TWO RIVER THEATER ANNOUNCES AN EXCITING AND VIBRANT LINEUP FOR ITS 2023/2024 30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Including the rock musical HAIR and August Wilson’s GEM OF THE OCEAN, Featuring Two River favorites Crystal A. Dickinson and Brandon J. Dirden; plus Two world-premiere productions, Kate Hamill’s THE SCARLET LETTER and Tony Meneses’ A THOUSAND MAIDS; and A Little Shakespeare production of Shakespeare’s comedy LOVE’S LABOUR’S LOST

RED BANK, NJ – Two River Theater is pleased to announce its 2023/2024 30th Anniversary Season. This will be the first slate of programming at Two River for new Artistic Director Justin Waldman and Managing Director Nora DeVeau-Rosen. The season kicks off in September with the groundbreaking rock musical Hair, with direction by Craig Noel Award winner James Vásquez (Under a Baseball Sky, American Mariachi) and original choreography by Mayte Natalio (Love in Hate Nation); followed by a world premiere by one of America’s most produced playwrights, Kate Hamill’s (Pride and Prejudice, Little Women) The Scarlet Letter, based on the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne, directed by Shelley Butler (Beautiful: The Carol King Musical, A Doll’s House Part 2).

The season continues in the spring with the world premiere of A Thousand Maids, by Two River favorite Tony Meneses (The Hombres, Guadalupe in the Guest Room), which will be his fourth production in Red Bank, directed by May Adrales (Vietgone). Concluding the season will be August Wilson’s Gem of the Ocean, the seventh installment in Two River’s commitment to produce each play in August Wilson’s The American Century Cycle. Gem of the Ocean will be directed by San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award-winner Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Trouble in Mind, Skeleton Crew), the first woman to direct an August Wilson production at Two River, with performances by Two River stalwarts Crystal A. Dickinson (Clybourne Park, The Trees) and Brandon J. Dirden (Take Me Out, Jitney). The season will also include the well-loved A Little Shakespeare series, this time presenting the comedy Love’s Labour’s Lost, adapted and directed by Tai Thompson (Warriors Don’t Cry).

“It is a distinct pleasure to celebrate Two River’s 30th Anniversary with a dynamic lineup of spectacular and vital programming,” said Artistic Director Justin Waldman. “A milestone like this is a joyous occasion and what better way to exalt the moment than with rock & roll, laughs, and old friends. In planning our first season in Red Bank, Nora and I wanted to honor the incredible artists and values that have made Two River such an indispensable part of this community while opening up our doors to new adventures in theatrical wonder. The talent on display is exemplary and will take us from musicals to world premieres and thrilling adaptations
to towering classics, all while telling stories that resonate and represent the rich tapestry of Monmouth County. As Two River launches into a new decade, optimism is high, the future is bright, and we cannot wait to share the thrill of live theatre.”

TWO RIVER THEATER 2023/2024 SEASON INCLUDES:

SEPT 30—OCT 22/2023
HAIR
The American Love-Rock Musical
Book and Lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado
Music by Galt MacDermot
Directed by James Vásquez
Original Choreography by Matye Natalio
The Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Let the sunshine in! During the Summer of Love, a group of young Americans dream of a beautiful future filled with harmony and understanding. The groundbreaking rock musical includes the Grammy Award™-winning hits “Aquarius,” “Good Morning Starshine,” and the title song’s ode to long, brilliant, beautiful “Hair!” Opening Two River Theater’s 30th anniversary season, Director James Vásquez (Old Globe Resident Artist, American Mariachi) and choreographer Mayte Natalio (Love in Hate Nation) bring their 2021 staging from the Old Globe Theatre, which was hailed as “A first-class production. A Hair to seek out (San Diego Story).” Peace now, freedom now, Hair now!

FEB 3—25 / 2024
World Premiere
THE SCARLET LETTER
By Kate Hamill
Based on the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Directed by Shelley Butler
The Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Hester Prynne dares to strive for a better life for herself and her daughter. Kate Hamill (Pride and Prejudice, Little Women), one of American theater’s most celebrated contemporary playwrights, reimagines Nathaniel Hawthorne’s classic tale of courage. This world premiere, directed by Shelley Butler (Beautiful: The Carol King Musical, A Doll’s House Part 2), showcases the strength of a woman who will not let the rules of an unjust society define her.

MARCH 1-10/2024
A LITTLE SHAKESPEARE: LOVE’S LABOUR’S LOST
By William Shakespeare
Adapted and Directed by Tai Thompson
The Marion Huber Theater

The King of Navarre and his classmates have sworn an oath to hit the books and swear off dating for three years. Can their vow survive the arrival of the brilliant Princess of France and her charming friends? Back for the 11th year as Two River’s most popular education program, A Little Shakespeare presents an abridged
version of Shakespeare’s comedy. This raucous celebration of head versus heart is directed and designed by theater professionals, and performed and supported backstage by high school students.

APRIL 6—28 / 2024
World Premiere
A THOUSAND MAIDS
by Tony Meneses
Directed by May Adrales
The Marion Huber Theater

Cordelia’s stuck. Cordelia needs to design a maid’s costume, but she can’t stop thinking about The Help and Maid in Manhattan and Gone with the Wind and As Good As It Gets and... and... and... How can she find a way to show these women for who they really are? Two River favorite Tony Meneses (The Hombres, Guadalupe in the Guest Room) returns with this world premiere comedy, directed by May Adrales (The Electric Baby, Vietgone).

JUNE 8—20 / 2024
AUGUST WILSON’S GEM OF THE OCEAN
Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg
The Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Citizen Barlow is looking for peace. To get it, he’ll knock at Aunt Ester’s door every day if that’s what it takes. Set in 1904, the opening installment in August Wilson’s The American Century Cycle includes the playwright’s most fantastical journey, where the secrets of the past point towards future liberation. Featuring beloved Two River artists Crystal A. Dickinson (Wine in the Wilderness, A Raisin in the Sun) and Brandon J. Dirden (Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, Topdog/Underdog), Gem of the Ocean is the seventh production in the theater’s commitment to stage all ten of Wilson’s visionary epics.

Bios and photos of all participants can be found at www.tworivertheater.org.

TICKET INFORMATION
Subscriptions to the 2023/2024 season are now available! Two River Theater is currently offering both 3-play and 4-play packages. Renewing subscribers are encouraged to complete their renewals before June 30th in order to keep their seats. Visit https://tworivertheater.org/season-subscriptions/ or call 732.345.1400 to purchase subscription tickets. Single tickets for Hair will go on sale in July. A Little Shakespeare: Love’s Labour’s Lost is not part of the subscription series.

SPONSORSHIP
Two River Theater’s 2023/2024 30th Anniversary Season Sponsor is Hackensack Meridian Health/Riverview Medical Center.


Two River Theater produces American and world classics, new plays and musicals, programs for young people, and festivals of new work. Each year, we serve over 20,000 students, families and community members through our 4-6 show season, and 40+ events that reflect our diverse community of Monmouth County. Two River produces work on two stages—the 350-seat Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater, and the flexible 110-seat Marion Huber Theater. In 2020 we expanded our campus to 80,000 square feet with the opening of the Center for New Work, Education and Design. Two River Theater has commissioned and premiered original projects including Be More Chill by Tony Award nominee Joe Iconis and Joe Tracz (the theater’s first Broadway production) and Hurricane Diane by former Playwright-in-Residence Madeleine George (which won an Obie Award for its Off-Broadway run), and in June 2019, Two River was nationally recognized by USA TODAY as one of “10 great places to see a play.” Two River Theater is led by Artistic Director Justin Waldman and Managing Director Nora DeVeau-Rosen.