



# MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE 2019-20 SEASON

## SEVEN WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS, THREE PREMIERES, AND THREE PROVOCATIVE PLAYS WITH MUSIC

### TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

SEP 11 – OCT 6, 2019

Based on the book by Cheryl Strayed

Adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos

Co-Conceived by Marshall Heyman, Thomas Kail, and Nia Vardalos

Directed by Jen Wineman

"A theatrical hug for turbulent times," according to Variety, *Tiny Beautiful Things* is based on the book *Tiny Beautiful Things: Advice on Love and Life from Dear Sugar* by Cheryl Strayed (*Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*) Unlike conventional advice columnists, Cheryl Strayed answered hundreds of letters for two years with surprising candor and an often bruising, brutal honesty. Both hilarious and heartbreaking, *Tiny Beautiful Things* is her personal account of life as Dear Sugar.

### CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND

OCT 16 – NOV 10, 2019

EAST COAST PREMIERE

By Lauren Yee

Featuring songs by Dengue Fever

Directed by Marti Lyons

A co-production with City Theatre in Pittsburgh and Victory Gardens in Chicago

"It's a riveting play that's part mystery, part history lesson, and part unabashed jukebox musical concert," according to Broadway World. The story of a young woman, who attempts to piece together her family history 30 years after her father fled from Cambodia, *Rock Band* celebrates the resilient bond of family and the enduring power of music.

### THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

NOV 27 – DEC 22, 2019

By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

As the events of *Miss Bennet* unfold upstairs at Pemberley, the servants below find themselves in the midst of a scandal; an unwelcome visitor has stumbled into the kitchen in the middle of the night – Mr. Darcy's nemesis and Lydia's incorrigible husband: Mr. Wickham.

### MAYTAG VIRGIN

JAN 8 – FEB 2, 2020

By Audrey Cefaly

Directed by Eleanor Holdridge

Sweet, funny, and a very Southern romantic-comedy. "Hilarious and full of heart. Cefaly explores this very real clash for the characters between the customs of modern courtship . . . and a quaint culture where people still cook for each other to express romantic interest." -*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

## THE LOWELL OFFERING

WORLD PREMIERE

By Andy Bayiates and Geneva Gallo-Bayiates

FEB 12 – MAR 8, 2020

In 1840 in Lowell, MA, a group of factory workers began publishing the world's first magazine written solely by women; it was called *The Lowell Offering*. This is the story of the magazine's editor, Harriet Farley, and a labor activist, Sarah Bagley – and the rise and fall of their friendship, the magazine, and Lowell's "Mill Girl" culture. .

## NINA SIMONE: FOUR WOMEN

By Christina Ham

Directed by Kenneth Roberson

A co-production with Northlight Theatre in Chicago

MAR 18 – APR 12, 2020

The show is currently playing in Chicago, and the *Chicago Tribune* said, "A remarkable show! It is totally different from any revue you ever saw!" The show brings to life her song "Four Women," her tribute to the four little girls killed in the 1963 church bombing in Alabama.

## LULLABY

EAST COAST PREMIERE

By Michael Elyanow

Featuring the music and lyrics of Garrison Starr, Chris Dallman,  
Curt Schneider and Michael Elyanow

APR 22 – MAY 17, 2020

*Lullaby* is a pulsating, provocative dark comedy about love and family and heartbreak – about lingering spirits and how we finally say goodbye to the past and move on to a lighter future. Broadway World said, "Everything I want theatre to be: funny, smart, relevant, moving, and with awesome songs!"

# 2019-20 SEASON SUBSCRIPTION

Season Subscriptions for all seven plays range in price from \$133 to \$357 with student subscriptions at \$70. Current prices increase April 19. To purchase, visit [mrt.org/subscribe](http://mrt.org/subscribe) or contact the MRT Box Office at 978-654-4678.