

jan 20 - feb 4



HIR

BY TAYLOR MAC

DIRECTED BY JULIA HOUCK

StrollersTheatre.org

STROLLERS
THEATRE LTD

BartellTheatre.org

BARTELL THEATRE

RED BUCKET DONATIONS

Half of our Red Bucket donations will be given to
The Center for Black Excellence

The Center for Black Excellence is a community-wide effort to bring together a collective Black brilliance to affirm, inspire and advance the Black community in Madison and beyond.

You can find more details at www.theblackcenter.org

Please consider donating to our Red Bucket after the show!

Running time on stage is 1 hour and 35 minutes
There will be a 15 minute intermission.

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics.

Photography and video/audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited

WARNING! This production may contain the following:

Foul language	Flooding, freezing rain and tornadoes
Appliance abuse	Vigorous blending
Physical violence	Discussions about masturbation
Elder abuse	Drug abuse
Frequent vomiting	Mention of sexual assault/rape
Sex acts with a banjo	Reality abuse
Acts of God	Disparagement of religion
Grammar abuse	Disparagement of popular snack foods
Tectonic plate shifting	Disparagement of middle-aged white men
Reference to animal harm	Disparagement of the patriarchy
Gender theory	Disparagement of institutionalized academia
Possible clown appearance	May contain gluten

What are personal pronouns and why do they matter?

Visit <https://pronouns.org/> for details



Presents

HIR

by Taylor Mac

Director
Julia Houck

Assistant Director
Matthew Korda

Producer
Scott Albert Bennett

Stage Manager
Kevin Sites

Assistant Stage Manager
Michelle Dayton

Lighting Designer
D. Corey Helser

Props Designer
Michelle Dayton

Sound Designer
Tom Coyne

Set Designer
Teresa Sarkela

The Bartell Theatre on the Drury Stage
Madison, Wisconsin

January 20th - February 4th, 2023

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York City Premiere of HIR
Off-Broadway in 2015.

HIR was developed and given its world premiere at Magic Theatre, San Francisco, CA.
Loretta Greco, Producing Artistic Director
Opening Night was February 4, 2014.

HIR was workshopped as part of the Creativity Fund, a program of New Dramatists.

HIR is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists
Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

Hir, by Taylor Mac, is feminist, gender and queer theory released from its academic obscurity and unleashed on stage in the junk-filled, claustrophobic home of a working class American family. Hir (pronounced “here”) is the preferred gender pronoun of son Max, the bright light of the future for the family. Hir parents include Arnold, who is “not all there” after a stroke ended years of abusing his children and wife, Paige. She is the former victim in the process of becoming woke. Paige gleefully emasculates Arnold and retires from all tasks associated with the housewife. We join them for an exciting day in their lives – Isaac is returning from the war after three years, a dishonorably discharged, meth-abusing prodigal son. For years, he has been dreaming of home, but nothing is the same.

The path to Strollers’ production of *Hir* is a reflection of the diaspora of community theatre before, during and following a pandemic. Sam D. White tried to get a few theatre companies to produce *Hir* back in 2018-19 and StageQ agreed to stage it in the 2020 season. The director was confirmed, the play was cast and just as the rehearsals were getting underway, Covid shut down community theatre for two years. It has been a slow process to attract an audience back to theatres, and rehearsals can result in waves of all the illnesses none of us had while masked for two years. *Hir* was picked up by Strollers in fall of 2022 missing a director and cast member. In the middle of auditions for Isaac, Sam and I reconnected to see if he could help me back into Madison community theatre. In a flash, we were underway.

Hir and post-pandemic community theatre share a paradigm shift – we can move from joy to nightmare and back again, but our traditions and assumptions have been irrevocably altered. We are unsettled and working our way toward the new.

- Julia Houck

CAST

Isaac.....Riz Moe
Paige.....Stephanie Monday
Max.....Abigail Hindle
Arnold.....Sam D. White

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Julia Houck
Producer.....Scott Albert Bennett
Assistant Director.....Matthew Korda
Stage Manager.....Kevin Sites
Assistant Stage Manager.....Michelle Dayton
Lighting Designer.....D. Corey Helser
Set Designer.....Teresa Sarkela
Props Designer.....Michelle Dayton
Sound Designer.....Tom Coyne
Lead Carpenter.....Lee Waldhart
First Carpenter.....Chad Abel
Sound Board Op.....Tom Coyne
Light Board Op.....Kevin Sites
Production Photography.....Jonathan J Miner
Production Videography.....Benjamin Barlow
Poster Design.....Hayley Bolinder

SPECIAL THANKS

This production was made possible with the special contributions of so many people.
A special thanks is in order for these individuals and organizations.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Mercury Players Theatre, Madison Theatre Guild, StageQ, The Gerald A Bartell Community Theatre Foundation and Josiah Tropp, Kirk Stantis, Linda Johnson, Kathy Dayton, Jonathan J Miner, The Friends and Family of Michael Dayton, Kirch Appliance, Inc. (for the donation of the fridge & stove), Lee Waldhart, Bob Moore, Gretchen Wheat, Chad Abel

Chad Abel and Lee Waldhart (Carpenters) have been working together building sets for over 25 years!

Scott Albert Bennett (Producer, Set Construction) is happy to be helping *HIR* get up and running, after several false starts. Scott has an MFA in Acting from UW-Madison, and has just assumed the position of VP on the Strollers Board. Scott is always happy to see a production come together so well, in so many ways! Love to Landon & the fur-children.

Tom Coyne (Sound Designer) has, since 2015, run the sound board and, occasionally, designed the sound program for Left of Left Center, MTG, Strollers as well as Mercury's Players Theatre.

Michelle Dayton (Props Designer) is happy to lend a hand and a bag of old clothes to this production of *HIR*. The cast and production staff are simply amazing. Michelle is proud to volunteer her time to Strollers Theater and the Bartell Theater group.

D. Corey Helser (Lighting Designer) spent a lifetime in theater and education. After receiving his MFA in Theater Production, he designed, stage managed, and built shows for many regional production companies until he was hired by MATC to manage the Mitby Theater, teach Stagecraft, and eventually lead the office of Conference and Events Services. Outside of Madison College, Corey has worked for American Players Theatre, Madison Rep, Madison Opera, Four Seasons Theatre, Madison Savoyards, Children's Theatre of Madison, Dance Wisconsin, Theatre Lila, and Epic Systems in Verona. Recently he has developed a scene shop and is providing construction, rental, and design services. (theatersupportservices.com)

Abigail Hindle (Max) is happy to be a part of their first show with Strollers Theatre and first show at the Bartell! Previously Abigail was involved in SVPs productions of *Peter and the Star-Catcher* (Peter) and *The Foreigner* (Catherine). They are extremely proud of their fellow cast members and are excited to finally get this show on the stage! They'd like to thank their friends and family who helped support them through such a busy and difficult year.

Julia Houck (Director) has thirty acting and directing credits, with her most recent production of *Mamma Mia!* at Memorial High School in 2022. She is very lucky to have the opportunity to join this amazing cast and crew, and wants to thank Scott Bennett for all of his work producing *HIR*. This is her second Strollers credit, after playing Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* with Sammy D. White in 1984.

Matthew Korda (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be a part of this amazing production with such talented and dedicated actors and theater technicians. From the moment he first read the script, he fell in love with the scathing wit and dark humor of Taylor Mac. If you enjoy this one, Matthew encourages you to engage with more of Judy's work. Matthew thanks you for seeking out and enjoying locally produced theater and asks that you please keep your hands and feet inside the theater at all times. Please enjoy the ride.

Riz Moe (Isaac) is honored to make his Strollers debut in *HIR*. Some of their most recent productions were: *She Kills Monsters* with Madison College, *Attack of the Killer B's* with Broom Street Theater, *All's Well That Ends Well* with Madison Shakespeare. Riz was also assistant director for CTM's *Freaky Friday* and he is a troupe member with Monkey Business Institute. A big thank you to his family.

BIOGRAPHIES

Stephanie Monday (Paige) is delighted to be appearing in, at last: *HIR* . . . as produced by Strollers Theatre. She was last seen in Madison as Olympe de Gouges in *The Revolutionists* for Mercury Players. Ms. Monday received her BA, MFA and JD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Thank you to everyone attending this challenging and thought-provoking production, crafted by a team of truly exceptional individuals with whom it has been a pleasure and honor to work.

Teresa Sarkela (Set Designer) paints, designs, and likes whiskey. She would like to thank cast and crew for their tremendous work bringing this story [and stage floor full of poignant “crap”] to life!

Kevin Sites (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be involved in his fourth Strollers production, which also included *Bloomsday*, *Men on Boats* and *Emilie*. This is his debut as Stage Manager.

Sam D. White (Arnold) marks *HIR* as his 16th production with Strollers Theatre. His first was *Glass Menagerie* in 1984, where he played the Gentleman Caller opposite director Julia Houck as Laura. Some of his roles with Stroller’s include Robert in *Bloomsday*, Morgan in *The Drawer Boy*, Rooster Byron in *Jerusalem*, Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and Teach in *American Buffalo*. Sam is most excited about Strollers upcoming production of his play *Hush the Waves*. It is being produced as part of World Premier Wisconsin, a statewide festival celebrating new plays and musicals in Wisconsin during the 2022-2023 theater season.

OUR FINANCIALS FOR HIR

Budgeted Expenses

Royalties	\$1,000
Scripts	\$150
Rent	\$2,667
Rehearsal Space	\$200
Build Space	\$500
Set	\$500
Costumes	\$200
Props	\$400
Lights	\$100
Sound	\$50
Truck Rental & Gas	\$400
Misc (<i>Food, Supplies, etc</i>)	\$300
Publicity	\$650
<i>(Photographers, Graphic Designers, Printing)</i>	
Total Production Budget	\$7,117

Thank you for purchasing a Ticket!

It is important for us to be transparent and to share what your ticket means to us. It really helps to keep theatre alive and active in our community.

Other Financial Information

We pay a \$5 ticketing fee for every ticket.

This means we receive \$15 for every \$20 ticket sold.

We would need to sell **475 full priced tickets** to cover our costs with ticket sales alone. That’s an average of 53 sold full price tickets per show.

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THANK YOU!

OUR RED BUCKET DONATIONS

Since 2019, half of our Red Bucket donations have raised \$1,379 for the below organizations.













Please consider supporting our Red Bucket with half of the proceeds benefiting The Center for Black Excellence.



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For more information on Strollers Theatre, please visit our website at StrollersTheatre.org

HELP US CREATE THEATRE!

Strollers Membership is just \$5/year!

Notable Benefits

- Discounted tickets for all Strollers shows.
- Voting rights at the annual Membership meeting.
- Eligible for Board membership or committees.

More information and membership forms are available on our website.

SUPPORT LOCAL THEATRE

First of all, thank you.

You've read this far into the program. I'm hoping you read a bit more.

Local community theatre is becoming harder and harder to do. It's harder to fundraise, to get people to see shows, and to get volunteers to help.

It's obvious that entertainment is changing and enthusiasm for live performing arts is significantly less than what it used to be. And that is OK! We do not want to, nor are we able to, replace TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube! But we still want to be here providing both an escape and reflection on what's happening around us in ways only live theatre can provide. These actors are on stage for you. The designers, directors, volunteers, all of us at Strollers, all here for you. That is what all this is about.

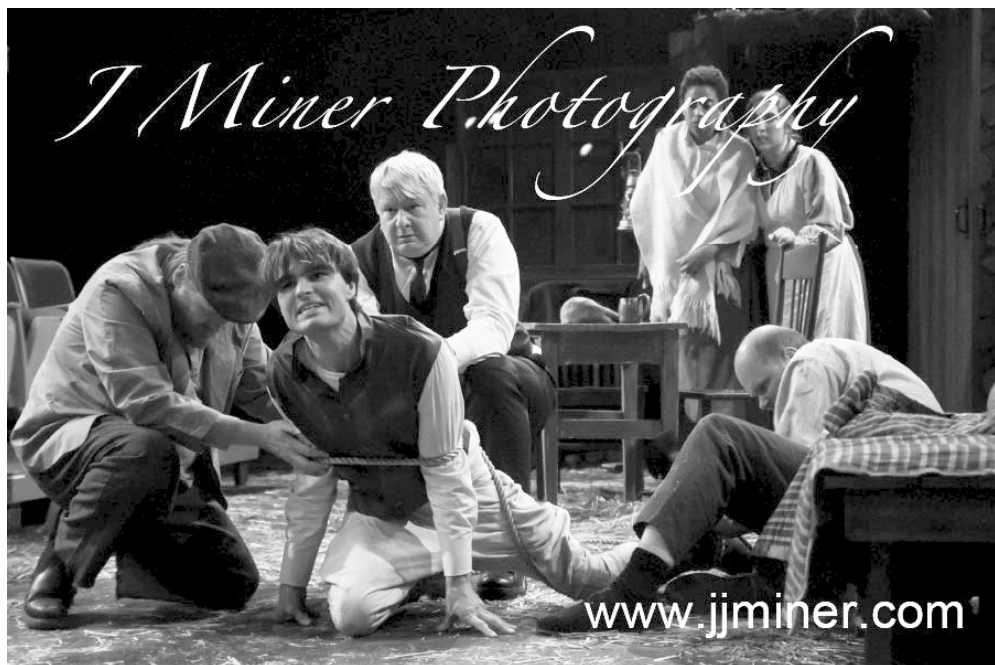
What can you do to help support us? Your time, money, attention, whatever you have to offer in contribution to creating local live theatre, we will gladly accept and welcome.

Strollers is a company of volunteers that wants to create an incredible live theatre experience for you.

Thank you again,
Benjamin Barlow

P.S. For those that helped us in the front of house for this performance, we want to offer our most sincere thanks!

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FRIENDS OF STROLLERS

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