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Renaissance Theaterworks - Theater By Women For Everyone.

Box Office: 414-278-0765 R-T-W.com

"The How and the Why" by Sarah Treem at Renaissance Theaterworks

Evolution and emotions collide in this smart, compelling play about science, family and destiny.

September 21, 2022 (MILWAUKEE) - Renaissance Theaterworks (RTW) begins their 30th season with "The How and the Why" by Sarah Treem, Oct. 21 – Nov.13, 2022, at their new performance space at 255 S. Water St. The play will be directed by artistic director and co-founder, Suzan Fete, and features Milwaukee-based actors Elyse Edelman as Rachel Hardeman, and Mary MacDonald Kerr as Zelda Kahn. Tickets are available at R-T-W.com, by calling the box office at 414-278-0765, or at the box office, 255 S. Water St., from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday through Saturday. (Full list of performance dates, times and special shows below.)

In "The How and the Why" two biologists meet on the eve of a prestigious conference. But the two women aren't quite strangers. They share a complex and mysterious bond. Evolution and emotions collide in this smart and compelling play about science, family and destiny.

Fete describes the play as "... a powerful story about men and women, choice and destiny, and it explores the difficult choices faced by women of every generation. One of the theories discussed in the play is "The Grandmother Hypothesis," which postulates that humans have been able to evolve and thrive because of grandmothers. So, shout out to Grandma!"

Sarah Treem, an American TV writer-producer and playwright, is the co-creator and showrunner of the Showtime drama "The Affair," which won the Golden Globe Award for Outstanding Drama Series. She was a writer and co-executive producer on the inaugural season of "House of Cards," nominated for nine Golden Globes, including Outstanding Drama Series. She also wrote on all three seasons of the HBO series "In Treatment."

The Washington Post's review included, "Sarah Treem's play brims with ideas and emotional colors that eddy and refract like rivulets in a lively plunging stream."

The designers and production team are a who's-who of Milwaukee theater, including Bailey Wagner, stage manager; Jazmin Aurora Medina, costume design; Noele Stollmack*, lighting design; Jim Guy, prop master; Maddy Yee, scenic design; Josh Schmidt*, sound design; Tony Lyons, technical director; Shelby Kashian, wardrobe supervisor; Natasha Goeller, deck chief; Mike Van Dresser, master electrician; and Lizzie Opperman, board operator.

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About Renaissance Theaterworks

RTW is Milwaukee's professional theater company founded and led by women, and the nation's second-oldest professional theater devoted to gender equity. Most of the theater world does not look like RTW. Nationally, plays written by women account for less than 30 percent of all plays produced in theaters, and female writers of color account for only six percent. This disparity is particularly puzzling since women make up the majority — about 70 percent — of theater audiences. At RTW, where women set the stage, women are 75 percent of the 1,000-plus theater professionals who have found opportunities at RTW since the founding in 1993.

RTW has consistently created outstanding theater and pushed to redefine Milwaukee's artistic landscape. More than a women-run theater company, RTW connects all people — and what it means to be human — through vibrant, visceral storytelling. RTW chooses only high-impact stories that touch minds and hearts to break stereotypes, produce a wide range of themes, and pay attention to balance.

Milestones include:

- Winning the 50/50 in 2020 International Applause Award (2016).
- Hosting 2018 StateraCon, a national conference for gender-balance in theater.
- Producing two finalists in the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival (2015, 2019).
- Launching the annual "BRINK New Play Festival" showcasing the new work from women playwrights in the Midwest.
- Creating the Fran Bauer Young Critics Project, our arts education program fostering the next generation of theater critics.
- Moving to our new artistic home at 255 South Water St., a 152-seat venue in a diverse neighborhood with state of the art features, including full wheelchair accessibility and an advanced technology hearing loop listening system.
- We are in our 30th season of debt-free operations.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Elyse Edelman as Rachel Hardeman

Elyse Edelman is thrilled to be back at Renaissance Theaterworks where she previously appeared as Bessie in "The Drowning Girls" and as Angie in "Top Girls." Wisconsin theater credits as an actor include productions with Forward Theater Company, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, First Stage, In Tandem Theatre, American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and Door Shakespeare. Some other regional acting credits include The Guthrie, Park Square Theatre, People's Centre Theatre (Minneapolis/St. Paul), Utah Shakespeare Festival (Cedar City), Chicago Children's Theatre, The Accidents (Chicago), and Riverside Theatre in the Park (Iowa City), among others. Edelman is also an educator and develops curriculum for a number of professional theaters, schools, and youth correctional facilities. She serves on the Advisory Company at Forward Theater in Madison, Wisconsin. Training: University of Minnesota/ Guthrie Theater BFA Actor's Training Program. LISPA. Shakespeare's Globe. ElyseEdelman.com.



Mary MacDonald Kerr as Zelda Kahn

Mary MacDonald Kerr has been a theater artist in the Milwaukee area for 27 years. As an actor she has appeared in productions at Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theater, Next Act Theater, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Milwaukee Rep, First Stage and In Tandem Theater. Favorite roles include Anna in "Burn This," Alice in "The Detective's Wife," Pope Joan in "Top Girls" and Maggie in "Red Herring." Kerr is also a director and has helmed productions most recently at Renaissance and Next Act in Milwaukee, Forward Theater in Madison, Titan Theater in New York and Hope Rep in Holland MI. Favorite directing projects include "Actually," "Mother Courage," "West Side Story," "Going to St. Ives" and "Luna Gale." She has been married for 31 years and is the mother of two beautiful girls.

Performance schedule and special events

October 21 – November 13, 2022, "The How And The Why" by Sarah Treem

Friday	October	21	7:30	p.m.	Preview
Saturday	October	22	4:00	p.m.	Preview
Saturday	October	22	8:00	p.m.	Opening Night & Reception
Sunday	October	23	2:00	p.m.	
Wednesday	October	26	7:30	p.m.	Wine Wednesday
Thursday	October	27	7:30	p.m.	Community Networking Night
Friday	October	28	7:30	p.m.	
Saturday	October	29	4:00	p.m.	
Saturday	October	29	8:00	p.m.	
Sunday	October	30	2:00	p.m.	Playclub
Wednesday	November	2	7:30	p.m.	Wine Wednesday
Thursday	November	3	7:30	p.m.	Women's Happy Hour
Friday	November	4	7:30	p.m.	Pre-show Talk
Saturday	November	5	4:00	p.m.	Pride Show
Sunday	November	6	2:00	p.m.	Post-show Talk
Monday	November	7	7:30	p.m.	PWYC - Pay What You Choose
Wednesday	November	9	1:00	p.m.	
Wednesday	November	9	7:30	p.m.	Wine Wednesday
Thursday	November	10	7:30	p.m.	
Friday	November	11	7:30	p.m.	
Saturday	November	12	4:00	p.m.	
Sunday	November	13	2:00	p.m.	Closing