



REMY BUMPPPO

think theatre

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Remy Bumpo Theatre Company Announces Its 2024 - 2025 Season

Remy Bumpo's Season Explores the Power of Connection

CHICAGO – Artistic Director Marti Lyons and Remy Bumpo Theatre Company are proud to announce the 2024 - 2025 season. Remy Bumpo's season includes ***Dear Elizabeth* by Sarah Ruhl, October 17 - November 17**, directed by **Remy Bumpo's Creative Producer Christina Casano**, the return of its winter reading series, ***Readings on Ravenswood, winter 2025***, and **'Art' by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, May 1 - June 1, 2025**, directed by **Artistic Director Marti Lyons**. Performances for ***Dear Elizabeth*** and **'Art'** will take place at Theater Wit, 1229 West Belmont Avenue in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. Subscriptions for the 2024 - 2025 season are \$51 - \$105 and are currently on sale at RemyBumpo.org. Single tickets for the productions will be available starting Wednesday, July 17 at TheaterWit.org.

"In our 24-25 season at Remy Bumpo we explore the power of connection. From Sarah Ruhl's exquisite piece, *Dear Elizabeth*, to the plays in our *Readings on Ravenswood* series, to Yasmina Reza's witty and biting work, *'Art'*, each examines how connections are formed and tested," said **Artistic Director Marti Lyons**.

"Together, these pieces consider the bonds that transcend distance, the ties that hold no matter what the world may throw our way, and the relationships that stand the test of time. We look forward to connecting with our audiences through the experience of these beautiful works in the year ahead."

The Remy Bumpo Theatre Company's 2024 - 2025 season includes:

Dear Elizabeth

By Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Christina Casano

October 17 - November 17

Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Previews: Thursday, Oct. 17 - Saturday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.

Performance schedule: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 - \$55

Subscriptions are now on sale at RemyBumpo.org

Single tickets go on sale Wednesday, July 17 at TheaterWit.org

In 1947, Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell's first letters sparked a friendship that spanned 30 years, crossing continents and filling countless pages. Their correspondence, a blend of poetry and personal musings, became the anchor of their tumultuous lives. Despite rare meetings, their connection transcended the bounds of a traditional love story, evolving into a profound friendship.

Dear Elizabeth peeks into the private lives of two literary giants, revealing their vulnerabilities, insecurities and the intimacy of their bond. Sarah Ruhl creates a poignant narrative by weaving the poets' letters together, providing a window into their extraordinary connection, the enduring power of their words, and, ultimately, the transformative power of language and art.

Readings on Ravenswood
Winter 2025

Remy Bumpo Rehearsal Room, 1751 W. Grace St.

Complete list of plays, actors, directors and dates to be announced in the fall.

After a sold out inaugural series in 2024, *Readings on Ravenswood* returns with more plays featuring favorite playwrights and Core Ensemble members. Each reading includes a conversation with audience members immediately following that night's selected play.

'Art'

By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Marti Lyons

May 1 - June 1, 2025

Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave

Previews: Thursday, May 1 - Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m.

Performance schedule: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 - \$55

Subscriptions are now on sale at RemyBumpo.org

Single tickets go on sale Wednesday, July 17 at TheaterWit.org

When Serge splurges on a controversial painting, it sparks a lively debate among his best friends, Marc and Yvan. What begins as playful banter soon escalates into heated arguments. As tensions build, their discussion of the subjective nature of art begins to expose the raw nerves at the center of the friendship. Will a piece of art sever their connection or bring them closer than ever?

'Art' examines the quirky dynamics of friendship and the enigmatic world of art through Yasmina Reza's sharp wit and clever dialogue. This hilarious and thought-provoking comedy navigates the fine line between laughter and introspection, exploring the true value of both art and friendship.

ABOUT SARAH RUHL

Sarah Ruhl is an award-winning American playwright, author, essayist and professor. Her plays include *Orlando*, *The Oldest Boy*, *Dear Elizabeth*, *Stage Kiss*, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2010); *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2005; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, 2004); *Passion Play* (Pen American Award, Fourth Freedom Forum Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes Award for Best New Play); *Melancholy Play*; *Demeter in the City* (nine NAACP Image Award nominations);

Scenes From Court Life; How to Transcend a Happy Marriage, For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday; Eurydice; Orlando and Late: a cowboy song. Her plays have been produced on Broadway and across the country as well as internationally, and translated into fourteen languages. Originally from Chicago, Ms. Ruhl received her M.F.A. from Brown University, where she studied with Paula Vogel. She is the recipient of a Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award, a Whiting Writers' Award, a PEN Center Award for mid-career playwrights, a Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award and a Lilly award. She is a member of 13P and New Dramatists and won the MacArthur Fellowship in 2006. She teaches at Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn with her family.

ABOUT YASMINA REZA

Yasmina Reza is a French playwright and novelist, based in Paris, whose works have all been multi-award-winning, critical and popular international successes, produced worldwide and translated into 35 languages. She has written seven plays including *Conversations After a Burial, The Passage of Winter, Art, The Unexpected Man, Life X 3, A Spanish Play, God of Carnage, How You Talk the Game* and six novels: "Hammerklavier," "Une Desolation (Desolation)," "Adam Haberberg," "Dans la Luge d'Arthur Schopenhauer," "Nulle Part" and "L'Aube, le Soir ou la Nuit (Dawn Dusk or Night)". Her films include "Le Pique-Nique de Lulu Kreutz," directed by Didier Martiny, and "Chicas," written and directed by the author.

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Christopher Hampton's plays and musicals have so far garnered four Tony Awards, three Olivier Awards, four Evening Standard Awards and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award; prizes for his film and television work include an Oscar, two BAFTAs, a Writers' Guild of America Award, the Prix Italia, a Special Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival, Hollywood Screenwriter of the Year and The Collateral Award at the Venice Film Festival for Best Literary Adaptation. Original plays include *Appomattox, The Talking Cure, White Chameleon, Tales From Hollywood, Treats, Savages, The Philanthropist, Total Eclipse, and When Did You Last See My Mother?* Adaptations from novels: *Youth Without God* (Horváth), *Embers* (Márai) and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Laclos). Musicals: *Stephen Ward, Dracula: The Musical* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Libretti: "Appomattox," "The Trial" and "Waiting for the Barbarians" (all for Philip Glass).

Translations include plays by Chekhov, Ibsen, Molière, Horváth, Yasmina Reza and Florian Zeller. His films include: "Ali and Nino," "A Dangerous Method," "Chéri," "Atonement," "The Quiet American," "Dangerous Liaisons," "The Good Father," "The Honorary Consul," "Total Eclipse," "Mary Reilly," "Tales From The Vienna Woods" and "A Doll's House." He wrote and directed "Imagining Argentina," "The Secret Agent" and "Carrington." His television credits include: "The Thirteenth Tale," "The Ginger Tree," "Hôtel Du Lac," "The History Man" and "Able's Will."

ABOUT CHRISTINA CASANO

Christina Casano is a theatre artist based in Chicago. Her training includes a BA in theatre from Miami University, Victory Gardens Theater's Director's Inclusion Initiative and the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Summer Professional Training Program. Selected directing credits: *I Build Giants* and *Poison* (The Plagiarists), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stone Soup Shakespeare), *Socks & Co.* (workshop, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre), *Work in Progress* (workshop, The Plagiarists) *How To Murder...* (workshop, Bramble Theatre), *Blood of My Mother's* (workshop, Wayward Sisters), *Plaid As Hell* (Babes With Blades), *Deep Shadows* (audio drama, EFCT), *Fame Heaux* (staged reading, Lanford Wilson New American

Play Festival). Other favorite projects: *Short Shakes! Romeo & Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Some Like It Red* and *The Epic of Gilgamesh, etc.* (The Plagiarists), *How To Defend Yourself* (Victory Gardens), *Bury Me* (Dandelion Theatre), *The Light Fantastic* (Jackalope Theatre). She is the artistic director of The Plagiarists and the creative producer at Remy Bumpo.

ABOUT MARTI LYONS

Marti Lyons most recently directed *Love Song* by John Kolvenbach and *Galileo's Daughter* by Jessica Dickey at Remy Bumpo Theatre Company. Lyons also directed *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* at Northlight Theatre, *Wife of a Salesman* by Eleanor Burgess at Milwaukee Rep, *Sense and Sensibility* adapted by Jessica Swale at American Players Theatre and the world-premiere of *John Proctor is the Villain* by Kimberly Belflower at Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C. Selected other credits include: *The Niceties* by Eleanor Burgess at Writers Theatre; *Cymbeline* at American Players Theatre; *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe and *Kings* by Sarah Burgess at Studio Theatre; the world-premiere of *How to Defend Yourself* by Liliana Padilla, a Victory Gardens and Actors Theatre of Louisville co-production; *Cambodian Rock Band* by Lauren Yee at Victory Gardens and City Theatre; *Witch* by Jen Silverman at Geffen Playhouse and Writers Theatre (LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Direction); *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías at Victory Gardens; *Botticelli in the Fire* by Jordan Tannahill at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; *I, Banquo* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *Title and Deed* by Will Eno at Lookingglass Theatre Company and Laura Marks' *Bethany and Mine* at The Gift Theatre. Lyons is also an ensemble member at The Gift Theatre and a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

ABOUT REMY BUMPPO THEATRE COMPANY

Remy Bumpo Theatre Company expands and enriches their community's view of the world, and their own, by producing both the great plays of the past and the important plays of today. As an ensemble-driven theater company, Remy Bumpo authors a more humane culture that listens to, and seeks to understand, the voices, the ideas and the stories of one another.

Since its inception in 1996, Remy Bumpo has produced a blend of modern classics and complex contemporary works, presented in an intimate setting with clarity, wit and passion. We invite audiences to engage directly with the art through conversation with the artists.

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