

HARLEQUIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Timely *What the Constitution Means to Me* considers how the U.S. Constitution directly impacts us all

Olympia, WA – September 17, 2024 – Harlequin Productions presents *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck, October 18 – November 3, 2024, at the State Theater in downtown Olympia, WA. Lauren Love will direct.

Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play breathes new life into our Constitution and imagines how it will shape the next generation of Americans. Fifteen-year-old Heidi earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the United States. In this hilarious, hopeful and human new play, she resurrects her teenage self to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives.

Constitution stars Jenny Vaughn Hall (*This Flat Earth, A Doll's House, Time Stands Still*) as "Heidi", the role played by Schreck herself during the Broadway run. Speaking to the unique qualities of this play, Vaughn Hall writes, "I'm not sure I've ever been so honored to be part of a show. Heidi's play has a magical way of talking about even the most controversial issues with grace, humor, and compassion. It allows the audience to step outside of our biases and truly see one another. Our country is in the midst of a deep partisan divide and it's easy to lose sight of the common humanity we share. *What the Constitution Means to Me* creates a generous space to discover this with one another."

Director Lauren Love (*The Revolutionists*) agrees. She writes:

Theatre that speaks directly to our immediate cultural context gives us a rare opportunity to come together in our individual diversity to publicly reflect on what unifies us – on what constitute "us". In telling deeply personal stories that illuminate or complicate what she wants and hopes the Constitution can mean, Schreck encourages us to reflect on how the pursuit and refinement and interpretation of the ideals embedded in this founding document directly impact us, challenge us and motivate us to focus our values. It implores us to imagine a "more perfect union" and to understand that our experiences, our relationships and our actions can determine our political future.

Though Heidi's character carries most of the dialogue, the play is not a one-woman show. As "Mike", Nathan Rice (*Building Madness, Laughter on the 23rd Floor*) appears in multiple roles throughout, and in the play's climactic final act, a local High School student faces off with Heidi in a live debate. Simone Meade and Izumi Huff will alternate performances in this role.

In conjunction with this production, Harlequin is hosting an essay contest for local High School students. Read more here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/constitution/>

Link to publicity photos here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/what-the-constitution-means-to-me-publicity-photos/>

Link to the show page here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/what-the-constitution-means-to-me/>

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck, a timely reflection on how the U.S. Constitution directly impacts us all. Directed by Lauren Love.

WHEN: October 18 – Nov 3, 2024

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave E, 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 prior to showtime) General \$25; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, October 18 at 7:30 pm

Pay-What-You-Choose: 2 performances TBA in the week before Opening

Closing: Sunday, November 3 at 2:00pm

CATEGORY: New Play

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance

CAST:

Jenny Vaughn Hall

Heidi

Nathan Rice

Mike

Simone Meade

Debater

Izumi Huff

Debater

“What the Constitution Means to Me” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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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