

MEDIA CONTACT

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The Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents
“In Conversation with Playwright Emily Kaczmarek”
Friday, January 29, at 5 p.m., on Zoom
In partnership with Urbanite Theatre Company

This presentation precedes a reading of Kaczmarek’s play, Sam & Lizzie, which will be presented live on the Hermitage Beach on Saturday, February 13. Kaczmarek is a Hermitage Fellow and a rising star in film, theater, and television.

(January 14, 2021) The Hermitage Artist Retreat’s 2021 winter season continues with “In Conversation with Emily Kaczmarek,” a virtual conversation with playwright and recent Hermitage Fellow Emily Kaczmarek, Friday, January 29, 5 p.m., via Zoom. This presentation precedes a reading of Kaczmarek’s play, *Sam & Lizzie*, which will be presented live on the Hermitage Beach, in collaboration with Urbanite Theatre Company, on Saturday, February 13, with presentations at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. To register for the January 29 Zoom event, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

“As we continue to expand our collaborations throughout the region, we are very excited to be partnering with Urbanite Theatre on this new endeavor,” says Sandberg, Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO. “Emily Kaczmarek is an incredibly talented writer, and we are thrilled that Urbanite has chosen to present her play *Sam & Lizzie* right

here on the Hermitage Beach. We look forward to hosting this virtual conversation with her on January 29 ahead of these staged readings in February. We remain committed to finding safe ways to reactivate the arts in our community, and we look forward to partnering with Urbanite for this outdoor reading series and this virtual talk, and also excited that they will be presenting a work by another Hermitage Fellow, Ronan Noone.” As part of its reading series, in addition to *Sam & Lizzie* by Emily Kaczmarek, Urbanite Theatre is also presenting *Thirst*, a play by Hermitage alumnus Ronan Noone, with presentations January 14-16 at Selby Gardens. (More info on *Thirst* can be found at UrbaniteTheatre.org.) In addition to its digital offerings, the Hermitage has been presenting live, socially-distanced outdoor programs, performances, and conversations since early October.

Emily Kaczmarek is a bicoastal playwright, librettist, and screenwriter. Her work has been produced/developed at the 5th Avenue Theatre, Second Stage Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Northern Stage, WP Theater, and Village Theatre, among others. Awards include: 2019 Kilroys List Honorable Mention, 2019 Princess Grace Award Finalist, 2018 Jonathan Larson Grant Recipient, 2018 & 2020 Kleban Prize Finalist, 2018 National Playwrights Conference Finalist. Residencies include: The Hermitage Artist Retreat, Orchard Project, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Goodspeed Musicals. Selected works include: *Sam & Lizzie*, *Soft Target* (upcoming world premiere at The Geffen, spring 2022), *The Mirror Stage*, *Afterwords* (music and lyrics by Hermitage Fellow Zoe Sarnak), *Afloat* (music and lyrics by Zoe Sarnak; WP Theater commission). Emily is also a writer/producer on *Monsterland* for Annapurna/Hulu and *Staircase* for Annapurna/HBOMax.

Ronan Noone was a Hermitage Fellow in 2013. His play *The Smuggler* won the Best Playwright award at the First Irish Festival of New York in 2019. After three extensions at Solas Nua Theatre in Washington DC, it has been recognized as the surprise hit show of 2019 by *DC Theatre Scene*, and as a pick from the year's best theater by *The New York Times*. *The Second Girl (Thirst)* is the winner of the Inaugural Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Excellence in Playwriting Award, 2015. Additional plays include: *The Atheist*, *Brendan*, *Scenes from an Adultery*, *The Baile Trilogy*, *The Compass Rose*, *Little Black Dress*, and *A Small Death*. His work has been produced throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and around the world. His plays have premiered at The Irish Repertory Theater in New York, Huntington Theatre Company in Boston, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Culture Project, and more. Awards and nominations include Drama Desk and Drama League nominations and Jeff Award nominations in Chicago; Helen Hayes nominations in Washington DC; Ovation nominations in Los Angeles.

ALSO COMING UP AT THE HERMITAGE...

- **Friday, January 15, 5 p.m.:** “**In Conversation with Joshua Harmon,**” presented in partnership with Asolo Repertory Theatre. Join us for a virtual talk with celebrated New York playwright **Joshua Harmon**, author of *Bad Jews* (Roundabout Theatre), *Significant Other* (Broadway), and *Admissions* (Lincoln Center). Learn from one of the country's most sought-after and produced young playwrights about the process of developing a new play on its journey from the page to the stage. Hear about what has inspired

Harmon's work, and what is next for this smart, funny, and insightful theater-maker. *Registration available at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

- **Friday, January 22, 5:30 p.m.:** The "Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens" series continues with acclaimed flutist, composer, MacArthur Genius Award recipient, Avery Fisher Prize winner, and Hermitage Fellow & Curator Claire Chase. This brilliant and beloved artist – and a longtime friend of the Hermitage – has enchanted audiences around the world with her talents. Chase will present an intimate evening of music against the backdrop of the setting sun. Selby Gardens downtown. *Registration available at HermitageArtistRetreat.org; extremely limited space remaining.*

Several other outdoor and virtual Hermitage events are slated for early 2021, including collaborations with Selby Gardens, featuring cellist **Dorothy Lawson**, a conversation with **Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Auburn** (*Proof*), and more.

Details for all of these events will be announced soon, along with additional outdoor and virtual program offerings.

Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org. *All live events will be held outdoors, and capacity will be limited to accommodate safe social distancing. Early reservations are recommended. Masks are requested and strongly encouraged for all programs. To accommodate capacity restrictions, social distancing measures, and virtual licensing costs, a \$5 registration charge will be added to reserve your space.*

About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Manasota Key, Florida, inviting accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus,

which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included twelve Pulitzer Prize winners, along with multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the \$30,000 Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

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