



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ArtsWest to Stage Seattle Premiere of
Annie Baker's JOHN, starring Marianne Owen
and Suzy Hunt, Opening March 14**

SEATTLE, WA (February 15, 2019) – In its Seattle premiere, Annie Baker's supernatural drama JOHN will play at ArtsWest starting March 14 and run Thursday through Sunday until April 7. Legendary performers Marianne Owen and Suzy Hunt will join ArtsWest newcomers Mi Kang and Sean Lally under the direction of Erin Murray.

In a story that could only come from the mind of playwright Annie Baker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of THE FLICK, the eerie tale of JOHN follows a troubled young couple, Jenny and Elias, who visit a Gettysburg bed-and-breakfast in an attempt to mend their fractured relationship. With a cloud of infidelity hanging overhead, Elias sets out to see the sights while Jenny stays indoors; while there, she forms an unlikely connection with Mertis, the eccentric proprietor, and Genevieve, Mertis' blind friend, and the various spirits that seem to inhabit the old house – and the people within it.

“What I think makes JOHN such an extraordinary piece of theatre is poetry. We see poetry in the writing, but also in the situations,” said ArtsWest Artistic Director Mathew Wright. “I like that Annie Baker's plays take their time. You're able to love these well-rounded, three-dimensional characters – a young millennial couple and two elderly women – because Baker crafts situations and people and gives them space to exist, and poetic situations for them to encounter and, in the case of the young couple, experience profound and surprising revelations.”

Directing JOHN is Erin Murray, who returns to ArtsWest after directing the 2015 production of WONDERFUL LIFE. “When you're offered an Annie Baker play, you say yes. She's a fantastic writer of our time, and I'm so glad to be touching her work, especially for the first time with a Seattle premiere.”

“JOHN is a story you can bring your best friend to and be talking about for months afterward,” Murray added. “It breaks the mold in Seattle theatre, and asks the audience to ruminate on ideas rather than just get in your car and leave. There's a quiet power to that, and I'm proud to be a part of it.”

Joining Marianne Owen (CHRISTMAS CAROL, ACT Theatre) and Suzy Hunt (MOTHERS AND SONS, ArtsWest) are Mi Kang (JANE EYRE, Book-It Repertory Theatre) and Sean Lally (DEATH OF A SALESMAN, EgoPo Classic Theatre).

Rounding out the Creative Team are Properties Designer Jennifer Burkley, Sound Designer Dominic Codykramers (BUZZER, ACT Theatre), Lighting Designer Ryan Dunn (SKELETON CREW, ArtsWest), Costume Designer Ricky German (LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL, ArtsWest), Stage Manager David Hsieh (M. BUTTERFLY, ArtsWest), and Scenic Designer Burton Yuen (SKELETON CREW, ArtsWest).

Cast

Sean Lally – Elias

Mi Kang – Jenny

Marianne Owen – Mertis

Suzy Hunt – Genevieve

Creative Team

Erin Murray – Director

Jennifer Burkley – Properties Master

Dominic Codykramers – Sound Designer

Ryan Dunn – Lighting Designer

Ricky German – Costume Designer

David Hsieh – Stage Manager
Burton Yuen – Scenic Designer

About the Production

JOHN plays March 14 – April 7, 2019 at ArtsWest, 4711 California Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116. Tickets (\$20-\$42) available online at www.artswest.org, by phone at 206-938-0339, or at the box office Thursday through Saturday, 2-7:30 p.m.

Press Information

Press tickets are available opening weekend, March 15 – 17. Please contact Michael Wallenfels at michaelw@artswest.org to arrange.

Photos available by request. Contact Michael Wallenfels at michaelw@artswest.org. Full production photos available by March 18. Photo credit to John McLellan.

About ArtsWest

ArtsWest is a vibrant center for both performing 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 2012 National Theatre Company Award, ArtsWest has produced such diverse work as AMERICAN IDIOT, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, 2016's critically acclaimed production of Henrik Ibsen's GHOSTS, and a celebrated production of AN OCTOROON in 2018. 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 presents JOHN

Where: ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery

What: JOHN
By Annie Baker

When: Thursday, March 14 to Sunday, April 7, 2019. Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. | Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: General Admission: \$42.00 | Seniors (65+): \$37 | Students: \$20 | TeenTix (door only): \$5
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, Thurs-Sun 2 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.