



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

WHAT'S **INSIDE**

Mission, Vision, Values

A Letter from Geoff & Julia

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MISSION WHAT DO WE DO?

A Noise Within produces classic theatre as an essential means to enrich our community by embracing universal human experiences, expanding personal awareness, and challenging individual perspectives. Our company of resident and guest artists immerse student and general audiences in timeless, epic stories in an intimate setting.

VISION WHAT ARE OUR IDEALS?

Our most successful art asks our community to question beliefs, focus on relationships, and develop self-awareness. Southern California audiences of all ages and backgrounds build community together while engaging with this most visceral and primal of storytelling techniques. ANW's production of classic theatre includes all plays we believe will be part of our cultural legacy. We interpret these stories through the work of a professional resident company—a group of artists whose work is critical to their community—based on the belief that trust among artists, and between artists and audience, can only be built through an honest and continuing dialogue.

VALUES WHAT WILL WE FIERCELY DEFEND?

- Artistic excellence means serving the story with integrity
- Classic theatre is an inclusive endeavor, engaging our broadest community by age, gender, ethnicity, physical ability—all people—with universal stories
- Education means eliciting empathy with disparate viewpoints and deepening our students' personal relationship with great literature
- Our resident artist company builds trust that deepens their ability to interpret the work

DEAR FRIENDS,

A Noise Within's 2022/23 season saw both new patrons and long-time subscribers feeling greater comfort coming back to the theatre post-pandemic.

We opened the season with George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The production was lauded by critics and patrons alike and received a number of Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Awards, including Best Ensemble, Best Production, and Best Direction. Next up was August Wilson's *Radio Golf* which continued our commitment to his entire 10-play American Century Cycle. The production was a tremendous success, enjoying both large and diverse audiences.

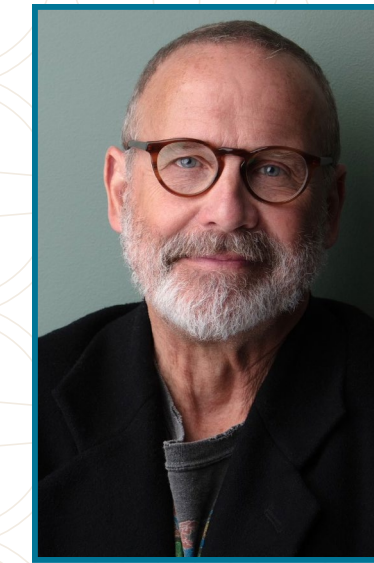
Of course, it would not be A Noise Within without our annual offering of *A Christmas Carol*. This was our 10th year presenting the award-winning production of Dickens' greatest classic. It was enjoyed by both young families coming for the first time and long-time patrons who return year after year.

The spring opened with Shakespeare's beloved comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. This production garnered rave reviews and a number of awards. The run also included nine student matinees packed with young people from all over Southern California, many seeing a live performance for the first time. Following *Much Ado About Nothing*, Manuel Puig's searing and timely, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Reviewers and audiences found themselves mesmerized by this powerful, two-person play. It too received numerous awards and critic's choices.

And finally, wrapping up the season, Lauren Gunderson's love letter to Shakespeare, *The Book of Will*. The play celebrates both the Bard, and the power of a resident company of artists, something we deeply believe in—and have been committed to since A Noise Within's inception.

Our community outreach program Noise Now was very active with eight separate events, including an inspiring performance by The Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and full houses for *Latina Christmas Special*, our second year presenting the Off-Broadway hit.

Warmly,
Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



Production Recognition 2022-23 Season

Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Awards

WINNER:
**Milton Katselas Award for
Career Achievement in Direction**
Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

WINNER:
McCulloh Award for Revival
Animal Farm

TicketHoldersLA Awards

WINNER:
Best Revival Production of 2022
Radio Golf

WINNER:
Best Musical Production of 2022
Animal Farm

Stage Scene LA Awards

WINNER:
Best Larger Theater

Outstanding Production Of A Play With Songs
Animal Farm

Outstanding Direction Of A Play With Songs
Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, *Animal Farm*

**Outstanding Production Of A Comedy-Drama
(Larger Theater)**
Radio Golf

Outstanding Production Of A Classic Play
Much Ado About Nothing

**Outstanding Production Design
(Larger Theater)**
Kiss Of The Spider Woman

**Outstanding Production Of A Comedy-Drama
(Larger Theater)**
The Book Of Will

**Outstanding Direction Of A Comedy-Drama
(Larger Theater)**
Geoff Elliott And Julia Rodriguez-Elliott,
The Book Of Will

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ANTI-RACISM POLICY

A Noise Within's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (EDIA) Policy is built around the idea that every aspect of ANW – including our artists, plays, events, education, board, staff, volunteers, and audience—should be reflective of our greater community. We continue to seek out and implement new practices that further these ideals, with the goal that everyone who steps foot in our building should feel like they belong at A Noise Within.

Cover: The cast of *The Book of Will*. Photo by Craig Schwartz. Left margin photo by Christopher Alvarez. Background pattern artwork by Dennis S. Juett & Associates Inc. Center photo of Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott by Daniel Reichert. Right margin Kelvin Morales in *The Book of Will*. Photo by Craig Schwartz.



2022-2023
THEATRE SEASON

DARING TO LOVE

6 fully staged
productions
50 actors onstage
27,543 attendees
128 performances

FALL 2022

"MUST BE SEEN ...A Noise Within [has] blown out the stops...an allegory for our times."

—Michael Sheehan, *On Stage Los Angeles*

Animal Farm

From the book by George Orwell

Adapted by Peter Hall

Lyrics by Adrian Mitchell

Music by Richard Peaslee

Directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

August 28–October 2, 2022

"STIRRING..."A layered and deeply emotional piece delivered by a stellar cast."

—South Pasadenan

August Wilson's

Radio Golf

Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

October 16–November 13, 2022

"Only a die-hard humbug could remain unmoved by so charming a yuletide treat."

—David C. Nichols, *Los Angeles Times*

Charles Dickens'

A Christmas Carol

Adapted for the stage by Geoff Elliott

Directed by Geoff Elliott & Julia

Rodriguez-Elliott

Dec. 3-23, 2022

SPRING 2023

"SHINES... GIDDY HIGH JINKS..." The story—in all its madcap, reckless zeal — comes first... irresistible allure...

—Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*

William Shakespeare's

Much Ado About Nothing

Directed by Guillermo Cienfuegos

February 5–March 12, 2023

"WOW!... STUNNINGLY ACTED, DIRECTED AND DESIGNED..." live theater at its most heart-stopping and thought-provoking. It held me spellbound."

—Steven Stanley, *Stage Scene LA*

Manuel Puig's

Kiss Of The Spider Woman

English translation by Allan Baker

Directed by Michael Michetti

March 26–April 23, 2023

"FIRST-RATE..." the company can play the comedic, crowd-pleasing beats, and they can pluck the heartstrings with equal aplomb."

—Evan Henerson, *Broadway World*

The Book Of Will

Based on William Shakespeare's plays

Written by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott & Geoff Elliott

May 7–June 11, 2023



EDUCATION IMPACT

“It was amazing!
It made me feel so
many different emotions
that I never knew that I
could feel.”

—10th grader from Glendora High School

Education puts A Noise Within’s mission into action by connecting students, educators, and the community with classic theatre and modern magic. In a typical year, ANW enriches the lives of 18,000 students at our theatre and in classrooms around Southern California. We offer show tickets at a reduced cost, matinees designed specifically for student audiences, post-show conversations with the artists, and free study guides for our plays. In addition to that, Education increases access to the arts for schools that cannot provide these resources themselves, through our in-class workshops and after-school residencies. When costs are prohibitive for schools, our arts educators are able to provide at a time when students, parents, and teachers need us most. As always, our programs served a majority low-income schools.



2022-23 PROGRAMMING



10,056 STUDENTS &
TEACHERS SERVED



\$2,195 IN STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS



127 SCHOOLS FROM 33 SCHOOL
DISTRICTS IN 6 COUNTIES



23 STUDENT
MATINEES



OUR COMMITMENT

2 STAGED READINGS | **1 PRE-SHOW ENGAGEMENT** | **5 RESIDENCIES**

NOISE NOW PARTNERS:

**Artists at Play | TheatreWorkers Project | Trans Chorus of Los Angeles
Lower Depth Theatre | The Latino Theater Company**

Noise Now is an enhanced commitment to being of service to all audiences, an opportunity to expand our family by engaging with our neighboring communities and peer organizations, and an initiative for building stronger relationships as we demonstrate our eagerness to listen well and respond courageously. Through these collaborative interdisciplinary partnerships, we strive to celebrate underrepresented populations, communities of color, young people, and all others not equitably represented in the theatre. Our stages have always been a space for healing, and connecting over universal human stories has never been more necessary.

FEATURED PARTNERS:

THE DANCE AND THE RAILROAD Presented by Artists at Play, this was a haunting and powerfully affecting work by David Henry Hwang, revolving around two Chinese artists and their fellow railroad workers, who stage a strike to protest the inhuman conditions suffered by the Chinese laborers in the American West of 1867.

UNMASKED Inspired by visual images of the diversity of Los Angeles County, TheatreWorkers Project collaborated with formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted members of Cal State LA's Project Rebound community to develop an original theatre piece based on the participants' poetry and prose.

CYCLE OF POVERTY Lower Depth Theatre proudly presented their Cycle of Poverty Reading Festival over two days. This festival was the culmination of their new Commission Fellowship Program and gave their 2022 cohort the opportunity to showcase the four new full-length plays they developed under the program. Each of the plays explored the social and racial issues within the cycle of poverty through BIPOC perspectives. Playwright fellows included: Vasanti Saxena, Sage Martin, DeLane McDuffie, and Marlow Wyatt.

The Commission Fellowship Program supports the development of new plays by BIPOC and/or women-identifying playwrights by providing development and financial support to emerging playwrights.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND ANTI-RACISM

ANW is committed to the lifelong work of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (EDIA), which includes an ongoing analysis of how we work, what we put onstage, and the way audiences experience our theatre. Over the past few seasons, we've taken several steps towards advancing these core institutional priorities. Our 2022-23 initiatives included bi-weekly staff meetings to discuss the systemic changes we'd like to see implemented throughout every level of the organization; a vastly expanded approach to community-representative marketing and engagement; the implementation of an EDIA Onboarding video for our volunteer ushers; and the continued, intentional expansion of our Staff, Board, and Resident Artist Company.

Some of our EDIA work in the 2022-23 season included:

ANW employed 150 actors, understudies, stage managers, directors, and designers and 56% of these artists were BIPOC.

83% of our stage directors were BIPOC.

The Board of Directors consisted of 11 women and 9 men and 35% were BIPOC.

Our audience was made up of 22% BIPOC patrons.

For a more comprehensive look at our approach, please visit
anoisewithin.org/equity-diversity-inclusion-at-anw/



DINNER ON STAGE

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023

111 guests joined us on May 23 for our Dinner on Stage Gala celebrating our 31st season. The event raised a staggering \$260,000 for our Education Programs.

Honorees for the evening were long time friends Alan & Sheila Lamson who have been donors/Board members/volunteers/angels for decades, Wendy Chang and Dwight Stuart Youth Fund who have been helping us to connect with students for over a decade, and our very own Alicia Green who heads the Education Program.

The cast of *The Book of Will* performed scenes from the play on the stage while seated guests cheered. Zach Davidson, in full Shakespeare costume regalia, enthusiastically urged the crowd to raise their paddles to support Student Matinees, Workshops and teaching Artists for the program.

It was a magical night that won't soon be forgotten. We hope that you can all join us again in May 2024!



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE INCROWD

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Thank you for all of your support of A NOISE WITHIN. We would not be here without you! Only 1/3rd of our revenue came from ticket sales during the 22/23 season, so your donations enabled us to share our work with the community and with students.

We are grateful for your continued support. Please consider supporting our live professional theatre productions.

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THANK
YOU



aNoiseWithin
Classic Theatre. Modern Magic.

Photo (from left to right) Geoff Elliott, Stanley Andrew Jackson,
Rafael Goldstein, and Trisha Miller in *Animal Farm*.
Photo by Craig Schwartz.