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Pasadena Playhouse and Vroman's Bookstore

Present

ANOTHER DAY'S BEGUN: EXPLORING *OUR TOWN*

**A celebration of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning play
and Howard Sherman's new book**

***ANOTHER DAY'S BEGUN:*
*Thornton Wilder's OUR TOWN in the 21st Century***

Hosted by

Jane Kaczmarek

March 11, 2021 at 6:30pm PT on PlayhouseLive

Watch for free at www.playouselive.org

February 24, 2021, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman announces the live streaming of ***Another Day's Begun: Exploring Our Town*** on PlayhouseLive, March 11, 2021 at 6:30pm PT, presented by Pasadena Playhouse and Vroman's Bookstore. ***Another Day's Begun: Exploring Our Town*** will be available on demand beginning March 12.

This special event celebrates *Our Town*, the quintessential American play, with performances from previous cast members and a conversation with Jane Kaczmarek, who played the Stage Manager in the 2017 Pasadena Playhouse/Deaf West production, and author Howard Sherman, author of the new book *Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century*.

Kaczmarek and Sherman guide us through the enduring legacy of Thornton Wilder's masterpiece with excerpts from *Our Town* performed by Kaczmarek herself, Youssef Kerkour, Keith Randolph Smith and Alexandria Wailes.

The evening is also a virtual celebration of Sherman's new book, which explores thirteen key productions of *Our Town*, including the landmark 2017 production by Pasadena Playhouse and Deaf West Productions. *Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century* is now available in stores (Methuen Drama, \$26.95).

A work of startling originality when it debuted in 1938, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* evolved to be seen by some as a vintage slice of early 20th Century Americana, rather than being fully appreciated for its complex and eternal themes and its deceptively simple form. *Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century* shines a light on the play's continued impact in the 21st century and makes a case for the healing powers of Wilder's text to a world confronting multiple crises.

Through extensive interviews with more than 100 artists about their own experience of the play and its impact on them professionally and personally – and including background on the play's early years and its pervasiveness in American culture – *Another Day's Begun* shows why this particular work remains so important, essential, and beloved.

80 years after it was written, more than 110 years after its actions take place, *Our Town* continues to assert itself as an essential play about how we must embrace and appreciate the value of life itself. *Another Day's Begun* explains how this American classic has the power to inspire, heal and endure in the modern day, onstage and beyond.

Another Day's Begun: Exploring Our Town will be available to view for free on PlayhouseLive March 11, 2021 at 6:30pm PT. Once you create your free account at www.playhouselive.org, ***Another Day's Begun: Exploring Our Town*** can be watched on any of the PlayhouseLive apps including Apple OS, Android OS, Roku, FireTV and more. Closed captioning is available and ASL will be provided by Elizabeth Greene. Spanish captioning will be available for on-demand viewing subsequent to the live event.

Other PlayhouseLive programming highlights include:

- Poet, performance artist and professor **Javon Johnson** in ***Still.***, a timely one-man performance about the complexities of the Black experience, commissioned by Pasadena Playhouse and kept online by popular demand. ***Still.*** can be rented for \$19.99.
- In the second episode of ***Intermission with Hashtag Booked***, hosts LaNisa Frederick and Danielle Pinnock take an intermission with **Jeff Perry** ("Scandal") to talk about his distinguished career in front of the camera and his roots in the theatre. Jeff will recount the beginnings of Steppenwolf Theatre Company and share some insider stories about his time with Laurie Metcalf, John Malkovich, and more. ***Intermission with Hashtag booked*** is available for free to the public.

Additional information about PlayhouseLive and its programming, including new announcements and pricing specials, are available at www.playhouselive.org.

BIOS:

Howard Sherman

Howard Sherman is a theatre administrator, writer, and advocate. He has been executive director of the American Theatre Wing and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, managing director of Geva Theatre, general manager of Goodspeed Musicals, and public relations director

of Hartford Stage, as well as interim director of the Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts. He has also held administrative positions at the Westport Country Playhouse, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Philadelphia Festival Theatre for New Plays.

Since 2012, he has been the US columnist and a feature writer for *The Stage* newspaper in London, and in 2018 was named contributing editor of *Stage Directions* magazine. His writing has appeared in a number of other publications including *Slate*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *American Theatre* magazine.

Howard frequently consults, writes, and speaks on issues of censorship and artists' rights in both academic and professional theatre; he created the Arts Integrity Initiative in 2015 to focus on those efforts. He was cited as one of the Top 40 Free Speech Defenders in 2014 by the National Coalition Against Censorship and received the Dramatists Legal Defense Fund's Defender Award in 2015.

His first book, *Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century*, was published in January 2021 by Methuen Drama, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing.
www.hesherman.com www.artsintegrity.org @hesherman on Twitter

Jane Kaczmarek

Jane Kaczmarek is best known for 7 seasons on TV's 'Malcolm in the Middle' receiving 7 consecutive Emmy nominations and nods for the SAG and Golden Globe Awards as well.

Her television career began with 'The Paper Chase' and 'Hill Street Blues' after graduating from the University of Wisconsin and the Yale School of Drama.

In New York she has performed on Broadway and off, and for 6 seasons at The Williamstown Theatre Festival appearing in *No More Shall We Part* with Alfred Molina, *The Roommate* with S. Epatha Merkerson and *Tell Me I'm Not Crazy* with the late Mark Blum.

In L.A., *Kindertransport* (Ovation Award), *Raised in Captivity* (L.A. Drama Critics Award), *Good People* (Ovation nom.), The Stage Manager in *Our Town* with Deaf West Theatre at Pasadena Playhouse and again with Mr. Molina in *A View From The Bridge* for BBC Radio and *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*, which was filmed and available on Broadway HD.

Ms. Kaczmarek's foundation Clothes Off Our Back raised over 4 million dollars for children's charities by auctioning celebrity apparel. She lives in Pasadena, CA with her 3 children and serves on the boards of The Pasadena Conservatory of Music, The Pasadena Educational Foundation, and The Pasadena Playhouse.

Youssef Kerkour

A veteran stage actor and member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Youssef has worked prolifically on both sides of the Atlantic and across three continents. He is most well known for portraying Sami in the Channel 4 series 'Home' for which he has received a BAFTA nomination, a Royal Television Society nomination and Press Guild Award nomination. He was also seen as Karl the taxi driver in Channel 4's Iraqi based detective series 'Baghdad Central.' He also appears in

'Dracula' as hooked chef Olgaren and as Emlyn in the 'Gavin and Stacey' XmasSpecial, both on BBC 1.

At 6'5" and bearded, he was previously found regularly playing undesirables on screen: As one eyed jihadist Sabil Adiz in 'Strike Back', fighting Jason Statham in 'Redemption', kidnapping Rosie Perez's mom in Sky1's 'Bounty Hunters', smuggling refugees in Amazon's 'Jack Ryan', or evading police in Netflix's 'Marcella'. He was watched by 13 million viewers in the US as Twin Tower bomber 'Abouhalima: The Red' in ABC's 'The Path to 9/11,' and he made cinematic history playing Wilson in Woody Harrelson's live streamed, single take movie 'Lost in London.' Some recent stage credits include the Stage Manager in *Our Town*, Mitch in *Streetcar Named Desire*, and Wilson in the London West End hit comedy *Harvey*. He is the recipient of the Carter Towbin prize for Drama and the Milton and Sally Avery Award for theatre. Of his ten plays to date for the RSC he can be seen in DVDs of *Richard II* starring David Tennant, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*.

He is originally from Morocco and fluent in 4+ languages. He is a graduate of Bard College in upstate New York and an Honour (First Class) graduate of LAMDA in London where he currently resides.

Keith Randolph Smith

Broadway: *Jitney*; *American Psycho*; *Fences*; *Come Back Little Sheba*; *King Hedley II*; *Salome*; *Piano Lesson*

Off-Broadway: *Paradise Blue* (Signature); *Lockdown* (Rattlestick); *Tamburlaine* (TFANA); *The Revolving Cycles* (Playwrights Realm); *Fabulation* (Playwrights Horizons); *Holiday Heart* (MTC).

Regionally: *How to Catch Creation* (Goodman); *A Human Being Of A Sort* (Williamstown); *Our Town* (Miami New Drama); *Antony and Cleopatra* (Hartford); *The Tempest* (Chautauqua); *Looking Over The President's Shoulder* (Merrimack); *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Arden).

TV/Film: 'The Good Fight'; 'Onion Sports Dome'; 'Law and Order'; 'I'll Fly Away'; 'NY Undercover'; 'One Life to Live'; 'Malcolm X'; 'Girl Six'; 'Path to Paradise'; 'Fallout'; 'The Warrior Class'; 'Backstreet Justice'; 'Dead Dogs Lie'.

Alexandria Wailes

Alexandria Wailes received a 2020 Obie Citation for Sustained Excellence as an Artist and Advocate. She received a Lucille Lortel nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play *For Colored Girls..* at The Public.

Broadway: Deaf West's *Spring Awakening*, *Big River* (Tony Honoree for Ensemble). Off Broadway: Playwright Horizon's *I Was Most Alive with You*, *A Kind Of Alaska*, Regional: Pasadena Playhouse/DWT's *Our Town*, Mixed Blood Theatre's *Gruesome Playground Injuries & Love Person*.

Film: 'The Hyperglot'; TV: 'Law & Order: Criminal Intent', 'High Maintenance', 'Little America', 'Nurse Jackie'.

As Director of Artistic Sign Language: the revival of Broadway's *Children Of A Lesser God* and *King Lear*; TV/Film: 'This Close' S. 1 & 2; 'Quantico' S.3; CODA; 'A Quiet Place' 1 & 2; 'Wonderstruck'. Alexandria Wailes was a company member of Heidi Latsky Dance and is now a member of Forest of Arden. She is also a co-founder of BHo5.org. Proud member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA and SDC. www.alexandriawailes.com

About Pasadena Playhouse

Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for 100 years to experience bold and important theater. It is one of the most prolific theaters in American history with a legacy of profound theatrical impact and courageous new work. In 1937, the Playhouse was officially recognized as the State Theater of California for its contribution and commitment to the dramatic arts. Today, it continues that tradition of excellence under the helm of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman. Dedicated to enriching lives through theater, community programs and learning initiatives, Pasadena Playhouse is a living force in the community.

This project was made possible in part by the Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division, with additional support from the Playhouse Village Association.

About Vroman's Bookstore

Vroman's Bookstore was founded in 1894 and is Southern California's oldest & largest independent bookstore. Vroman's is a general bookstore located in Pasadena that hosts over 400 community events each year, including author signings, writing workshops, children's storytimes, craft classes, and lectures. Vroman's is a cultural center and a literary institution.

About PlayhouseLive

Playhouse**Live** breaks down the physical boundaries of theater walls and opens access to audiences all over the world. It is also integrated into the Pasadena Playhouse's Community at Play program which remove barriers to arts participation and ensures free and low-cost ways to engage with the arts. Distribution channels include a standalone website, iPhone and Android apps, AppleTV, Amazon FireTV, Roku, Chromecast, and AirPlay, among others. Powered by Pasadena Playhouse, Playhouse**Live** programming will include new filmed productions, staged readings, and cabarets, as well as original series, documentaries, and theater classes. It is a home for a wide array of theatrical voices through new and revisited work. Playhouse**Live** also serves as an online companion to the work that Pasadena Playhouse and partner theaters create on our stages once live theater performances resume.