



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4615 THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2018/19 SEASON

SECOND FULL SEASON INCLUDES A WORLD PREMIERE BY JOE CALARCO COMPANY ESTABLISHES FULL TIME RESIDENCY AT SILVER SPRING'S HIGHWOOD THEATRE

Silver Spring, MD - 4615 Theatre Company is thrilled to announce its second full season, ranging from Shakespeare to a world premiere by a nationally recognized playwright. The rapidly growing company has also established a full-time venue residency. "Producing our first full season was a leap of faith, and we are ecstatic that so many people took that leap with us" said Artistic Director Jordan Friend. "Our audience doubled in size, so the pressure is on us now to top ourselves. I could not be more excited about the ambitious, diverse and provocative year of theatre we have planned."

All four plays 4615's new season deal with fate, free will, and the supernatural. Whether confronted by higher powers, or trying to act as gods themselves, the characters in these stories fight to reshape the narratives of their lives. "This season is about gods on earth" said Friend. "To reckon with the power of our choices, and question if we have any choice at all, is both timeless, and piercingly relevant to this moment."

The season begins with a repertory of witches and wine: Shakespeare's haunting **MACBETH** (July 27-August 19), and contemporary English playwright Moira Buffini's diabolical comedy, **DINNER** (August 3-25). Jordan Friend will direct the former, utilizing the company's intimate space in startling new ways to create a pulse-pounding take on a classic. Stevie Zimmerman, director of 4615's acclaimed *Electra*, will helm Buffini's play, about a woman who summons old friends to her table for a four-course night of reckoning. Though written 400 years apart, these plays are joined in featuring two of the most apocalyptic dinner parties ever put to page.

Following the rep, 4615 drastically shifts gears with David Ives' **VENUS IN FUR** (October 25-November 17), a ferociously entertaining two-hander, in which an actress's audition for a playwright morphs into an evening of seductive power games and blurred realities. Director Clare Shaffer will stage the production in the Highwood's rehearsal studio, for an extraordinarily up-close and personal experience.

4615's season culminates with the world premiere of Joe Calarco's **SEPARATE ROOMS** (February 22-March 17), a time-bending, funny, and wistfully haunting meditation on time, friendship, and the marks we leave behind. *Separate Rooms* weaves through the spaces of a deceased man's apartment, as he sees his friends grapple with his loss and with each other. Calarco, a nationally recognized and award-winning playwright, whose works include *in the absence of spring*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, and *Walter Cronkite is Dead*, will work closely with 4615 to present this stunning new work.

"We are deeply honored and excited that Joe has entrusted us with the premiere of his beautiful play" said Friend, the production's director. "*Separate Rooms* is the ideal 4615 show, with it's innovative storytelling and deep humanity. For a season that begins with *Macbeth*, it could not be more perfect to bookend our year with an altogether different sort of ghost story."

On having the premiere of his play with a new and emerging company, Calarco said, "I was so, so, impressed with how Jordan and 4615 Theater Company came out of the gate running. It's not easy, and they have continued to enhance D.C.'s rich theater community by pushing the envelope with the work they're doing, so I couldn't be more thrilled that they're producing the world premiere of my play."

4615 is also pleased to announce a formal residency at the Highwood Theatre, an organization dedicated to offering theatrical training and opportunities to students and adults. "Highwood is absolutely thrilled to host 4615 Theatre Company for their second season" said Highwood artistic director Matthew Nicola. "Downtown Silver Spring will once again enjoy their bold and unique artistic perspectives." Friend added, "We are deeply grateful to produce our work in such an ideal location, at a venue that vitally enriches the community."

This year marks an exciting new leap forward for 4615, a company that started in backyards and basements and has skyrocketed into one of the DC area's boldest new theatres. "Last year, we truly came into our own as a company" said Friend. "Now, we're ready to hit the ground running."

4615 THEATRE: Season 2

MACBETH

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Jordan Friend

July 27-August 19, 2018

When legendary war hero Macbeth tells his wife of a kingly prophecy, the ambitious couple set in motion a deadly plan....to kill the current monarch at a banquet in his honor. As he plunges into chaos, Macbeth must reckon with whether he truly has a hand in his own destiny. 4615's white-knuckle production presents Shakespeare's masterpiece as a harrowing folk tale, with innovative battles, an original score and three truly terrifying witches.

DINNER

By Moira Buffini

Directed by Stevie Zimmerman

August 3-25, 2018

On a foggy night, British socialite Paige is throwing a dinner party for her pompous husband's new self-help book. She's invited his friends; a lovesick artist, a twice-married microbiologist, and a TV reporter. A missing guest and oddly looming waiter quickly set the mood on edge, and by the time Paige announces her first course as "Primordial Soup", the smell of reckoning is in the air. As barbs fly, wine glasses pile up, and an unexpected visitor arrives, *Dinner* escalates into a diabolically funny four-course meal of a play.

VENUS IN FUR

By David Ives

Directed by Clare Shaffer

October 25-November 17, 2018

After an exhaustive day of auditions, Thomas has yet to find a lead actress for his adaptation of a 19th century Austrian novella about sexual power dynamics. As he's leaving, a frazzled actress bursts in from the pouring rain and begs for a chance. She also seems to have his heroine's name. As they read his play together, a storm rages outside, and the lines between fiction and reality, as well as who holds the power, begin to blur...

World Premiere

SEPARATE ROOMS

By Joe Calarco

Directed by Jordan Friend

February 22-March 17, 2019

In this time-bending, moving and wistfully haunting new comedy, a deceased man guides us through his past and present, as his apartment fills to the brim with family, friends, friends of friends, and even total strangers. As the guests grapple, both with his loss and with each other, the action weaves from room to room, jumping through time by minutes and years. *Separate Rooms* is a stunning meditation on loss, friendship, and the traces of ourselves we leave behind.

ABOUT OUR GUEST ARTIST for Season 2

This year, 4615 will present the world premiere of award-winning playwright Joe Calarco's *Separate Rooms*. Joe is well known to the DC area, both as a playwright and director, and is the Director of New Works at Signature Theatre in Arlington. He will work closely with 4615 on this production, our first ever world premiere. We are thrilled and honored to welcome Joe to the 4615 family. Learn more about him below!



Joe Calarco (playwright): Published work includes *in the absence of spring*, *Shakespeare's R&J* (Lucille Lortel Award), *Walter Cronkite is Dead*, his short plays, *Just A Little Sniffle* and *Parting Gifts*, and two collections of his works for teen audiences, *Signature in the Schools Volumes 1 & 2*. Other adaptations include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Shakespeare Theater Company), and *Antigone Renewed* (developed National Theater, London). Other produced work includes *A Measure of Cruelty* (Carbonell Award nomination), *Isolated Incidents*, and *Watershed*. He is the book writer for the musicals *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (Barrington Stage Company), *Golden Gate* (developed at Second Stage and Lincoln Center), *SCKBSTD* (songs by Bruce Hornsby) and he was a contributing book writer for the Drama Desk winning *The Audience* (The Transport Group.). He was resident playwright at Expanded Arts for two years, is a member of the Dramatists Guild, and is Director of New Works at Signature Theater.

Important Info:

TICKETS/LOCATION

4615 performs in residence at the Highwood Theatre, 914 Silver Spring Avenue, Silver Spring MD. Tickets for the summer shows are \$16.50, and will be available for starting June 25 at www.4615theatre.com

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Tag mentions on social media with [#4615theatre](https://twitter.com/4615theatre), or follow **4615** at @4615theatre on Twitter and Instagram and at www.facebook.com/4615theatre for updates.

ABOUT 4615 THEATRE COMPANY

4615 Theatre began when a group of undergraduate theatre artists staged a Jacobean tragedy in multiple rooms of a suburban home. In just a few years since, the company has rapidly expanded from backyards and basements into a thriving professional theatre with an intimate black box space and a reputation for "inverted epics": large, narrative-driven stories brought to new life in an up-close setting. The company performs a mix of classical and contemporary plays, with an eye towards material that links the two. In the spirit of the theatre's roots, 4615 also maintains a robust apprenticeship program for high school and undergraduate students.

NOTE: Members of the media who would like to attend any **4615 Theatre Company** production, interview members of the company, or feature 4615 in your publication should contact Anne Donnelly at info@4615theatre.com



4615 Theatre Company

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