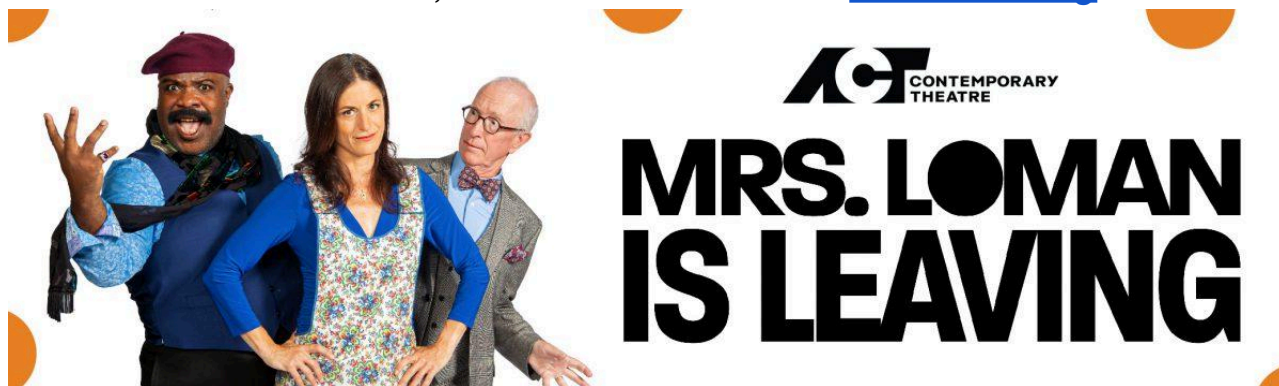


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SEATTLE PLAYWRIGHT KATIE FORGETTE RETURNS TO  
ACT WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
**MRS. LOMAN IS LEAVING**

*A backstage comedy about identity, representation, and the stories theatres choose to tell. Directed by Julie Beckman and playing October 12 – 27; tickets on sale now at [acttheatre.org](https://acttheatre.org).*



SEATTLE, WA (September 18, 2024) — ACT Contemporary Theatre announced today the cast and creative team of the world premiere play *Mrs. Loman is Leaving* by **Katie Forquette**. Directed by **Julie Beckman** and featuring an all-star, local cast, *Mrs. Loman is Leaving* begins October 12 in ACT's Allen Theatre and plays through October 27.

Originally featured as a staged reading at ACT's inaugural New Works Northwest Festival in 2023, *Mrs. Loman is Leaving* is set on opening night of *Death of a Salesman* at the fictional Teacup Theatre in the West Village of New York. Joanne (**Alexandra Tavares**) and George (**R. Hamilton Wright**) are each returning to the theatre after a multi-year hiatus, each for very different reasons. As the curtain goes up and the lines between reality and mania begin to blur, the stage is set for witty banter and uncomfortable truths in this hilarious and thought-provoking exploration of the human experience.

Playwright Katie Forquette said, "As a teenager I attended high school matinees at ACT. I received my Equity card from Greg Falls. And one of my first plays—A

*Facility for Living*—was produced at ACT. So it's thrilling to have *Mrs Loman is Leaving* produced at a theatre where I have so much history.”

“Every play is a process of exploration, but a world premiere provides the opportunity for an even more exciting layer of discovery,” said director Julie Beckman. “I have always loved backstage comedies for the opportunity for theatre people to poke fun at themselves, and also to 'pull back the curtain' on many of the sometimes ridiculous traditions and foibles of the theatre world.”

The 48th world premiere of ACT's history, *Mrs. Loman is Leaving* plays in the Allen Theatre October 12 – 27, 2024, with an opening night celebration on Thursday, October 17. A full list of events can be found below and at [ACTtheatre.org](http://ACTtheatre.org).

ACT's World Premiere of *Mrs. Loman is Leaving* is made possible with the generous support of **Allan & Anne Affleck**.

## MEET THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

The all-local cast of *Mrs. Loman is Leaving* features **Alexandra Tavares** (ACT: *The Thin Place*) as Joanne; **Jonelle Jordan** (The Seagull Project: *The Lower Depths*) as Penny; **Nathaniel Tenenbaum** (ACT: *A Case For the Existence of God*) as Sam; **R. Hamilton Wright** (ACT: *History of Theatre: About, By, For, and Near*) as George; and **Shaunyce Omar** (ACT: *Stew*) as Brenda/Sheila.

The creative team includes **Julie Beckman** (Director); **Andrea Bush** (Scenic Designer); **Deb Trout** (Costume Designer); **Lily McLeod** (Lighting Designer); **Rob Witmer** (Sound Designer); **Crystal Dawn Munkers** (Choreographer); **JR Welden** (Stage Manager) and **Gabrielle Norris** (Assistant Stage Manager).

## ABOUT KATIE FORGETTE (Playwright)



Katie Forquette spent the first part of her professional career as an actor. She performed at a number of theaters including the Seattle Rep, ACT Contemporary Theatre, and Intiman. Her play, *A Facility for Living*, premiered at ACT in 2013. Other plays include: *Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help*, *Welcome to Vital Vista Village*, *The Body Snatcher*, *Evidence of Things Unseen*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*, *The O'Conner Girls*, *Everybody's A Critic*, and *It Went Like This*. Her plays have been produced at the Alley Theatre, Penguin Rep, Asolo Rep, Florida Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Human Race Theatre, Greater Boston Stage, Seattle Rep, Manitoba Theatre Centre, CAP21, People's Light, Park Square Theatre, Barter Theatre, The Dorset Theatre

Festival, Vertigo Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Centenary Stage, and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. She lives in a tiny brick house in Seattle with her favorite husband, actor R. Hamilton Wright.

### **ABOUT JULIE BECKMAN (Director)**



Julie Beckman is a freelance theater director and adapter based in Seattle. She most recently directed her own adaptation of Aphra Behn's *The Lucky Chance* with Island Shakespeare Festival on Whidbey Island. Previous productions include *A Christmas Carol* (2021) at ACT Contemporary Theatre; *Downstairs* with Theatre22; and *Bernie's Apt* with eSe Teatro. Other Seattle directing credits include her own adaptations of *Alice in Wonderland*, *Jane Eyre*, *Hard Times*, and *The Bunner Sisters*. She also directed the Seattle premieres of *Animals Out of Paper*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *The Happiest Song Plays Last*, *The Revolutionists*, *Annapurna*, *The Bells*, *Trevor*, *26 Miles*, and *A Small Fire*. Her work has also been seen in

Chicago, Washington, D.C, Cincinnati, Atlanta, St. Louis, and at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Company in Canada. She has an MFA in directing from Northwestern University.

### **FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS:**

#### **WHAT:**

#### ***Mrs. Loman is Leaving***

By Katie Forgette

Directed by Julie Beckman

World Premiere

Beloved Seattle playwright Katie Forgette returns to ACT with this world premiere first featured at ACT's inaugural New Works Northwest Festival. This delightful backstage comedy unfolds on the opening night of the Teacup Theatre's production of *Death of a Salesman* where two actors, returning after years away, find themselves grappling with more than just their roles. The stage becomes a platform for dramatic antics and witty repartee as the characters confront uncomfortable truths about identity, representation, and the stories theatres choose to tell — blurring the lines between reality and mania in this hilarious yet thought-provoking exploration of the human experience.

[Show Details >>](#)

[Ticket info >>](#)

#### **WHEN:**

**October 12 – 27, 2024**

Evening performance times are at 7:00 p.m (Tues, Wed, Sun), 7:30 p.m. (Thurs, Fri, Sat) and matinees are at 2 p.m. A full performance schedule can be [found here](#).

## Key Dates:

- **First Preview:** Saturday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. [Tickets>>](#)
- **Industry Night:** Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.
  - Theatre industry professionals receive \$25 tickets. [Get Industry Night tickets here >>](#)
- **Opening Night:** Thursday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m.
  - Join us before the show at 6:30 for our Opening Night celebration featuring music from [The Go Janes](#), in collaboration with [Northwest Folklife](#). Food and drink are also available for purchase. [Get Opening Night tickets here >>](#)
- **Engage the Stage | Student Matinee:** Tuesday, October 22 at 11:00 a.m.
  - Meet the artists and get an inside look at the production of this world premiere play! This 90-minute program features a conversation and Q&A with the actors, and includes a fully-produced selection from the show. Tickets are \$12 and recommended for 6-12th grade and college classrooms. [Tickets >>](#)
- **ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreted & Audio-Described Performance:** Saturday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m.
  - Special seating is reserved for patrons requesting live ASL interpretation of the spoken English performance. Seats are held for patrons during select performances to guarantee optimal viewing of both the interpreters and the stage. [Get ASL tickets here >>](#)
  - Complimentary audio description is available for patrons who are blind, who have low vision, or who may benefit from having the unspoken action of a play narrated for any reason. See any front-of-house team member before the performance to receive your headset. [Get audio-described tickets here >>](#)

## WHERE:

**ACT Contemporary Theatre's Falls Theatre**, located at 700 Union Street in Downtown Seattle.

## TICKETS:

**Tickets start with Pay What You Choose to all performances.** We are proud to offer a range of ticket prices and discounts for all our plays in our goal to make theatre affordable for everyone. [See all of our discount offerings here.](#)

To purchase tickets, visit <https://acttheatre.org>

**PRESS ROOM:**

For available pre-production images and headshots, [please visit our Press Room online](#)  
[>>](#)

**CONNECT ON SOCIAL:**

[acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org)

Facebook - [/ACTtheatreSeattle](https://www.facebook.com/ACTtheatreSeattle)

Instagram - [@ACTtheatre](https://www.instagram.com/ACTtheatre)

TikTok - [@acttheatreseattle](https://www.tiktok.com/@acttheatreseattle)

LinkedIn - [/act-theatre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/act-theatre)

Theatre & show tags: #ACTTheatre #ACTTheatreSeattle #ACTLomanisLeaving  
#MrsLomanisLeaving

**ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE**

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 58 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 47 world premieres. Currently led by Interim Producing Artistic Director Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland, ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).

*Thank you to ACT Contemporary Theatre's Season and Theatre Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, ArtsWA, Bowery Valuation, The Grousemont Foundation, NBBJ, and Katharyn Alvord Gerlich.*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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