



## Seattle Rep Prepares To Stage An Arresting New Translation of Henrik Ibsen's **GHOSTS**

By Henrik Ibsen

Translated from the Norwegian by Paul Walsh

Directed by Carey Perloff

Produced by the Williamstown Theatre Festival in July 2019

Mandy Greenfield Artistic Director

**SEATTLE, WA (March 4, 2022)** – This spring, Seattle Rep will produce **Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts***, in a new translation by **Paul Walsh**. Directed by Carey Perloff (Seattle Rep: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*) and set to feature Academy Award-nominated actor **David Strathairn** (*Good Night, and Good Luck; A League of Their Own; Nomadland*), **Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio** (*Scarface*), and **Thom Sesma** (Broadway: *The Lion King*), *Ghosts* will be performed on the Bagley Wright stage from April 1-May 1, 2022; single tickets and digital access may be purchased online at [SeattleRep.org](http://SeattleRep.org), or by calling the Patron Services Office at 206.443.2224.

Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts* is perhaps his most vivid and controversial play. The story follows a mother caught between duty and desire and begs the question: how far should she go to protect her family? In Ibsen fashion, the play itself is a contemplative commentary on 19th-century morality that has been translated for the American contemporary theater. Of the play and its title's meaning, translator Paul Walsh said, "It means, that which goes again; that which returns. The ghosts of our past, all those things that we thought we had done away with—racism, sexism, homophobia—they all are returning now, and it's so relevant. That's how ghosts operate within this play and within our lives" (excerpt from a Williamstown Theatre Festival 2019 interview).

This new translation and subsequent production of *Ghosts* premiered at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2019. Seattle Rep audiences may remember a 2021 virtual development experience via the [Plays in Process](#) series, which offered a glimpse into the creative process of adapting and refining this vibrant story. Of the new translation, Seattle Rep Artistic Director Braden Abraham said, "Paul Walsh is one of the foremost American translators of Henrik Ibsen's plays. Paul's exciting new translation of *Ghosts* faithfully delivers the play with the spontaneity of contemporary language. A great classic is always revealing itself and translation is a vital process to reinvigorate these works with fresh energy and relevancy."

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The Seattle Rep production will feature a cast of world-class talent including **David Strathairn**, **Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio**, **Thom Sesma**, **Albert Rubio**, and **Nikita Tewani**. Audiences can also look forward to original and live musical underscoring by David Coulter, direction by Carey Perloff, scenic design by Dane Laffrey, costume design by David Reynoso, lighting design by Robert Wierzel, sound design by Victoria Deiorio, and stage management by Stina Lotti.

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT SEATTLE REP

For the most up-to-date information about what to expect during your visit to Seattle Rep, please visit >> <https://www.seattlerep.org/plan-your-visit/covid-protocols/>

## ABOUT CAREY PERLOFF (Director)

Carey Perloff is a director, playwright, producer, and educator who recently completed a 25-year tenure as the Artistic Director of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, where she staged dozens of classical and contemporary plays and nurtured a three-decade collaboration with Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard resulting in her new book *Pinter and Stoppard: A Director's Views*. Recent directing work includes: *Ghosts* (trans. Paul Walsh) at Williamstown Theatre Festival (WTF); *Pale Fire* by Colm Toibin at the Gate Theatre, Dublin; *Merchant of Venice* starring Seana McKenna at the Shakespeare Company, Calgary; and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* at Arena Stage, Washington D.C. Perloff has staged numerous plays at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and at theaters across Canada. As a playwright, Perloff's work includes *If God were Blue*, *Edgardo or White Fire* (WTF commission), *Higher* (Winner, 2011 Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation Theater Visions Award), *Luminescence Dating* (Sloane Foundation Commission, Bay Area Theater Critics Best Original Script), *Kinship* (premiered in Paris starring Isabelle Adjani and then at WTF starring Cynthia Nixon), and *The Fit* (San Francisco Playhouse). Perloff is the author of *Beautiful Chaos: A Life in the Theater* (City Lights Press 2015). In 2007, Perloff was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government, and has been awarded honorary degrees from University of San Francisco and A.C.T. She is working on a Director Commission for Seattle Rep: the *Oedipus Cycle*, with John Douglas Thompson.

## ABOUT PAUL WALSH (Translator)

Paul Walsh is professor in the practice of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. Other Ibsen translations include *A Doll's House*, *The Master Builder*, *Hedda Gabler*, *John Gabriel Borkman*, and *An Enemy of the People*. Walsh has worked as dramaturg, translator, and co-author with theater companies across the country, including

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nine years as a dramaturg at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. With Theatre de la Jeune Lune in Minneapolis, he collaborated on such award-winning productions as *Children of Paradise: Shooting a Dream*, *Don Juan Giovanni*, *Germinal*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He received a Ph.D. from the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama at the University of Toronto.

## FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS

### WHAT:

#### **GHOSTS**

By Henrik Ibsen

Translated from the Norwegian by Paul Walsh

Directed by Carey Perloff

Originally produced by the Williamstown Theater Festival, Mandy Greenfield, Artistic Director

In this arresting new translation, Henrik Ibsen's controversial drama resonates with startling contemporary power.

Mrs. Alving welcomes home her beloved son Oswald after many years away. Rebuilding her life after the death of her unfaithful husband, she struggles to keep his debauchery hidden to protect his reputation for the sake of her son. But when Oswald begins a new romance, secrets of all kinds emerge, and Mrs. Alving must decide what course to take to truly be free.

### WHEN:

**April 1-May 1, 2022**

Performance times: Tuesday–Sunday

Select Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and evening performances at 7:30 p.m. (no matinees during previews)

Press Invite Night: Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

### WHERE:

**Seattle Rep's Bagley Wright Theater**, located at Seattle Center at the corner of Second Ave. and Mercer St., Seattle, Washington

### TICKETS:

**Start at \$17 – ON SALE NOW**

Discounted tickets for groups of 10+ may be purchased by calling 206.443.2224.

For ticket reservations, call the Seattle Rep Patron Services Office at 206.443.2222 or toll-free at 877.900.9285, or go online at [seattlerep.org](http://seattlerep.org)

Seattle Rep offers Pay What You Choose tickets for all of our performances.

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Pay What You Choose seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis with a minimum donation of \$5 per person over the phone, and a minimum of \$1 in person. Tickets are also available with our digital partner TodayTix 24 hours in advance or you may pre-order your tickets by phone at 206-443-2222. In-person purchases are now available.

*There is a limit of 4 Pay What You Choose tickets per person.(Full price tickets may be reserved in advance in any quantity.)*

## **PHOTOS:**

Production images will become available in the coming weeks. For available pre-production images or artwork, please visit our online [Press Room here >>](#)

## **SOCIAL:**

**[SeattleRep.org](http://SeattleRep.org)**

Facebook - /SeattleRep

Instagram - @SeattleRep

Twitter - @SeattleRep

#SeattleRep #GhostsSREP

## **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, Youth Engagement programs, Pay What You Choose ticketing options, and numerous audience enrichment and engagement opportunities including post-play panels, discussions, and community events and presentations.

*The 2021/22 Season Sponsor is ArtsFund.*

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## **For more information:**

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