



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kevin Kearney

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Matthew Nicola

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The Highwood Theatre's 15th Season begins with Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

challenging norms by exploring familial discontent

Twelve Performances:

October 6 and 7 at 8 PM; October 8 at 2 PM;
October 13 and 14 at 8 PM ; October 15 at 2 PM;
October 20 and 21 at 8 PM; October 22 at 2 PM;
October 27 and 28 at 8 PM; October 29 at 2 PM.
at The Highwood Theatre in downtown Silver Spring

The Highwood Theatre opens their 15th Season with a professional production of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* directed by Melissa Robinson, running from October 6 to October 29 in downtown Silver Spring. Exploring themes of familial discontent in a humorous light, the play serves as a clever first installment of Off Your Rocker, a season spotlighting shows that defy norms and expectations.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike is the Tony Award-winning play by Christopher Durang set in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where middle-aged Vanya and Sonia have spent their entire lives. When their successful movie actress sister returns to their childhood home with a young boyfriend in tow, chaos is unleashed that threatens to uproot their comfortable lives and the roof over their heads.

“The names, obviously, tell us this is a Chekhov riff, and Chekhov’s themes are there: the characters’ frustrations, disappointments and dashed dreams, nature’s power, problems with communication, etc.,” says Melissa Robinson, the show director. “But Christopher Durang has spun them into his own contemporary comic masterpiece; I picture the spinning of a big, bright cotton candy cone. You use a foundation, sugar, and transform it utterly. But there’s still sugar in there.”

THE HIGHWOOD THEATRE
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Silver Spring, MD 20910



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Under Robinson's direction, Highwood will spin *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* to stress the static quality of life inside the house versus the dynamism outside, emphasized by an unusual, deconstructed set design.

"The show perfectly connects to the season theme in its exploration of our connection to family, and sentimental attachment to the past versus the present in a society that's so rapidly changing," says Matthew Nicola, Highwood's Artistic Director. "The show presents signature Chekhovian characters who are discontent in their own ways and places them in the middle of absurd situations that are relatable to all audience members."

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike performances will take place on Friday, October 6 at 8 PM; Saturday, October 7 at 8 PM; Sunday, October 8 at 2 PM; Friday, October 13 at 8 PM; Saturday, October 14 at 8 PM; Sunday, October 15 at 2 PM; Friday, October 20 at 8 PM; Saturday, October 21 at 8 PM; Sunday, October 22 at 2 PM; Friday, October 27 at 8 PM; Saturday, October 28 at 8 PM; and Sunday, October 29 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$25. All shows will take place at the Highwood Theatre, 914 Silver Spring Ave, Silver Spring MD 20910. Tickets may be purchased online at www.thehighwoodtheatre.org/tickets or through the box office, which can be reached at reservations@thehighwoodtheatre.org, at 301-587-0697 or by visiting the box office during regular business hours.

About The Highwood Theatre

The Highwood Theatre is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the community together through theatre. Now in its 15th Season, Highwood's guiding principle is "anyone can do theatre." Highwood was founded in 2004 and began executing its mission through seasons of professional quality theatre featuring all-student casts, design teams, and production staff. In 2013, in conjunction with its relocation to the heart of downtown Silver Spring, The Highwood Theatre expanded to carry out its mission more fully and develop innovative, engaging programming for artists of all ages through professional and student productions, classes, and programs in schools and for home schooled students.

Contact Information

Tickets: <http://www.thehighwoodtheatre.org/tickets.html>

The Highwood Theatre Office: 301-587-0697

General Information: info@thehighwoodtheatre.org

Website: www.thehighwoodtheatre.org

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