

FEST PROJECTS

Montana Short Cuts

A collection of seven short plays on a common theme – “Anti/Social” – produced by ETC (The Experimental Theatre Cooperative). The plays in the collection were selected from works written for the Fest by Montana and North-Western Regional playwrights. This year’s Montana Short Cuts include:

THE LOBBYIST, a satirical comedy by Ross Peter Nelson directed by Steve Palmer— When laws are drafted for money, social consequences may be happily overlooked. **CHRYSALIS**, a drama by Greg Younger directed by Steve Palmer—A self-isolated neighbor gets a lesson in trust. **SOUND EFFECT**, a comedy written and directed by Chantal Marie —After months in lockdown, is it safe to open the door to people? **THE HEART IS NOT HIDDEN, THE MIND IS LAID BARE**, a drama by Steve Palmer directed by Larry Bauer— A scientist banned from her laboratory is blinded by her passion and its negative effect on the subjects of her research. **CASTLES IN THE SAND**, a drama written and directed by Rebecca Ryland—A kid on a beach risks saving a teen destroyed by social media. **KILLING POLLYANNA**, a dark comedy by Pamela Jamruszka Mencher directed by Steve Palmer—Can perpetual goodness and passive compliance kill you? **MITTENS, An Operetta** by Barry Stambaugh directed by Steve Palmer—A greek chorus and a dead cat get kicked around the campfire. Metaphorically.

The Indys

Independently produced projects by Montana playwrights, poets and performance artists. An Audience talk-back follows the Thursday, November 11 performance. Your feedback is important to the process!

WHEN NANA HIT THE GLASS, a dark comedy written and directed by Rebecca Ryland. What is Lasse’s problem? Is it that her mother took a fast turn on a mountain pass and plummeted a thousand feet into a river? Or that she was raised by Rosalia, the household maid? Is she a tormented soul jaded by rejection or simply a spoiled, privileged rich kid who takes pleasure in abusing her best friend? Tony West (Kris) and July Johnson (Rosalia) join April Kortz as she brings Lasse’s deeply conflicted struggles to light in an attempt to break free from her mother’s obsession to keep her Nana “alive” in a house devoid of love.

STAGEHAND, a short comedy created and performed by Steve Palmer. Hey, even a lowly stagehand has a life! And in the change between acts, he gets the spotlight for a change.

INSIGHT, Spoken Word Poetry Event. Four poets – Greg Younger, Larry Bauer, Donna Davis and Brian Massman – share readings of their work. Readings change from one performance to another so buy a pass and come to all five! Are you a poet? If so, we invite you to read samples of your work during the open mic session following the Sunday, November 7 performance.

Indy Film

HOW TO POISON ... Ross Peter Nelson presents a reprise of his 2020 film in which Robespierre and Che Guevara are reincarnated as cats. You won’t want to miss the single-showing of this highly popular film.

FEST PLAYWRIGHTS



Chantal Marie has written, directed and produced commercials, short films, a web series for children, and educational films. With filmmaker Victoria Rose Sampson she produced, wrote and directed a variety of projects. Her black-and-white, 35-mm short film, *Kartenspieler*, toured the festival circuit and aired on Public Television in San Diego and San Francisco. She has written and directed commercials and is a member of the Alliance of Women Directors.



Pamela Jamruszka Mencher returns to Big Sky Country after working as a college professor and arts advocate in Colorado. As a playwright, actor, director, producer, costume, lights and set designer, and with over twenty-seven of her plays performed throughout the United States, she has received many awards recognizing her playwriting, teaching and professional theater careers. Pamela serves as the Montana Playwrights Network President and Executive Director of the Helena Avenue Theatre. Pamela lives in Clancy with her husband, Jordan



Ross Peter Nelson has participated in every LCNPF since 2016. He has a creative writing MFA at the University of New Orleans and his work has appeared on three continents and won awards in Washington, Nevada, and Louisiana. In addition to his dramatic work, he has published two computer books and short fiction. He is an associate producer of the Last Chance New Play Fest and president of Raven's Feather Productions.



Steven Palmer is an actor, playwright, and ceramic artist. He has a degree in Art and Theatre from MSU. His works have been produced in Montana and Washington, and he has appeared as an actor in productions by Grand Street Theatre and Helena Theatre Company. He has presented original one man shows in all the Fests to date. One of them, *Boxed*, was also performed at the United Solo Fest in NYC in 2017.



Rebecca Ryland holds an MFA in Theatre. After a directing internship at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard, Rebecca went on to act and direct professionally along with developing a theatre arts training program for youth. Her plays have been performed in Europe, Canada and across the US, including productions in NYC and Hollywood. She is the founder of ETC and owner of Heartland Plays, Inc. and is the Director of Design at Mountain View Meadows in Helena.



Barry Stambaugh moved to Helena in 2014 from Austin, Texas with his partner Vicki, who’s from Butte. Barry has acted in several Grandstreet plays (*Our Town, Mothers and Sons, and Peter and the Starcatcher*) and in the Fest, including Ross Peter Nelson’s *Colter’s Hell*. *Mittens, An Operetta* is Barry’s 6th produced Short Cut. Big thanks and hugs to Vicki. We miss you Django!



Greg Younger is a founding member of LCNPF and a journeyman actor and writer of stage and screen. On screen, he’s appeared in *Fear the Knight, The Bonnie Situation, Who Killed Rock Cobi*, and *Plain Clothes* as well as Madonna’s *Bad Girl* video. On stage he has appeared as Dracula and other characters, including Scrooge in a production of *A Christmas Carol* that toured with Barry Williams (Greg Brady) and Taxi’s Jeff Conaway. His plays have seen productions in NYC, Seattle, Phoenix, Denver, here and elsewhere.



PRODUCED BY ETC
Experimental Theatre Cooperative
 In Cooperation with Helena Avenue Theatre
 and the Montana Playwrights Network



SCHEDULE

Thank you for helping keep everyone healthy by wearing a mask

Friday, 11/5:

7:00 PM FEST OPENING!
Montana Short Cuts

Saturday, 11/6:

7:00 PM *The Indys*
 9:00 PM *Montana Short Cuts*

Sunday, 11/7:

2:00 PM *The Indys + Poetry Open Mic*

Wednesday, 11/10:

7:00 PM *Montana Short Cuts*
Audience Talk-back to follow

Thursday, 11/11:

7:00 PM *The Indys*
Audience Talk-back to follow

Friday, 11/12:

7:00 PM: *The Indys*
 9:00 PM: *Montana Short Cuts*

Saturday, 11/13:

2:00 PM *Indy Film: How to Poison...*
 7:00 PM *Montana Short Cuts*
 9:00 PM *The Indys*

Sunday, 11/14:

2:00 PM *Montana Short Cuts*

FEST SPONSORS



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Facebook.com/helenafringe

Eighth Annual

Last Chance New Play Fest

Nov 5-14



Helena Avenue Theatre
 1319 Helena Avenue



Anti / Social

Tickets

\$15 show at the door
 \$12 students/seniors
 \$30 Fest Pass

Montana Short Cuts

New works, including
 short plays, film and poetry