



The KEEGAN THEATRE

in good company

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Keegan Announces 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season** *2016-2017 lineup includes two musicals and five premieres*

**May 10, 2016:** The Keegan Theatre announces its 2016-2017 twentieth anniversary season.

“Keegan has had quite a ride, especially the last few years,” says Mark A. Rhea, the company’s founder and producing artistic director. “After being dark for a year for the renovations, we offered our patrons an extra-long, super-packed 2015-2016 season — 11 main stage productions over 15 months, an programming achievement that makes us very proud. I’m incredibly pleased to be finding our groove in the new space and to return to a regular 12-month season schedule this year. While we’re back to a more traditional season calendar, we’re continuing to challenge ourselves and our audiences with programming that pushes us in new ways. We can’t wait to welcome audiences for a season of exploring the human condition like never before.”

The first show in Keegan’s 2016-17 season will not take place at its Church Street home - the company travels to Ireland in August with its production of **AMERICAN BUFFALO**. This is Keegan’s 15th tour of an American classic to Ireland; AMERICAN BUFFALO will travel to five venues over four weeks, visiting Galway, Kilkenny, Mullingar, Cork, and Ennis.

Back in the States, the 2016-17 season kicks off in September with Teresa Rebeck’s electrifying examination of sexism and the workplace, **WHAT WE’RE UP AGAINST**. The eight-show main stage season includes two musicals and five premieres, including a world premiere by local playwright Chris Stezin. The 2016-2017 season will also include two productions as part of the company’s Wee Keegan programming for young audiences - Keegan will announce the Wee Keegan productions next month, along with the lineup of directors for next season.

“This season packs in musicals, dramas and comedies,” Rhea says. “Large casts and small ones. Probing, issue-oriented stories and wistful, romantic journeys. There are difficult discussions of the divides and fear we create around class, race, gender, and sex. There are joyful explorations of love and discovery. We’re not slowing down; we’re just hitting our stride. We can’t wait to see you at the theater.”



The KEEGAN THEATRE

**TWENTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY**

in good company since 1997

## 2016-2017 TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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September 24 - October 15, 2016

### WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

by Teresa Rebeck

**\*Regional Premiere\***

A scathing, ferocious comedy about sexism in the workplace by one of today's most acclaimed and provocative playwrights. Set in a highly competitive architecture firm, WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST takes an explosive look at the complicated battle of the sexes and one woman's response when she tires of slamming into the glass ceiling.

*"WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST is biting, brilliant comedy. Theresa Rebeck has lived through and survived the corporate world and totally and completely nails it." - Houston Chronicle*

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November 5 – December 3, 2016

### SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

by John Guare

One of the greatest American plays of our time, Guare's script examines the threads of chance that link one person to another. A splendidly funny, often disquieting, exploration of the way

human beings define themselves and classify each other. Winner of the 1993 Olivier Award for Best Play and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award.

*"...cunningly executed, seemingly seamlessly joined, interlarded with clever one-liners, alternating comic situations with mildly disturbing ones...SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION is a play about everything, with something in it for everyone..." —NY Magazine*

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**KEEGAN'S OWN HOLIDAY TRADITION!**

**December 17 - December 31, 2016**

## **AN IRISH CAROL**

**by Matthew Keenan**

Set in a modern Dublin pub, AN IRISH CAROL is an homage to Dickens' classic – told as only the Irish can. The play, both comic and touching, follows one evening in the life of David, a wealthy pub owner who has lost touch with his own humanity in the interest of self-protection and material success. But on this Christmas Eve – challenged by a voice from the past, provoked by those in this present, and faced with the reality of lonely future – David's life may change forever.

*"Trust the Irish to put a bit of grain in the eggnog. AN IRISH CAROL is sweet and cheerfully profane ..."* – *The Washington Post*

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**January 21 - February 11, 2017**

## **MACK, BETH**

**by Chris Stezin**

**\*World Premiere\***

Shakespeare's ultimate power couple - retooled for the cyber age. MACK, BETH is a thoroughly modern, razor sharp tale with all the complex characters, intrigue, and taut storytelling that audiences expect from this classic tale of greed and unbridled ambition. A world premiere from two-time Helen Hayes-nominated playwright.

*"Chris Stezin has an intriguingly original voice as reflected in his previous Helen Hayes nominated works, HOBOKEN STATION and WHAT DOGS DO..." —DC Theatre Scene*

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**March 11 - April 8, 2017**

## **PARADE**

**book by Alfred Uhry**

**music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown**

The tragic, true story of the trial and lynching of a Jewish man wrongly accused of murder. A rich and intricate score by Jason Robert Brown, and a book by Alfred Uhry that delves fearlessly into the complexities of early 20th century social relationships in the South. A musical of profound depth and beauty.

*“Brilliant yet terrifying, filled with complex themes elucidated with the clarity of a white-hot spotlight aimed at center stage... one of the most thrilling evenings of a theater-lover's lifetime.” – Christian Science Monitor*

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**May 6 - May 28, 2017**

## **OUTSIDE MULLINGAR**

**by John Patrick Shanley**

**\*DC Premiere\***

Heartbreaking, funny as hell, and ultimately deeply moving. A compassionate and delightful work by John Patrick Shanley (Doubt, Danny and the Deep Blue Sea) that asks the question: is it ever too late to take a chance on love?

*“A valentine to the wonder and weirdness of love.” -NY Daily News*

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**June 17 - July 8, 2017**

## **WHEN WE WERE**

## **YOUNG AND UNAFRAID**

**by Sarah Treem**

**\*DC Premiere\***

In the early 1970s, before *Roe v. Wade* or the Violence Against Women Act, Agnes has turned her quiet bed and breakfast into one of the few spots where victims of domestic violence can seek refuge. But to Agnes's dismay, her latest runaway, Mary Anne, is beginning to influence Agnes's college-bound daughter Penny. As the drums of a feminist revolution grow louder, Agnes is forced to confront her own presumptions about the women she's spent her life trying to help.

*"A stark reminder of how rare it is to see such urgent subject matter tackled in mainstream theater."* —NBC NY.

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**August 5 - September 2, 2017**

## **BIG FISH**

**book by John August**

**music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa**

**\*DC Premiere\***

Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, BIG FISH centers on Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest. Edward's incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him – most of all, his devoted wife Sandra. But their son Will, about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father's epic tales. Overflowing with heart and humor, BIG FISH reminds us why we love going to the theatre – for an experience that's richer, funnier and more extraordinary than life itself.

*"A heartfelt, powerful and movingly scored musical full of quality writing..." - Chicago Tribune*

**Plus ... two Wee Keegan productions for young audiences  
ANNOUNCEMENT COMING IN JUNE!**

**\*2016 IRELAND TOUR\***

**August/September 2016**

## **AMERICAN BUFFALO**

**by David Mamet**

One of America's greatest playwrights, David Mamet infused AMERICAN BUFFALO with his trademark style and dramatic craftsmanship, creating a theatrical tour de force for three actors that stands the test of time. In a Chicago junk shop, three small-time crooks plot to rob a man of his coin collection, the showpiece of which is a valuable "Buffalo nickel." The three conspirators fancy themselves as businessmen pursuing the legitimate concerns of free enterprise -- but in reality, they are merely small-time crooks, and all of their plotting amounts to nothing in the end. AMERICAN BUFFALO is a triumph of language and a devastating snapshot of what human beings are capable of doing to each other when they run out of options.

*"It isn't often that a play with a dramatic intensity of American Buffalo comes to the Broadway theatre." - New York Post*

*Winner! 1977 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best American Play*