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ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE & SEATTLE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

## A NEW BEGINNING: ACT Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company Announce Inaugural 2025/26 Season

*The season features a beloved classic told through a modern lens, a touching Seattle premiere, new explorations of two beloved Shakespeare favorites, and the unique journey of a beloved artist*



**SEATTLE, WA (April 16, 2025)** – Seattle's **ACT Contemporary Theatre** and **Seattle Shakespeare Company** are proud to announce their first annual joint season, showcasing five works representing this unique moment in their new company's history: a new beginning. In January 2025, ACT Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company announced their historic merger effective July 1, 2025. Featuring a beloved classic told through a modern lens, an intimate and touching Seattle premiere, new explorations of two beloved Shakespeare favorites, and the unique journey of a visionary artist, this season promises to engage, excite, and exhilarate the Seattle community. 5-Play subscription packages, starting at \$193, to the inaugural 2025/26 Season are on sale now at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).

"Empowerment. Transformation. Becoming. These themes run through our first season as a combined organization, both onstage and off," said **Interim Producing Artistic**

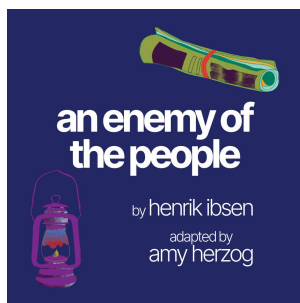
**Director Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland.** “As we step into our future together as a new company, Seattle audiences will also see the two theatres that they have loved for so long are still here, even as we become one.”

**Managing Director John Bradshaw** adds: "For me, the most important thing we can do our first season is to invite everyone in to see that Shakespeare, which we can only ever really interpret through our contemporary experience, and contemporary works, which reflect our history as they open doors into the future, combine perfectly in the timeless arc of our need to gather around the fire and tell stories to make sense of our world.”

The season opens with a classic originally slated for ACT's 2024/25 Season: Amy Herzog's Tony Award-winning adaptation of the Henrik Ibsen play ***An Enemy of the People*** (Sep/Oct 2025); next up is ***Shrew*** (Oct/Nov 2025), Shakespeare's matrimonial comedy turned upside down; in late winter of the new year comes the Shakespeare summer classic ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Feb/March 2026); followed by the Seattle premiere of Jiehae Park's ***the aves*** (Apr/May 2026), an intimate and surreal new work; the season closes with a stunning one-woman show ***Frida...A Self Portrait*** (June 2026), written and performed by Vanessa Severo.

Throughout the season, ACT and Seattle Shakespeare Company will present additional programming with more details and tickets to be announced at a later date.

## **ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE & SEATTLE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S 2025/26 SEASON INFORMATION**



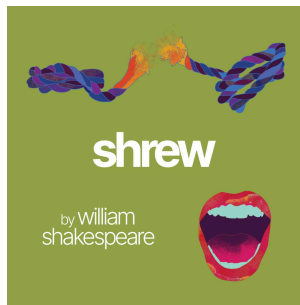
### ***An Enemy of the People***

By Henrik Ibsen

Adapted by Amy Herzog

**September 20–October 5, 2025**

The Tony Award-winning adaptation comes to Seattle! Amy Herzog’s “smart, sharp, and relevant” (*Deadline*) adaptation of this Henrik Ibsen timeless classic wraps us deep in an entangled web of truth, power, and complacency. Dr. Stockmann has it all - but when he uncovers a catastrophe in the making that threatens lives, he runs up against those in power. As tensions rise, Stockmann must choose: follow his conscience, and risk destruction? Or join the conspiracy?

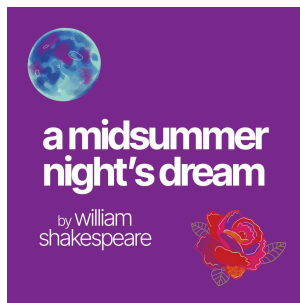


### ***Shrew***

By William Shakespeare

**October 18–November 2, 2025**

Girl meets boy. Girl hates boy. Girl agrees to marry boy against her will so her sister can get married, too. Got it? Experience Shakespeare's play of matrimonial misery as you've never seen it before. *Shrew* uses the classic text—inverted, upended, and overturned—to offer a modern-day perspective on how far we've come when it comes to love—and how far we still have to go.



### ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

By William Shakespeare

**February 14–March 1, 2026**

Shakespeare's most popular comedy pulls us once again into the magic of the moonlight. Four young lovers flee their families in pursuit of love in the forest but get more than they bargained for when they land in the middle of a faerie feud. A chaotic night of love potions, merry mischief, and mismatched couples—plus a very lost troupe of actors—weaves an otherworldly spell. When morning comes, will the midsummer enchantment last, or fade like a dream?

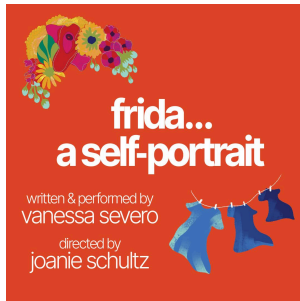


### ***the aves***

By Jiehae Park

**April 18–May 3, 2026**

An older couple enjoys a summer day on a park bench, talking about birds and the likelihood of rain. A simple conversation...or maybe more. An ordinary day transforms into a shifting world of surreal possibilities in a stunning and humorous meditation on memory, forgiveness, and the lifelong process of becoming who we are. From the mind of acclaimed playwright Jiehae Park in her signature innovative style, this Seattle premiere will reignite your sense of wonder.



### ***Frida...A Self-Portrait***

Written and Performed by Vanessa Severo

Directed by Joanie Schultz

**June 6–28, 2026**

The singular Frida Kahlo comes to life through the spirit of playwright and performer Vanessa Severo in this stunning one-woman show. Severo explores the parallels between their two lives as she embodies the many facets of this complex artist. With music and movement, Frida's evocative art, multilayered love life, and distinctive philosophy are sketched out in a visual dynamo of a piece that encourages us all to realize we are not alone.

Don't miss the inaugural season of ACT Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company. Season subscriptions are on sale now at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org) and through the box office at 206.292.7676.

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### **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 has remained 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 49 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 our Theatre and Season Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Katharyn Alvord Gerlich, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, Trial and Error Productions.*

### **ABOUT SEATTLE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**

With the plays of William Shakespeare at our core, Seattle Shakespeare Company engages our audiences, our artists, and our community in the universal human experience inherent in classic drama. SSC is committed to “Shakespeare for everybody.” As the Puget Sound region’s year-round, professional, classical theatre, the company’s growing success stems from a deep belief in the power and vibrancy of the time-tested words and ideas of Shakespeare and other classical playwrights. SSC is committed to artistic excellence on stage, and accessibility through education outreach programs, state-wide touring, and free Wooden O performances in regional parks. The results have been provocative performances that both challenge and delight audiences while fostering an appreciation for great stage works. For more information on Seattle Shakespeare Company, please visit [seattleshakespeare.org](http://seattleshakespeare.org).

*Thank you to our Season Sponsors: ArtsFund, The Norcliffe Foundation, Office of Arts & Culture, 4Culture, DSquared Hospitality Company, The Morgan Fund, and Treeline Foundation.*

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**PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO**

For available season artwork, [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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