



For Immediate Release  
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**THE ARS NOVA PRODUCTION OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD GAME,  
2017 OBIE AWARD WINNER FOR BEST NEW AMERICAN THEATRE WORK,  
ARRIVES AT WOOLLY MAMMOTH**

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** announces the fourth production of its 2017-2018 season, the Ars Nova production of ***Underground Railroad Game***. Written and performed by **Jennifer Kidwell and Scott R. Sheppard**, in association with **Lightning Rod Special**, and directed by **Taibi Magar**, *Underground Railroad Game* will run from April 4 through 29, 2018.

At Hanover Middle School, two teachers get shockingly graphic with a lesson about race, sex, and power. The quick-witted duo goes round after round on the mat of our nation's history in a far-reaching, unfiltered, and unflinching comedy.

*Underground Railroad Game*, 2017 Obie Award Winner for Best New American Theatre Work, is a fourth-wall-breaking, audience-implicating, "in-all-ways sensational" (*New York Times*) experience. You will never forget which side of history you were on.

"Nowhere is the collision of past and present more apparent than in *Underground Railroad Game*," says **Woolly Mammoth Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz**. "This highly original, funny, and provocative new piece makes us feel the weight of history on our shoulders. It draws us back to the American Civil War in order to sharpen our awareness of the many ways we dance around, trip over, or avoid talking about race today. I'm honored to have Jennifer and Scott at Woolly as they embark on a national tour of *Underground Railroad Game*, and I'm looking forward to the fiery conversations their ingenious work will engender."

**Jennifer Kidwell** (Creator/Performer) is a performing artist. Recent projects include: *Home* (Geoff Sobelle), *Demolishing Everything with Amazing Speed* (Dan Hurlin), Bessie Award winning *I Understand Everything Better* (David Neumann/advanced beginner group), *Antigone* (The Wilma Theater), *Fire Burns Hot: Little Reno!*, *I Promised Myself to Live Faster* and *99 Break-Ups* (Pig Iron Theatre Company), *Dick's Last Stand* (Whitney Biennial 2014, as Donelle Woolford), *Zinnias: the Life of Clementine Hunter* (Robert Wilson/Toshi Reagon/Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon). Projects in development include: *Those with Two Clocks* (PITC), *TABLE* with Thomas Graves & the Rude Mechs and Nichole Canuso's *Body of Text*. PITC and Lightning Rod Special company member, Wilma Theater Associated Artist, co-founder of JACK. Her writing has been published in movement research *Performance Journal* #45 and at

[hyperallergic.com](http://hyperallergic.com). In 2013 she was awarded the TCG/Fox Resident Actor Fellowship (with Pig Iron Theatre Company), naming *Underground Railroad Game* as her primary project. Other awards include a 2015 Leeway Foundation Art & Change Grant, 2016 Pew Fellowship, and a 2017 Independence Fellowship.

**Scott R. Sheppard** (Creator/Performer) is an OBIE Award-winning theater artist living in Philadelphia and New York City. He is a Co-Director of the Philadelphia-based theater company Lightning Rod Special. Select credits include: Pig Iron Theatre Company's *99 Breakups* and *Period of Animate Existence* (co-creator/performer); PITC's *Gentlemen Volunteers* (performer); George & Co.'s *Holden* (co-creator/performer); Lightning Rod Special's *Sans Everything* (co-creator/performer) and Arden Theatre Company's *The Stinky Cheeseman* (performer, Barrymore nomination). Scott is a recipient of the Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Performing Arts, a 2018 Artist-in-Residence at Guild House, and a proud graduate of the inaugural class at Pig Iron's School for Advanced Performance Training.

The Ars Nova production of *Underground Railroad Game* is directed by **Taibi Magar**. The remaining members of the production team include **Tilly Grimes** (production design); **Steven Dufala** (scenic design); **Oona Curley** (lighting design); **Mikaal Sulaiman** (sound design); and **Lisa McGinn** (production stage manager).

## SCHEDULE

*Underground Railroad Game* runs April 4, 2018 to April 29, 2018, with performances: Wednesday-Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 3 pm and 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm and 7 pm; with a Pay What You Can performance on Wednesday, April 4, at 8 pm.

## PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

April 4, 2018: Pay What You Can preview performance at 8 pm

April 5, 2018: Preview performance at 8 pm

**April 6, 2018: Opening Night Performance at 8 pm**

April 7, 2018: Performances at 3 pm and 8 pm

April 8, 2018: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm

April 11, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 12, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 13, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 14, 2018: Performances at 3 pm and 8 pm

April 15, 2018: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm

April 18, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 19, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 20, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 21, 2018: Performances at 3 pm and 8 pm

April 22, 2018: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm

April 25, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 26, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 27, 2018: Performance at 8 pm

April 28, 2018: Performances at 3 pm and 8 pm

April 29, 2018: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm

## TICKETS

Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$69. Visit us online at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net), by phone at (202) 393-3939, via email at [tickets@woollymammoth.net](mailto:tickets@woollymammoth.net), or in person at the Box Office, located at 641 D Street NW. Tickets for Woolly's Pay What You Can performance will be sold through TodayTix.

Patrons who are 30-years-old and younger may, at any time, purchase Section B tickets for \$20 to any performance. There are also discounts available for educators, first responder men and women and active US military personnel, spouses, and veterans. More information is available at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net).

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## ABOUT WOOLLY

In its 38<sup>th</sup> season, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company continues to hold its place at the leading edge of American theater. Acknowledged as “one of the most influential outposts for the best new American plays” (*Washington Post*) and “known for its productions of innovative new plays” (*New York Times*), Woolly Mammoth is a national leader in the development of new works and one of the best known and most influential mid-sized theaters in America.