



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Carey Cahoon

(603) 785-5724

ccahoon@tkapow.com

**theatre KAPOW announces season 6: AWAKE**

After a season of dreaming, New Hampshire's theatre KAPOW is awake! theatre KAPOW places great importance on the selection of a season of shows that complement each other. The company selects a theme and then finds work that fits and explores that theme. Season five's shows were all based on the theme "dream." During that dream season, tKAPOW was selected by the editors of New Hampshire Magazine as the best contemporary theatre company in the state for 2013. Now, in its sixth season, theatre KAPOW's theme will be "AWAKE."

The plays in this season all explore an awakening of human consciousness. The 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. "It is a season of masterfully written material that grabs you by the shoulders and shakes you," says Board President and director Matt Cahoon. "It is also the biggest and most ambitious season we have tackled yet."

*The Burial at Thebes* by Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney will be first up in September. Heaney's adaptation of Sophocles' masterpiece *Antigone* was written in 2004. While the story in the play is nearly 2,500 years old, one need only look to very recent events surrounding the burial of a domestic terrorist to find the pointed relevance. The show will be presented at the Derryfield School in Manchester, marking the first time that tKAPOW will present a main stage show in the Queen City.

In December, the company will be exploring a new venue and an added timeslot. tKAPOW will be partnering with Manchester's Studio 550 Art Center to present *Circle Mirror Transformation* by up and coming Vermont playwright Annie Baker. For this production tKAPOW is partnering with Manchester's newest community art center, Studio 550. The production will be directed by NH playwright and director Lowell Williams. *Circle Mirror Transformation* traces a summer community center acting class where five lost souls find themselves relating through a series of

wacky acting exercises. The unexpected intimacy of the class creates an unlikely Petri dish where funny, surprising and poignant secrets are revealed.

In February 2014, tKAPOW will return to its original home, the Stockbridge Theatre in Derry for *Penelope* by Irish playwright Enda Walsh. *Penelope* is an exhilarating and hilarious interpretation of the story of Penelope and her suitors from Homer's *Odyssey*. As the show starts, there are four men in Speedos at the bottom of a drained out and dilapidated swimming pool who play for Penelope's unwinnable love while facing their inevitable deaths. Enda Walsh's dark comedy takes a look at just how far men will go to win over a woman's heart when their ultimate salvation is at stake.

tKAPOW will heat up the spring in May 2014 with two short plays by two of the pillars of contemporary American dramatic literature, Paula Vogel and Edward Albee. Between them, these two playwrights hold four Pulitzer prizes, the McDowell Medal, and numerous other awards. First up will be Vogel's *Desdemona*, which tells the story of one of Shakespeare's most enigmatic heroines from her point of view. The second show is arguably the greatest short play ever written, Albee's *The Zoo Story*. An explosive encounter between two men in New York's Central Park calls into question just how far we will go in the pursuit of human contact.

Also as part of season six, tKAPOW will be starting a new initiative, partnering with the Currier Museum of Art to present a series of play readings called ARTiculate. The series will offer audiences a chance to hear new or rarely produced plays that relate to special exhibitions at the Currier or objects or artists in the museum's permanent collection. Each of the readings will include post show discussions with experts from local colleges and universities and from the Currier as well. The series is supported by the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation and the New Hampshire Humanities Council, and kicks off on Sunday, September 29 with *Time Stands Still*, by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Margulies. They play tells the story of a photojournalist who is injured by an IED in Iraq, and will be read and discussed in conjunction with the Currier's exhibition *Visual Dispatches from the Vietnam War*.

Continuing its commitment to the development of new work, tKAPOW will host its third annual 24 Hour Play Festival this fall and create another original evening of theatre in the spring. The festival, on October 25 - 26, 2013, will present five short plays created entirely in twenty-four hours. The playwrights will meet on Friday night to learn the theme for the festival, receive their list of guidelines, their directors and their casts. The next morning, the scripts they write that night will be distributed to the actors and directors to rehearse before staging the works for an

audience on Saturday night. In June, tKAPOW will create an entirely original evening of devised theatre, following the success of a similar project last year. Devised theatre's "script" originates not from a writer or writers, but from collaborative, usually improvisatory, work by a group of performers.

Early work on the devised project, and on the entire season, will begin at tKAPOW's Artists Retreat in Dunbarton August 3 - 10. The company will spend a week training together in voice, movement, improvisation and acting. Guest artists will lead workshops in modern dance, poi spinning, Tai Chi, and more. The retreat is open to all participants, regardless of experience level.

For more information and a complete schedule of performances and programs, visit [www.tKAPOW.com](http://www.tKAPOW.com)

### **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 high quality dramatic literature including productions of August Strindberg's *Miss Julie* and *A Dream Play*, *Oleanna* by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Mamet, and Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. 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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