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BURBAGE THEATRE CO ANNOUNCES THEIR **14th SEASON (S14): *DELIGHT & DOLE***

August 21, 2025 — Pawtucket, RI — Following the success of their dynamic 2024-25 season, the most attended and critically acclaimed season in their history, Burbage Theatre Co returns for their 14th Season with the intent to continue growing and producing powerful, sharp pieces with a sense of humor. Season 14, subtitled *Delight & Dole*, boasts a powerful lineup of five plays, as well as a special remount by popular demand, perfectly suited to the intimate Wendy Overly Studio Theatre in Pawtucket RI.

Season 14 opens with the heart-wrenching and life-affirming *Every Brilliant Thing*, by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, starring Stephen Thorne and directed by Angela Brazil. **Next, *Witching Hour Social Club*, a world premiere horror anthology play from the mind of James Lucey**, just in time for Halloween. Next, back by popular demand for a limited engagement of two weeks, **two-time Grammy Award-winning Bill Harley and musician Cathy Clasper-Torch return with Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare's *An Iliad***. With the new year comes **Burbage's fourth partnership with Women's Work Theatre Collaborative, *The Memory of Water* by Shelagh Stephenson**. Then, Burbage is thrilled to announce **the Rhode Island premiere of Lynn Nottage's *Clyde's*, directed by Jeff Church**. Finally, bridging the gap between Spring and Summer, William Shakespeare's timeless and irreverent classic ***Much Ado About Nothing*** closes their season.

*For tickets and subscription packages for Burbage Theatre Co's 2024-2025 Season, visit www.burbagetheatre.org.
Season 14 Flex Passes are now available on our website.
Sign up for Burbage's email list on our website to stay updated.*

"The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State." — Warwick Beacon

Purchase a **Burbage Theatre Co Flex Pass** and receive **FIVE TICKETS AT A DISCOUNTED RATE** to be used however you like and any of Burbage's regular season programming ("however you like" means – use a ticket for each of the five shows and see the whole season, or get a discount on a group of five and use them all at one performance!)

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

Preview Performances — \$15

General Admission — \$35, Students — \$15

High School Students — Any and all rush tickets are available to High School students for FREE

Season Flex Passes are available online at burbagetheatre.org/boxoffice or through our box office.

***For more information visit our website at www.burbagetheatre.org,
email us at info@burbagetheatre.org, or call our Box Office at (401) 484-0355***

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe
featuring Stephen Thorne, directed by Angela Brazil
(September 11 - 28)

SYNOPSIS – You're six years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's "done something stupid." She finds it hard to be happy. So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything that's worth living for:

1. Ice cream.
2. Kung Fu movies.
3. Burning things.
4. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose.
5. Construction cranes.
6. Me.

You leave it on her pillow. You know she's read it because she's corrected your spelling. Soon, the list will take on a life of its own. A play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.

"[A] heart-wrenching, hilarious play... One of the funniest plays you'll ever see about depression—and possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop... There is something tough being confronted here—the guilt of not being able to make those we love happy—and it is explored with unflinching honesty."

—The Guardian (UK).

"EVERY BRILLIANT THING finds a perfect balance between conveying the struggles of life, and celebrating all that is sweet in it."

—The Independent (UK).

"What Macmillan offers, with great sensitivity behind the abundant laughs, is a child's fierce, flawed attempt to make sense of adult unhappiness and a meditation on the shadow that a loved one's depression casts over the lives of a family."

—Evening Standard (London).

"...very charming... offers sentimentality without shame... guaranteed to keep your eyes brimming... [The script] balance[s] acuity and affability... with unobtrusive artistry... captivating..."

—The New York Times.

"[EVERY BRILLIANT THING] is sad, but it is also gloriously funny and exceptionally warm. It's a show that spells out a little of what depression can do to people, but it also highlights the irrepressible resilience of the human spirit and the capacity to find delight in the everyday."

—Time Out London

WITCHING HOUR SOCIAL CLUB

A Horror Anthology Play
by James Lucey
directed by Allison Crews
(October 16 - November 2)

Two estranged friends meet in the woods on an autumn night for the first gathering of their high school storytelling club in fifteen years. When it seems they're the only club members in attendance, their hopes for a big reunion dwindle. As they wait for their friends to arrive, they listen to cassette tapes of old stories from the club to pass the time. But there's more on the tapes than just old stories.

This play is largely inspired by classic horror anthologies like *Creepshow*, *Tales from the Crypt*, and of course, *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* It's been developed as a sort of experiment to test the potential and possibilities of the horror genre in live theatre.

"*Witching Hour Social Club* is a perfect 75-minute nugget of horror... whether you love to be scared or fear it, this awesome halloween treat is something not to be missed... [James] Lucey has succeeded on all counts... you may lose a little sleep over it but sleep is overrated anyway, right?"

—Broadway World RI

A special limited remount

AN ILIAD

by Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare, based on Homer's *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

Performed by Bill Harley

(LIMITED ENGAGEMENT | November 13 - 23)

A special remount of Burbage Theatre Co's Season 13 production of *An Iliad* starring two-time Grammy Award Winner, and acclaimed author/storyteller/musician Bill Harley, accompanied by Cathy Clasper-Torch.

A modern-day retelling of Homer's classic. Poetry and humor, the ancient tale of the Trojan War and the modern world collide in this captivating theatrical experience. The setting is simple: the empty theater. The time is now: the present moment. The lone figure onstage is a storyteller—possibly Homer, possibly one of the many bards who followed in his footsteps. He is fated to tell this story throughout history.

"Wonderfully theatrical... Harley's passionate devotion to this powerful piece of performance art is riveting. And his skills at storytelling... are mesmerizing. This production of *An Iliad* is, in so many ways, a master class in making canonical literary work engaging and relevant to theatregoers."

—Bob Abelman, The Boston Globe

Winner of the 2012 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show.

"Spellbinding... Smartly conceived and impressively executed, *An Iliad* relates an age-old story that resonates with tragic meaning today... As he talks about ruined civilizations and how blind rage can overwhelm people whether they are on a battlefield or merely cut off by a car on the highway, the poet asks viewers, 'Do you see?' Indeed we do."

—The New York Times

THE MEMORY OF WATER

In partnership with WomensWork Theatre Collaborative

By Shelagh Stephenson

(January 15 - February 8)

Three sisters return to their childhood home on the eve of their mother's funeral. As they share stories, clash over contradictions, and unearth long-buried resentments, the sisters struggle with how differently each remembers the same past. Partners and lovers are drawn into the fray, complicating loyalties and revealing how memory can be both a comfort and a weapon. Stephenson's play balances humor and poignancy in its exploration of grief, family, and the fragile, unreliable narratives that shape our lives.

"Dotted with stimulating observations... it has a raw spontaneity that captures perfectly the idea of what normal people do in abnormal times..."

—The New York Times

"*The Memory of Water* really lives up to the poetry reflected in its title. It also keeps us highly entertained for two hours and leaves us deeply touched in the end."

—New York Daily News

"This touching and hugely entertaining comedy provides an insight into the lives of three sisters who are reunited for their mother's funeral. A neurotic maternal type, a paranoid doctor and a brattish youngest sibling recall their childhood, but find that personal grievances have coloured their memories, which differ greatly and cause immense friction"

—The Independent

"This is a lovely piece, full of humour and heart... Where the play works best is... in its satisfying mixture of sardonic humour and deep emotion. Excellent jokes give way to festering resentments, booze and dope-fuelled hilarity to sudden glimpses of buried secrets and aching pain."

—The Telegraph

Rhode Island Premiere

CLYDE'S

by Lynn Nottage

directed by Jeff Church

(March 19 - April 12)

In *Clyde's*, a truck stop sandwich shop offers its formerly incarcerated kitchen staff a shot at redemption. Even as the shop's callous owner tries to keep them down, the staff members learn to reclaim their lives, find purpose, and become inspired to dream by their shared quest to create the perfect sandwich.

"We are living in Greek times... The systems that control our lives—institutional racism, predatory capitalism, the prison-industrial complex—seem as powerful and implacable as gods. What can humans do about fate, [other] playwrights suggest, but submit to it and hope to preserve the story?... But Nottage's delightful play, *Clyde's*... dares to flip the paradigm. Though it's still about dark things, including prison, drugs, homelessness and poverty, it somehow turns them into bright comedy."

—The New York Times

"At Clyde's, sandwiches aren't just convenient meals served at lunch and dinner; they tell stories, hold truths and nourish dreams... the drama blossoms into a poignant story about worker solidarity and the meaning of second chances, loaded with laugh-out-loud funny jokes."

—The Hollywood Reporter

"...[a] flavor-bomb of a comedy about survival, second chances, and digesting whatever life serves up... a subversion of familiar genres, including drawing room comedy and workplace drama, and the value judgments conventionally inherent to them. By nature of her composition, Nottage also questions which sorts of rooms and people have previously been considered worthy of sustained attention."

—Variety

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

by William Shakespeare

(May 14 - June 7)

Shakespeare's classic comedy of wit, love, and deception rounds out Burbage's 14th season. Beatrice and Benedick wage a battle of words, young love is tested by lies, and truth must win out before it's too late. For Burbage Theatre Co, Shakespeare is a cornerstone — our name, our mission, and our ensemble-driven approach are all rooted in his work. *Much Ado* continues that tradition, staged with irreverence and vitality.

"There's a right way and a wrong way to do Shakespeare — and certainly a right and a wrong way to introduce modern touches without ruining the beauty of the language and action — and then there is the Burbage way, which could actually ruin audiences for any other company... such reverent irreverence."

—Providence Journal

"This is what we go to the theatre for... Burbage Theatre Co is making Shakespeare come alive."

—East Bay RI

"Theater at its finest can either enlighten or entertain us, but in some rare cases [a company] can do both...."

—Motif Magazine

"Burbage [Theatre Co]... has pinned down the perfect balance, thematically and emotionally... Go for the immersive experience and to hear Shakespeare's words delivered with passion, clarity, and well-thought-out phrasing... If you've seen other productions of [Shakespeare] you won't be disappointed seeing it again at Burbage. And if you haven't seen the story told live, this is a great place to start."

—The Pawtucket Times