

30 SEASON
2022-23
RESILIENT

renaissance

T H E A T E R W O R K S

Theater by Women For Everyone

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Renaissance Theaterworks Cleans-Up with TIDY

*The world is ending. Will The Detective solve the environmental mystery in time to save it?
Find out when RTW concludes its 30th season with the World Premiere of TIDY.*

February 17th, 2023 (MILWAUKEE, Wis.) - Renaissance Theaterworks (RTW) concludes their 30th season with TIDY by Kristin Idaszak, March 24 - April 16, 2023 (Opening Night, March 25 8pm), at the Theater at 255 S. Water St. in Milwaukee's Harbor District. The play will be directed by RTW veteran, Elizabeth Margolius and features audience favorite, Cassandra Bissell in TIDY's singular role. Tickets are available at R-T-W.com 24 hours a day, or by calling the box office at 414-278-0765 or in person at the box office, 255 S. Water St., from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily and 2 hours before performances. Full list of performance dates, times and special shows below.

Play Synopsis

A woman stands in the middle of a room. She is an island in a sea of stuff - her stuff. It's a disaster. Fortunately, she's a detective and she has just read Marie Kondo's self-help book: *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*.

As she excavates her mountain of possessions, she uncovers a terrifying mystery. Can she follow the series of clues and solve the puzzle in time to save the planet? TIDY examines the holes in our lives we try to fill with consumption, how we decide what to keep and what to leave behind, and who and what will survive mass extinction. And...will it spark joy?

World Premiere Wisconsin

TIDY is part of World Premiere Wisconsin, a statewide festival celebrating new plays and musicals running March 1 – June 30, 2023, presented by the Ten Chimneys Foundation. To learn more visit www.worldpremierewisconsin.com.

RTW, already a local leader in presenting new work with the BRINK New Play Festival (in which Idaszak was a Resident Playwright in 2018 with her play, THE SUREST POISON), is excited to be one of the companies involved with World Premiere Wisconsin. "We're delighted to be part of this festival," says RTW Artistic Director, Suzan Fete. "Bringing new works to the stage, especially new works written by women, fits in perfectly with RTW's mission. We're also thrilled

to be part of a project that showcases all the great theater Wisconsin has to offer.”

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But Does it Spark Joy?

It started as a ripple, but crashed into cultural relevance in the late 2010s/early 2020s. The KonMari Method, a tidying philosophy created by Marie Kondo that is most synonymous with the phrase “Does it spark joy?”.

The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up has been released in 44 different languages and has sold over 13 million copies worldwide. Its influence on how we should organize our lives and tidy our homes/workplaces has been so powerful that when Kondo admitted she’s been prioritizing spending time with her family rather than tidying, the backlash was so strong it almost broke the internet.

At the core of the KonMari method is to make sure that a person is only surrounded by essential items and things that bring them long-term joy. This usually ends up being only the bare minimum: socks, books, photos, nothing is safe. It goes against the dominant accumulation philosophy that many subconsciously follow. But Kondo does say that every item has a purpose, to teach the consumer a lesson and then it's time to let that item go. It's these lessons that Idaszak uses to build the layers of TIDY inspiring audiences to ponder the gratification of consumerism, minimalism vs clutter and the question of what really sparks joy.

Becoming a Green New Theater

One of the most resounding themes in TIDY is the ongoing climate crisis. As the Detective deals with a mass-extinction event on stage, that motif echoes in the real world. Idaszak requests that companies that produce TIDY follow the guiding principles of the Green New Theater, which encourages theater companies to adapt in the face of the climate crisis. “We’re always looking for and open to ways we can improve ourselves.” says RTW Managing Director Lisa Rasmussen. “By taking on more sustainable initiatives, we can do our part in preserving theater and the planet for future generations to enjoy.” Throughout the run of TIDY RTW will be sharing ways they’ve been going green, tips for audiences to be more mindful of the environment and community partnerships to increase awareness of our climate crisis

Resources from the playwright about play/going green

Green New Theater is one of the community projects sponsored by Groundwater Arts. For more information, especially for those interested in exploring options for a more sustainable performing arts scene can check them out [here](#). Patrons are also encouraged to stay tuned to RTW’s social media pages for more green tips.

For those who are interested in a deep dive into the themes TIDY explores, you can check out *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert, “What Really Killed the Dinosaurs” by Bianca Bosker in *The Atlantic*, *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo, “The empty promises of Marie Kondo and the craze for minimalism” by Kyle Chayka in *The Guardian*, and *The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler.

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Production Team

DIRECTOR.....	Elizabeth Margolius^
PRODUCTION MANAGER & STAGE MANAGER....	Bailey Wegner*
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	Tony Lyons
LIGHTING DESIGN.....	Noele Stollmack**
SCENIC DESIGN.....	Jeff Kmiec**
SOUND DESIGN.....	Christopher Kriz**
COSTUME DESIGN.....	Anna Wooden
PROP MASTER.....	Olivia Bastien
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR.....	Shelby Kashian
PROJECTIONS DESIGN.....	Yeaji Kim
DECK CHIEF.....	Nat Goeller

*Member of Actors' Equity Association
 ^Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers
 ** Member of the United Scenic Artists of America

Playwright/Director/Cast Biographies

Kristin Idaszak (she/they) PLAYWRIGHT

Kristin Idaszak (she/they) is a Chicago-based playwright, dramaturg, producer, and educator whose recent work focuses on the climate crisis, gender, and queerness. She has received two Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellowships. Kristin was the Shank Playwright in Residence at the Goodman Theatre and was a member of the 2017-2018 Goodman Playwrights Unit. Idaszak has received commissions from EST/the Sloan Foundation, Cleveland Play House, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, and TimeLine Theatre. Her play SECOND SKIN received the Kennedy Center's Paula Vogel Playwriting Award and the Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award. Her play ANOTHER JUNGLE was a Relentless Award Honorable Mention, and THE SUREST POISON was a Princess Grace finalist. Idaszak was the Kennedy Center Fellow at the Sundance Theatre Lab. Her work has been seen at or developed through the Goodman Theatre, The Playwrights' Center, La Jolla Playhouse's WoW Festival, SPACE at Ryder Farm, Williamstown Theatre Festival's Directing Studio, The Drama League, Pasadena Playhouse, Circle X, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Perishable Theatre. She has also received support from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Idaszak is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and adjunct faculty at The Theatre School at DePaul University and Northwestern University. Previously, Kristin served as Associate Artistic Director/Literary Manager of Caffeine Theatre and Associate Artistic Director of Collaboraction. She is the Artistic Director of Cloudgate Theatre. She earned an MFA from University of California, San Diego. kristinidaszak.com

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Elizabeth Margolius (she/her) DIRECTOR

Four-time Joseph Jefferson Award nominee, stage and movement director Elizabeth Margolius' selected directorial credits include CRIMES OF THE HEART for American Stage, LE LOUP-GAROU for Opera Southwest, I AND YOU, SILENT SKY, MISS HOLMES, and THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY for Peninsula Players, ROSE for Renaissance Theaterworks, DIE KATHRIN for Folks Operetta/University of Chicago, QUEEN OF THE MIST for Firebrand Theatre, THE SCARLET IBIS for Chicago Opera Theater, MACHINAL FOR GREENHOUSE THEATER (as Movement Director), UNCLE PHILIP'S COAT for Greenhouse Theater, Haymarket: THE ANARCHIST'S SONGBOOK for Underscore Theatre, TWELFTH NIGHT for DePaul Opera Theatre, THE GIRL IN THE TRAIN for Chicago Folks Operetta, GOLDSTAR, OHIO for American Theater Company, THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR for Chicago Shakespeare Theater (as Assistant Director), DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY for Circle Theatre, OPUS 1861 for City Lit Theater, VIOLET for Bailiwick Chicago, and BERNARDA ALBA and SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD for Bohemian Theatre Ensemble. Elizabeth has been a guest director, master artist, and adjunct professor at numerous colleges and universities including Longy School of Music (MA), DePaul University, Viterbo University (WI), University of Northern Iowa, Converse School of Music (SC), SUNY Albany, and Skidmore College (NY). Elizabeth is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, a recipient of a full directorial scholarship for the Wesley Balk Opera-Music Theater Institute, and a finalist for the Charles Abbott Fellowship. Elizabeth has a degree in classical flute and has trained in movement techniques from around the world including Qigong, the Frantic Method, and Axis Syllabus. She is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director Emerita of DirectorsLabChicago, and a proud member of the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).

Cassandra Bissell (she/her) THE DETECTIVE

Cassandra is delighted to return to Renaissance Theaterworks where she has appeared previously in PHOTOGRAPH 51, TOP GIRLS, AMELIA, THE UNDERSTUDY and CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY. Wisconsin Credits: Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (THE THANKSGIVING PLAY), Milwaukee Rep (IN THE NEXT ROOM OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY, MY NAME IS ASHER LEV), Next Act Theatre (THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS, THREE VIEWINGS, THE REVOLUTIONISTS), Forward Theater Co. (THE WANDERERS, RUSSIAN TROLL FARM: A WORKPLACE COMEDY), Third Avenue Playworks (A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A LIVE RADIO PLAY, THE BOOK CLUB PLAY) and 18 shows over 9 seasons at Peninsula Players. Regional (LORT) credits: Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Arizona Theatre Co., Cleveland Play House, Court Theatre, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Repertory, Northern Stage, Northlight Theatre, People's Light and Utah Shakespeare Festival. Chicago (CAT) credits: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, First Folio, Next Theatre, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Shakespeare on the Green, Shakespeare Project of Chicago and Steppenwolf. Small Professional Theatre (SPT) credits: CATCO (Columbus, OH), Company of Fools (Sun Valley, ID) and freeFall Theatre (St. Petersburg, FL). Cassandra holds a BA in Gender Studies from the University of Chicago.

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Performance Schedule & Special Events

Friday, March 24	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Saturday, March 25	4:00 p.m.	Preview
Saturday, March 25	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night & Reception
Sunday, March 26	2:00 p.m.	
Wednesday, March 29	7:30 p.m.	Wine Wednesday
Thursday, March 30	7:30 p.m.	Community Networking Night
Friday, March 31	7:30 p.m.	Talkback
Saturday, April 1	4:00 p.m.	
Saturday, April 1	8:00 p.m.	
Sunday, April 2	2:00 p.m.	Play Club
Monday, April 3	7:30 p.m.	Pay-What-You-Choose
Wednesday, April 5	7:30 p.m.	Wine Wednesday
Thursday, April 6	7:30 p.m.	Women's Happy Hour
Friday, April 7	7:30 p.m.	Pre-show talk
Saturday, April 8	4:00 p.m.	PRIDE Show
Sunday, April 9	2:00 p.m.	Sensory Friendly Performance & Talkback with Trista Michels of Third Eye Tidy, certified Marie Kondo tidying method
Wednesday, April 12	1:00 p.m.	
Wednesday, April 12	7:30 p.m.	Wine Wednesday
Thursday, April 13	7:30 p.m.	
Friday, April 14	7:30 p.m.	
Saturday, April 15	4:00 p.m.	
Sunday, April 16	2:00 p.m.	ASL Interpreted

Season Sponsors: Laura & Mike Arnow, Jan Serr & John Shannon, Herzfeld Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Bert L. & Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust, CAMPAC, City of Milwaukee Arts Board, UPAF, Wisconsin Arts Board, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Show Sponsors: Sandy & George Dionisopoulos, J. Michael Reavis

About Renaissance Theaterworks

Celebrating their thirtieth anniversary in the 2022-23 season, RTW is Milwaukee's first professional theater company founded and led by women and the nation's second-oldest professional theater devoted to gender equality.

RTW is now a resident company at 255 South Water St. in Milwaukee's Harbor District, with increased capacity and improved accessibility.

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