

THE AMERICAS A THEATRE CO.



Winter/Spring Season

Media Kit

All the Ways to Say I Love You

A Behanding in Spokane

Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune

THE AMERICAS, A THEATRE COMPANY is thrilled to announce the next chapter in its 2025 Winter/Spring Season. From confession to confrontation, from one-night stands to severed hands, these plays wrestle with the ache of being seen—and the danger of being known.

The season opens in August with THE AMERICAS second Australian premiere of a Neil LaBute work - **All the Ways to Say I Love You**, sharp, unrelenting, intimate and unsettling, the one-woman show sets the tone for a season preoccupied with the stories we tell ourselves to survive.

That thread of desperate self-preservation is picked up again in October, when Martin McDonagh's **A Behanding in Spokane** detonates on-stage. Equal parts grotesque comedy and nihilistic fable, it plunges audiences into a surreal hostage situation where no one is quite telling the truth and everyone has something to lose.

Finally, in December, we close the year with Terrence McNally's aching, moonlit duet **Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune**, where two people—raw from the world—try to make sense of a fragile, fleeting connection across the space of a single night.

Together, these works form a trilogy of human desperation—funny, painful, and often absurd—exploring the shifting terrain of intimacy, violence, and human longing. This is theatre at its most intimate and exposed: confessional, combustible, and alive.

Kai Paynter
Artistic Director



THE
AMERICAS
A THEATRE COMPANY

ALL THE WAYS TO SAY I LOVE YOU

The Australian premiere of **All the Ways to Say I Love You** by our friend & playwright, Neil LaBute. This controversial piece is a raw confession of love, guilt, and buried desire. It peels back the layers of a woman's life to reveal the aching space between what we want, what we choose, and what we must live with. Neil LaBute's intimate monologue confronts the weight of secrets and the bizarre freedom that accompanies emotional compromise.

A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE

From the darkly comedic mind of Martin McDonagh comes a twisted exploration of desperation, absurdity, and the strange ways people cling to hope. This play, set in a fictional American town, features a character named Carmichael who has been searching for his missing left hand for decades.

A Behanding in Spokane interrogates violence, vengeance, and the American underbelly with razor-sharp wit, unsettling humour, and a severed hand at its heart.

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE

In the quiet hours of a single night, two lonely souls reach towards intimacy, tenderness, and the terrifying possibility of connection. Terrence McNally's deeply human two-hander explores vulnerability, emotional risk, and the small, luminous moments where love might take root – if we let it.



DIRECTOR

KAI PAYNTER

KAI PAYNTER is a NY artist, local to Sydney who founded @theamericastheatreco . As a director/ producer, Kai's credits include **Amongst the Living**, **The Money Shot**, **When She Loves Me** (writer), **This is L-O-V-E** (co-writer), **No Direction Home**, **Megan**, **L-O-V-E** (co-writer), **Brave People**, **Suds**, **Hello Dolly**, **Crazy For You**, **Honk**, **The Ugly Duckling**, countless actor showcases, sizzle reels, pilots, and music videos. She is the recipient of the 2024 Sydney Short+Sweet Festival award for Best Director and Best Play.

In addition to directing, producing, and writing, Kai has mentored students for entry into competitive collegiate programs such as Yale School of Drama, Columbia University, NYU's Tish and coached celebrity talent in both Sydney & Los Angeles.

Together with partner @kirk_hastings , they formed @beartiger.productions. Kai holds a BA (Hon) in Political Science from Purdue University and an MFA from the University of California, Irvine. She's at www.KaiPaynter.com

THE
AMERICAS
A THEATRE COMPANY

AN AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

NEIL LABUTE

*all the ways to say
I Love You*

DIRECTED BY
KAI PAYNTER

THE LIVING ROOM • Aug 20-24, 2025

Playwright

Neil LaBute



NEIL LABUTE is a prolific and often provocative American playwright, screenwriter, and director whose work unflinchingly explores the darker edges of human behaviour. Known for his biting dialogue, moral ambiguity, and psychological intensity, LaBute first gained acclaim with play such as **The Company of Men**, **Fat Pig**, and **The Shape of Things**. His work frequently interrogates themes of power, manipulation, and desire, challenging audiences to confront uncomfortable truths. **All the Ways to Say I Love You** is a stark, arresting monologue that continues LaBute's exploration of guilt and vulnerability in the most intimate of settings.

Performance Details

Dates

19th to 24th August

Content Warnings

18+. This show includes explicit language, graphic sexual references and controversial adult themes, as well as references to drugs and alcohol, pregnancy and childbirth, and racial and sexual identity

All the Ways to Say I Love You
by Neil LaBute premiered Off-
Broadway in 2016, starring

Judith Light



“LaBute’s writing is sharp and unflinching...
Light’s performance is mesmerizing.”

– *Variety*

“...LaBute’s script is a slick vehicle for an
actor with presence.” – *The New York Times*

DIRECTED BY
KAI PAYNTER

MARTIN MCDONAUGH

A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE

SYDNEY, NSW
Oct 8-12, 2025



BEARTIGER
PRODUCTIONS

THE
AMERICAS
A THEATRE COMPANY

PLAYWRIGHT
MARTIN MCDONAGH



*MARTIN MCDONAGH is an award-winning Irish-English playwright, screenwriter and director known for his razor-sharp wit, violent absurdism and richly dark humour. His plays, including **The Pillowman**, **The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, and **The Beauty Queen of Leenane**, have earned international acclaim for their fearless blending of comedy and brutality.*

***A Behanding in Spokane** - his first play set in America - continues this tradition, showcasing McDonagh's masterful ability to find both horror and hilarity in the human condition. In film, his credits include **In Bruges**, **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** and **The Banshees of Inisherin**.*

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Dates

8th to 12th October, 2025

Content Warnings

18+. This show includes explicit and derogatory language, graphic sexual references and controversial adult themes, as well as references to drugs and alcohol, and racial and sexual prejudice.

A Behanding in Spokane by Martin McDonagh, premiered on Broadway in 2010, starring Christopher Walken, Sam Rockwell, Anthony Mackie, and Zoe Kazan.



“A GLEEFULLY ABSURD, VIOLENT FARCE...”

- THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

“AN ENTERTAININGLY TWISTED RIDE...”

MCDONAGH’S RAZOR-SHARP DIALOGUE SHINES.” - VARIETY



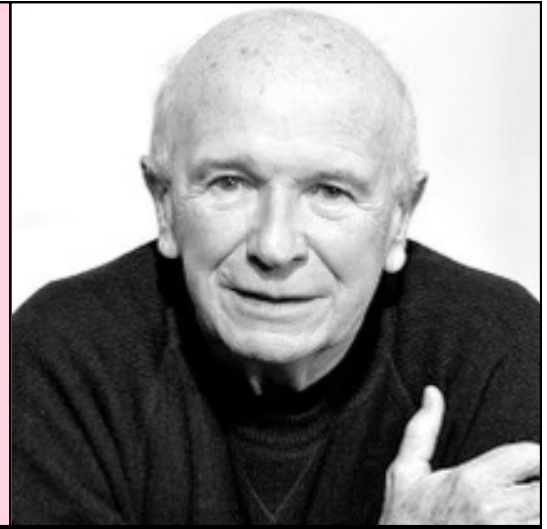
TERRANCE MCNALLY
FRANKIE AND JOHNNY
— IN THE —
CLAIR DE LUNE

THE
AMERICAS
A THEATRE COMPANY

THE LIVING ROOM
Dec 3-7th



PLAYWRIGHT TERRENCE MCNALLY



TERRENCE MCNALLY was a towering figure in American theatre whose career spanned six decades. Known for his deep compassion, lyrical dialogue, and insight into the complexity of human relationships, McNally's body of work includes **Ragtime**, **Love! Valour! Compassion!**, and **Master Class**.

Winner of five Tony Awards and a staunch advocate for LGBTQI+ representation and the power of live theatre, McNally brought tenderness and authenticity to every story he told. **Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune** remains one of his most enduring plays - a quiet testament to the intimacy of connection and the course it takes to reach for love.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Dates

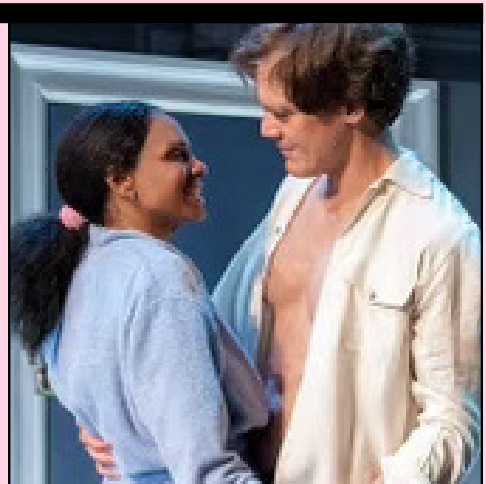
3rd to 7th December

Content Warnings

18+. This show includes explicit and derogatory language, graphic sexual references and controversial adult themes, as well as references to drugs and alcohol, and racial and sexual identity.

***"Intimate and deeply human...
electric."*** - *Entertainment Weekly*

***"A delicate, funny, and moving
duet... McNally's writing glows
with compassion."*** - *Variety*



Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune by Terrance McNally, first staged Off-Broadway in 1987 and later revived on Broadway, including the notable 2019 production starring Audra McDonald and Michael Shannon.

For all media enquiries please
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