

Main Street Theater Produces the Ultimate British Farce
Relatively Speaking
By Alan Ayckbourn

May 4 – 26, 2019

Main Street Theater (MST) soon opens the ultimate British farce, Alan Ayckbourn's brilliantly constructed *Relatively Speaking*. "It's just so, so funny," shares director Rebecca Greene Udden. "But if Ayckbourn hadn't constructed it so perfectly, it wouldn't work." This was Ayckbourn's first hit, even earning him a congratulatory telegram from Noël Coward. This smart, hilarious play about mistaken identities and motives will have audiences roaring with laughter while reflecting ever so slightly on the ups and downs of married life, the "fascinating intimations of the middle-class marital angst that was to become his speciality." (The Guardian)

The production opens Saturday night, May 4 at 7:30pm and runs through May 26 at MST – Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Performances are Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 3pm. Tickets are \$36 - \$48, depending on date, section, and availability. All tickets are on sale via phone at 713.524.6706 or online at MainStreetTheater.com.

About Relatively Speaking

Ginny and Greg are in love, and despite the awkward amount of unexplained flowers and chocolates oddly filling her flat, Greg proposes as Ginny is heading off for the day to see her parents – or so she says. Greg has found the address and manages to arrive first to surprise her and ask her father for her hand. The problem is, these are not, in fact, Ginny's parents! The "parents," Sheila and Philip, welcome Greg into their house, each thinking he is someone else. The unraveling of this hilarious mess is so well-constructed, it's no wonder Sir Noël wrote to Ayckbourn!

About the Production

MST Executive Artistic Director Rebecca Greene Udden directs *Relatively Speaking*. The cast is Lindsay Ehhardt (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, The Coast of Utopia* trilogy), Kara Greenberg (*Wolf Hall, Enemies*), Tom Prior (*My Wonderful Day, Copenhagen* (2004)), and Blake Weir (*The Book of Will, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*).

The production design team includes Liz Freese (Set Design), John Smetak (Lighting Design), Paige Willson (Costume Design), Shawn W. St. John (Sound Design), and Rodney Walsworth (Properties Design). Debs Ramser is the production stage manager.

About Main Street Theater

Now in its 43rd Season, Main Street Theater provides live theater experiences for all ages. The MainStage produces intellectually and emotionally engaging professional productions for adults in the heart of the Rice Village and operates under an Actors' Equity Association union contract; the Theater for Youth produces engaging productions based on children's literature for families and school groups, both in-house and on tour around Texas, reaching over 130,000 audience members each season; and we offer Education and Outreach programs on-site and at satellite locations around the Greater Houston area for youth aged 4 – high school. We work out of 2 facilities: our Rice Village home on Times Blvd., and as part of the MATCH (Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston) on Main Street.

Main Street Theater is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theaters, of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (formerly ASSITEJ), the world theatre network of theatre for children and young people, and a founding member of Houston Arts Partners. Main Street Theater is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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