

## A Note From The Artistic Director

Nothing is more thrilling than a good ghost story. When my daughter and her friends start running around the house and making too much noise, it's my job to get them to chill, but in a way that doesn't kill the fun, you know? I've tried many tactics over the years, but the one that works every time is when I ask if they'd like to hear a ghost story. They stop mid-jump, focus completely on me, and become quiet as mice with open eyes and sitting bottoms. A miracle! I don't know what ghost stories they were telling around campfires 3,000 years ago, but I'm guessing those kids were sitting on their bottoms too.

Both of our World Premieres this season are dark comedies, which is how I'm choosing to live my life this year. Written by ensemble members, the first is a ghost story with not just one ghost, but a town of many. This is Matthew C. Yee's *White Rooster*. The second is *Untitled Vampire Play* written by Kevin Douglas and directed by Devon DeMayo. It's a story about love, family dynamics, and well, vampires.

In a time when remounts, known entities, and scripts written by robots saturate our options for enrichment, Lookingglass leans in more than ever on the practice and production of new and original work, like our most recent award-winning *Iraq, But Funny*. We continue our mission and we grow in the practice of our core values: invention, collaboration, and transformation.

This 25/26 Mainstage season brings theatrical elements of puppetry, movement, magic and jumpscare, conventions as old as Lookingglass and beyond, that are once again made anew. It brings music both folk and metal, it brings pain and joy, hunger and quiet. This season is grotesque and beautiful, sad and funny, and I can't wait for you to experience it.



With mad love,



Kasey Foster

Artistic Director, Lookingglass Theatre Company

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### Special thanks

Lookingglass Summer Camp's "Paper Magic" Campers

Chicago Asian Network

Heritage Museum of Asian Art

South Asia Institute

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## Land Acknowledgement

Lookingglass Theatre Company plies its craft and paints its dreams in what is now called Chicago, the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi nations. Other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sauk, Meskwaki and Fox also call this area home. Indigenous people continue to live in the region, and practice their heritage and traditions, including care for the land and waterways.

For more information and other resources please consider visiting the website for the Chi-Nations Youth Council at <https://chinations.org>. To learn more about where you live and Indigenous Sovereignty please visit [Native-Land.ca](https://Native-Land.ca).