



**For Immediate Release**

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**KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2017-2018 SEASON - SEVEN DYNAMIC STORIES, ALL PART OF M. BEVIN O'GARA'S FIRST SEASON AT THE HELM**

*The 2017-2018 Season includes a provocative and timely comedy about race and perception, a charming piece of interactive theatre that will bring the audience closer than ever before, a world premiere about the strains on our modern heroes, and more, to be performed at Central New York's Off-Broadway Theatre.*

**Ithaca, NY:** Kitchen Theatre Company, Central New York's Off Broadway theatre, announces its 2017-2018 season. This is the first season for incoming Producing Artistic Director, M. Bevin O'Gara, who will be joining longtime Managing Director, Stephen Nunley. Kitchen Theatre Company is known for its intimate 99-seat space, now owned by the theatre, and for the bold, intimate, engaging work it has produced for over 25 years. The 27th season will include seven plays aimed at starting "important conversations," presented from September to June.

"The Kitchen's 2017-2018 season will consist of thought provoking, humorous and heart-warming work that pulls into focus the connections we all share as human beings," says Kitchen Theatre Company's new Producing Artistic Director M. Bevin O'Gara. "The artists we are assembling include some Kitchen Theatre Company favorites while also bringing new talent from New York, Boston and beyond to the table as we look toward a new and exciting future. But as always, the Kitchen will leave audiences with something to talk about on the way home."

**THE COMPLETE 2017-2018 SEASON LINEUP**

- **SMART PEOPLE by Lydia Diamond:** *Variety* calls our season opener "...a sexy, serious, and very, very funny modern-day comedy of manners. Four intellectuals - a doctor, an actress, a psychologist, and a neurobiologist studying the human brain's response to race - search for love, acceptance and identity in a complex world where political correctness comes face-to-face with cold hard data. But as each of them learns about the study, more questions arise about the dangers of how we talk about race. **Previews September 3, 5 and 6, opening night is September 10 and the play runs through September 24. For ages 14+.**

"Deciding to do this play and having Summer L. Williams direct was one of the first thoughts that made me feel like an Artistic Director. Lydia's sharp intellect and biting humor have always drawn me in. Summer and Lydia are incredible collaborators, and bringing them to Ithaca is going to be explosive." - M Bevin O'Gara

"I am so excited to be back in the room working on another Lydia Diamond play. She is so tremendously gifted, and her work is always challenging, humorous and piercing. It's been a great joy of my life to know her; she's a sister and artist whom I fully admire. The opportunity to be reunited in Ithaca is thrilling. I'm honored to be at the helm of this project, working with both old friends and new, telling this incredibly profound and funny story," says director of SMART PEOPLE Summer L. Williams

- **BRAHMAN/I: A ONE HIJRA STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW by Aditi Brenna Kapil:** Meet "B," an intersex comedian trying to explain and reconcile their identity through stories of high school antics, feats of the gods and Galileo Galilei. Sharp, heartbreaking and downright

hilarious. **Previews October 8, 10 and 11, Opening Night is October 12 and the play runs through October 29. For ages 14+.**

Playwright Aditi Brennan Kapil says, "I'm so excited that director Bevin O'Gara and the fearless, hilarious, generally badass Aila Peck are teaming up again on 'Brahman/i, a one-hijra stand-up comedy show.' Their Boston production is still one of my favorites of a play I've written!"

- **EVERY BRILLIANT THING by Duncan MacMillan:** When all seems lost, what is there to live for? This delightful and tender one-man experience illuminates truths about depression and how we can help each other overcome these struggles. This show also reunites Kitchen favorites Karl Gregory, as the Narrator, and Wendy Dann, who is set to direct. **Previews November 11, 12, 14 and 15, Opening Night is November 16 and the play runs through December 10. For ages 14+.**

"I'm really excited to figure this play out with Wendy. We are going to have to find a new way to rehearse this play, as its structure is challenging. I can't wait to crack it!", Karl Gregory, actor in EVERY BRILLIANT THING.

- **IRONBOUND by Martyna Majok:** Polish Immigrant Darja struggles to make ends meet and keep herself moving forward. In this vivid and richly drawn story, Darja stumbles through three presidential administrations and as many relationships, ultimately deciding how hard she's willing to fight for what she loves most. **Previews are January 21, 23 and 24, Opening Night is January 25 and the play runs through February 4. For ages 14+.**

"I feel so privileged for this to be the first new show I'll be directing in Ithaca," says director M. Bevin O'Gara, "I was immediately drawn to Darja, her struggles, and her questions about her own value. You will be as moved by Darja's perseverance as you are by her vulnerability."

- **BRIGHT HALF LIFE by Tanya Barfield:** In Pulitzer Prize nominee Tanya Barfield's mesmerizing play, we watch Erica and Vicky fall both into and out of love as life simply happens to and around them. Bright Half Life is an honest portrayal of the enduring power of love against the relentless forward motion of time. Deeply felt and utterly relatable. **Previews March 4, 6 & 7, Opening Night is March 8 and the play runs through March 18. For ages 14+.**

"Change happens. And change can be hard. I was so happy when Bevin asked me to be part of the changing of the "artistic guard" at KTC. KTC has always been more than a theatre - it is a community. Bevin has given me a great play to direct in Season 2017-18 in BRIGHT HALF LIFE. If change is difficult, so are relationships. BRIGHT HALF LIFE explores the changing dynamics within a relationship. The beginning. The adjustments. The discoveries. I look forward to sharing the "ins" and "outs" and "roundabouts" in Barfield's adroit and funny play," says director Sara Lampert Hoover.

- **BRAWLER by Walt McGough:** For this production, Kitchen Theatre Company will be collaborating with the Boston Playwrights Theatre to expand upon how the Kitchen develops new works. Premiering first in Boston, then coming to Ithaca for further development, this modern telling of Ajax set in a hockey locker room takes a look at modern heroics and what our athletes must sacrifice in their fight to stay on top. It's rough, it's tough, and it's also deeply human. **Previews April 8, 10 and 11, Opening Night is April 12 and the play runs through April 22. For ages 14+.**

"I wrote BRAWLER as a lifelong fan of hockey (go Pens!), who has in recent years found it harder and harder to look past the toll that it and games like it exact on the men who play. My goal was to use the theatre as a venue for conversation, and thanks to Bevin, Kitchen Theatre and Boston Playwrights, that conversation will play out in front of two different audiences, in two different cities, both of which have a deep and abiding love of the game," says playwright Walt McGough.

- **MATT AND BEN by Mindy Kaling and Brenda Withers:** In this delightful and exuberant piece, arriving just in time for summer, see Matt Damon and Ben Affleck as struggling young writers trying to write their first screenplay when fate intervenes and a script falls from the sky. What will they do? This gender-bending Off Broadway hit examines questions of friendship, celebrity and what it really takes to get ahead. **Previews May 27, 29 and 30, 2018, Opening Night is May 31 and the play runs through June 10. For ages 14+.**

"MATT AND BEN is pure fun, exactly the right way to usher in the summer," says M. Bevin O'Gara. "Through the frame of friendship and the allure of fame we get to see characters we think we know in a new light, and in this case we get to see them portrayed in a different gender entirely. And I love ending the season with a story about the success of collaboration since that is the essence of good theatre."

WHEN:

***SMART PEOPLE***

by Lydia Diamond

Directed by Summer L. Williams

September 3 - September 24, 2017

***BRAHMAN/I: A One Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show***

by Aditi Brennan Kapil

Directed by M. Bevin O'Gara

October 8 - October 29, 2017

***EVERY BRILLIANT THING***

by Duncan MacMillan

Directed by Wendy Dann

November 11 - December 10, 2017

***IRONBOUND***

by Martyna Majok

Directed by M. Bevin O'Gara

January 21-February 4, 2018

***BRIGHT HALF LIFE***

by Tanya Barfield

Directed by Sara Lampert Hoover

March 4- March 18, 2018

***BRAWLER***

by Walt McGough

Directed by M. Bevin O'Gara

In collaboration with Boston Playwrights Theatre

April 8 - April 22, 2018

***MATT AND BEN***

by Mindy Kaling and Brenda Withers

Directed by Shana Gozansky

May 27- June 10, 2018

WHERE:

Kitchen Theatre Company  
417 W. State/MLK Jr. St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850

HOW:

**Subscriptions On Sale Now**

Subscriptions to the Kitchen Theatre Company's 2017-2018 season are now on sale, for \$108 to \$284.

Subscriptions may be renewed or purchased by calling [607 272 0570](tel:6072720570), by visiting the Kitchen offices (409 W. State St.) Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm and at the theatre (417 W. State St.) Saturday - Sunday 12pm to 4pm, or by downloading a subscription form from the website ([www.kitchentheatre.org](http://www.kitchentheatre.org)) and sending it by mail or email.

SINGLE TICKETS AVAILABLE AUGUST 15.

**PHOTO DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS:**

To download high-resolution (or smaller) photos of the artists involved in the 2017-2018 season:

1. Visit <https://www.flickr.com/groups/kitchentheatrecompany/>
2. Click on the thumbnail and let the image load in your browser on the Flickr site.
3. Click the arrow icon in the lower right-hand corner of the window and select View All Sizes.
4. Select the size you wish to download from the choices listed across the top of the image.
5. Click the "Download the \_\_\_ size of this photo..." link at the top. The image will download to your computer.

**Bold, intimate, engaging...** Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), beginning its 27th season in September 2017, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theater company, specializing in regional and world premiere plays and musicals. KTC's intimate 99-seat theater is in a beautifully renovated, LEED-certified building in the West End neighborhood of downtown Ithaca, New York. KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "Small Business of the Year" Award from the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the Tompkins County Tourism Program. The Kitchen Theatre Company also receives general operating support from the Shubert Foundation.

*"Important conversations happen in the Kitchen."*

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