



**CONTACT:**  
Nikki Battestilli  
Marketing Director  
412-431-4400 x230  
[nbattestilli@citytheatrecompany.org](mailto:nbattestilli@citytheatrecompany.org)  
CityTheatreCompany.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local Favorites Take the Stage in City Theatre's**

**DOWNSTAIRS**

**By Theresa Rebeck**

**January 11 – February 2, 2020**



Martin Giles, Helena Ruoti, and John Shepard

**Pittsburgh, PA (December 10, 2019).** Local stars take the stage as **City Theatre** continues its 45<sup>th</sup> season with ***Downstairs*** by **Theresa Rebeck**. This ominous, darkly intriguing new play – from Broadway's most produced female playwright – confronts family secrets, regrets, and the threat of madness in the search for the good life.

"I have directed or produced five plays by Theresa Rebeck, including four world premieres," said Artistic Director **Marc Masterson**. "One was a Pulitzer finalist, two transferred to New York and one was made into a feature film. She is smart and prolific and fierce and an acknowledged leader in our field. I believe in her artistry and welcome her back to City Theatre."

*Downstairs* is directed by Artistic Director **Marc Masterson**, his first show on the mainstage since his return last season and will run on the **City Theatre Main Stage**, January 11 – February 2, 2020. Tickets are on sale now.

The Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> post-show discussion features panelists Marc Masterson and **Illah Nourbakhsh**, the K&L Gates Professor of Ethics and Computational Technologies at Carnegie Mellon University.

"At the heart of *Downstairs* is an old, broken-down computer that may hold important clues to the mysteries pervading this family drama," said **Maureen J. Rolla** (Manager of Public Programs, Ethics & AI at CMU). "The ability to pretend and try on other identities has long been considered a normal part of social development. Now, however, evolving technologies allow people to assume aliases and even create entirely new virtual personas and relationships, seemingly without consequences. Yet consequences have become permanent and entrenched in reality, because nothing in the digital age actually disappears, ever."

This panel discussion is presented in partnership with CMU's Ethics & AI public programming initiative.

City is continuing **Pick-Your-Price-Previews** for the 2019-2020 Season, in an effort to better serve the community and to reduce economic barriers to entry, tickets start at just \$5 (plus fees) to all performances January 11 - 16. See details at [CityTheatreCompany.org](http://CityTheatreCompany.org). This offer may not be combined with discounts.

**Downstairs** is directed by **Marc Masterson**. The cast includes **Martin Giles**, **Helena Ruoti**, and **John Shepard**. The production team includes **Tony Ferrieri** (scenic design), **Brian Lilienthal** (lighting design), **Ange Vesco** (costume design), **Steve Shapiro** (sound design), and **Taylor Meszaros** is Production Stage Manager. The almost entirely local creative team represents over 200 years of Pittsburgh stage practice.



**About Theresa Rebeck:** Theresa Rebeck's many plays have been widely produced on and off Broadway, regionally and internationally. This fall, her fourth Broadway play, *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, premiered on Broadway and her play *Downstairs* opened at Primary Stages starring Tim Daly and Tyne Daly. Other Broadway works include *Dead Accounts*, *Seminar* and *Mauritius*. Other notable NY and regional plays include: *Seared*, *The Scene*, *The Water's Edge*, *Loose Knit*, *The Family of Mann* and *Spike Heels* (Second Stage), *Bad Dates*, *The Butterfly Collection* and *Our House* (Playwrights Horizons), *Understudy* (Roundabout), *View of the Dome* (NYTW), *What We're Up Against* (Women's Project), *Omnium Gatherum* (Pulitzer Prize finalist). As a director, her work has been seen at The Alley Theater of Houston, Dorset Theater Festival, the Orchard Project and the Folger Shakespeare Theater. She recently wrote and directed the independent feature *Trouble*, starring Anjelica Huston, Bill Pullman and David Morse. In television, she is best known for her work on "NYPD Blue" and for creating the NBC series "Smash." As a novelist, Rebeck's books include *Three Girls and Their Brother* and *I'm Glad About You*. Rebeck is the recipient of the William Inge New Voices Playwriting Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award, a Lilly Award and more.

## **DOWNSTAIRS**

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

January 11 – February 2, 2020

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and/or 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays at 1:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and/or 9:00 p.m.

Sundays at 2:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

For a complete listing of show times, please visit [CityTheatreCompany.org](http://CityTheatreCompany.org) or call 412-431-2489.

### **PRESS & OPENING NIGHT**

Friday, January 17, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Pick-Your-Price-Previews** Performances Jan. 11 - 16

Tickets starting at just \$5, plus fees; purchase tickets in advance at [CityTheatreCompany.org](http://CityTheatreCompany.org), by calling 412-431-2489, or in-person at the box office. Subject to availability.

**Greenroom: Art & Afterparty** Friday, Jan. 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Join the cast and artistic team for a party in the Gordon Lounge following the performance. Complimentary house wine, Penn Brewery beer, and light snacks will be provided. Tickets are just \$30 for the evening with promocode GREENROOM. Hosted by community partner Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse.

**Pay-What-You-Want** Saturday, Jan. 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Incremental pricing available online. A block of tickets is reserved for audience members to name their own price at this performance. Call the box office to check on availability.

**ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES:**

**ASL Interpretation** Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m.

**Open Caption & Audio Description** Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2:00 p.m.

**BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:**

412.431.CITY (2489) or CityTheatreCompany.org Tickets start at \$29

**DISCOUNTS:**

**Under 30:** Reserve \$15 tickets in advance for performances except Opening Night and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m by calling the box office. Rush tickets may be available at those performances. Must present ID.

**Seniors age 62 and older:** \$24 rush tickets may be purchased at the box office beginning two hours before curtain, based on availability.

**Groups of ten or more:** Contact Joel Ambrose at 412.431.4400 x286.

**WHERE:**

1300 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (South Side)

Port Authority bus routes: 48, 51, 54, 81, 83

**PARKING:**

Patron parking is available in the newly renovated and repaved lot across from the City Theatre entrances for \$9, subject to availability.

**ABOUT CITY THEATRE:**

Founded in 1975, City Theatre is in its 45<sup>th</sup> season as Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays. Located in the historic South Side on its four-building cultural campus, the company produces a season of regional and world premieres, including the upcoming *PerkUp PerKup* by Isaac Gomez and *F\*ck7thGrade* by Jill Sobule and Liza Birkenmeier; its renowned Young Playwrights Festival, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year; a season-long reading series of new works in progress; and the annual Momentum Festival. City Theatre's mission is to provide an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays of substance and ideas that engage and challenge a diverse audience. With an annual average operating budget of \$3 million, City is the largest performing arts organization not located in Pittsburgh's downtown Cultural District and is a constituent and core member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and the National New Play Network (NNPN). Marc Masterson returned as Artistic Director in July 2018, after an 18 year absence, to join Managing Director James McNeel as co-leaders of the organization.

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