



## PRESS RELEASE

October 8<sup>th</sup> , 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact: Juanita Smith

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### ***The Department of Theatre and Dance presents Fall 21 Season***

#### **Preserving through storms and covid19, the show goes on at Tulane**

The Department of Theatre and Dance is delighted to present its fall season of 2021. Following a stormy start to the semester that has forced a re-imaging of timetables, location and talent availability, Theatre and Dance has resiliently crafted a new fall season. The Department is happy to be presenting:

#### **Above the Oaks '21**

October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Elleonora P. McWilliams Building – Room 300

#### **Trouble in Mind by Alice Childress**

directed by John “Ray” Proctor, MFA, Ph.D.

November 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm with post-performance talkbacks on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm – *Matinees*

Albert Lupin Memorial Theatre in Dixon Annex

#### **Eclipsed by Patricia Burke Brogan**

directed by Monica Payne

December 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> with post-performance talkbacks to be announced

Albert Lupin Memorial Theatre in Dixon Annex

#### **Young Performers (Fall 2021)**

December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Elleonora P. McWilliams Building – Room 300

The Department of Theatre and Dance is happy to be presenting these performances live in the department’s venues to students, faculty, staff and Tulane University affiliates. More information about each individual performance will be available in the near future. Please check the department website for show information and ticket availability. Please note, that Tulane University will be following the City of New Orleans covid19 gathering protocols - which is currently assessed as a modified phase three in addition to its own covid19 requirements assessed by the administration for the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and the general public. Information about requirements for the city can be found

at <https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/safe-reopening/>. Information about requirements outlined by the university can be found at <https://tulane.edu/covid-19>.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PROOF OF VACCINATION AT CHECK OUT AND UPON ARRIVAL AT THE THEATRE. MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES FOR ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE PERFORMANCE.**

**Tickets:**

Ticket information and ticket purchases can be made at the box office, by phone or online via our website starting October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at: <https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance/box-office>

**Contact us:**

Lupin Box Office

Lupin Box Office

Suite 155, Dixon Performing Arts Center Annex

6823 St. Charles Ave

New Orleans LA 70118

Monday – Friday 11am – 4:00pm and at the venue 1 hour before the performance

[box@tulane.edu](mailto:box@tulane.edu) | 504-865-5106

<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR: ALICE CHILDRESS

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Born South Carolina in 1916 and raised in New York during the Harlem Renaissance under the watchful eye of her beloved maternal grandmother, Alice Childress grew up to become first an actress and then a playwright and novelist. A founding member of the American Negro Theatre, she wrote her first play, *FLORENCE*, in 1949. The script was written on a dare from close friend and actor Sidney Poitier, who had told Alice that he didn't think a great play could be written overnight. She proved him wrong, and the play was produced Off-Broadway in 1950.

In 1952 Childress became the first African-American woman to see her play (*GOLD THROUGH THE TREES*) professionally produced in New York. In 1955, Childress' play *TROUBLE IN MIND* was a critical and popular success from the beginning of its run Off-Broadway at the Greenwich Mews Theatre. The play drew interest from producers for a Broadway transfer. In an ironic twist echoing the tribulations of the characters in the play itself, the producers wanted changes to the script to make it more palatable to a commercial audience. Childress refused to compromise her artistic vision, and the play didn't open on Broadway. If it had, at that time Childress would have been the first African -American woman playwright to have a play on Broadway.

Childress is perhaps best known today for *A HERO AIN'T NOthin' BUT A SANDWICH*, her 1973 novel about a 13-year-old black boy addicted to heroin, which was subsequently made into a movie in 1978. Other plays written by Childress include *JUST A LITTLE SIMPLE* (1950), *WEDDING BAND: A LOVE/HATE STORY IN BLACK AND WHITE* (1966) and *GULLAH* (1984).

Alice Childress died in New York in 1994. Throughout her career, she examined the true meaning of being black, and especially of being black and female. As Childress herself once said, "I concentrate on portraying have-nots in a have society."

*TROUBLE IN MIND*, directed by Charles Randolph Wright, produced by the Roundabout Theatre Company, will open on Broadway in November 2021.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR: PATRICIA BURKE BROGAN



Writer Patricia Burke Brogan in her home on College Road in Galway. Photograph by John Kelly.  
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The Clare Champion

Born in County Clare Ireland in 1932, Patricia Burke Brogan grew up valuing music, art and literature under her academic father's watchful eye. Inspired, Burke Brogan began pursuing all of her interests, refusing to corral her talents to just one area. Hearing a calling, Patricia Burke Brogan changed her life to become a novitiate in the Catholic Church. Feeling that a life as a nun was ultimately not for her, Burke Brogan stepped away from the church and returned to her childhood passion for writing and visual arts.

Winning awards for short stories, poetry and paintings in the 1980s and early 1990s, Burke Brogan was ready to write her first play, *ECLIPSED*. Detailing the often-overlooked and brutal world of pregnant workers in Magdalene Laundries, Burke Brogan let her own experiences as a novitiate inspire the 1992 play. Controversy quickly followed and she faced backlash in Ireland with many theatres unwilling to risk staging the production. Burke Brogan found international success with productions of *ECLIPSED* in the United States, Scotland and Italy. Soon winning awards (Moss Hart, Fringe First), Burke Brogan went on to write additional plays and *STAINED GLASS SAMHAIN* in 2002 and *REQUIEM FOR LOVE* in 2005 to critical acclaim.

In addition to her literary works, Burke Brogan is an accomplished visual artist with works appearing in galleries Spain, Japan, Ireland and the United States.

Patricia Burke Brogan continue to make artistic works and currently lives in Galway City Ireland.