

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: January 30, 2020

Westport Country Playhouse Script in Hand Playreading of Comedy “Miracle on South Division Street” in February

Westport Country Playhouse will present a Script in Hand playreading of “Miracle on South Division Street,” a comedy about family, faith, and adjusting to life’s surprises, by Tom Dudzick, on Monday, February 24, at 7 p.m. Co-curators and co-directors of the Script in Hand Series are Anne Keefe, Playhouse associate artist, and Mark Shanahan, director, actor, and playwright.

Tickets to Script in Hand Playreadings are \$20 each. Memberships for the Script in Hand Series are \$125 each, and include tickets for all five readings.

“Mark Shanahan and I wanted to start the New Year and our partnership with this wonderfully sweet comedy which is filled with laughter while also providing a moving tale about the resilience of family and the stories that come down to us through generations,” said Keefe.

Set in a working class neighborhood in Buffalo, NY, “Miracle on South Division Street” is about the Nowaks, a Polish Catholic family consisting of matriarch Clara, son Jimmy, and daughters Ruth and Beverly. They always thought they were special, ever since Clara’s father, an immigrant from war-torn Poland, had a miraculous vision in his barbershop in 1942. But 65 years later, Clara’s youngest has stopped going to church, her son is dating a Jewish girl, and a deathbed confession causes a family legend to unravel with unexpected results.

The cast includes Alison Cimmat as Beverly (Westport Country Playhouse’s “Romeo and Juliet,” “She Loves Me”; Broadway’s “She Loves Me,” “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” “Bonnie and Clyde”); Pamela Dunlap as Clara (Westport Country Playhouse’s “Love and Money,” “Absence of a Cello”; veteran of 40-plus years in theater, film, and TV, with recurring roles on “Mad Men,” “Three’s Company”); Patrick Halley as Jimmy (New York’s “The Misanthrope,” “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”; regional theater’s “Of Mice and Men,” “Peter and the Starcatcher”); and Amelia Pedlow as Ruth (Off-Broadway’s Intelligence, “The Metromaniacs,” “Tis Pity She’s a Whore,” “Pride and Prejudice”; TV’s “The Good Wife,” “Blue Bloods,” “Shades of Blue,” “The Blacklist”).

Stage directions will be read by Alexandra Rapaport. Stage manager is Page Tazewell.

Playwright Tom Dudzick’s other works include “Over the Tavern Trilogy,” a semi-fictional trio of comedies based on his early family years in Buffalo, NY; “Greetings!”; “Hail, Mary”; “Don’t Talk to the Actors”; and “Christmas over the Tavern.” More information at tomdudzick.com.

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Co-curator/co-director Anne Keefe is the associate artist at Westport Country Playhouse. She has directed nearly 50 Script in Hand readings. She served as artistic director of Westport Country Playhouse with Joanne Woodward in 2008, and as associate artistic director from 2000-2006, also with Ms. Woodward.

Co-curator/co-director Mark Shanahan appeared at Westport Country Playhouse in "Around the World in 80 Days," "Tryst," "Sedition," "David Copperfield," "Journey's End," and over 20 Script in Hand playreadings. He has directed Playhouse Script in Hand readings of "Butterflies Are Free," with Blythe Danner and Jonathan Groff, and "The Greatest Gift" by Weston playwright David Wiltse. New York stage includes "The 39 Steps," "Small World," "Checkers," "Tryst," "The Shaughraun," "As Bees in Honey Drown," and "The Internationalist." His directorial work has been seen at Alley Theatre, George Street Playhouse, Virginia Stage, Hudson Stage, Theatre Square, The White Heron, Fulton Opera House, Mile Square Theatre, Weston Playhouse, Florida Rep, Penguin Rep, Merrimack Rep, Hangar Theatre, The Cape Playhouse, and many more. He is the author of the Off--Broadway and regional hit comedy, "The Dingdong," and his holiday adaptations, "A Merry Little Christmas Carol" and "A Sherlock Carol." He is a graduate of Brown University (BA) and Fordham University (MA, faculty). www.mark-shanahan.net

All dates, titles, and artists subject to change.

The Script in Hand Playreading Series will continue on Mondays at 7 p.m. on March 23, April 27, November 16, and December 14; titles to be announced.

The Script in Hand Playreading Series is sponsored by Marc and Michele Flaster with support from the White Barn Program of the Lucille Lortel Foundation.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529, or visit Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced theater of the highest caliber and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The not-for-profit Playhouse provides this experience in multiple ways by offering live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos; educational and community engagement events to further explore the work on stage; the New Works Initiative, a program dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new live theatrical works; special performances and programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; Script in Hand play readings to deepen relationships with audiences and artists; the renowned Woodward Internship Program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; youth performance training through Broadway Method Academy, Westport Country Playhouse's resident conservatory program; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round. Charity Navigator has recently awarded its top 4-star charity rating to the Playhouse in recognition of its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

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