



Just How Does A Play Get Made? Seattle Rep's New Online Series 'Plays In Process' Gives Audiences A Rare Glimpse Into The Artist Creative Process

Monthly installments will feature leading actors including Uma Thurman, E. Faye Butler, and Taylor Schilling, award-winning local playwright Cheryl L. West, and others.

Seattle, WA (December 17, 2020) — With community connection and the celebration of live theater at heart, Seattle Rep is excited to announce its new virtual series, **Plays in Process**, a unique program that gives audiences rare exposure to the raw, behind-the-scenes creative process of plays on the horizon at Seattle Rep. Hosted by Artistic Director Braden Abraham, Plays in Process will feature top playwrights, directors, actors, and musicians including **Uma Thurman** (*Kill Bill*), **Cheryl L. West** (*Shout Sister Shout!*), **David Strathairn** (*Good Night and Good Luck*), **Taylor Schilling** ("Orange is the New Black"), **E. Faye Butler** (*Pullman Porter Blues*), **Erica Schmidt** (*MAC BETH*), and more in monthly installments that will get underway in January 2021.

Plays in Process events will range in focus, but always showcase a diverse range of extraordinary artists in the exploration of key elements in a play's production work. Each unique session will feature a different play in development and its artists will reflect on the specific decisions that went into creating various aspects of that play. From acting choices to line rewrites to musical arrangements, audiences will get a first-hand account of just how a play collaboratively came together. In a year when we can't be together, Seattle Rep's Plays in Process offers the greater community a chance to virtually come back to the theater for a unique taste of what is to come at Seattle Rep.

"Typically, all crucial play development happens around desks and tables and in the rehearsal room—long before an actor makes it to the stage for their live performance—so ticket holders don't often learn of the intricate and collaborative moments that lead to a final creative product. From the early readings and rehearsals, to the rewrites and the musical compositions, the process can be private and internal, and also very collaborative and engaging. With Plays in Process, we hope to pull the curtain back on some of that process. The artists involved will reflect on their creative experiences, offering audiences a raw and honest look at how elements of their work came to be. We are excited to see Seattle audiences again through this program, and also invite anyone intrigued by the subject matter to join us. The talent and artistry involved is nothing short of extraordinary, and we're really looking forward to the work," said Artistic Director Braden Abraham.

Seattle Rep announced titles and select artists involved in the first three Plays in Process events including **Fannie** by Seattle playwright **Cheryl L. West** with actor **E. Faye Butler**; a new translation of Henrik Ibsen's **Ghosts** directed by **Carey Perloff** with actors **Uma Thurman** and **David Strathairn**; and a new adaptation of Shakespeare's **Hamlet** adapted by **Erica Schmidt**—the director/playwright behind Seattle

Rep's wildly successful adaptation of *MAC BETH* in 2018—featuring actor **Taylor Schilling**. Additional titles in the five-part series will be announced in early 2021.

The full five-part series pass is now available to purchase at the suggested price of \$75. Individual event tickets will go on sale in early 2021. Reservations are required for these events and pay what you choose options will be available. Purchase your pass today at SeattleRep.org.

For a calendar of events >>

Thursday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. PT

FANNIE

By Cheryl L. West

Directed by Henry Godinez

Music Direction by Felton Offard

A Seattle Rep co-commission with Goodman Theatre

A captivating call to action and look at the impassioned freedom fighter, Fannie Lou Hamer, who became one of the most powerful female voices of the civil and voting rights movements.

Artists Participating:

- Cheryl L. West, Playwright
- Henry Godinez, Director
- E. Faye Butler, Actor
- Felton Offard, Musician

Thursday, February 25, 7:30 p.m. PT

GHOSTS

A NEW TRANSLATION

By Henrik Ibsen

Translated from the Norwegian by Paul Walsh

Directed by Carey Perloff

Originally produced by the Williamstown Theatre Festival

Mandy Greenfield, Artistic Director

A fresh and relevant new translation of one of Henrik Ibsen's most vivid and controversial masterpieces.

Artists Participating:

- Carey Perloff, Director
- Paul Walsh, Translator
- Uma Thurman, Actor
- David Strathairn, Actor

Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. PT

HAMLET

By William Shakespeare

Directed and Adapted by Erica Schmidt

An innovative adaptation of Shakespeare's best-known play—widely regarded as the most influential literary work ever written—reimagined for a modern audience.

Artists Participating:

- Erica Schmidt, Director & Adaptor
- Taylor Schilling, Actor

FOR EDITOR/PRODUCERS:

WHAT:

Seattle Rep's Plays In Process

In this five-part virtual series hosted by Artistic Director Braden Abraham, get a raw, behind-the-scenes look at the creative process. Join leading playwrights, actors, directors, and musicians including **Uma Thurman, Cheryl L. West, David Strathairn, Taylor Schilling, E. Faye Butler, Erica Schmidt**, and more as each installment focuses on key elements within the work, inviting artists to share their discoveries through interviews and exclusive excerpts from some of Seattle Rep's most anticipated projects. Experience first-hand how collaboration among a diverse group of theater artists uniquely expands the creative process, fostering a powerful exchange of ideas that eventually fuels the work of a fully-fledged production seen on our stages.

WHEN:

Thursday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. PT - FANNIE
Thursday, February 25, 7:30 p.m. PT - GHOSTS
Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. PT - HAMLET
Thursday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. PT - *To Be Announced*
Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. PT - *To Be Announced*

WHERE:

seattlerep.org/playsinprocess

TICKETS:

Suggested Price for Five-Part Series Pass \$75

Individual event tickets will go on sale in early 2021, and pay what you choose options will be available.

PHOTOS/VIDEO:

Please find available photos and video [here >>](#)

SOCIAL:

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#PlaysinProcess

ABOUT SEATTLE REP

Seattle Rep puts theater at the heart of public life. Founded in 1963 and winner of the 1990 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, Seattle Rep is currently led by Artistic Director Braden Abraham and Managing Director Jeffrey Herrmann. Over a season and throughout the year, Seattle Rep collaborates with extraordinary artists to create productions and programs that reflect and elevate the diverse cultures,

perspectives, and life experiences of the Pacific Northwest. Seattle Rep's nationally recognized programs include the New Play Program, Seattle Rep's Public Works, the August Wilson Monologue Competition, Pay What You Choose ticketing options, and numerous audience enrichment and engagement opportunities including post-play panels, discussions, and community events and presentations.

Seattle Rep has always been committed to supporting new work from playwrights, directors, composers, and more. Through extensive commissioning initiatives and its new play development lab, The Other Season, Seattle Rep offers artists the resources they need to bring the next great play to life. Recent and notable commissions that have been produced on Seattle Rep's stages include *Pullman Porter Blues*, *Lizard Boy*, *The Great Society*, *A Great Wilderness*, and an adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Seattle Rep's recently-announced commissioning initiatives 20x30: Reimagining the Anthropocene and New Directions represent the largest, most sustainable, consistent, and robust commissioning programs in the theater's history.

SeattleRep.org.

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