

MEDIA CONTACT

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**The Hermitage Artist Retreat Announces
New Upcoming Programs:**

**An Evening with Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-Winning Playwright
David Auburn**

February 5 at the Hermitage Beach

**Presented in partnership with Florida Studio Theatre
(also available via Live Stream)**

Moderated by Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg

“Blank Slate”

Featuring Hermitage Fellow Richard Kennedy

February 20 at Sarasota Art Museum

Presented in partnership with Sarasota Art Museum

“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens”

Two Events with Cellist Dorothy Lawson of ETHEL

February 24 at Selby Gardens

In collaboration with Selby Gardens’ “Lichtenstein Nights”

and March 3 at Historic Spanish Point

In collaboration with Selby Gardens’ “Performances at the Point”

*The Hermitage's upcoming programs feature award-winning playwrights, musicians, composers, and performers, in collaborations with **Selby Gardens, Florida Studio Theatre, Sarasota Art Museum, Embracing Our Differences, Urbanite Theatre Company, and more.** These upcoming events are offered in-person at the Hermitage Beach and at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Historic Spanish Point, Sarasota Art Museum, and via Zoom.*

(January 19, 2021) The Hermitage Artist Retreat's 2021 winter season includes a variety of community programs featuring Hermitage artists-in-residence and Fellows who present performances and conversations about their works-in-progress and offering insight into their creative process. **Registration is required for each event—and is now available on the Hermitage website at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.**

Here's a quick preview of upcoming events, including new and previously announced programs:

- **Friday, January 22, 5:30 p.m.:** The “**Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens**” series, in collaboration with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, continues with acclaimed flutist, composer, MacArthur Genius Award recipient, Avery Fisher Prize winner, and Hermitage Fellow and Curatorial Council member **Claire Chase**. This brilliant artist 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, 1534 Mound St., Sarasota. Registration required at [Hermitage Artist Retreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org).*
- **Friday, January 29, 5 p.m.:** “**In Conversation with Emily Kaczmarek**” Kaczmarek is a Hermitage Fellow and a rising star in film, theater, and television. Her play, *Sam & Lizzie*, will be presented live on the Hermitage Beach on Saturday, February 13, with two presentations at 5 and 7:30 p.m.,

in collaboration with Urbanite Theatre Company. In anticipation of these readings, Kaczmarek will be giving a virtual talk on her work and her career. *To register for this Zoom presentation, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

- **NEWLY ANNOUNCED – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Friday, February 5, 5 p.m.: “An Evening with Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-Winning Playwright David Auburn.”** Hermitage Fellow David Auburn will speak about his work and his creative process and may even share from his new work-in-progress. Moderated by Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg. This program, which is a collaboration with Florida Studio Theatre, is offered both in-person on the Hermitage beach and via live stream. Auburn is a playwright, screenwriter, and director. His most recent play, *The Adventures of Augie March*, based on the Saul Bellow novel, premiered in Chicago in 2019. A new play, *Summer, 1976*, will premiere in 2021-2. Other plays include *Lost Lake*, *The Columnist* and *Proof*, the latter of which was awarded the 2001 Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award, and New York Drama Critics Circle Award. *Hermitage Beach; entrance at 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood; also available via live stream. Registration required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*
- **Saturday, February 13, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.: “Sam & Lizzie,” by Hermitage Fellow Emily Kaczmarek** – Two readings of *Sam & Lizzie*,” a play by Hermitage Fellow Emily Kaczmarek, will be presented live on the Hermitage beach on Saturday, February 13, with two presentations at 5 and 7:30 p.m., in collaboration with Urbanite Theatre Company. *For tickets (\$25 for adults; \$5 for students), visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org or UrbaniteTheatre.com.*

NEWLY ANNOUNCED! Saturday, Saturday, February 20, 5 p.m.: “Blank Slate,” featuring multidisciplinary artist Richard Kennedy. Presented in partnership with Sarasota Art Museum. Hermitage Fellow Richard Kennedy presents a movement and listening workshop that explores alternative

methods of self-actualization, performance ritual, and collective action by subverting the audience performer dynamic—collapsing the hierarchy of seeing through text, gesture, and composed epic failure; inviting the audience to engage with existing architectures to forge new paths of activation in and of the body. How can we remain activated in isolation? What does it mean to be together? How have the times forced us to reimagine performance to be alone yet together, and how will these new tools be integrated into live performance moving forward? Kennedy is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working between Berlin and Brooklyn. He has choreographed for SSION & Chino Amobi as well as collaborated on projects with NOWNESS, Nicopanda, and Hercules & Love Affair. *Sarasota Art Museum, 1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Registration information to be released soon; additional information will be available at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

NEWLY ANNOUNCED! Wednesday, February 24, Evening: “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” continues with cellist Dorothy Lawson (in collaboration with Selby Gardens’ “Lichtenstein Nights”). Acclaimed cellist, member of ETHEL, and Hermitage Fellow Dorothy Lawson will share her music as part of this special “Lichtenstein Nights” evening. Lawson is a founding member and artistic director of ETHEL, one of America's most adventurous string quartets. She has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the White Oak Dance Project, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and numerous new music ensembles. *Selby Gardens, 1534 Mound St, Sarasota. Ticket sales information to be released soon. Additional information will be available at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

- **NEWLY ANNOUNCED! Wednesday, March 3, Evening: “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” continues with cellist Dorothy Lawson (in collaboration with Selby Gardens “Performances at the Point”).**

Acclaimed cellist, member of ETHEL, and Hermitage Fellow Dorothy Lawson will share her music as part of this special “Performances at the Point” evening. Lawson is a founding member and artistic director of ETHEL, one of America's most adventurous string quartets. Lawson has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the White Oak Dance Project, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and numerous new music ensembles. *Ticket sales information to be released soon. Historic Spanish Point, 337 North Tamiami Trail, Osprey. Additional information will be available at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

- Additional Hermitage artists with live and virtual programs to be announced for February and March include comedian and musician **Morgan Bassichis**, teaching artist **Courtney J. Boddie** (in collaboration with Embracing Our Differences), actor/writer **Henry Clarke**, fiction-writer **Alex Marzano-Lesnevich**, playwright and theater artist **Sam Max**, writers **Jeffrey Skinner** and **Sarah Gorham**, writer **Kirstin Valdez Quade**, music curator **Limor Tomer**, visual artist **Gowri Savor**, poet **Monica Youn**, and more.

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 live programs. To accommodate capacity restrictions, social-distancing measures, and virtual licensing costs, a \$5 per person registration fee will be added for most events (except where other pricing is indicated above as part of collaborative partnerships).*

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.

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