



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 08.29. 2025

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ArtsWest Announces THE ROOMMATE by Jen Silverman.

SEATTLE, WA (August 29, 2025) – ArtsWest presents **THE ROOMMATE** by Jen Silverman, directed by Kathryn Van Meter. The cast features **Mari Nelson and Sarah Harlett** who have previously been featured together in *BRING DOWN THE HOUSE & RICHARD III (Upstart Crow)* - but **you have never seen them together in a side-splitting comedy like this!** **THE ROOMMATE** is an **audacious, laugh out loud comedy** about the power of friendship and the risk & rewards of reinvention. **THE ROOMMATE** performs at ArtsWest from September 25 – October 19, 2025. Tickets are available online at artswest.org or by phone at (206) 938.0963.

Sharon, in her mid-fifties, is recently divorced and needs a roommate to share her Iowa home. Robyn, also in her mid-fifties, departs from the Bronx in need of a place to hide and a chance to start over. But as Sharon begins to uncover Robyn's secrets, they encourage her own deep-seated desire to transform her life completely. A dark comedy about what it takes to re-route your life – and what happens when the wheels come off. *The New York Times* describes **THE ROOMMATE** as, **"Delicious [and] surreal. ... A play that gives two non-ingénues strange [and] meaty roles."**

Director Kathryn Van Meter was excited to reach out to the wealth of talented actors in Seattle who are in the middle or later stages in their career with two spectacular roles. A playground for actors because **THE ROOMMATE** is packed with twists and turns that will keep the audience on their toes. "These women are both in really reflective moments in their lives. Some big changes have occurred or are occurring for both of them. The journey of discovery to see where they end up - how the meeting of each other will affect each other- is **a really wild ride.**"

Kathryn Van Meter returns to ArtsWest after directing *ATHENA* by Gracie Gardner in Spring of 2025. *ATHENA* was a high-stakes, highly physical comedy about two teen female athletes that featured live fencing onstage. **THE ROOMMATE** shares the same kind of fast paced, sharp dialogue. Both plays, Van Meter shares, are **"a well-rounded examination of what it is to be a woman at a certain time in your life."**

THE ROOMMATE kicks-off ArtsWest's 2025-2026 Season titled *Between Us*. The season features 5 bold contemporary plays that explore the invisible threads that bind us — the responsibilities we bear for one another, the debts of care we carry, and the lifelines we extend in moments of crisis. As the characters journey from strangers to friends, **THE ROOMMATE** takes audiences on a comedic journey to explore the freedom and possibility that comes when someone gives permission to reject the norm.

ArtsWest will present **THE ROOMMATE** Thursday through Saturday at 7:30pm and Saturday through Sunday at 3pm.

CAST

Sarah Harlett ... Sharon

Mari Nelson ... Robyn

CREATIVE TEAM

Director ... Kathryn Van Meter

Stage Manager ... Leila Cheung

Scenic Designer ... Devin Petersen

Costumes Designer ... Nova Dobrev

Lighting Designer ... Jacob Viramontes

Sound Designer ... Evan Mosher

Intimacy Director ... Jess K. Smith

Properties Master ... Robin Macartney

Assistant Stage Manager ... Natasha Thompson

About the Production

The Roommate by Jen Silverman and directed by Kathryn Van Meter plays September 25 – October 19, 2025 at ArtsWest (4711 California Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116). Tickets (ranging from \$10 - \$46) may be purchased online at www.artswest.org, by phone at 206.938.0339, or at the Box Office Thurs. - Sat. 2:00 - 7:00pm, Sundays 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

Press Information

Press tickets are available Opening Weekend, September 25 - 28. Please contact Rachel Ewen at rachele@artswest.org to arrange. Press & Production photos available by request to Corinne Park-Buffelen – corinnep@artswest.org . Photo Credit John McLellan. Full production photos available by September 30th.

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

For Calendar Editors:

Who: ArtsWest

Where: 4711 California Ave SW Seattle, WA 98116

What: *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman directed by Kathryn Van Meter

When: September 25 – October 19, 2025, Thursday – Saturday at 7:30pm, Saturday and Sunday at 3:00pm

Tickets:

General Admission: \$46 | Senior: \$41 | Inclusion: \$10

Tickets online at www.artswest.org/theatre/buy-tickets/ by phone at 206-938-0339, and at the box office, 4711 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116 , Thursday - Saturday 2 - 7pm, Sundays 11am - 3pm.