Whoever thought that the first time literature would ever be on stage it would be helmed by a Latino artist? I certainly didn’t. MRT pushes the American theatre forward and that often means taking bold risks. I am a bold risk.

— Christopher oscar pena.

World Premiere of Jack Kerouac’s The Haunted Life by Sean Daniels, based on the book by Jack Kerouac; co-directed by Sean Daniels and christopher oscar pena. (l-r) Michel Chum, Kevin O’Hara, Caroline Naft, Tina Fabrique and Joel Crooksh. Photo by Meghan Moore.

ON THE COVER: Amanda Collins and Michel Chum in Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley. Photo: Meghan Moore

Silent Sky By Lauren Gunderson. (l-r) Victoria Grace and Alexis Bronkovic. Photo by Meghan Moore.

World Premiere of Slow Food By Wendy MacLeod. (l-r) Joel Van Liew, Brian Beacock and Daina Michelle Griffith. Photo by Meghan Moore.

The 2018-19 Season was an incredible adventure. We laughed our way through the fall and winter with Native Gardens, Murder for Two, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, and Slow Food. We embarked on deeper explorations of family, memory, and history with the world premieres of The Heath and The Haunted Life. We sent you off into summer with one more comedy in Cry It Out. We broke some records and had some important firsts: three world premieres, including the first adaptation of Jack Kerouac’s lost novella, our top-selling show with Miss Bennet,… crossing the 3,000 mark with subscribers, open captioned shows for every production, and a record number of babies joining their parent-artists at MRT as part of our family-friendly theatre efforts.

We hope you’ll join us on our next adventure— the 2019-20 Season, which boasts seven women playwrights, three premieres, and two provocative plays with music, including the companion piece to Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, a world premiere account of Lowell’s “Mill Girls,” and a rousing tribute to the late singer and activist Nina Simone. Outgoing Artistic Director Sean Daniels picked a great season for you and secured the top talent our audiences are used to seeing on our stage. The entire MRT team is already preparing to bring you exciting new plays and more opportunities to engage with our artists.

Please consider adding a $100 donation to any subscription order, and you will become a SUPER SUBSCRIBER, which will bring you exclusive invitations to special events, including our blow-out Super Subscriber Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the theatre.

Thank you for your generosity and for your spirit of adventure. I can’t wait to share it with you.

Bonnie J. Butkas
Executive Director

MRT’S QUALITY OF PRODUCTIONS, the supportiveness of their audiences, and the nonstop love of new plays is a gift to the American theatre.

It delights me to write stage directions calling for a funny prop, surprising costume, or an unexpected piece because I know that MRT will knock it out of the park.

— Wendy MacLeod.
7 PLAYS for the price of 6
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TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS
SEP 11 - OCT 6, 2019
BASED ON THE BOOK BY CHERYL STRAYED
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY NIA VARDALOS
CONSIDERED BY MARSHALL HEYMAN,
THOMAS KAIL, AND NIA VARDALOS
DIRECTED BY JEN WINSLE

“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. Unlike conventional advice columnists, 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.

“A show that aims to open your eyes to the tiny moments when the world surprises us with care.” — New York Magazine

CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND
OCT 16 - NOV 10, 2019
EAST COAST PREMIERE
BY LAUREN YEE
DIRECTED BY KAIRI LYONS
SONGS BY DEANGIE FEVER

“It’s a riveting play that’s part mystery, part history lesson, and part unabashed Khmer 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.

“A fierce, gorgeous, heartwarming, comedic fairy tale. Yee has made her characters so joyfully and ridiculously human that it’s impossible not to identify with them.” — Los Angeles Times.

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

THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY
NOV 26 - DEC 22, 2019
BY LAUREN GUNDERSON AND MARGOT MELCON

As the events of Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley unfold upstairs, 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.

Lullaby
A co-production with Center Theatre Group, Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles; and Gabriel Marin, VIvia Font, and Joel Colodner

THE LOWELL OFFERING
MAR 18 - APR 12, 2020
WORLD PREMIERE
BY ANDY BAYATES AND GENEVRA GALLO-BAYATES

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.

“Absorbing, funny and thoroughly entertaining – one of MRT’s best in years.” — Lowell Sun review of Lost Laughs by Andy Bayates and Aaron Muñoz

LULU
APR 23 - MAY 17, 2020
EAST COAST PREMIERE
BY MICHAEL ELYANOW
FEATURED THE MUSIC AND LYRICS OF GARRISON STARR, CHRIS DALLMAN, CURT SCHNEIDER, AND MICHAEL ELYANOW

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.

“There’s a modern, absurdist side to Elyanow’s humor – a bracing wit.” — TWIcenes.com

The show brings to life Nina Simone's original song "Four Women," her tribute to the four little girls killed in the 1963 church bombing in Alabama. The four women, including Nina herself, reflect what might have become of the girls. As she gazips with sorrow and rage, Nina slowly begins her transformation from jazz club chanteuse to the civil rights activist we revieve today. Songs include "Mississippi Goddam, "I Love You, Porgy," "To Be Young, Black and Beautiful," and "Her Eyes is on the Sparrow."

“Truly Marvelous. Guaranteed to rouse your soul and raise your mind!” — ZG Kiev.

A co-production with Northlight Theatre in Chicago.

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OFF PEAK: 2 & 7:30 Wed – 4 Sat – 7 Sun
OFSunday Weekends: first weekend of each show:
8 Sat – 2 Sun
OFF Tuesday Weekends: first three performances of each show:
3:30 Wed & Thu – 8 Fri

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