



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kate Hamill's boldly adapted *Pride and Prejudice* is a vibrant delight

Olympia, WA – August 6, 2024 – Harlequin Productions presents *Pride and Prejudice* by Kate Hamill, adapted from the novel by Jane Austen, August 30 – September 22, 2024, at the State Theater in downtown Olympia, WA. Emily A. Rollie makes her directorial debut with Harlequin.

Bold, surprising, boisterous, and timely, this P&P for a new era explores the absurdities and thrills of finding your perfect (or imperfect) match in life. Playwright Kate Hamill imbues hilarious new life into this classic love story with a decidedly progressive take on the trials and travails of Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Darcy, and of course the delightful Bennet clan! Literature's greatest tale of latent love has never felt so theatrical, or so full of life than it does in this effervescent adaptation.

Far from a faithful retelling of the classic novel, playwright Kate Hamill's adaptation is a bold modernization of the Bennet family's story, alive with progressive sensibilities. In a [2017 interview with The Interval](#), Hamill explained her artistic choices this way:

I wrote it, more or less, for myself. Sometimes I joke that the subtext of this play should be, "How Kate feels about marriage," or, "love can indeed exist in patriarchal structures, but patriarchal structures make it harder." It's a lot about how I turned from someone who was very cynical about romantic love into someone who is in a happy monogamous relationship, dealing with my own fears about marriage and commitment.

This *Pride and Prejudice* is also unique in its free use of farce, screwball comedy and gender-neutral double-casting, decisions [Hamill has said](#) she made to heighten the theatricality of her work and further differentiate her play from more traditional adaptations. In her Director's Note for the production, Rollie writes, "Hamill lovingly keeps the wit, humor, and heart of Jane Austen and the original novel, but also offers a playful send-up of the original, prompting us to take a renewed look at the familiar story and beloved characters...It's a look that, I wager, Austen herself would appreciate for its wit, rollicking comedy, feminism, and, perhaps, the ways it prompts us to examine our own pride and prejudices around how the story "should" be told."

Link to publicity photos here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/2024/07/28/pride-and-prejudice-publicity-photos/>

Link to the show page here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/pride-and-prejudice/>

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *Pride and Prejudice* by Kate Hamill, a vibrant new adaptation of the classic novel by Jane Austen, directed by Emily A. Rollie.

WHEN: August 30 – September 22, 2024

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at 360-786-0151, or in person 12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Washington Center, and beginning 2 hours before performances at the State Theater.

General admission tickets \$43

Senior 60+/Military \$40

Student/Youths Under 25 \$28

Rush Tickets (2 hours before showtime) General \$25 Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, August 30 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday Matinee: Wednesday, September 18 at 2:00 pm

Closing Night: Sunday, September 22 at 2 pm

Pay-What-You-Can: Three performances TBA prior to Opening

CATEGORY: Classic Comedy

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 11 and older with guidance

CAST:

Kate Anders	<i>Lizzy</i>
Xander Layden	<i>Mr. Darcy</i>
Ariel Rose	<i>Jane/Miss de Bourgh</i>
Rebecca Gelzer	<i>Lydia/Lady Catherine de Bourgh</i>
David Breyman	<i>Mr. Bingley/Mary</i>
Brandon Riel	<i>Wickham/Mr. Collins/Miss Bingley</i>
Marianna de Fazio	<i>Mrs. Bennet/Servants</i>
Jana Tyrrell	<i>Mr. Bennet</i>

SELECT BIOS:

Emily A. Rollie, PhD (*Director*) is an Associate Professor of Theatre Studies, Performance & Education at Central Washington University. Her work spans theatre practice and scholarship, finding ways for each area to fuel the other. Dr Rollie completed her PhD in Theatre from the University of Missouri and received her Master's

degree in Theatre Production at CWU. Dr Rollie's primary research areas include intimacy choreography and consent-based practices, directing practice and theory, and feminist and queer theatre. As a director, Dr Rollie has directed in venues around the country and spent five years as the artistic director of Independent Actors Theatre (IAT), a "purposefully nomadic" theatre company, which became known for its annual short Women's Play Festival. She was the associate director of the Troubling Violence Performance Project (TVPP), a group dedicated to opening lines of communication about issues of relationship violence through the performance of personal narratives and began a second branch of TVPP in 2014. Dr Rollie also works professionally as an intimacy choreographer and is faculty with Theatrical Intimacy Education, a founding member of PNW Theatrical Intimacy Collective, and a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

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