

# A thrilling evening of mystery with *THE MALTESE FALCON*

by **Dashiell Hammett**

Adapted by **Jane Jones** with **Kevin McKeon**

Directed by **Jane Jones**

February 8—April 1, 2018

**Press Contact**

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SEATTLE, Wash.—January 17, 2017—This winter, Book-It Repertory Theatre and Café Nordo pair up once again for a theatrical culinary collaboration. After a resounding success with *A Moveable Feast* last year, both companies are elated to bring audiences a sexy, shadowy evening of mystery with Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*. A multi-course meal will deliciously underscore a signature Book-It theatrical experience.



Adapted from one of the most popular detective novels ever written, *The Maltese Falcon* follows Samuel “Sam” Spade, a private detective in San Francisco. While on the case to find the alluring Miss Wonderley’s sister and to recover the jewel-encrusted figurine, Sam finds himself to be both the hunter and the hunted.

Press photos by **Fat Yeti Photography** are available at [book-it.org/press-room/photos](http://book-it.org/press-room/photos) with password [bookitpress](http://bookitpress).

Hammett condemns capitalism and greed in his most famous novel, where the antagonists lie, steal, betray, and kill in pursuit of an idol. The Maltese falcon represents the American dream and the unimaginable wealth that had come to define it. The ultimate outcome of these events is a symbol for the unchecked speculation that destroyed the U.S. economy at the end of the 1920s.

Hammett was an American author, screenwriter, and political activist. *The New York Times* described him as the “dean of the so-called ‘hard-boiled’ school of detective fiction.” His stories had a significant influence on films, especially the detective, mystery, and film-noir genres. **Ms. Julie M. Rivett** will discuss her grandfather, his writings including *The Maltese Falcon*, and take questions from the audience at Nordo’s Culinarium (21+) on Sunday, Feb 11 at 1:00pm.

The cast includes **Kjerstine Rose Anderson\*** as Brigid O’Shaughnessy, **Jesica Avellone** as Iva/Wilmer/Ensemble, **Tom Dang** as Cairo/Ensemble, **Brandon Felker** as Dundy/Ensemble, **Aaron T. Moore\*** as Gutman/Ensemble, **Opal Peachey** as Effie/Ensemble, and **Arlando Smith** as Sam Spade.

\*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

**Daniel Morris** is the assistant director and **Anastasia Workman** is the composer/music director. The design team is led by Scenic Designer **Terry Podgorski** with lighting design by **Ryan A. Dunn**, costume design by **Chelsea Cook**, sound design by **Evan Mosher**, properties design by **Robin Macartney**, and food design by **Erin Brindley**.

For information or to arrange interviews, please contact Communications Manager Val Brunetto at [valb@book-it.org](mailto:valb@book-it.org).

*The Maltese Falcon* plays **February 8—April 1, 2018** (Opening/Press Night on Feb 10) at **Nordo's Culinarium** (109 S. Main St., Seattle, WA 98104, 21+). Performance tickets are \$99 and include a performance and multi-course meal. Purchase at [book-it.org](http://book-it.org) or by calling the box office at 206.216.0833. The box office is open Tues through Fri, 12:00pm – 5:00pm (Tues – Sat during production run), located in the outer lobby of The Center Theatre at the Armory, 305 Harrison St., Seattle.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

##### ***The Maltese Falcon* Book Discussion**

Join Book-It and Queen Anne Book Company patrons for a discussion about *The Maltese Falcon* Wednesday, January 17, 6 – 7pm, at Queen Anne Books, 1811 Queen Anne Avenue North. Free and open to the public.

##### **A Conversation with Dashiell Hammett's Granddaughter**

Join us at Nordo's Culinarium (109 S. Main St, 21+) at 1pm on Sunday, February 11 as Ms. Julie M. Rivett will discuss her grandfather, his writings including *The Maltese Falcon*, and take questions from the audience. [Tickets are \\$5](#)

#### **ABOUT JANE JONES**

Jane is the founder of Book-It and founding co-artistic director of Book-It Repertory Theatre, with Myra Platt. In her 28 years of staging literature, she has performed, adapted, and directed works by such literary giants as Charles Dickens, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., and Jane Austen. A veteran actress of 35 years, she has played leading roles in many of America's most prominent regional theatres. Film and TV credits include "Twin Peaks," *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, *Singles*, and *Homeward Bound*. For Book-It, she has directed *A Moveable Feast*, *The Cider House Rules*, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*, *The Dog of the South*, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Uncensored*, among others. In 2008 she, Myra Platt, and Book-It were honored to be named by *The Seattle Times* among seven Unsung Heroes and Uncommon Genius for their 20-year contribution to life in the Puget Sound region. She is a recipient of the 2009 Women's University Club of Seattle Brava Award, a 2010 Women of Influence award from *Puget Sound Business Journal*, and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation's 20th Anniversary Founders Grant, and was a finalist for the American Union for Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's 2012 Zelda Fichandler Award.

#### **ABOUT KEVIN MCKEON**

Kevin McKeon has adapted several literary works for Book-It, including Anne Tyler's *Breathing Lessons*, Dinaw Mengestu's *The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears* and Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* (with Jane Jones). His adaptation of David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars* has been performed at many theaters around the country including Hartford Stage, Centerstage Baltimore, and Portland Center Stage. His adaptation of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* was commissioned by Portland Center Stage and premiered in their 2012 season. He is the author of *Strutting and Fretting*, a novel about the acting game.

PLEASE NOTE: We ask that you use Book-It's full name "**Book-It Repertory Theatre**" or simply "**Book-It**", in all text and listings. Thank You.

## ABOUT CAFÉ NORDO'S 2017-18 SEASON

Café Nordo launches its eighth season with its 10th original mainstage production, the sci-fi dystopia **Onerus**. **Scot Auguston** returns for the holidays to write and direct ***The View From Santa's Lap***, the whimsical tale of a 1940s department store festooned with murder. In February, Nordo welcomes Book-It back to the Culinarium for a second theatrical culinary collaboration ***The Maltese Falcon***, an original adaptation of **Dashiell Hammett's** beloved detective novel. Spring brings one of the favorites from the Nordo canon, ***Smoked***, starring Ray Tagavilla as "man with no name" in this Sergio Leone-inspired spaghetti western. This summer steams with ***Persimmon Nights***, an original musical by up and coming playwright Seayoung Yim directed by and starring Sara Porkalob. The season concludes with Nordo's new works series ***The Pressure Cooker*** and the return of **14/48: Nordo Food Theater Thunderdome**.

## ABOUT BOOK-IT'S 2017-2018 SEASON

In the fall of 2017, Book-It presents **Dr. Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***. During the holiday season, a musical adaptation of ***Howl's Moving Castle*** by **Diana Wynne Jones** features music by **Justin Huertas** and stars **Sara Porkalob**. Book-It kicks off 2018 by returning to Pioneer Square for a theatrical culinary collaboration with Café Nordo with one of the most popular detective novels ***The Maltese Falcon***, by **Dashiell Hammett**. In the spring, Book-It presents Young Audiences New York's production of ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, by **Junot Díaz** in a limited run. Book-It's final selection is **Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray***.

## ABOUT CAFÉ NORDO

Since 2009, Café Nordo has created immersive, theatrical dining experiences garnering critical praise and in 2015 a permanent venue in Seattle's Historic Pioneer Square. Relying on relationships with local farmers, ranchers, fishermen, composers, actors, and visual artists, Café Nordo serves up modern cuisine while thrilling audiences with the history, myth, science, and politics of food.

## ABOUT BOOK-IT REPERTORY THEATRE

Book-It Repertory Theatre, a leader in the narrative theatre movement, was founded in 1990. Book-It is a non-profit organization with a dedication to great literature and quality theatre experiences employing simple, sensitive, and imaginative production techniques, and to inspiring its audiences to read. The company is funded, in part, by generous contributions from corporations and foundations, and hundreds of individuals who share its passion for literature.

## FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

**WHAT:** Step into Nordo's Culinarium in Pioneer Square for a thrilling evening of mystery! Adapted from one of the most popular detective novels ever written, ***The Maltese Falcon*** follows Samuel "Sam" Spade, a private detective in San Francisco. While on the case to find the alluring Miss Wonderley's sister and to recover the jewel-encrusted figurine, Sam finds himself to be both the hunter and the hunted.

**WHEN:** Previews: Thursday, Feb 8 and Friday, Feb 9

Opening Night: Saturday, Feb 10

Closing: Sunday, April 1

**TIMES:** Wednesday-Saturday—7:30pm (Doors open at 6:30pm; first course at 7:00pm; show starts 7:30pm)

Sundays—6:00pm (Doors open at 5:00pm; first course at 5:30pm; show starts 6:00pm)

**WHERE:** Nordo's Culinarium (109 South Main Street, Seattle, WA 98104, 21+).

**TICKETS:** Tickets are \$99 and include a performance and multi-course meal. Purchase at [book-it.org](http://book-it.org) or by calling the box office at 206.216.0833. The box office is open Tues through Fri, 12:00pm – 5:00pm (Tues – Sat during production run), located in the outer lobby of The Center Theatre at the Armory.

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