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**“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens”
Kicks Off 2023-2024 Season with
Playwright, Screenwriter, and Actor Halley Feiffer;
Additional Dates Announced**

*The first installment of five “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” programs will feature award-winning writer, actor, and Hermitage Fellow, **Halley Feiffer**. Four additional dates have been announced throughout the 2023-2024 season, spanning Selby Gardens’ Downtown Sarasota and Historic Spanish Point campuses.*

July 25, 2023 (Sarasota County, Florida) — The Hermitage Artist Retreat’s popular series, “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens,” continues into its fourth year as part of the Hermitage’s 2023-2024 season. The outdoor series — a continuing collaboration between the Hermitage and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens — features performances and explorations of works-in-progress by Hermitage artists-in-residence and alumni.

“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” events are currently scheduled to take place at Selby Gardens’ Downtown Sarasota campus and its Historic Spanish Point Campus in Osprey. The first of these events is “The Blurred Line Between Humor and Heartbreak: A Playwriting Workshop,” where award-winning writer, actor, and Hermitage Fellow **Halley Feiffer** will invite participants into the creative process on Thursday, October 5, at 6pm, at Selby Gardens’ Downtown Sarasota Campus, 1534 Mound St., Sarasota. Admission is free, but registration is required (\$5/person) at HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

Feiffer is a WGA, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle-nominated writer and actor. She is currently writing and show-running Season 12 of Ryan Murphy’s hit television series *American Horror Story*, starring Emma Roberts and Kim Kardashian. She is also writing the book for the Broadway-bound stage adaptation of *Thelma & Louise* with Neko Case composing. Her television and film roles include HBO’s *Mildred Pierce*, *Flight of the Conchords*, and *Bored to Death*, and the films *The Squid and the Whale*, *Gentlemen Broncos*, and *He’s Way More Famous than You*,

which she also co-wrote. She is currently developing a film adaptation of her play *The Pain of My Belligerence* with Lena Dunham's Good Thing Going for her to direct.

Confirmed dates for this fourth season of "Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens" include:

- Thursday, October 5, 2023, Downtown Sarasota Campus
- Thursday, November 30, 2023, Historic Spanish Point Campus
- Thursday, January 25, 2024, Downtown Sarasota Campus
- Thursday March 28, 2024, Downtown Sarasota Campus
- Thursday, May 23, 2024, Historic Spanish Point Campus

Each program will feature a celebrated Hermitage artist (or artists) to be announced. Last year's "Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens" spotlighted the works and talents of Hermitage Fellow and playwright **Terry Guest**, who presented act a new work entitled *The Madness of Mary Todd*; **Sofía Rocha**, winner of the 2022 Hermitage Prize in Composition, who shared insights into works performed by the Venice Symphony; Hermitage Major Theater Award Winner **Shariffa Ali**, who introduced audiences to her South African-set play that will result from the commission; and **Karen Patterson**, one of the earliest Hermitage Fellows and celebrated cellist, who shared the dynamic beauty of artistic expression and the strength of community in her program at Historic Spanish Point. The 2021-2022 season of "Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens" included Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner **Michael R. Jackson**, Kleban Prize winner **César Alvarez**, world-renowned violinist and Beyoncé collaborator **Lady Jess**, interdisciplinary performance artist **Ni'Ja Whitson**, opera singer **Thea Lobo**, as well as celebrated mime and storyteller **Bill Bowers**.

"As we continue to offer one-of-a-kind Hermitage programming throughout the region, we are thrilled to once again welcome audiences to share a magical evening with Hermitage artists against the beautiful backdrop of Selby Gardens' two bayfront campuses," says Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. "We look forward to our continuing partnership with Selby Gardens on this popular series, welcoming new and returning audiences to experience a 'sneak peek' into these extraordinary artists' creative process."

"We are so excited to continue this extremely successful partnership with the Hermitage Artist Retreat," says Selby Gardens President & CEO **Jennifer Rominiecki**. "Welcoming world-renowned Hermitage artists to our bayfront sanctuary in downtown Sarasota and our beautiful Historic Spanish Point campus in Osprey is something we look forward to each year. Treating Gulf Coast patrons to these special programs has been a delight, and we can't wait to embark on another fantastic season with the Hermitage."

These outdoor events are one part of many "Hermitage North" programs and collaborations planned throughout the season, spanning Sarasota County and the surrounding region. The programs feature industry-leading playwrights, visual artists,

musicians, poets, choreographers, and more — all free to the members of our community with a \$5/person registration fee.

The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, dance, film, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences in the region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world's leading artists and to get an authentic “sneak peek” into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, lectures, readings, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

For more information about the Hermitage and upcoming programs, visit: HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

See below for complete program details and artist bios.

FULL PROGRAM DETAILS

Newly Announced Hermitage Programs:

- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” “The Blurred Line Between Humor and Heartbreak: A Playwriting Workshop” with Hermitage Fellow Halley Feiffer, Thursday, October 5, 6pm:** Hermitage Fellow **Halley Feiffer** is a self-described writer, actor, and flawed person based in Los Angeles, California. Halley’s singular style has been seen on stage at such noteworthy venues as the Atlantic Theater Company, Playwrights Horizons, and Williamstown Theatre Festival, garnering *New York Times* Critics’ Picks amongst other accolades. Her most recent project as writer and showrunner for *American Horror Story — Delicate*, has been described as “fun, stylish, and ultimately terrifying” by series creator, Ryan Murphy. Known for her deft ability to move audiences to tears of laughter as well as sadness, join us at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens — Downtown for our first “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” program of the season. Audience members are encouraged to bring pen and paper or other preferred means of writing as this gifted writer and creator invites attendees to participate in the creative process. *Presented in Partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Downtown Sarasota Campus, 1534 Mound Street, Sarasota, FL 34236***
- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” Thursday November 30, 2023 (Hermitage Artist TBA).** *Presented in Partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Historic Spanish Point Campus, entrance at 401 North Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229***

- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” Thursday January 25, 2024. (Hermitage Artist TBA).** *Presented in Partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee). Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Downtown Sarasota Campus, 1534 Mound Street, Sarasota, FL 34236*
- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” Thursday March 28, 2024. (Hermitage Artist TBA).** *Presented in Partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee). Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Downtown Sarasota Campus, 1534 Mound Street, Sarasota, FL 34236*
- **“Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” Thursday May 3, 2024. (Hermitage Artist TBA).** *Presented in Partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee). Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Historic Spanish Point Campus, entrance at 401 North Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229*

The Hermitage Artist Retreat

Sarasota County, Florida

Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and non-profit artist retreat located on Manasota Key, Florida. For more than two decades, the Hermitage has invited 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 15 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur ‘Genius’ Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse and accomplished group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival’s Hermitage Prize in Composition.

For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts; as well as the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens provides 45 acres of bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history. Established by forward thinking women of their time, Selby Gardens is composed of the 15-acre Downtown Sarasota campus and the 30-acre Historic Spanish Point campus in the Osprey area of Sarasota County, Florida. The Downtown Campus on Sarasota Bay is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns, and other tropical plants. There is a significant focus on botany, horticulture, education, historical preservation, and the

environment. The Historic Spanish Point (HSP) Campus is located less than 10 miles south along Little Sarasota Bay. The HSP Campus, one of the largest preserves showcasing native Florida plants that is interpreted for and open to the public, celebrates an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida history.

ALL ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS:

Friday, July 28, 6:30pm, “Folktale and Movement: The Ballet Russes Through a Modern Lens,” with 2023 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist **Christopher Williams** and dancer/collaborator **Caitlin Scranton**, Hermitage Palm House Studio (Manasota Key)

Friday, August 4, 6:30pm, “Poetry Today: Undeniable Storytelling,” with Hermitage Fellows **John Murillo** and **Nicole Sealey**, on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

Friday, August 18, 6:30pm, “From the Heart of Philly: The Works of Dave Harris,” with Hermitage Roundabout Fellow **Dave Harris**, at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (Sarasota)
Presented in partnership with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

Wednesday, August 23, 6pm, “Secret Song: Unraveling the Mystery of Berg’s Lyric Suite,” with Hermitage Fellow **Hilan Warshaw**, at the Sarasota Opera (Sarasota)
Presented in partnership with Sarasota Opera

Thursday, October 5, 6pm, “Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens” “The Blurred Line Between Humor and Heartbreak: A Playwriting Workshop,” with Hermitage Fellow **Halley Feiffer**, at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens – Downtown (Sarasota)
Presented in partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

ARTIST BIO

Halley Feiffer

Hermitage Fellow **Halley Feiffer** is a WGA, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle-nominated writer and actor. She is currently writing and showrunning Season 12 of Ryan Murphy’s *American Horror Story*, starring Emma Roberts and Kim Kardashian. Feiffer has many additional TV writing and producing credits from Starz, Amazon, Showtime, FX, Apple TV+, Hulu, and Netflix. Plays include *I’m Gonna Pray For You So Hard* (World Premiere Atlantic Theater Company, OCC Nom.), *Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow* (World Premiere Williamstown Theater Festival and MCC Theater, Drama Desk and Drama League Noms), *The Pain of My Belligerence* (World Premiere Playwrights Horizons), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of New York City* (World Premiere MCC Theater, Edgerton New Play Award, NY Times Critics’ Pick), and *How To Make Friends and Then Kill Them* (World Premiere Rattlestick Playwrights Theater). Her plays have been produced around the country and in the UK, and are published by Dramatists Play Service and Overlook Press. She is writing the book for the Broadway-bound stage adaptation of *Thelma & Louise*, with Neko Case composing. Acting credits include the Broadway revivals of *The Front Page* and *The House of Blue Leaves* (Theater World Award) as well as numerous off-Broadway productions including *Tigers Be Still* (Roundabout, Drama League Nom.) and her own play *The Pain of My Belligerence* (Drama League Nom.). She also starred in the West Coast premiere of her play *A Funny Thing Happened...* at the Geffen Playhouse in LA. TV & film roles include HBO’s *Mildred Pierce*, *Flight of the Conchords*, and *Bored to Death*, and the films *The Squid and the Whale*, *Gentlemen Broncos*, and *He’s Way More Famous than You*, which she

also co-wrote. She is currently developing a film adaptation of her play *The Pain of My Belligerence* with Lena Dunham's Good Thing Going for her to direct. She lives in Los Angeles with her partner Tim, and tries - a day at a time - not to kill her houseplants. HalleyFeiffer.com

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