

# DOBAMA THEATRE

23/24 SEASON

# FAMILY FOUND

## A NOTE

FROM THE  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Where do we find family?** Some family is there from the day we're born, influencing and informing us as we grow up and shaping us into the adults we become, for better or for worse. Then there is the family we choose for ourselves, the people we meet in various stages of our development that we decide to walk through the world with. Family of all kinds can be both a source of great love and support, and the cause of tension and anxiety. Whatever the case, these familial connections are at the center of our lives.

Stories about families make great theatre because in these relationships the stakes are at their highest. Our family knows us most intimately. They are with us in our most vulnerable moments. Love within a family is love at its deepest, meaning family members are also the ones capable of hurting us the most. We have everything to gain and much to lose in our familial relationships.

The 23/24 season at Dobama Theatre features plays connected by this common tie of family. These are stories about family, lost and found. About how family can hurt and disappoint us, love and support us. You'll meet families that will make you laugh and dance, gasp and cheer, weep and sigh. Ultimately, these stories may spur you to see the world through a new lens and think about the family in your life in new ways. We hope you'll join us for every one of these dynamic plays this season. As always, thank you for your ongoing support, and we'll see you at the theatre.

*With love & respect,*  
Nathan Motta  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## MISSION

Dobama Theatre is dedicated to premiering important new plays by established and emerging playwrights in professional productions of the highest quality. Through theatrical production, community engagement, and education programming, Dobama nurtures the development of theatre artists and builds new audiences for the arts while provoking an examination of our contemporary world.

## VISION

To lead the field in professionally producing urgent, engaging, exceptional theatre in an environment that is increasingly equitable, safe, and nurturing in the community we share.

# MEMBERSHIPS

### SEASON MEMBERSHIP \$180

Members\* are investors in Dobama's mission, vision, and values. A Dobama Membership supports the theatre's programs and members receive a variety of benefits for their support. Memberships include six flexible vouchers as a "thank you" for supporting Dobama – vouchers redeemable for all mainstage productions this year.

For information about the many benefits of Dobama Membership, visit: [dobama.org/season-memberships](https://dobama.org/season-memberships).

\* **Young Professional Memberships** available for \$150 for individuals under 40.

# TICKETS

### PERFORMANCE TIMES & TICKETS

Thursdays: 7:30pm ..... \$35  
Fridays: 8:00pm ..... \$42  
Saturdays: 8:00pm ..... \$42  
Sundays: 2:30pm ..... \$42

**BY PHONE 216-932-3396**

**ONLINE** [dobama.org/tickets](https://dobama.org/tickets)

### PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN

Dobama is committed to making live professional theatre accessible to everyone. Need based Pay-What-You-Can tickets are available for every performance.

Visit [dobama.org](https://dobama.org) for more information.

For full show  
calendars and  
information on  
preview performances,  
visit [dobama.org](https://dobama.org)

MAKE  
BELIEVE

# MAKE BELIEVE

**“...A MASTERFUL EXPLORATION OF CHILDHOOD AND ITS  
LINGERING IMPACT... TRAGIC, FUNNY, MYSTERIOUS, AND TRUE,  
IT IS EASILY AMONG THE BEST PLAYS I HAVE SEEN ALL YEAR.”**

—STAGELEFT NYC

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**THE GHOSTS OF CHILDHOOD NEVER DISAPPEAR.**

In the attic of one family’s home, four young siblings recreate their everyday lives in a game of make-believe. Meanwhile, the world beneath them holds a more ominous reality. Tony nominee Bess Wohl’s new play is a moving meditation on the ghosts of childhood that follow us into our adult lives.

**WRITTEN BY:**

Bess Wohl

**DIRECTED BY:**

Nathan Motta

**DATES:**

October 6–29, 2023





# LITTLE WOMEN

**“...THIS LOVELY VERSION OF LOUISA MAY ALCOTT’S CLASSIC COMING-OF-AGE NOVEL HITS WITH EVEN GREATER ACUITY ABOUT THE EPHEMERAL NATURE OF CHILDHOOD AND LIFE ITSELF AFTER THE EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS.”**

—CHICAGO READER

**THE MARCH SISTERS UNWRAP THE CLASSIC TALE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.** Taking on the familiar roles of the March sisters, four actors recreate this timeless novel using the family memories found in their attic. Jo and her sisters create scenes of love and loss as they make up stories of witches and fairies and scribe articles for their beloved imaginary newspaper. As these four little women come of age in a journey of self-discovery, we learn that while families change and grow, the ones we love are always close at heart.

**ADAPTED BY:**  
Heather Chrisler

**DIRECTED BY:**  
Melissa Crum

**DATES:**  
December 1–31, 2023

# AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

**“...A TWO-CHARACTER PIECE THAT MIXES SOME SHARP COMIC DIALOGUE WITH TRULY TOUCHING AND ANGRY MOMENTS— ALL WITH A FINE SPRINKLING OF DRAG QUEEN COSTUMES, WIGS, AND LIP-SYNCING MUSIC NUMBERS.”**

—SARASOTA MAGAZINE

**WIG: SNATCHED. WAIST: SNATCHED. LIFE: SNATCHED.**

Drag star Courtney Berringers welcomes you to her wake. She has recently died, but make no mistake, this isn't your grandma's funeral. There will be no black frocks, no perfumed flowers, and definitely no crying. This is a celebration. AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN is a play about the fine art of drag — from African gods and goddesses to Trina and Whitney Houston. This irreverent, funny, and moving new play thoughtfully uses storytelling, drama, and drag to celebrate Blackness and southern queerness while exploring identity, illness, and the narratives we construct for ourselves. Come party at the wake and bring your own heels!

**WRITTEN BY:**

Terry Guest

**DIRECTED BY:**

Preston Crowder

**DATES:**

January 26—  
February 18, 2024





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# SOMETHING CLEAN

**“A THOUGHTFUL, POIGNANT NEW PLAY...A BEAUTIFULLY  
OBSERVED, RICHLY COMPASSIONATE NEW DRAMA”**

—BEN BRANTLEY, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

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**THE LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND COMPLICITY ISN'T CLEAN.**

Charlotte is a devoted mother, wife, and respectable member of the community. But when an act of violence is committed by a member of her own home, she must confront a new reality as her once-immaculate world is tainted forever. Selina Fillinger's gripping new drama is both suspenseful and stirring as it follows one woman's struggle to make sense of her own grief, love, and culpability.

**WRITTEN BY:**

Selina Fillinger

**DIRECTED BY:**

Shannon Sindelar

**DATES:**

March 8–30, 2024



# SIGNIFICANT OTHER

**“A TENDERLY UNROMANTIC ROMANTIC COMEDY, AS  
RICHLY FUNNY AS IT IS ULTIMATELY HEART-STIRRING”**

—CHARLES ISHERWOOD, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

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**JORDAN'S RUNNING OUT OF GIRLFRIENDS. NOW HE NEEDS  
A BOYFRIEND.** Jordan Berman would love to be in love,  
but that's easier said than done. So, until he meets  
Mr. Right, he wards off lonely nights with his trio  
of close girlfriends. But as singles' nights turn into  
bachelorette parties, Jordan discovers that the only  
thing harder than finding love is supporting the loved  
ones around you when they do. From the critically  
acclaimed writer of *BAD JEWS* is a comedy about  
companionship, loneliness, and love.

**WRITTEN BY:**  
Joshua Harmon

**DIRECTED BY:**  
Colin Anderson

**DATES:**  
April 26–  
May 19, 2024

# PROGRAMS

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## PROFESSIONAL

### PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM

The Playwrights' GYM is Dobama's professional playwriting unit. GYM playwrights are given various resources to help further their work — including rehearsal space, collaboration with directors, marketing, and public events supported by the theatre.

### FOCUS: FOSTERING OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITIES UNDERSERVED ON THE STAGE

The FOCUS Program provides exposure, training, mentorship, networking, and paid professional opportunities for early-career theatre designers, technicians, and stage managers from underserved and underrepresented communities. Apprentice designers are paired with a mentor, given opportunities to design, and are connected with a partner theatre to expand their network and experience.

### INTERNSHIPS

Dobama Theatre offers paid, hands-on experience in artistic production and management. Season and summer Resident Associates work in administrative and artistic capacities to create a well-rounded view of the industry while developing skills in a specific concentration. Interns gain valuable experience and are given networking opportunities with theatre professionals in the region.

## EDUCATIONAL

### YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

This year-round program features custom-made curriculum in playwriting for students in grades 1-12 taught by professional playwrights and theatre artists. Resources include classroom residencies and workshops. Workshops and residencies are FREE to public schools. This program will culminate in the 46th annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, the oldest event of its kind in the nation.

### DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS (DEAP)

DEAP is a four-week summer intensive for high school and college theatre artists. The actor track is modeled after conservatory-level acting curriculum and features technique-based courses and an ensemble-centered workshop production. The technical track centers on the design and management of the production, giving early-career designers and stage managers professional experiences.



PRESENTED BY DOBAMA THEATRE

## HEIGHTS HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST**  
4pm – 7pm  
Cedar Lee District

The 3rd Annual Heights Halloween Festival will occur on **Saturday, October 21, 2023**. This is a free event presented by Dobama Theatre and open to Halloween lovers and trick-or-treaters of all ages. The festival includes side stages for character meet-n-greets, circus performers, costumed actors, large-scale puppets, face painting, free games, a scavenger hunt, and the annual candy crawl through the Cedar Lee business district.



# WITH LOVE & RESPECT

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# CLEVELAND'S OFF-BROADWAY THEATRE

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



THE GEORGE GUND  
FOUNDATION



DANIEL MALTZ



PAUL M. ANGELL  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



AGNES  
STUDIO

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