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**Multiple Grammy Award Nominee Sam Beam (Iron & Wine) Joins Forces with Celebrated Playwright, Screenwriter, and Director Lindsey Ferrentino for a June Program on the Hermitage Beach; Hermitage-Born *Liberation* Wins 2026 Pulitzer Prize in Drama**

*Grammy Award-nominated singer-songwriter **Sam Beam** (Iron & Wine) and celebrated Broadway playwright **Lindsey Ferrentino** will offer insight into their artistic practices and share original work and music from their impressive careers, while discussing the nuances of collaborating across mediums for this special Hermitage Beach program on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm.*

May 5, 2026 (Sarasota County, Florida) — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** today announced a new program, “**Script & Song: A Beachfront Evening of Theater and Music**” on the Hermitage Beach, featuring multiple Grammy Award-nominated singer-songwriter **Sam Beam** and celebrated Broadway playwright **Lindsey Ferrentino**. On **Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm**, Beam and Ferrentino will offer insight into their individual artistic practices and share original work and music from their impressive careers, while discussing the nuances of collaborating across mediums. This program will take place just before sunset on the Hermitage Beach.

**Iron & Wine** is the five-time Grammy Award nominated musical project of Hermitage Fellow and singer-songwriter **Sam Beam**. Born and raised in South Carolina, Beam is a former film professor who got his start making home recordings before landing on Sub Pop Records. Iron & Wine's 2002 debut, *The Creek Drank the Cradle*, garnered both critical and popular acclaim, vaulting Beam into the spotlight of the burgeoning indie folk/Americana scene as one of its new and leading voices. For over twenty years, Iron & Wine has captured the emotion and imagination of listeners with distinctly cinematic songs. His recorded output includes seven full length studio records, collaborations with Caexico, Ben Bridwell of Band of Horses, and Jesca Hoop. Beam has released countless EP's, singles, compilations, soundtracks, and a live concert documentary.

Hermitage Fellow **Lindsey Ferrentino** is a celebrated playwright, screenwriter, and director who returned to Broadway this spring with her second show of the season: *The Fear of 13*, currently running and starring two-time Academy Award winner Adrien Brody. She previously made her Broadway debut as the bookwriter for *The Queen of Versailles*, starring Kristin Chenoweth. Her work includes the Olivier Award-nominated Best New Play, *The Fear of 13* (Donmar Warehouse, London); *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre, New York; National Theatre, London); and *Amy and the Orphans* (also Roundabout). Ferrentino is currently writing and directing the film adaptation of her celebrated play *Amy and the Orphans*. She is also adapting Rebecca Yarros' beloved novel *In the Likely Event* for Netflix and has been included in *Variety's* 2025 "Broadway Stars to Watch."

"We are excited to welcome audiences back to the Hermitage Beach for what promises to be a memorable evening with the talents of Sam Beam and Lindsey Ferrentino," said Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg. "This iconic beachfront remains an unparalleled venue to introduce our community to some of the world's leading artists, and we are thrilled to have Sam and Lindsey sharing their work and insight with our Hermitage audience."

Powerhouses in their respective fields, these two decorated artists are at the top of their game in the worlds of contemporary folk music and contemporary theater. *Flood Magazine* notes that Beam's latest album, *Hen's Teeth*, "hums through the speakers like a quiet, sudden revelation." Ferrentino's first major New York production, *Ugly Lies the Bone*, was a *New York Times* Critic's Pick in 2015 before transferring to the National Theater in London and has been produced in over 100 productions across the world. Since then, she has had several hits in both the United States and abroad, writing with what *Variety* calls "a moral conscience second to none among her generation of playwrights." In this Hermitage Beach program, Beam and Ferrentino will offer insight into their individual artistic practices and share original work and music from their impressive careers, while discussing the nuances of collaborating across mediums on **Monday, June 22 at 6:30pm** on the Hermitage Beach on Manasota Key.

Hermitage programs are free and open to the public (with a \$5/person registration fee), offering Gulf Coast audiences a rare chance to engage and interact with some of the world's leading talent. Running time for most Hermitage programs is **60-70 minutes**. Due to capacity limitations, **registration is required at [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org)**.

[Additional Hermitage programs for the summer will be announced in the coming weeks.](#)

**Please note:** due to the ongoing campus recovery and shifting residency schedules, Hermitage programs will continue to be announced on shorter notice than

usual. Audiences are encouraged to keep an eye on [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org), where new events will be added as they open for registration.

**See below for complete program details and artist bios.**

In addition, it was announced yesterday that **Bess Wohl**'s play *Liberation*, developed at the Hermitage Artist Retreat, has been awarded the **2026 Pulitzer Prize in Drama**. Wohl is a Tony Award-nominated Hermitage Fellow who has presented four Hermitage programs – two of them on the Hermitage Beach. Bess shared some of the first public excerpts of *Liberation* in front of a Hermitage audience on the beach in 2022. This morning, *Liberation* also received five Tony Award nominations, including a nomination for Best Play and a nomination for 2021 Hermitage Greenfield Prize finalist **Whitney White** for direction.

“We could not be more excited for Bess Wohl and everyone involved in the development and production of *Liberation*,” added Sandberg. “We are deeply honored to have played a role in providing an artistic home for this incredible artist on her journey to creating this truly extraordinary play. Our greatest hope is that this recognition will mean even more life for this brilliant piece of theater and a further celebration of Bess’ enormous talents.”

A leading national arts incubator, the Hermitage is the *only* major arts organization in Florida’s Gulf Coast exclusively committed to supporting the development and creation of new work across all artistic disciplines. 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 year-round 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, conversations, readings, music concerts, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

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### **The Hermitage Artist Retreat**

Sarasota County, Florida

Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and multidisciplinary 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 19 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 or performance, 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](http://HermitageArtistRetreat.org).**

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

*Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues; the Welles Murphey Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation; and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.*

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**Newly Announced Hermitage Program:**

- **“Script and Song: A Beachfront Evening of Theater and Music,” featuring Hermitage Fellows Sam Beam and Lindsey Ferrentino, Monday, June 22, 6:30pm:** Multiple Grammy Award nominee **Sam Beam** (also known as **Iron & Wine**) and celebrated Broadway playwright **Lindsey Ferrentino** are two artists at the top of their fields – contemporary folk music and contemporary theater. These two Hermitage Fellows are developing original works both individually and in collaboration. Beam has been creating music as “Iron & Wine” since 2002, and has released six studio albums along with multiple singles, EPs, and exclusive downloads. His latest album, *Hen’s Teeth*, “hums through the speakers like a quiet, sudden revelation” (*Flood Magazine*). Ferrentino’s first major New York production, *Ugly Lies the Bone*, was a *New York Times* Critic’s Pick in 2015 before transferring to the National Theater in London and has been produced in over 100 productions across the world. Since then, she has had several hits in both the U.S. and abroad, including the recent Broadway musical *The Queen of Versailles*, and her Olivier Award-nominated play *The Fear of 13*, now on Broadway starring two-time Academy Award winner Adrien Brody; she writes with what *Variety* calls “a moral conscience second to none among her generation of playwrights.” In this Hermitage Beach program, Beam and Ferrentino will offer insight into their individual artistic practices and share original work and music from their impressive careers, while discussing the nuances of collaborating across mediums. Join us on the Hermitage Beach for this inspiring evening of theater and music, just before sun sets into the Gulf. **Registration is required at [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](http://HermitageArtistRetreat.org) (\$5/person registration fee). Hermitage Beach, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL 34223**
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**ALL ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS:**

**Wednesday, May 6 @ 6:30pm, Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby Gardens: “The New Generation of Musical Theater”** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Adam Chanler-Berat** and **Julian Hornik**, at Selby Gardens Downtown (Sarasota)

*Presented in partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens*

*Julian Hornik’s Hermitage-McNally Fellowship is generously sponsored by **The Terrence McNally Foundation***

**Thursday, May 28 @ 6:30pm, “Songwriting for Character”** featuring Hermitage Fellow **Rona Siddiqui**, on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

**Monday, June 22 @ 6:30pm, “Script and Song: A Beachfront Evening of Theater and Music”** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Sam Beam (Iron & Wine)** and **Lindsey Ferrentino**, on the Hermitage Beach (Manasota Key)

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## **ARTIST BIOS**

### **Sam Beam**

**Iron & Wine** is the musical project of Hermitage Fellow and singer-songwriter **Sam Beam**. Born and raised in South Carolina, Beam is a former film professor who got his start making home recordings before landing on Sub Pop Records. Iron & Wine's 2002 debut, *The Creek Drank the Cradle*, garnered both critical and popular acclaim, vaulting Beam into the spotlight of the burgeoning indie folk/Americana scene as one of its new and leading voices. For over 20 years, Iron & Wine has captured the emotion and imagination of listeners with distinctly cinematic songs. His recorded output includes seven full length studio records, collaborations with Calexico, Ben Bridwell (Band of Horses), and Jesca Hoop, countless EP's, singles and compilation/soundtrack appearances, a live concert documentary and five Grammy Award nominations.

### **Lindsey Ferrentino**

Hermitage Fellow **Lindsey Ferrentino** is a celebrated playwright, screenwriter, and director who returned to Broadway this spring with her second show of the season: *The Fear of 13*, currently running and starring two-time Academy Award winner Adrien Brody. She previously made her Broadway debut writing the book for *The Queen of Versailles* (The Colonial Theatre, The Saint James Theater), starring Kristin Chenoweth. Her work includes *The Fear of 13* (Donmar Warehouse, Olivier Nominee for Best New Play and Best Actor), *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre Company, The National Theatre, UK, NYT Critic's Pick), *Amy and the Orphans* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *This Flat Earth* (Playwrights Horizons), *The Year to Come* (La Jolla Playhouse), and *The Artist* (Theatre Royal Plymouth). Ferrentino is writing and directing a film adaptation of her celebrated play *Amy and the Orphans* (Aggregate Pictures), writing a project based on Hugh Hefner's Playboy Empire (Sony), and adapting Rebecca Yarros' beloved novel *In the Likely Event* (Netflix), among other unannounced projects. Notable awards include *Variety's* 2025 “Broadway Stars to Watch,” Catalyst Award for Entertainment Industry Excellence, Kesslering Prize, Paul Newman Drama Award. BFA: NYU MFA: Hunter College and Yale.

### **Bess Wohl**

Hermitage Fellow **Bess Wohl**'s plays include the 2026 Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony Award-nominated *Liberation* (James Earl Jones Theater, Roundabout Theater; **developed at the Hermitage**), *Camp Siegfried* (2nd Stage Theater; **developed at the Hermitage**), *Grand Horizons* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Play; Outer Critics Circle Honor, Drama League Award nom.), *Make Believe* (*NY Times* Critics' Pick, Best of 2019, Outer Critics Circle Honor), *Continuity*, *Small Mouth Sounds* (John Gassner Outer Critics Circle Award, top ten lists in *The New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *The Guardian*, and others), *American Hero*, *Barcelona*, *Touched*, *In*, *Cats Talk Back*, and the musical *Pretty Filthy*, with composer/lyricist Michael Friedman and The Civilians (Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Musical). Her plays have been produced or developed at theaters in New York and around the country, including 2nd Stage, Roundabout, Manhattan Theater Club, Ars Nova, Williamstown, Goodman Theater, Geffen Playhouse, People's Light, Pioneer Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Northlight Theater,

TheaterWorks New Works Festival, PlayPenn, and the NY International Fringe Festival (Award for Best Overall Production). She is a graduate of Harvard and the Yale School of Drama.

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[HermitageArtistRetreat.org](http://HermitageArtistRetreat.org)

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