



BURBAGE  
THEATRE CO  
WWW.BURBAGETHEATRE.ORG



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | [www.burbagetheatre.org](http://www.burbagetheatre.org)  
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(401)484.0355, [jeff.church.jr@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.church.jr@gmail.com)

**Burbage Theatre Co continues their 14th Season  
with Shelagh Stephenson's *The Memory of Water***

**PAWTUCKET, RI December 30, 2025 —**

**Burbage Theatre Co continues their 14th Season with Shelagh Stephenson's *The Memory of Water*, directed by Lynne Collinson** (director of S13's *hang*), starring Burbage Theatre Co artists Rae Mancini, Allison Crews, and Valerie Westgate. *The Memory of Water* marks **Burbage's fourth consecutive partnership/co-production with WomensWork Theatre Collaborative.**

***THE MEMORY OF WATER* will be presented for 13 performances spanning four weeks from January 15 through February 8 at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre.**

***"The Memory of Water is dark comedy at its best.* It is at once a bittersweet examination of grief – its functions and social manifestations, its direct and rippling impact on family left behind – and a sharp comedy rife with wit and irreverence."**

"Much in keeping with our previous partnerships with WomensWork, Shelagh Stephenson's play is a unique balance of gravity and levity. It understands something universal: **when faced with grief, we don't become eloquent—we become human. We laugh at the wrong moments, argue over trivial details, misremember the past, and cling to the stories that help us survive.** Shelagh Stephenson's play speaks directly to anyone who has ever lost someone and discovered that mourning is messy, funny, uncomfortable, and deeply revealing. It invites an audience to recognize themselves—unflatteringly and honestly—in the ways families love each other, fail each other, and endure. **This is a play that makes you laugh because it tells the truth, and then quietly asks you to consider which of your own memories you're still protecting.**"

**"We could not be more thrilled to be partnering for the fourth time with WomensWork Theatre Collaborative,** nor to have Lynne Collinson back at the helm after her astounding production of Debbie Tucker Green's *hang* last year. We are proud to announce that the three sisters at the center of this play will be played by Burbage Theatre Company resident artists Allison Crews, Valerie Westgate, and Rae Mancini, who is also a member of WWRI."

"Our team is hard at work bringing to life what is sure to be another compelling partnership. Don't miss it!"

— **Jeff Church**, *Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co*

**Burbage Theatre Co's production of *The Memory of Water* opens on  
January 15 and closes on February 8 after 13 performances.**

*All performances will take place at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre*  
59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

***Critics and members of the press* are invited to join us on Saturday January 17th at 7:30pm or Sunday January 18th at 2:00pm.**  
You can reply to this email or contact [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org) for more information.

***If you are a member of the press and are unable to attend our Press Performances, just let us know!***

Whether you want to/have to cover the show on another evening, or if you can't cover the show but would still like to see the production – your two press tickets are still guaranteed, just let us know in an email at [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org).

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## **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*

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## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

### *THE MEMORY OF WATER*

by Shelagh Stephenson

### **ENSEMBLE**

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Vi        | Carol Schlink    |
| Mary      | Allison Crews    |
| Teresa    | Rae Mancini      |
| Catherine | Valerie Westgate |
| Mike      | Aaron Morris     |
| Frank     | Brien Lang       |

### **PRODUCTION CREW**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Lynne Collinson   | Director                |
| Kelli Noonan      | Assistant Director      |
| Samantha Hudgins  | Stage Manager           |
| Isaiah Gamboa     | Assistant Stage Manager |
| Trevor Elliott    | Production Design       |
| Grey Rung         | Set Design              |
| Chloe Rounce      | Set Assistant           |
| Riley Nedder      | Costume Design          |
| Andrew Iacovelli  | Technical Director      |
| Brittany Costello | ATD/Props               |
| Susie Schutt      | Intimacy Coordinator    |
| Jeff Church       | Producer                |



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### ***The Memory of Water* CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES**

Thursday January 15 at 7:30pm *Preview Performance*  
Friday January 16 at 7:30pm *Preview Performance*  
Saturday January 17 at 7:30pm *Opening Night/Pay-What-You-Will*  
Sunday January 18 at 2:00pm

Friday January 23 at 7:30pm  
Saturday January 24 at 7:30pm  
Sunday January 25 at 2:00pm

Friday January 30 at 7:30pm  
Saturday January 31 at 7:30pm  
Sunday February 1 at 2:00pm

Friday February 6 at 7:30pm  
Saturday February 7 at 7:30pm  
Sunday February 8 at 2:00pm

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### **TICKET POLICY —**

*“The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State.”* — Warwick Beacon

### **SPECIAL EVENTS PRICES –**

Preview Performances — \$15  
**General Admission — \$35**  
**Students — \$15**

Group Discounts are available – contact [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org) for more info.

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### **COVID-19 PREVENTION POLICY —**

**Burbage has implemented an *optional masking policy* for our patrons.**

While masks are no longer required, you are encouraged to mask if you like.  
Burbage will continue to make masks available to our patrons.

We do ask that you remain mindful of your own health and wellness before attending the theatre.

If you begin exhibiting new symptoms of Covid-19 that cannot be explained by regular seasonal allergies, we ask that you reconsider attending the theatre.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and safety.

If you must cancel or change your reservation with us, just contact the box office and we'll be happy to exchange your tickets to another performance.