



# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

[www.tenthousandthings.org](http://www.tenthousandthings.org)

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## Ten Thousand Things Brings Lauren Yee's *The Hatmaker's Wife* to Minnesota Audiences

*Show tours February 8–March 17*

(Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN — January 10, 2024) — Ten Thousand Things Theater Company brings Lauren Yee's whimsical and surreal **THE HATMAKER'S WIFE** to audiences in numerous locations throughout the Twin Cities February 8–March 17.

When a young woman moves in with her boyfriend expecting domestic bliss, she instead finds magical revelations of the house's previous inhabitants. The play bends time and space as it redefines family, home, and true love.

**Joel Sass** directs the show, with music by **Katherine Fried**. The cast features **Pedro Bayon, Michelle de Joya, Tyson Forbes, Jim Lichtscheidl, Clay Man Soo,** and **Kimberly Richardson**.

"We had planned to produce this show in spring 2020 so we are thrilled to finally bring this brilliant work to audiences," said Artistic Director Marcela Lorca. "Yee brings past and present together in fantastical ways to reveal powerful and surprising connections. It is a gem of a play, lighthearted but also a profound exploration of the impact love can have. It shares an important message for our diverse audiences."

Tickets for **THE HATMAKER'S WIFE** are available at [www.tenthousandthings.org](http://www.tenthousandthings.org); suggested price is \$35, with pay-what-you-can starting at \$15. (Performance schedule on page 2)

### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

Lauren Yee is a playwright, screenwriter, and TV writer whose work has been seen on such stages as the Guthrie Theater South Coast Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, Victory Gardens, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep, Signature Theatre, Denver Center, Seattle Rep, and more. In addition to *The Hatmaker's Wife*, her plays include *Cambodian Rock Band*, *The Great Leap*, *King of the Yees*, *Ching Chong Chinaman*, *Samsara*, and *The Tiger Among Us*. She is the winner of the Kesselring Prize, ATCA/Steinberg Award, Whiting Award, and Francesca Primus Prize. She has been a writer on *Pachinko* (Apple TV+), *Soundtrack* (Netflix), and an upcoming FX limited series.

### **ABOUT TEN THOUSAND THINGS**

Ten Thousand Things awakens the creative spirit of audiences and artists by bringing essential and exceptional theater to people from all backgrounds and life experiences. Theater-goers experience the immediacy and vibrancy of theater through a performance in which there is no stage and actors perform in the middle of the audience. With minimal sets and costumes, talented actors fully engage the audience by distilling the story to its essence.

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**PAID PERFORMANCES (Thursday & Friday shows begin at 7:30 PM. Saturday & Sunday shows begin at 4PM.) Tickets are \$35 suggested and Pay What You Can starting at \$15)**

Thursday, Feb 22  
Friday, Feb 23 (Post-Show Toast)  
Saturday, Feb 24 (Post-Show Talk)  
Sunday, Feb 25

*Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church  
511 Groveland Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55403*

Thursday, Feb 29 (Post-Show Talk)  
Friday, Mar 1  
Saturday, Mar 2  
Sunday, Mar 3

*Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church  
511 Groveland Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55403*

Thursday, Mar 7  
Friday, Mar 8  
Saturday, Mar 9  
Sunday, Mar 10

*Open Book  
1011 Washington Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55415*

Thursday, Mar 14 (Audio-Described)  
Friday, Mar 15  
Saturday, Mar 16 (ASL-Interpreted)  
Sunday, Mar 17

*Open Book  
1011 Washington Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55415*

**FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCES (Reservations Required)**

Thu, Feb 8, 1:30 pm at Avalon School (700 Glendale St, St Paul)  
Fri, Feb 9, 7 pm at Project Success (1 Groveland Terrace, #300, Minneapolis)  
Wed, Feb 14, 2 pm at St Paul Opportunity Center (422 Dorothy Day Pl, St Paul)  
Thu, Feb 15, 1 pm at Episcopal Homes – Carty Heights (412 N Dunlap St, St Paul)  
Fri, Feb 16, 7:30 pm at North Hennepin Community College (7411 85<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Brooklyn Park)  
Tue, Feb 27, noon at Interact Center (1860 W Minnehaha Ave, St Paul)  
Wed, Feb 28, 10 am at Cora McCorvey Center (1015 N 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Minneapolis)  
Thu, Feb 29, 10 am at Harmony Adult Learning Center (1961 County Rd C East, Maplewood)  
Wed, Mar 6, Time TBD at St Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists (175 W Kellogg Blvd, St Paul)  
Thu, Mar 7, 10 am at MSS (900 Ocean St, St Paul)  
Thu, Mar 14, 10 am at Dellwood Gardens (753 E 7<sup>th</sup> St, St Paul)

**CLOSED PERFORMANCES (Not open to public)**

Northeast Contemporary Services, Tue, Feb 13, 10am  
St Peter Regional Treatment Center, Tue, Feb 20 and Wed, Feb 21, Time TBD  
Ramsey County Correctional Facility, St Paul, Tue, Mar 5, 12:30pm  
Minnesota Correctional Facility – Shakopee, Tue, Mar 12, Time TBD  
New Beginnings, Wed, Mar 13, Time TBD

## **WHY DO THEATER?**

**PEDRO BAYÓN** (Meckel) He/Him/His – “For the experience of sharing a story, an idea, an emotion. Theater tells stories that perhaps you don’t see in the history books, but are real and human, nonetheless. It’s an intimate medium, a shared experience like no other. If I make you laugh, cry, cringe, feel empathy, inform you, change your mind, make you feel SOMETHING, then I’ve done my job, and I feel alive!” Pedro was born and raised in Puerto Rico and has been seen on the stages of Mixed Blood Theatre, History Theatre, Children’s Theatre, Frank Theatre, Teatro del Pueblo, Pangea World Theatre, and Ordway Center, among many others.

**MICHELLE DE JOYA** (Voice) They/She – “I started my onstage career because I feel that I possess an understanding and empathetic mind, paired with a hyper-able and versatile vessel; when this exists through the lens of an Asian-American femme, it creates the opportunity to not only portray new narratives that some may not be commonly exposed to but it also can inspire those who do see themselves in me to feel validated, nuanced, and motivated.” Michelle is a Filipino-American Twin Cities based performer, playwright, and teaching artist. Past acting credits include: *Kung Fu Zombies SAGA* (Theater Mu), *Vietgone* (The Guthrie Theater), *Bina’s Six Apples* (Children’s Theater Company), *Chicago* (Theater Latte Da), *The Brothers’ Paranormal* (Penumbra & Theater Mu), *The Wolves*; *The Courtroom* (The Jungle Theater), *Passing Strange*; *Sherwood* (YellowTree Theater) and more. Michelle is also excited to be the '23-'24 Many Voices Mentee at the Playwrights Center.

**TYSON FORBES** (Golem) He/Him/His – “Because it offers us a space to see and be seen. To experience presence and join in the collective imagining of storytelling. Great theater asks its audience to dive off their seat and explore the sheer abundance of the imagination which resides in us all.” Tyson is an actor, creator and producer. He is the Co-Artistic Artistic Director of TigerLion Arts which has created and produced national tours of *The Buddha Prince* and *Nature*. Tyson has helped create numerous new works including *Super Monkey*, *The Dragons are Singing Tonight*, and *Nice Fish*. He has performed multiple roles at the Guthrie, Jungle and Ordway. He teaches physical theater at Circus Juventas and is the proud parent of two young lads along with his wife and artistic partner, Markell Kiefer. When he’s not performing, he is designing and building homes with Whole Builders.

**JIM LICHTSCHEIDL** (Hatmaker) He/Him/His – “I do theater for that moment of complete unity during the performance, when the play and the audience become one—whether it be a laugh or a gasp or a few seconds of pin-drop quiet. No matter what our own personal story is, this moment is humbling. It is the genesis of common ground between strangers.” Jim has worked with TTT in several different ways: as a performer in eleven productions including *Little Shop Of Horrors* and *Stones In His Pockets*, as a choreographer for seven productions including *The Music Man* and *My Fair Lady*, as an artist core member, and as director/collaborator for *Huh?*, which toured to non-English speaking audiences. Jim’s other credits include the Jungle Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, Harold Pinter Theater in London’s West End, St. Ann’s Warehouse, and several other local and regional theaters. Jim is a 2019 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow at the Playwright’s Center.

**CLAY MAN SOO** (Gabe) He/Him/His – “Because if we’ve learned anything from living through a global pandemic, human connection is essential to the human experience. You’re connected with someone or something bigger than yourself. And Theater is the place where we can do just that: breathe together, be seen together, and share in the story of our collective humanity.” Clay has performed with the Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Children’s Theatre Company, Alliance Theatre, Theater Mu, Pillsbury House + Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Park Square Theatre, Playwright’s Center, TigerLion Arts, Pangea World Theater, Theatre Coup D’Etat, SD Shakespeare Festival, and Guthrie Dowling Studio, among others. TEACHING Pillsbury House + Theatre, Upstream Arts, Theater Mu, On Stage MN, History Theater, Park Square Theatre, Children’s Theatre Company. [www.claymansoo.com](http://www.claymansoo.com)

**KIMBERLY RICHARDSON** (Hatmaker’s Wife) She/Her/Hers – “I do theater because it is live— it depends on presence and connection, things we pined for in the Covid shut down and need more of now in our isolating world. Plus, I’m shy in real life. This is my favorite way to talk to strangers.” Kimberly is an actor, choreographer and theater-maker with 23 years on the Twin Cities performance scene. She has worked with Ten Thousand Things since 2008 in productions including *Dirt Sticks*, *Othello*, *As You Like It*, and most recently *Emilia*. *The Hatmaker’s Wife* is Kimberly’s 15th TTT production. Other performing highlights include: *The Red Shoes* and *To the Moon* at Open Eye Theater, *Cinderella* at Children’s Theater, and *Please Don’t Blow Up Mr Boban* with Live Action Set. Kimberly was awarded a 2006 Sage Award for dance performance, and a 2016-2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship.

**JOEL SASS** (Director) He/Him/His – “Why not? As a storyteller from childhood, it’s the perfect vocation in which to exercise my interests in design, character and narrative. Plus, telling stories, from as many different

traditions and points of view as possible, stimulates understanding and empathy--virtues that will always be necessary for a healthy society." Joel is a producer, stage director, designer and adapter, specializing in the creation of new multi-disciplinary work for the stage and devising imaginative reinterpretations of classic texts. He also serves as Open Eye Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, after having first joined the company as Associate Producer in 2017. He has been based in the Twin Cities since 1991, working at the Guthrie, the Jungle, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Pillsbury House, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Theatre Company, and CalShakes. He is a McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow, and the recipient of the Alan Schneider Director Award from Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

**KATHERINE FRIED** (Music Director) She/Her/Hers – "We are all meaning-makers. Narrative and story help us make sense of the groundless spaces in life and offer us a safe place for investigation. Through theatre, we, as artists and audience members, are invited to question our values and beliefs, encounter truths, discover our belonging and interconnectedness with the world, and learn the listening language of compassion." Katherine's credits include: **Regional:** *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Ten Thousand Voices* (Ten Thousand Things), *Assassins*, *Into the Woods*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Snow Queen*, *Once* (Arden Theatre Company); *Wait Until Dark*, *Once* (The Fulton Theatre); *The Parchman Hour*, *A Christmas Carol*, *King Lear* (Guthrie Theater); *Shakespeare in Love*, *Henry V* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); Montana Shakespeare in the Parks; Kansas Repertory Theatre; Bozeman Actors Theatre; WLDNRSS.

**SONYA BERLOVITZ** (Costume Designer) She/Her/Hers – "I feel most alive and most at home in theatre." This is Sonya's 13th show with TTT. Previously she designed costumes for more than 55 productions at Theatre de la Jeune Lune. Since 2009 she has been designing costumes for The Moving Company touring with them to South Coast Repertory Theater, Playmaker's Repertory Theatre and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Productions elsewhere have included Children's Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse; locally The Jungle Theatre, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre. Next up: The Cradle Will Rock with An Opera Theatre and Johnny Skeezy at Theatre Latte Da.

**ISABELLA DAWIS** (Dramaturg) She/Her/Hers – "Theater, more than anything else, makes me feel entirely alive." Isabella served as composer and music director for TTT's recent *Twelfth Night*. As a bookwriter/lyricist, she is the recipient of the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship, the Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre, the Fred Ebb Award, and the Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award. Recent stage credits as an actor include 5 (Jungle Theater/Trademark Theater), *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie), and *Peerless* (Theater Mu). Isabella has collaborated with the Minnesota Chorale, the Center for Contemporary Opera, the New York Philharmonic, the National Asian American Theatre Company, the O'Neill Center, the Kurt Weill Foundation, the American Theatre Wing, the American Opera Project, and many more. Her creative work has been supported locally by Theater Mu's New Eyes Festival, Tofte Lake Center, Theater Latté Da's NEXT Festival, and the Coalition of Asian American Leaders.

**NOAH SOMMERS HAAS** (Sets/Props Designer) He/Him – is a local builder and performer that has been engaged in the theatre community for over 20 years. Find him in the castle at Adventures in Cardboard and occasionally helping move a ladder at Open Eye theatre. Thinks the magic of theatre is a place for all people to play and explore and share which is inspiring to him.

**MATTHEW MEEKS** (Stage Manager) He/Him/His – "Theatre allows the cast, crew, and audience to experience a shared story together. This connectedness is what excites Matthew about working in theatre and supporting all those that help create this wonderful art form." Matthew is excited about returning to Ten Thousand Things after working on *Mlima's Tale*. He works with The Guthrie Theater (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Carol*, SITI Company's *The Bacchae*, *As You Like It*), American Players Theatre (Three seasons in the woods, most recently: *Hamlet*, *The River Bride*, and *Stones in His Pockets*), Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (*Yuletide Celebration*), Minnesota Orchestra (*Home for the Holidays*), and Skylark Opera (*Così fan Tutte*). Thanks to you for supporting and celebrating live art! All my love to Hannah and the family.

**MARCELA LORCA** (Artistic Director) She/Her/hers – "We do theater to connect with and understand each other through stories that inspire, move, delight and make us wonder. Nowadays, I can't think of anything better than coming together, however we can, to explore and celebrate the diverse stories that ignite our imaginations." Marcela's directing credits for TTT include *Twelfth Night*, *Emilia*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Thunder Knocking on the Door*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Into the Woods* and *The Sins of Sor Juana*. She has directed and choreographed work for the Minnesota Orchestra, TheaterWorks in CA, the Guthrie Theater, McCarter Theater, Children's Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Mixed Blood, Goodman Theater, Shakespeare Theater in DC and Juilliard Drama School and others. Previously, she was

Director of Company Development and Movement Director for the Guthrie. Marcela is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Zelda Fichandler Award.

**RYAN VOLNA-RICH** (Production Manager) He/Him – “Theatre is more than just a story, it’s an experience. You experience the sorrow, the laughter, the joy all together with your fellow audience members, you empathize as a group. I think our world could use more empathy, more group stories.” Throughout his career, Ryan has made an effort to highlight and support the work of others. He is excited to bring this passion and his skills to work at Ten Thousand Things, helping to support the world-class story tellers as they captivate audiences.