



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ArtsWest Announces 2024-2025 Season : The Family of Things**

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**SEATTLE, WA** (July 24, 2024) – ArtsWest is thrilled to announce their **2024-2025 Season: *The Family of Things***. The title of the season is drawn from Mary Oliver’s powerful poem *Wild Geese*, which reminds the reader of the role of love on the path to belonging. The five titles chosen this season seek to do the same through explorations of love in all forms, spanning genres, cultures, and time. The season begins with ***Guards at the Taj***, a co-production with Pratidhwani, Seattle’s premiere South Asian Performing Arts company, about two best friends who are sworn to protect beauty at all costs; for the holidays, a new holiday tradition returns with audience favorite ***Snowed In (Again)***; in February, ***Covenant*** brings a family full of secrets and a play full of haunts, horror, and thrills; ***Athena*** transports audiences to the *piste* as fencers and frenemies go head-to-head; and finally, ***The Effect*** brings sci-fi and romance to ArtsWest’s stage.

“In curating this season, the team and I talked a lot about **what role theater can play in the lives of everyday folks in the world today**,” says Artistic Director, Mathew Wright. “We’ve always felt that it should be rich and experiential – that **we go to the theater for the experience of being alive**. Last season, we started to find a groove in which we could do our mission while simultaneously bringing hope and some healing laughter in a moment we need it the most, and the community we’re building around that work is incredible.” **In last year’s record-breaking season, ArtsWest welcomed over 2,000 new patrons and celebrated 33 sold out performances.**

ArtsWest will host ***FIRST LOOK: The Season*** on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This annual, free event is a look behind the curtain at how the upcoming season came together and what audiences can look forward to. Part TED Talk / part live podcast, ***FIRST LOOK*** features special guests, musical moments, and more. Free tickets can be reserved at [artswest.org](http://artswest.org).

## **Guards at the Taj**

by Rajiv Joseph

Directed by Samip Raval

A Co-Production with Pratidhwani

September 12th - October 6<sup>th</sup>

*Winner, 2016 Obie Award for Best New American Play Winner, 2016 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play*

In 1648 India, two Imperial Guards watch from their post as the sun rises for the first time on the newly-completed Taj Mahal—an event that shakes their respective worlds. When they are ordered to perform an unthinkable task, the aftermath forces them to question the concepts of friendship, beauty, and duty, and changes them forever. GUARDS AT THE TAJ is one of Pulitzer Prize Finalist Rajiv Joseph's seminal works.

“Absorbing...GUARDS AT THE TAJ raises potent questions about the human price paid throughout history for the caprices of the mighty, even when they result in architectural wonders that ultimately give pleasure to the masses.” - *The New York Times*

“Rajiv Joseph gives us plenty to admire in his play...He hooks us quickly. He surprises with tonal shifts, jumping from *The Odd Couple* breezy to *Game of Thrones* ghastly. He creates compelling and sympathetic characters.” - *New York Daily News*

## **Snowed In (Again)**

by Corinne Park-Buffelen & Mathew Wright

Directed by Kelly Kitchens

November 21 - December 22

*ArtsWest Audience Favorite!* Last year, a new holiday tradition was born as ArtsWest sent four of Seattle's hottest musical theater stars on a cozy retreat to write the most perfect holiday show the world had ever seen. But when a blizzard hit, tensions rose and the crumpled-up notebook pages began to pile up even faster than the snow. This year, four more stars scramble to remount last year's holiday hit. With hindsight on their side, the process should be foolproof. What could possibly go wrong?

Inspired by classic holiday TV specials and musicals about putting on a musical, witness this new Seattle theater tradition as four of the city's most beloved musical theater stars take you on a journey of song, dance, friendship, family, and the true meaning of the holidays.

## **Covenant**

by York Walker

February 6 - March 2

*NY Times Critic's Pick!* When a struggling guitarist returns to his small Georgia town a blues star, rumors begin swirling that he may have made a deal with the devil to attain his musical genius. Before long, however, it becomes clear he's not the only one with a secret. A mythic and

suspenseful new play that delivers one devilish twist after another, York Walker's COVENANT explores the power of belief and the thin line between rumor and truth.

"A striking new work. An electric cast. Covenant is an auspicious New York debut for a playwright who clearly has a gift." – *The New York Times*

"Blackout-and-blood-curdling-scream deliciousness." – *New York Magazine*

"Undeniably spooky. Absolutely enjoyable. You'll be frightened in the best way possible." – *Theatermania*

### **Athena**

by Gracie Gardner

In Collaboration with Salle Auriol

April 10 - May 4

*NY Times Critic's Pick!* ADVANCE. PARRY. REPEAT. Mary Wallace and Athena are both seventeen-year-old fencers training for Nationals. Mary Wallace lives in a house in New Jersey, loves marine biology and practices at home. Athena lives in an apartment in New York City, takes acne medication and Athena is not her real name. Follow their journey from competitors to confidantes as they form a bond navigating the milestones of adolescence, training together only to learn the future is only certain for one of them.

"Wily and entertaining." – *Village Voice*

"A deadly serious comedy about ambition, success, and owning your superiority. In its delicate ferocity, it shows a playwright who is full-throttle funny and wise beyond her years." – *The New York Times*

### **The Effect**

by Lucy Prebble

Directed by Mathew Wright, Artistic Director

June 19 - July 13

*NY Times Critic's Pick!* In this thrilling play by Lucy Prebble (HBO's *Succession*), two young volunteers, Tristan and Connie, agree to take part in a clinical drug trial. Succumbing to the gravitational pull of attraction and love, however, Tristan and Connie manage to throw the trial off-course, much to the frustration of the clinicians involved. This funny, moving and perhaps surprisingly human play explores questions of sanity, neurology and the limits of medicine, alongside ideas of fate, loyalty and the inevitability of physical attraction.

"Cosmic and atomically intimate." —*The New York Times*

"Genuinely engaging and smart." —*The Observer*

"A brain-tingling meditation on what makes us tick." —*Time Out New York*

## **Additional Season Information**

<https://www.artswest.org/subscriptions/>

## **Social Media**

Facebook | @ArtsWestPlayhouseandGallery

Instagram | @artswestplayhouse

## **For Calendar Editors**

[www.artswest.org](http://www.artswest.org)

Location | 4711 California Ave SW Seattle, WA 98116

Box Office Phone | 206.938.0339

Box Office Hours | Thursday - Saturday. 2:00 - 7:00pm, Sundays 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

Subscriptions are on sale now and range from \$195 - \$550

Single Tickets go on sale July 24<sup>th</sup> and range from \$15 - \$46

**The season runs** : September 12, 2024 – July 13, 2025

## **Dates**

**Guards at the Taj** September 12 - October 6, 2024

**Snowed In (Again)** November 21 - December 22, 2024

**Covenant** February 6 - March 2, 2025

**Athena** April 10 - May 4, 2025

**The Effect** June 19 - July 13, 2025

## **About ArtsWest**

ArtsWest is a vibrant center for both theater and visual arts located in the West Seattle Junction. This 149-seat theatre provides a unique setting for audiences and artists as stories of human emotion unfold in an intimate space. Winner of the American Theatre Wing's National Theatre Company Award, and winner of multiple Gregory Awards, ArtsWest has produced work by such varied playwrights as Dominique Morisseau, Henrik Ibsen, Annie Baker, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Taylor Mac, and David Henry Huang. ArtsWest produces artistic events that provoke conversation, incite the imagination, and use live theater as a powerful agent of change.

[www.artswest.org](http://www.artswest.org)