



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# A Noise Within's 'Daring to Love' season closes with a love letter to life in the theater: 'The Book of Will' by Lauren Gunderson

PASADENA, Calif (March 28, 2023) — A Noise Within's "Daring to Love" season fittingly closes with a love letter — to William Shakespeare and a life in the theater.

**Geoff Elliott** and **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott** co-direct *The Book of Will*, a comically outlandish but true story of love, loss and laughter by **Lauren Gunderson**.

Performances begin **May 13** at A Noise Within and continue through **June 4**, with previews taking place May 7 through May 12.

You don't have to love Shakespeare to enjoy *The Book of Will*, Gunderson's re-imagining of the desperate search to find, preserve and print Shakespeare's words that otherwise might have disappeared forever. Three years after the Bard's death, John Heminges (Elliott) and Henry Condell (**Jeremy Raab**), former friends and colleagues from Shakespeare's acting troupe, the King's Men, contend with egotistical actors, bootleg knockoffs and a ticking clock to ensure that the First Folio gets published, and that the works of William Shakespeare don't end up on the trash heap of history.

Backstage comedy meets detective adventure as this group of aging actors race against time to reassemble their repertoire — including *Lear*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* — some of which exist only in the lines they have memorized.

In addition to Elliott and Raab, the cast includes A Noise Within resident artists **Stanley**



**Andrew Jackson, Nicole Javier, Kasey Mahaffy, Trisha Miller, Deborah Strang and Frederick Stuart, and guest artists Chuma Gault and Kelvin Morales.**

“This is the perfect play for A Noise Within because it’s about a company just like ours,” says Elliott. “It’s hard to find a play that’s as brilliant, well-written and funny as this one, and it’s all about a group of resident artists, an artistic community who have been working together for years, and how well they know each other, and the memories they share.”

“It really shows how all-encompassing a life in the theater really is,” adds Rodriguez-Elliott. “It’s like religion. There’s a moment in the play where one of the characters is experiencing deep loss. And the place that he goes to find comfort is the theater.”

Commissioned by Denver Center Theatre Company, *The Book of Will* was honored by the American Theatre Critics Association with the prestigious 2018 Harold and Mimi Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award. Playwright Lauren Gunderson is one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015, topping the list three times including in 2022-23.

The creative team includes scenic designer **Frederica Nascimento**; lighting designer **Ken Booth**; sound designer **Robert Oriol**; video designer **Nicholas Santiago**; costume designer **Angela Balogh Calin**; wig and make up designer **Shelia Dorn**; dialect coach **Andrea Odinov**; and dramaturg **Miranda Johnson-Haddad**. The rehearsal stage manager is **Deena Tovar**. Producing sponsors are **Terri Murray** and **Patricia Hoppe**, and sponsors are **Kathy** and **Jim Drummy**.

A Noise Within has been called “an oasis for those who love classic stories” by the *Los Angeles Times* and is a leading regional producer based in Pasadena, California. ANW’s award-winning resident company is committed to representing the entire community at its state-of-the-art, 324-seat performance space. In addition to producing world-class performances of classic theater, the organization runs robust education programs with the goal of inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. ANW believes in working hard on its anti-racist practice across the whole organization. By interpreting its mission to fully engage audiences through community and artist-centered work in multiple creative disciplines, ANW is striving to be a theater that better serves the entire community.

Performances of *The Book of Will* take place **May 13** through **June 4** on **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.**; **Fridays at 8 p.m.**; **Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.**; and **Sundays at 2 p.m.** (no 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, May 13; dark Thursday, May 18). Four preview performances take place on Sunday, May 7 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, May 10 and Thursday, May 11, each at 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, May 12 at 8 p.m.

Audiences are invited to attend a **symposium** with resident dramaturg **Dr. Miranda Johnson-Haddad** at 6:45 p.m. prior to the preview on **Wednesday, May 10**. **Post-performance conversations** with the artists take place every **Friday** during the run

except the preview, as well as on **Sunday, May 21**. An INsiders Discussion Group will be held on **Tuesday, May 16**, from **6 p.m. – 8 p.m.** on Zoom (**\$38** per individual or **\$45** per household). There will be **three student matinees** at **10:30 a.m.**, on **Tuesday, May 16; Wednesday, May 17;** and **Thursday, May 18**. Interested educators should email [education@anoisewithin.org](mailto:education@anoisewithin.org).

Tickets start at **\$25**. Student tickets start at **\$18**. Tickets to the previews on **Wednesday, May 10** and **Thursday, May 11** will be **Pay What You Choose**, with tickets starting at **\$5** (available online beginning at 12 p.m. the Monday prior to that performance). Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

**A Noise Within** is located at **3352 E Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107**. For more information and to purchase tickets, call **(626) 356-3100** or go to [www.anoisewithin.org](http://www.anoisewithin.org)

## Details for Calendar Listings 'The Book of Will'

### WHAT:

You don't have to love Shakespeare to enjoy ***The Book of Will***, playwright Lauren Gunderson's re-imagining of the desperate search to find, preserve and print Shakespeare's words that otherwise might have disappeared forever. Three years after the Bard's death, John Heminges and Henry Condell, former friends and colleagues from Shakespeare's acting troupe, the King's Men, contend with egotistical actors, bootleg knockoffs and a ticking clock to ensure that the First Folio gets published, and that the works of William Shakespeare don't end up on the trash heap of history. Backstage comedy meets detective adventure as this group of aging actors race against time to reassemble their repertoire — including *Lear*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* — some of which may only exist only in the lines they have memorized.

### WHO:

- Written by **Lauren Gunderson**
- Directed by **Geoff Elliott** and **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott**
- Starring **Geoff Elliott, Chuma Gault, Stanley Andrew Jackson, Nicole Javier, Kasey Mahaffy, Trisha Miller, Kelvin Morales, Jeremy Rabb, Deborah Strang, Frederick Stuart**
- Producing Sponsors **Terri Murray** and **Patricia Hoppe**
- Sponsored by **Kathy** and **Jim Drummy**.
- Presented by **A Noise Within**, *Geoff Elliot and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, producing artistic directors*

### WHEN:

*Previews May 7–May 12*

*Performances May 13–June 7*

- **Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.:** May 10\* ONLY (Preview)
- **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.:** May 11 (Preview); May 25; June 1 (dark May 18)
- **Fridays at 8 p.m.:** May 12 (Preview); May 19\*\*; May 26\*\*; June 2\*\*
- **Saturdays at 2 p.m.:** May 20; May 27; June 3 (no matinee on May 13)
- **Saturdays at 8 p.m.:** May 13 (Opening Night); May 20; May 27; June 3
- **Sundays at 2 p.m.:** May 7 (Preview); May 14; May 21\*\*; May 28; June 4

\*Pre-performance symposium with dramaturg **Dr. Miranda Johnson-Haddad** at 6:45 p.m. prior to the preview on Wednesday, May 10 (*included in ticket price*)

\*\*Post-performance conversations with the artists every Friday (except the preview) and on Sunday, May 21 (*included in ticket price*).

An **Insiders Discussion Group** will be held on **Tuesday, May 16**, from **6 p.m.–8 p.m.** on Zoom (**\$38** per individual or **\$45** per household).

There will be **three student matinees** at **10:30 a.m.** on **Tuesday, May 16; Wednesday, May 17;** and **Thursday, May 18**. Interested educators should email [education@anoisewithin.org](mailto:education@anoisewithin.org).

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3352 E Foothill Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91107

#### **TICKETS:**

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- Wednesday, May 10 and Thursday, May 11: **Pay What You Choose** starting at **\$5** (available online beginning the Monday prior to that performance)
- Discounts available for groups of 10 or more

#### **PHOTOS:**

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

#### **HOW:**

[www.anoisewithin.org](http://www.anoisewithin.org)  
(626) 356-3100

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