

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**PlayMakers Repertory Company Presents World Premiere Comedy “Dairyland”**

Acting Company Member Ray Dooley Marks 100th Production

Who: PlayMakers Repertory Company**What:** Heidi Armbruster’s “Dairyland”. Directed by Vivienne Benesch.**When:** October 16 to November 3; Opening Night & Press Opening Saturday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.**Where:** PlayMakers Repertory Company, 120 Country Club Road, Chapel Hill, NC**Tickets:** Start at \$15; Students tickets start at \$10

(Chapel Hill, NC, October 1, 2019) **PlayMakers Repertory Company** proudly presents “Dairyland,” a world premiere comedy by Heidi Armbruster. This whimsical, heartfelt tale of one woman’s journey from farm to table and table to farm is directed by Vivienne Benesch, and runs from October 16 to November 3, 2019.

Meet Allie. A Wisconsin dairy farmer’s daughter turned New York food blogger, keeping pace with the city that never sleeps. When she finds herself on the wrong end of a farm-to-table food fight, Allie heads back to Wisconsin, where her estranged dad and a pregnant cow named Patches show her the true meaning of food, faith, and family.

“I first discovered ‘Dairyland’ a few years ago while I was at Chautauqua Theater Company, and it’s stayed with me ever since. I’m thrilled to be giving it its world premiere production here in Chapel Hill,” said PlayMakers’ Producing Artistic Director Benesch. “This part of the country doesn’t just understand both sides of the farm-to-table conversation, our audiences have lived both. ‘Dairyland’ has also allowed me to give Heidi Armbruster a platform to share her witty, talented, Swiss Army knife artistry. And of course, I am beyond humbled to direct Ray Dooley in his 100th production for PlayMakers! This play will charm audiences, make them cry a little, laugh a lot, and hopefully serve us all a heaping helping of family, friendship, and fellowship.”

“A conversation with my dad first inspired me to write this play,” said playwright Armbruster. “Years later, when I came back to it a bit older and maybe a bit wiser, I was grappling with the meaning of home. What is it? Where is it? Who is it? What do I have to do to feel like I’m at home, no matter where I am? That yearning flows through not just Allie, Henry, and all the characters, but I think in all of us, no matter if we’re millennials or their empty-nester parents. Vivienne and the amazing, talented, and generous acting and production company at PlayMakers will forever be cemented for me as a great place for this work of mine to have found its first home.”

“Dairyland” features **Emily Bosco** as Liz (“How I Learned to Drive,” “She Loves Me”), **Ray Dooley** as Henry (“Life of Galileo,” “A Christmas Carol,” “King Lear”), **Claire Karpen** as Allie (Broadway: “Sylvia”; Off-Broadway: “Into the Woods” at Roundabout/Fiasco), **Khalil LeSaldo** as Declan (“As You Like It” at Portland Stage, “Romeo and Juliet” at Tennessee Shakespeare Company), and **Dan Toot** as Jonathan (“Bewilderness,” “Sense and Sensibility”).

The Creative Team of “Dairyland” includes: **Vivienne Benesch** (Director; “Life of Galileo,” “Three Sisters”), **Narelle Sissons** (Scenic Designer; “Angels in America, Parts 1 & 2,” “All My Sons” at Roundabout Theatre Company), **Jan Chambers** (Costume Designer; “Leaving Eden,” “The Cake”), **Amith Chandrashaker** (Lighting Design; “She Loves Me,” “Twelfth Night” at The Public Theater), **Jared Mezzocchi** (Projections Designer; “Poor Yella Rednecks” and “Vietgone” at Manhattan Theatre Club), **Lindsay Jones** (Sound Designer; Broadway’s “Slave Play” and “Bronx Bombers”), **Jacqueline E. Lawton** (Dramaturg; “Dot,” “The Christians”), **Tia James** (Vocal Coach; “Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood,” “Jump”), **Gwendolyn Schwinke** (Resident Vocal Coach; Voice/Text/Dialect for “Taming of the Shrew” and “Comedy of Errors” at Shakespeare & Company), and **Elizabeth Ray** (Stage Manager; “Tartuffe,” “No Fear and Blues Long Gone: Nina Simone”).

Due to casual use of coarse language, we encourage patrons to use their own discretion in determining the age appropriateness of the material. Please contact our Box Office for more details.

For information and to purchase tickets, call 919.962.7529 or visit www.playmakersrep.org. Individual ticket prices start at \$15.

Performance and Special Event Schedule:

- **October 17, 6:00 p.m.** — “The Vision Series—Directors in Conversation,” a behind-the-scenes preview with members of the creative team before the evening’s performance, at the Joan H. Gillings Center for Dramatic Art. Free and open to the public.
- **October 16–18, 7:30 p.m.** — Preview performances.
- **October 19, 7:30 p.m.** — Opening Performance & Press Opening, with post-show Opening Night Celebration.
- **October 20, 2:00 p.m.** — Open captioned performance, with dialog, stage direction, and sound effects communicated on a “universal access” live caption unit.
- **October 22, 2:00 p.m.** — All-access performance for attendees with special needs, with sign language interpretation and audio description.
- **October 22, 7:30 p.m.** — Community Night. General admission seating, with all tickets \$15.
- **October 23, 6:30 p.m.** -- “Setting the Scene,” a pre-show discussion with “Dairyland” dramaturg and director to help contextualize the World of the Play right before enjoying the production.
- **October 27** — Free post-show discussion with members of the creative team, cast and community members.

About PlayMakers Repertory Company:

PlayMakers Repertory Company is North Carolina’s premier professional theatre company. For more than 40 years, we have produced relevant and courageous work that tells stories from and for a multiplicity of perspectives and creates transformational impact in our immediate and extended communities. We are proud to be part of a 100-year tradition of playmaking at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. PlayMakers has been named one of the “best regional theatres in America.”

PlayMakers Contacts:

- For press information and interviews, contact Diana Pineda, Director of Sales and Marketing, dmpineda@email.unc.edu or 919.962.7114
- For photos or poster art and other PlayMakers questions, please contact Rosalie Preston, Associate Director of Marketing, rosalie@unc.edu or 919.962.6997

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