



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Two Pulitzer Prize Winners, One Stage:  
theatre KAPOW presents *Desdemona* and *The Zoo Story*, May 9-11, 2014**

theatre KAPOW continues its sixth season with two short plays by two pillars of American drama, Paula Vogel's *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief* and Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*. With additional funding from the Dramatist's Guild Fund, the plays will be co-presented with the Greater Derry Arts Council at the Derry Opera House May 9-11, 2014.

theatre KAPOW's sixth season features a series of events based upon the theme of "awake." The company had focused on an exploration of awakenings of human consciousness. This season's shows demand of artists and audiences both a sense of heightened awareness not only of what is happening in the world around us but also of what it means to be a human being.

The pairing of these two shows offers theatre KAPOW the opportunity to explore the timelessness of mankind's desire for meaningful human contact. An all female cast deals with isolation and desperation on the isle of Cyprus as imagined by Shakespeare in *Othello*, while an all male cast probes the sense of loneliness amongst the chaos almost unique to life in Manhattan at the end of the 20th century.

"These shows have such wide appeal," says tKAPOW founder and *The Zoo Story* director, Matt Cahoon. "Stylistically they are very different but they really complement each other well. The shows are short, but they both pack a punch and we certainly hope that the two combined will have a significant impact on the audience."

In *Desdemona*, the frantic search for an infamous missing linen sparks Vogel's search for what it means to be a woman. Struggling valiantly against class barriers, sexual repression and dirty laundry, can Desdemona chart her own course? In this smart, sexy, funny behind-the-scenes take on Shakespeare's *Othello*, Pulitzer Prize-winner Paula Vogel gives us a glimpse of "real" life on Cyprus and what really goes on behind closed doors while Othello is being destroyed by his jealousy. Desdemona pines for a better life without the restrictions of traditional society, all the while egging on her pious maid, Emilia. When Bianca, the town whore, shows up and reveals a secret or two, things start to fall apart as we careen towards the dramatic finale that brings Desdemona together with Othello.

**The Zoo Story** is the play that launched the career of one of America's most celebrated playwrights, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and recent recipient of the Edward MacDowell

Medal, Edward Albee. It tells the tale of a chance meeting between two men on a bench in the middle of Central Park. Peter is a complacent executive comfortably reading in the park when Jerry, an aggressive loner who has just come from the zoo, badgers him into conversation. An innocent conversation turns to deal with human isolation, loneliness, class differences, and the dangers of inaction within American society.

The two shows feature a tremendous ensemble of actors. In *Desdemona*, Amy Agostino plays Emilia, Carey Cahoon (previously seen in *Circle Mirror Transformation*) plays Desdemona, and Rachael Longo (previously seen in *The Burial at Thebes*) plays Bianca. In *The Zoo Story*, Wayne Asbury plays Jerry and Peter Josephson plays Peter (both were last seen in tKAPOW's *Penelope*). The production also features some fantastic designers including Bob Haas (fight choreography), Nat Ward (sound), and Tayva Young (lighting).

Performances are Friday, May 9 at 7.30 pm; Saturday, May 10 at 7.30 pm; and Sunday, May 11 at 2.00 pm at the Derry Opera House in Derry, NH. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students. For tickets or more information, visit [www.tkapow.com](http://www.tkapow.com).

### **About Paula Vogel**

Paula Vogel is an American playwright and professor. During her two decades leading the graduate playwriting program and new play festival at Brown University, Vogel helped develop a nationally recognized center for educational theatre, culminating in the creation of the Brown/Trinity Repertory Company Consortium. Vogel's *Baltimore Waltz* won an Obie award for Best Play and her play *How I Learned to Drive* received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Vogel is currently playwright in residence at the Yale Repertory Theatre, as well as an artistic associate at Long Wharf Theatre.

### **About Edward Albee**

Edward Albee (playwright; born March 12, 1928, Washington, DC) Edward Albee burst onto the American theatrical scene in the late 1950s with a variety of plays that detailed the agonies and disillusionment of that decade and the transition from the placid Eisenhower years to the turbulent 1960s. Albee's plays, with their intensity, their grappling with modern themes, and their experiments in form, startled critics and audiences alike while changing the landscape of American drama. He was unanimously hailed as the successor to Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene O'Neill. Albee's 25 plays form a body of work that is recognized as unique, uncompromising, controversial, elliptical, and provocative. A canon that is, as Albee himself describes it "an examination of the American Scene, an attack on the substitution of artificial for real values in our society, a condemnation of complacency, cruelty, and emasculation and vacuity, a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen."

### **About theatre KAPOW**

*theatre KAPOW* ([www.tkapow.com](http://www.tkapow.com)) develops ensemble productions of great dramatic literature

to explore the human experience and inspire and challenge both artist and audience. tKAPOW places emphasis on the importance of rigorous formal training to develop an ensemble of skilled and dedicated theatre artists.

Now in its sixth season, tKAPOW has established a reputation for presenting important dramatic literature including productions by August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Sarah Ruhl, and Tony Kushner. tKAPOW also supports the development of new work through an annual 24 Hour Play Festival and an original performance piece in the spring. The editors of New Hampshire Magazine named theatre KAPOW the Best Contemporary Theatre in New Hampshire for 2013.

*theatre KAPOW* is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Visit [www.tkapow.com](http://www.tkapow.com) to learn more.

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Zoo Story 50. Wayne Asbury and Peter Josephson in theatre KAPOW's production of *The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee, May 9 - 11, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno.

Zoo Story 106. Wayne Asbury and Peter Josephson in theatre KAPOW's production of *The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee, May 9 - 11, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno.

Desdemona 40. Amy Agostino and Carey Cahoon in theatre KAPOW's production of *Desdemona: a Play about a Handkerchief* by Paula Vogel, May 9 - 11, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno.

Desdemona 64. Amy Agostino, Rachael Longo and Carey Cahoon in theatre KAPOW's production of *Desdemona: a Play about a Handkerchief* by Paula Vogel, May 9 - 11, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno.