



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSTEN UNBOUND

An Improvised Play Celebrating the Works of Jane Austen

Directed by Dave Morris

Book-It Repertory Theatre is celebrating Jane Austen, one of the most acclaimed authors of all time, by presenting a first in this company's 33 years: a fully improvised play. At each performance of *Austen Unbound*, the ensemble will create an entirely new and unique story each time, set in the style and genre of the beloved author's works.

Book-It's dauntless cast of improvisational actors will invite audiences to the drawing rooms and parsonages, to the stables and manor houses, and to the cottages and gardens of the Regency era, to revel in the spirit of the works we know so well. The wit and wisdom of Jane Austen will resonate with audiences who will experience new characters and stories in this "unscripted" play, which is going to be as authentic as possible in terms of the themes and tones of Jane Austen's oeuvre.

Austen Unbound comes from director and internationally-acclaimed improv artist Dave Morris (the artistic director of the award-winning Paper Street Theatre Co. in Victoria B.C.) and professional long-form improvisers pulled from such local improv houses as Unexpected Productions, Jet City Improv and others.

<https://book-it.org/events/austen-unbound/>



Director Dave Morris says:

"Jane Austen is such a delightful author to explore. Her stories are great, her endings are happy, and her novels are bursting with wit and wisdom. As an improviser, it's so fun to fall into the world of her novels and play the kinds of characters she writes so well: the rebellious young woman, the nervous mother, the

handsome suitor, and even the awkward suitor.

"It's also the kind of show that really connects to audiences. Those who already love Jane Austen will appreciate the recreation of her style, and those who are just meeting her will fall in love with her world."

WHAT IS AN IMPROVISED PLAY?

This is nothing like the improv you may have seen in college or on TV. The show will feel like you are watching a play based off a never-before published Jane Austen novel. It will look like Jane Austen, it will sound like Jane Austen, there will be period costumes, and Britishness will abound. Based on suggestions given from the audience to inspire characters and stoyline, each of our 17 performances will be a unique story in the vein of Jane Austen, crafted right before the audience's eyes.

For Calendars & Listings

100-word Description

Austen Unbound is Book-It Repertory Theatre's first long-form improvised play. At each performance of this show, the ensemble will create an entirely new story, set in the style and genre of the beloved author's works. Audiences will feel like they are watching a play based off a never-before published Jane Austen novel, as the improvisational actors transport them to the drawing rooms and manor houses of the Regency era. The wit and wisdom of Jane Austen will resonate with audiences as they experience new characters and stories in this "unscripted" play, which will be a unique story each night (based on suggestions given from the audience).

For tickets and more info: <https://book-it.org/events/austen-unbound/>

50-word Description

Austen Unbound is Book-It Repertory Theatre's first long-form improvised play. At each performance of this show, the ensemble will create an entirely new story at each performance, set in the style and genre of Jane Austen's works. The improvisational actors will transport the audience to the Regency era, preserving the wit and wisdom of the beloved author.

For tickets and more info: <https://book-it.org/events/austen-unbound/>

25-word Description

Austen Unbound is an improvised play where the ensemble creates a unique story at each performance, set in the style and genre of Jane Austen's works.

For tickets and more info: <https://book-it.org/events/austen-unbound/>

The Artists

The cast includes Shanna Allman*, Elizabeth Brammer, Nathan Cox, Randy Dixon, Belinda Fu, Kyle Henick, Cynthia Lair and Elicia Wickstead. Understudies are Jeannine Clarke and Chazz Kaskes.

The show is directed by Dave Morris. The creative team also includes Nicola Krause (Stage Manager), Selina Senn (Assistant Stage Manager / Covid Safety Manager), Andrea Bryn Bush (Scenic Design), Daniel J. Schuy (Lighting Design), Matt Hohensee (Sound Consultant) and Joceyln Fowler (Costume Design).

*Member of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

Ticket Info

Tickets for *Austen Unbound* are now available. Prices range from \$35-\$65. Students of all ages receive \$20 tickets and must show valid student ID. Groups of eight or more tickets are eligible for a 10% discount. Pay What You Will performances will also be available; check the website for more information. Purchase tickets at www.book-it.org or by calling the box office at 206.216.0833. The box office is open Tuesday – Friday, noon to 5pm.

Show Info

Where:

The Center Theatre in the Seattle Center Armory

305 Harrison St.

Seattle, WA

Tickets: \$35-\$65

When: November 30 - December 18, 2022

Exact Dates:

Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30pm (Preview)

Thursday, December 1 at 7:30pm (Preview)

Friday, December 2 at 7:30pm (Preview)

Saturday, December 3 at 7:30pm (Opening Night)

Sunday, December 4 at 2:00pm

Wednesday, December 7 at 2:00pm

Thursday, December 8 at 7:30pm

Friday, December 9 at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 10 at 2:00pm

Saturday, December 10 at 7:30pm

Sunday, December 11 at 2:00pm

Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30pm

Thursday, December 15 at 7:30pm

Friday, December 16 at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 17 at 2:00pm

Saturday December 17 at 7:30pm

Sunday December 18 at 2:00pm

MASKING REQUIRED

Book-It Repertory Theatre will continue to require masking for entry to any and all performances at The Center Theatre at Seattle Center. All patrons, artists, volunteers and staff will need to wear a mask at all times in the venue. Please, do not attend your scheduled performance if anyone living in your household, or to whom you have regular exposure, is awaiting a Covid test. Policies will evolve over time in response to the continuing pandemic.

ABOUT THE SEASON

The mainstage line-up includes *In the Time of the Butterflies* (now closed), by the talented Julia Alvarez, an elegantly written work of historical fiction bearing witness to the joy of a family and the tragedy of a nation; *Austen Unbound*, a long-form improvised play that transports you right into a Regency-era drawing room with its delicious intrigue and innuendo; *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, by the master of her genre, Agatha Christie, this classic murder mystery, is sinister but fun, fast-paced but detailed, and thrilling without being frightening and *Solaris*, by the master of her genre, Stanislaw Lem, set in the depths of unknown space, this haunting story exquisitely examines loss and longing.

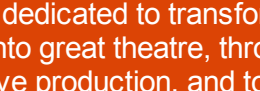
Season link: <https://book-it.org/2022-2023-season/>

PRESS PHOTOS & CONTACT

For press photos and graphics: Please contact Marketing and Communications Director Brandon Jepson at brandonj@book-it.org

Austen Unbound artwork by Tyrell Waiters

Photo by Tony Beeman



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