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B-MAC EDITION

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Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

St. Benedict School Prepares for Catholic Schools Week 2021

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Catholic Schools Week is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational

Association (NCEA). This year's theme will be Faith. Excellence. Service.

We know that our community looks forward too many of our events of expressing gratitude to local businesses and our open house. This year, we will have a host of school activities that include, us in person and virtual stu-

dents! We want to extend a special invite to our alumni, to follow us on social media and re-experience all those warm reminiscent feelings. This will be a prime opportunity to connect with the St. Benedict Community, connect with a new friend or become reacquainted.

The celebration begins

Sunday, January 31 with virtual mass! Other activities throughout the week include; a "souper bowl", pajama day and future career day. Each day is themed to celebrate either the community, students, nation, various vocations, faculty and staff. We conclude the week with Saturday, celebrating families by

spending time with and reflecting on what makes them special to us. We know that this week will enhance camaraderie and create lifelong memories.

St. Benedict School welcomes community involvement. Would you like to talk to our students about what you do? Do you have a

teacher/faculty/staff member that you would like to thank? Would you like to sponsor a student or classroom? Feel free to contact our Marketing Director, Ms. Bri Bridges at bbridges@stbenbi.org, or visit us online at stbenbi.org or in person at 2324 New Street, Blue Island, IL 60406.

Northlight Theatre presents free reading

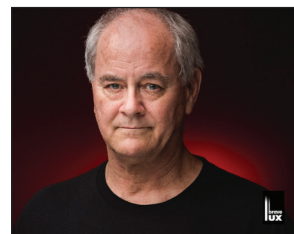
Northlight Theatre, under the direction of Artistic Director BJ Jones and Executive Director Timothy J. Evans, presents an Interplay reading of "Such Small Hands," written by Adam Szymkowicz and directed by BJ Jones. The reading features Tony Award winner and Steppenwolf ensemble member Rondi Reed and Steppenwolf ensemble member Francis Guinan. The virtual reading of Such Small Hands will be presented via livestream on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Catch a glimpse of this new drama while still in the development process. The 70-minute reading premiere of "Such Small Hands" will be followed by a live Q&A with the director and playwright. A recording will be available for 96 hours following the premiere. This event is FREE with a suggested donation, but registration is

required to receive a viewing link. To sign-up, or for additional details, please visit northlight.org/events/interplay-suchsmallhands.

BJ Jones comments, "I'm so happy to bring our frequent colleagues Rondi Reed and Fran Guinan back to Northlight Theatre's Interplay program, reading Adam Szymkowicz's touching piece 'Such Small Hands.' Adam deals with the subject of loss and love with such maturity and sensitivity and Rondi and Fran bring the characters to life with their characteristic truth and wisdom. It is a privilege to work with them again."

This benefit reading is a part of Northlight's Interplay New Play Development program, providing customized support for new work in the critical stages of early play development. "Such Small Hands" is produced in association with Kane Repertory Theatre.



Fran Guinan

The artistic and production team includes Adam Szymkowicz (Playwright), BJ Jones (Director), Sophia Danielle-Grenier (Zoom Coordinator), and Leean Kim Torske (Discussion Moderator). The stage directions will be read by Ellen Campbell.

Support for new play development and this reading, available at no cost to general and student audiences, comes from The Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Arts; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; ComEd, An Exelon Company; BMO Harris Bank; The Sullivan Family Foundation; Illinois Arts Council,



Adam Szymkowicz



Rondi Reed

a state agency; The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; the John R. Halligan Fund; the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation; and Evanston Community Foundation.

Debut reading of Goodman's Future Labs to stream Jan. 30

"Layalina" by Martin Yousif Zebari, the first play of Goodman Theatre's Future Labs, makes its virtual debut, launching the theater's newest effort to develop new plays. Directed by Azar Kazemi, "Layalina" examines how families maintain their love in the midst of turbulent global and social change.

Future Labs develops works authored and directed by Black, Indigenous, Latinx, AAPI and other artists of color, curated by Quenna L. Barrett (Associate Director of Education and Engagement), Jonathan L. Green (Literary and New Works Manager) and Ken-Matt Martin (Associate Producer) and a Goodman Staff Evaluation Team composed of individuals of intersectional identities and in areas across the theater.

The live virtual reading of "Layalina" streams Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. Free but registration is required. For more information, visit GoodmanTheatre.org/Layalina.

The Goodman is grateful for the generosity of its New Work sponsors, including: Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation and the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, Major Support

of New Work; Ruth D. and Ken M. Davee New Works Fund, Major Support of New Play Development; The Glasser and Rosenthal Family, Mayer Brown LLP, and Shaw Family Supporting Organization, Support of New Work.

"I wrote this play because I wanted SWANA (South West Asian, North African) voices to be given the agency we deserve in our own stories in the American Theater canon. I also wrote this play because Queer SWANA voices are often missing from most canons," Zebari said. "Layalina" is a play about a family's societal, familial and political survival, and resilience. It's about the ways in which we help and harm the ones closest to us when our worlds seem to be crashing in on us. It's fitting that my first workshop as a playwright is happening at the place I frequented as a starry-eyed high school theater student and where I worked my first big professional acting job. I'm so excited for everyone to witness Azar, whom I trust and admire dearly, and this amazing group of humans bring this play to life for the first time."

Blue Island Library offers curbside pickup service

Contactless Curbside Pickup, Reader's Advisory, Technology Help, and Research Services are available through the Blue Island Public Library via

phone or email.

Wireless printing will be available to library card holders as well through our web print service and curbside pickup.

Check out our YouTube and Facebook pages for all our Virtual Programming, and our website at blueislandlibrary.org or call (708) 388-1078 x. 19,

or e-mail info@blueislandlibrary.org for more service and information updates.

The library is located at 2433 York St. in Blue Island.