePriest, of *Big Red Button* by Michael Perrie Jr.

From the set to the script to the acting it was remarkable: simple, powerful. Just what theatre can do in exposing us to issues. Great pick!

-Maryfran Barber, IHM, of *Kayak* by Jordan Hall

Exceptionally moving production— the use of lighting, sound, costumes, was excellent. Moment work/ detail/ stakes were clear throughout— a credit to the director and to the entire ensemble/ cast. The contemporary relevance of *Church and State* (in our nation/ in our world) was not lost, and served Matrix’s mission, and the audience, I think— I can’t imagine anyone *not* being moved by that they heard and saw in that room/ on the afternoon I saw the production— the hope following that, to be moved to action— has stayed with me into this week.

This kind of theatre is so important— too important— to be missed. I will definitely be back.

-Mark Vukelich, of *Church & State* by Jason Odell Williams

MATRIX SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Through interactive games and exciting workshop activities, students work with professional artists to broaden their performance skills. Students will work collectively on building skills including storytelling, playwriting, script analysis, editing, improvisation, acting, movement for the stage, and voice/articulation. The semester ends with a final performance of the original play written by each class.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“The Matrix theatre in downtown Detroit thrives on being one of downtown Detroit’s most affordable and educational theatre programs for young actors in the area.”

-Scott Davis, chevychicago.com

“As Detroit children make their way through a world and a city that are constantly evolving, Matrix theatre Company is acting as a healthy and dynamic community outlet for creative students. Matrix students’ scripts and performances are helping to keep a record of Detroit’s present triumphs and tribulations.”

-Chloe Seymour, inspiredmichigan.com.



“It was an excellent experience for the kids! I truly feel that once they got on stage they realized how cool and fun it is to be in a play.”

-Melissa Roberts, Lighthouse Academy



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PRODUCER AGREEMENT

Thank you for joining Matrix Theatre Company's Producers Circle!
We are excited to join in this partnership with you. Your support is vital in providing great art opportunities for our community.

PLEASE SELECT A LEVEL:

- Presenter - \$30,000+ Co-Producer - \$3,000
 Executive Producer - \$10,000 Associate Producer - \$1,000
 Producer - \$5,000

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Alt. Phone _____

Email _____

My signature indicates authorization to make this commitment on behalf of my company.

Signature _____ Date _____

- Check Enclosed Check to be mailed on ___/___/___
 Credit Card

Name on Card _____ 3-Digit CVV _____

Card # _____ Expiration ___/___

Notes _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MATRIX THEATRE COMPANY.
MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO 2730 BAGLEY / DETROIT, MI 48216

THANK YOU!