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Kitchen Dog Theater Reveals 2023-2024 Season *An Adventurous 'Out of the (Black) Box' Season*

Dallas – Dallas's Kitchen Dog Theater (KDT) announced today a 2023-2024 season that will keep theater-lovers talking and thinking long after the shows end. Finding itself between performance venues as they await completion on its new Design District permanent home, KDT's artistic leadership decided to embrace this daunting challenge and plan a truly "out of the box" season. With three mainstage plays that each run the gambit from captivating and gutsy to heartfelt and hilarious, punctuated by the annual PUP Fest nurturing high school talent from all over DFW, this slate of live, site-specific plays promises to take patrons on one last wild ride around the Metroplex before KDT finally lands at its new Doghouse next season.

Kitchen Dog Theater's 2023-2024 season schedule is as follows:

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

Safe at Home* by Gabriel Green and Alex Levy *2nd Professional Production- Regional Premiere

Director: Jack Reuler, Founder/Artistic Director Emeritus of Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis

Performance Location: Riders Field, Home of the Frisco RoughRiders in Frisco, TX

Dates:

Opening Night: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Closing: Sunday, December 10, 2023 (5 performances only!)

The Play: In less than two hours, star pitcher Victor Castillo is set to take the mound for game 7 of the World Series. But when a rumor begins to circulate that Castillo may use the sport's biggest stage as a political protest, the shock waves hit all corners of the stadium, from the owner's box to the locker room. An engaging and provocative site-specific work designed to be performed inside a baseball stadium, *Safe at Home* examines the complex intersection between baseball, politics, and the American Dream.

Instead of creating nine interiors in a traditional theatre with a stationary audience, Riders Field expands the art form of theatre, with its existent spaces becoming stages for a cast of actors who repeat their scenes over and over as the patrons, *not the cast*, move from scene to scene.

The Playwrights:

Gabriel Greene is the co-author, with Alex Levy, of *Safe at Home*, which received its world premiere at Mixed Blood Theatre in 2017 (Ivey Award) and was subsequently produced by Arizona State University. *Goosebumps Alive*, his immersive adaptation of R.L. Stine's best-selling novels (co-written and directed by Tom Salamon) premiered at The Vaults (London) in 2016. He is currently the Director of Artistic Development at La Jolla Playhouse, where he has served as dramaturg for dozens of new plays and musicals since 2007. B.A.: University of Michigan; M.Phil.: Trinity College Dublin; B.F.F.: Mia Fiorella.

Alex Levy is the Artistic Director of 1st Stage in Northern Virginia. The company has won several awards including the American Theatre Wing's "National Theatre Company Grant," The Helen Hayes Award for



Outstanding Production in both 2020 and 2019 and was named “One of America’s most impressive smaller theater companies” by The Wall Street Journal. Levy is a three-time Helen Hayes Nominee for “Outstanding Director.” His production of Lobby Hero was named best regional revival of 2016 by The Wall Street Journal. Before joining 1st Stage, Mr. Levy served as the Artistic Director of Ballybeg Theatre in New York City, Managing Director of The Watts Village Theatre Company in Los Angeles, and Artistic Director of Pegasus Players in Chicago. He directed the national tour of America, Amerique for Jenna productions and has three times been chosen by the United States Department of State to lead international tours through India, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey, and Egypt. Levy helped found the Logan Festival for Solo Performance which develops and produces some of the nation’s top solo work in an annual summer festival. Mr. Levy holds an MFA in Directing from UCLA.

Shape written and directed by Kara-Lynn Vaeni

2nd ever Professional Production- Regional Premiere

Performance Location: D-Town CrossFit, in the Design District of Dallas

Preview: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Opening Night: Friday, February 9, 2024

Closing: Sunday, February 25, 2024

The Play: This action-packed feminist comedy, written and directed by Southern Methodist University Assistant Professor Kara-Lynn Vaeni, offers a forthright look into fitness, body image, and how we define strength. For this production, the audience will be ‘getting back in the gym’ both literally and figuratively and hopefully, as *Itaca.com* stated in its glowing review, “by show’s end, want(ing) to get back out there, hiking and biking and even swinging a few kettlebells.”

The Director/Playwright: Kara-Lynn Vaeni is thrilled that her play *Shape*, which takes place in a gym in Texas, has found a home with Kitchen Dog Theater in a gym in Texas! *Shape* was produced at The Kitchen Theatre in Ithaca, NY in 2021 and appeared on the prestigious Kilroy’s List. Kara is delighted to bring *Shape* to Dallas so that all the people she based the characters on can finally see it! Recent credits include the premiere of David Rabe’s *He is Born, He is Borne*, at the Undermain Theatre, *Witch* at Stage West, *The Pleasure Trials* at Amphibian, and *Dance Nation* and *An Octoroon*, both at SMU. She is on the Acting and Directing faculties of the Yale Summer Conservatory and is an Assistant Professor of Acting at Southern Methodist University. Also, in 2020 the Dallas Observer named her The Best Director in Dallas, which was quite a feat, if you remember 2020. She is a Level 2 Intimacy Director, certified Consent Forward Artist, and a proud member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers. <https://www.karalynnvaeni.com>

Production #3 – Play Title & Performance Location To Be Announced Soon!

Dates: June 2024

Turns out, the old Dog still has some new tricks up its sleeve. Another immersive experience awaits.

DPAC PUP (Playwrights Under Progress) Fest

Directors/Playwrights TBD

Date: June 8, 2024

Location: TBA



For its 22nd annual event, PUP Fest will feature six staged readings of jury-selected plays written by DFW high school students, featuring student actors directed by area professional directors. PUP Fest is the culminating event of Dallas Playwriting Arts Collective (D-PAC), a partnership with Dallas ISD and Junior Players.

Kitchen Dog Theater facts at your fingertips:

Performance Locations: *Safe at Home*: Riders Field, 7300 Rough Riders Trl, Frisco, TX 75034

Shape: D-Town CrossFit, 155 Parkhouse St, Dallas, TX 75207

Production #3: TBA

Performance Days/Times:

Safe at Home: Thursday 12/7/23 and Friday 12/8/23, Patron Pods start departing at 7pm
Saturday 12/9/23, 2 Shows, Patron Pods start departing at 2pm and at 7pm
Sunday 12/10/23, Patron Pods start departing at 2pm

Shape: 2/8/24 – 2/28/24
All Thursdays – Saturdays at 8pm
All Sundays at 2pm

Production#3: TBA June 2024

For more information, please visit kitchendogtheater.org or call **214-953-1055**

A KDT Season Subscription is \$60 for adults and \$45 for students/seniors (65+). This includes tickets to all 3 mainstage productions as well as PUP Fest. Single tickets for each show will go on sale November 1st. All KDT subscribers will also receive premium reserved seating for all in-person performances plus subscriber-only discounts on any additional single tickets, 23/24 special events and KDT merchandise.

All titles, dates and times are subject to change.

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