

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DETAILS AND EXTENSION ANNOUNCED FOR
ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE'S SEASON OPENER
***POTUS: OR, BEHIND EVERY GREAT
DUMBASS ARE SEVEN WOMEN
TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE***

*Sensational new comedy written by Selina Fillinger and directed by
Jillian Armenante. Playing September 7 – 29. Single tickets on sale
now at acttheatre.org.*



The cast of POTUS, Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive (Rosemary Dai Ross)

SEATTLE, WA (August 12, 2024) — ACT Contemporary Theatre announced today the cast and creative team for the opening show of their 2024/25 Season, ***POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive***. This Tony-nominated comedy, written by **Selina Fillinger** and directed by **Jillian Armenante**, begins September 7 and has already announced an extension to the run, now closing September 29.

POTUS presents a behind-the-scenes story of seven extraordinary women tasked with managing the unstoppable antics of the most powerful man in the world: the President of the United States. With shrewdness, physical comedy, and an abundance of four-letter words, *POTUS* is an outrageously funny send-up of modern American politics.

Nationally acclaimed actor, writer, and director **Jillian Armenante** (Actor: *The Sex Lives of College Girls*; *Vice*; Director: Oldcastle Theatre: *The Turn of the Screw*; Matrix Theatre: *We Are Proud to Present...*) returns to her “artistic birthplace” of Seattle to helm ACT’s riotous season opener.

“We are thrilled to bring this political farce to the stage,” said Armenante. “While the situations in *POTUS* are exaggerated for comedic effect, there’s an underlying truth that resonates with our current political climate. Seriously, you can’t make this sh*t up. It’s theatre of the absurd, with real-world consequences.”

“There is no more perfect way to open ACT’s 2024/25 Season than with *POTUS*, a hilariously profane satire that meets the current moment with razor-sharp wit and edge,” said **John Langs**, **Artistic Director of ACT Contemporary Theatre**.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to have the incomparable Jillian Armenante at the helm, leading an all-star Seattle cast in this must-see production.”

The Tony Award-nominated *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive* plays in ACT’s Falls Theatre September 7 – 29, 2024, with an opening night celebration on Thursday, September 12. A full list of events can be found below and at ACTtheatre.org.

MEET THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

The all-local cast of *POTUS* features **Anne Allgood** (ACT: *Sweat*; *A Christmas Carol*) as Harriet; **Carly Corey** (Village Theatre: *Cinderella*) as Dusty; **Gin Hammond** (Book-It: *Returning the Bones*) as Margaret; **Josephine Keefe** (Seattle Shakespeare Company: *Romeo & Juliet*) as Jean; **Cassi Q Kohl** (Village Theatre: *She Loves Me*) as Bernadette; **Annette Toutonghi** (Seattle Rep: *Ibsen in Chicago*) as Stephanie; and **Ayo Tushinde** (Seattle Shakespeare Company: *Henry IV*; *As You Like It*) as Chris.

The creative team includes **Jillian Armenante** (Director); **Julia Hayes Welch** (Scenic Designer); **Melanie Burgess** (Costume Designer); **Connie Yun** (Lighting Designer); **Thorn Michaels** (Assistant Lighting Designer); **John Gromada** (Sound Designer); **Jamie J. Kranz** (Stage Manager); **Elizabeth Stasio** (Assistant Stage Manager); and **Larcyn Burnett** (Production Assistant).

ABOUT JILLIAN ARMENANTE (Director)



Directing credits include Jeffrey Hatcher's *The Turn of the Screw* at Oldcastle Theatre, the Iraqi premiere of Heather Raffo's *Nine Parts of Desire*, the West Coast premiere of Jackie Sibblies Drury's *We Are Proud to Present...* at the Matrix Theatre, as well as the World Premiere of Jeff Goode's *Love Loves a Pornographer* at Circle X. She produced, directed and co-wrote Laura Comstock's *Bag-Punching Dog* and *In Flagrante Gothicto* at Circle X. Armenante produced/directed the feature comedy *Stuck* with Heather Matarazzo and Joel McHale and *The List* by Kelleen Conway Blanchard, starring

Saffron Burrows. She executive produced/directed the original series *Kittens in a Cage* based on the play by Kelleen Conway Blanchard. Acting: film- *Vice*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Bad Teacher*, and *Girl, Interrupted*. TV- *Physical*, *Sex Lives of College Girls*, *Better Call Saul*, *Shameless*, *West Wing*, and *Judging Amy*. Theatre- *Cider House Rules* at Seattle Rep, Mark Taper Forum, and Atlantic Theatre. Jillian spent the formative years 1986-95 trodding the boards in Seattle, which she considers her artistic birthplace and is very happy to be back.

ABOUT SELINA FILLINGER (Playwright)



Selina Fillinger is an award-winning, internationally produced writer and performer. Her feminist farce, *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive*, garnered three Tony nominations and made Fillinger, at 28, one of the youngest female playwrights ever produced on Broadway. Other plays include *Baby*, *Under the Sill*, *The Collapse*, *Something Clean*, *Faceless*, and *The Armor Plays: Cinched/Strapped*. Her work has been developed at Roundabout Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Williamstown Theatre, Old Globe Theatre, and Alley Theatre, among others.

She is currently commissioned at Roundabout and South Coast Repertory. She has developed TV with AMC, Freeform, Hunting Lane, and Hulu, and a feature with Chernin/Netflix. She wrote for the third season of Apple TV's *The Morning Show*. Fillinger was named to the 2024 Forbes 30 Under 30 list for Hollywood/Entertainment.

FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS:

WHAT:

POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive

By Selina Fillinger

Directed by Jillian Armenante

The comedic sensation comes to Seattle and delivers a riotous punch as it unveils the story of seven extraordinary women tasked with managing the antics of the most powerful man in the world. From PR nightmares to global crises, these brilliant and very different women navigate a maze of chaos, risking everything to uphold sanity and stability in the White House. Fueled by Selina Fillinger's sharp wit and biting satire, this Tony-nominated play offers an unforgettable tribute to the unsung heroes behind the political curtain.

[Show Details >>](#)

[Ticket info >>](#)

WHEN:

September 7 – 29, 2024

Evening performance times are at 7:00 p.m (Tues, Wed, Sun) 7:30 p.m. (Thurs, Fri, Sat) and matinees are at 2 p.m. A full performance schedule can be [found here](#).

Run time is approximately 95 minutes including one intermission..

Key Dates:

- **First Preview:** Saturday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Industry Night:** Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.
 - Theatre industry professionals receive \$25 tickets, and are invited to a pre-show reception with light bites and a cash bar. [Get Industry Night tickets here >>](#)
- **Opening Night:** Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m.
 - Join us before the show at 6:30 for our Opening Night celebration featuring music from [Dunava](#), in collaboration with [Northwest Folklife](#). Food and drink are also available for purchase. [Get Opening Night tickets here >>](#)
- **ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreted & Audio-Described Performance:** Saturday, September 14 at 2:00 p.m.
 - Special seating is reserved for patrons requesting live ASL interpretation of the spoken English performance. Seats are held for patrons during select performances to guarantee optimal viewing of both the interpreters and the stage. [Get ASL tickets here >>](#)
 - Complimentary audio description is available for patrons who are blind, who have low vision, or who may benefit from having the unspoken action of a play narrated for any reason. See any front-of-house team member

before the performance to receive your headset. [Get audio-described tickets here >>](#)

WHERE:

ACT Contemporary Theatre's Falls Theatre, located at 700 Union Street in Downtown Seattle.

TICKETS:

Tickets start with Pay What You Choose to all performances. We are proud to offer a range of ticket prices and discounts for all our plays in our goal to make theatre affordable for everyone. [See all of our discount offerings here.](#)

To purchase tickets, visit <https://acttheatre.org>

PRESS ROOM:

For available pre-production images and headshots, [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

CONNECT ON SOCIAL:

acttheatre.org

Facebook - [/ACTtheatreSeattle](#)

Instagram - [@ACTtheatre](#)

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Show tags: #ACTtheatre #ACTSeattle #POTUStheplay #POTUSSeattle

ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 58 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 47 world premieres. Led by Artistic Director John Langs, ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit acttheatre.org.

Thank you to ACT Contemporary Theatre's Season and Theatre Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, ArtsWA, Bowery Valuation, The Grousemont Foundation, NBBJ, The Sunderland Foundation, and Katharyn Alvord Gerlich.

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