



Virtually Speaking

Conversations Hosted by **Pam MacKinnon**

Featuring
Annette Bening

Livestream: **Nov 20, 2020**

On-demand: **Dec 4, 2020–Jun 30, 2021**

WELCOME TO A.C.T.

Hi Friends,

Thank you for being part of our 20/21/22 season. After several months of reinventing what we do and making the most realistic estimates possible for when we can be back in the theater, we found a creative and exciting solution to be able to produce theater for you to enjoy—at first from the comfort of your home and then in person when it is safe to gather.

We're creating and curating a range of virtual performances for you to enjoy during the 20/21 half of our season, with live performances delivered online, conversations with theater icons, and on-demand options that you can watch at your convenience. In December, we're bringing you a thrilling radio play adaptation of our classic *A Christmas Carol*. Next up is A.C.T. Out Loud, a curated series of great plays that have stood the test of time, remaining relevant, provocative and funny. Then we're presenting a filmed version of *Animal Wisdom*, Heather Christian's riveting concert-mass-séance.

As part of our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, we are in the process of building a meaningful, continual relationship with the local Indigenous theater community. As part of this we begin by honoring the lands upon which we do our work. We would be proud to offer deep gratitude to the tribal band of Ramaytush Ohlone peoples and their lands that cover Northern California and down the Pacific coastline. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 1700s, the Ramaytush Ohlone numbered approximately 1500 persons, and made their life on the sacred lands. Only a few families survived and still remain. Those descendants make up the membership of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone (ARO) today. We honor the Ohlone as a people, their resilience, and all they have done and continue to do in maintaining sacred and ancestral lands, ceremony, and communities to this day.

We miss being with you at the theater and can't wait to see you again.

Stay safe,



Pam MacKinnon
Artistic Director



Jennifer Bielstein
Executive Director

To learn more about our 20/21/22 season, visit [our website](#).

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Pam MacKinnon in a conversation with Annette Bening

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Annette Bening is a celebrated actor across the stage and screen. She will next star in *Death on the Nile*, directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh. Past film credits include *The Report*, *Captain Marvel*, *20th Century Women*, *The Kids Are Alright*, *American Beauty*, *The American President*, and *The Grifters*, among others. Bening was last seen on stage in Gregory Mosher's Broadway revival of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* alongside Tracy Letts, for which she earned a Tony Award nomination. Past theater credits include *Have a Nice Day*, *King Lear*, *Ruth Draper Monologues*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Talking Heads*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *Medea*. Bening received a Tony Award nomination and won the Clarence Derwent Award for Outstanding Debut Performance of the Season for her role in *Coastal Disturbances*.



Pam MacKinnon is in her third season as A.C.T.'s fourth artistic director. She is a Tony, Drama Desk, and Obie award-winning director, having directed upwards of 75 productions around the country, off Broadway, and on Broadway. Her Broadway credits include Beau Willimon's *The Parisian Woman* (with Uma Thurman), David Mamet's *China Doll* (with Al Pacino), Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* (with Elisabeth Moss), Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (with Glenn Close and John Lithgow), Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park*. Her most recent credits include world premieres of Bruce Norris's *Downstate*, Lydia R. Diamond's *Toni Stone*, Kate Attwell's *Testmatch*, and Edward Albee's *Seascape*. She grew up in Toronto, Canada, and Buffalo, New York, and majored in economics and political science at the University of Toronto. (she/her)

ABOUT A.C.T.

American Conservatory Theater is an essential gathering place that brings artists and communities together to inspire and provoke. Our mission is to engage the spirit of the San Francisco Bay Area, activate stories that resonate, promote a diversity of voices and points of view, and empower theater makers and audiences to celebrate liveness. We value inclusion, transformational learning, participation, and rigorous fun.

ABOUT THE CONSERVATORY

A.C.T.'s Conservatory training programs prepare actors of all ages and experience levels to explore their craft and grow as artists. Our Young Conservatory helps young artists ages 8–19 gain the confidence and skills to succeed both on and offstage, while Studio A.C.T. helps adults expand their creativity through part-time, professional caliber theater classes. A.C.T.'s academic programs—the Master of Fine Arts Program, Summer Training Congress, and San Francisco Semester—provide comprehensive training for aspiring and professional actors seeking a lifelong investment and career in the theater. Change your life and change the world with A.C.T.'s Conservatory.

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A.C.T. gratefully acknowledges the following list of Bravo Circle supporters who have pledged their commitment to the organization for the next two years. Their philanthropic generosity and investment in A.C.T.'s future through multi-year giving has played an invaluable role in ensuring the theater's strong rebound from these unprecedented times, helping make productions like this one possible. Thank you, truly!

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**A.C.T.'s Bravo Circle as of November 13, 2020*



interACT at home!

While our theaters are dark, we've created exciting free and ticketed virtual programming and events that give you an up-close look at the inner workings of theater and an opportunity to interact with artists and other theatergoers, expand your imagination in new ways, and help build a better world through theater.



In this book club for plays, Director of Dramaturgy and New Work Joy Meads hosts a lively conversation about an irresistibly rich dramatic text. After reading the same play, the group will gather on Zoom to dig into its juicy layers of meaning. Each play comes with a suggestion for dinner from a local restaurant and/or a drink recipe from a local mixologist, and we will partner with small publishers, local booksellers, and individual playwrights to make scripts available.



A monthly series of freewheeling conversations between A.C.T.'s Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon, eminent theater artists, and thought leaders on where they are in the present moment. Tune in to learn what is top of mind for some of the nation's most curious and creative thinkers as they discuss and argue about theater and the world around them. How did we get here? What possibilities do they see ahead? How do they imagine change?



Fun interactive theater games for all ages from A.C.T.'s Manager of Community Programs Stephanie Wilborn. Take 10 minutes to let your imagination soar and laugh with friends and family. Tune in for a new game every week with different hosts.



Artists provide commentary—their takes—on a specific scene from a recent A.C.T. production. Get a feel for the different points of view and the choices that go into bringing a script to life.