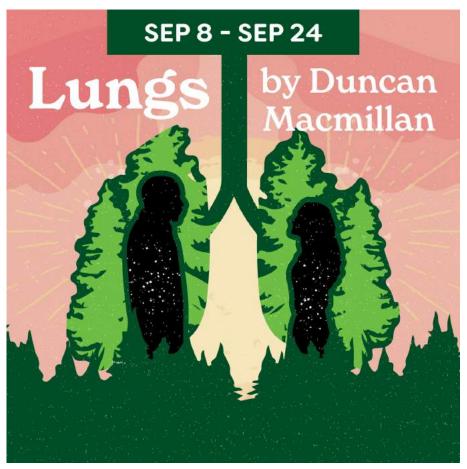


:: Lucia Colombi, Founder :: Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director ::



Ensemble Theatre :: 2023-2024 Season:: Performing Arts Center-Notre Dame College 4545 College Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121

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### A Message from the Artistic Director/Director

#### Dear Friends,

What a journey the last few years have been. Navigating a pandemic and a move from a space we inhabited for almost a decade. We are so thankful for our new partners at Notre Dame College. We are so excited to become a part of the Performing Arts Family here in South Euclid! Both my mother and I graduated from Regina (now part of the college). How wonderful it is to return to where alot of this journey began for me! My office is in my old highschool, and what an honor to help young artists as they navigate the beginings of a journey I started here so many years ago.

Thank you for joining us for the first production of our second season in our new home at Notre Dame College! As we continue to settle here, we are happy to see so many familiar faces, of supporters who have been with us for many of the years along the way, some since the very first show! We are also happy to discover so many new faces and new members from our now expanded community of supporters in 'the land'! We are part of a rich theatre arts "ensemble" and arts community in Northeast Ohio and are excited for what this next chapter holds!

What an interersting piece of theatre LUNGS is. Crafted unlike any other play I have encountered. It literaly lays bare some very important social issues, while exploring head on the experience of many young couples in our society. Although it seems to speak very much to the present generation, it gives voice to what I believe were the inner most joys, thoughts, anxieties, fears, strruggles, and devistations of many young parents from the distant past to the present. It is also a love story. I am so happy to be a part of this opportunity for two Cleveland actors to shine as the powerhouse artists they are! So excited/proud for Becca to make her mainstage directting debut and to welcome new members to the Ensemble family while also bringing back some past MVPS! Another true ensemble of artists. Thank you for continuing to be a part of our Ensemble family! Enjoy the show!

Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director

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Presents The Cleveland Premiere of

# LUNGS By Duncan Macmillan

**Director ::** Becca Moseley **Prod. Stage Manager ::** Kaya Sandel

Rehersal/Production Assistant :: Sam Landgraf

Costume Design :: Jill Kenderes

Set & Lighting Design :: Ian Hinz & Becca Moseley

**Sound** :: Becca Moseley

:: The Cast :: Katie Simón Atkinson Robert Grant III

Place: Here Time: Now

**Run Time**: Appoximately 85 minutes.
-There will be no intermission-

#### **Please Note:**

This production contains strong language and themes

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

**LUNGS** received its first performance at the Studio Theatre, Washington, D.C., USA on September 28th, 2011, in a rolling world premiere with Paines Plough/Sheffield Theatres. The Paines Plough production opened at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, on October 19th, 2011, and has gone on to be performed all over the UK. The play has subsequently been produced all over the world.

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### Who's who in the Cast:

Katie Simón Atkinson: (she/her/hers) is excited to be back at Ensemble Theatre! You may have seen her as Sam in 2017's Occupation: Dad. More recent onstage credits include: Emily Webb (Our Town), Jessie ('night, Mother), Aponibolinayen (Aponibolinayen in the Sky), and Henrietta Leavitt (Silent Sky). Katie has also designed costumes at Ensemble (Intimate Apparel, Kindertransport), Broadview Heights Spotlights, and Blank Canvas Theater, among others. She sends thanks to her friends and family and each loving star in her sky.

Rob Grant III: (he/him/his) with much enthusiasm, makes his debut on the Ensemble Theatre stage. This comes after his recent appearance at Playhouse Square in the captivating play People Places and Things, marking his second collaboration with a Duncan Macmillan play this year. Before his journey at Playhouse Square, he previously captivated audiences with his memorable performance in a world premiere production at Dobama Theatre. Rob is now filled with enthusiasm as he embarks on another thrilling theatrical journey. Notably, Rob's acting prowess extends beyond the stage, as he also graces the screens in two upcoming theatrical ventures. You can

catch him starring in the highly expected Netflix film "Shirley", alongside the talented Regina King. Additionally, he will showcase his versatility in the film "Shelby Oaks", featuring the esteemed Keith David. Rob extends his heartfelt gratitude to Ensemble Theatre for providing him with another incredible opportunity to play. He also wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Mariah Burks, his unwavering support since day one. With great anticipation, he invites all theater enthusiasts to relish the performance and experience the magic of live theater once more.

### About The Playwright

Duncan Macmillan is an English playwright and director. Most of his work focuses on modern socio-political issues. Macmillan won two awards in the inaugural year of the Brentwood Playwriting Competition at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre for his play, Monster. Monster also received nominations for the TMA and Manchester Evening News Awards for Best New Play. Lungs, an exploration of Parenthood, premiered at the Studio Theatre in Washington DC. The British production, starring Kate O'Flynn and directed by Richard Wilson, debuted on the West End and won the "2013 Off West End Award" for Best New Play. It has since been produced all over the world. His next play, People, Places and

Things opened at the National Theatre in co-production with Headlong Theatre Company in 2015. The play centers around one woman's experience with addiction and attempts at recovery It transferred to the Wyndham Theatre in the West End in 2016 and premiered in New York City at St. Ann's Warehouse in 2017. Every Brilliant Thing, an interactive monologue, was performed for three years at the Edinburgh Festivals and has toured worldwide. It was filmed by HBO during its run at the Barrow Street Theatre in New York City. Macmillan co-adapted and co-directed an adaptation of George Orwell's 1984 with Robert Icke. 1984 opened at the Almeida Theatre before enjoying three West End stagings, multiple UK tours, an international tour, and a Broadway run. Macmillan and Icke were awarded the UK Theatre Best Director Award together.

### Director's Note

Duncan Macmillan's author's note at the beginning of his play "Lungs" is beautifully simplistic- he dictates that the show should be performed on a "bare stage with no scenery, no props, and no mime." Lights and sound should not be used to indicate a precise location or a clear passage of time. Any use of these typical theatrical elements would detract from what the play is ultimately about- a single, intimate conversation between two people that spans a lifetime.

As we breathe life into this play on the Ensemble stage in 2023, I invite you to embark on a journey where the essence of existence, both for us and the natural world, is intertwined.

At the core of "Lungs" lies the delicate dance of choices – choices as intricate as the branching roots of a tree, or the similarly complex and branched network of our own lungs. These roots and systems serve as lifelines, sustaining not just individuals but the vast ecosystem they touch. Just as the roots of a tree draw sustenance from the earth, our lungs draw life from the very air we breathe. And just as a tree's roots are essential to the vitality of the forest, our choices, whether as couples or as a society, ripple through the intricate web of existence.

In a world grappling with pressing environmental concerns, "Lungs" urges us to ponder the moral complexities interwoven with procreation. It challenges us to weigh the fragility of our planet against the profundity of our desire to bring forth life. As we watch M and W try to navigate a world that becomes more difficult to thrive and grow in every single day, "Lungs" invites us to also examine our search for love, for stability, and for a safe place to grow.

But "Lungs" isn't solely a tale of environmental ethics. It's an intricate balance of modern relationships, a vivid tapestry of love, commitment, and communication. It raises questions about parenthood, family, and the very essence of nurturing and protecting life. Much like the human heart is nestled safely between two lungs, the heart of this show is found at the center of the relationship of our characters, M and W.

Within this narrative, "Lungs" delves into existential inquiries. It beckons us to contemplate our place in the world, the footprints we make, and the legacy we leave behind. In an era of ever-evolving societal norms and shifting values, these inquiries are more pertinent than ever.

Ultimately, "Lungs" is a symphony of thought and emotion. It reminds us that our choices- a precious resource, indeed- are threads woven into the intricate fabric of life itself.

Thank you for joining us on this exploration of life, love, and the timeless question of what it means to breathe in the complexity of our world.

#### Becca Moseley, Director

### Special Thanks To:

Notre Dame College Performing Arts Department, Aaron Elersich, Becca Moseley, Sam Landgraf, The City of South Euclid, The Ebony Bobcat Network, Tom Moore, Martin Cosentino, Ian Hinz, Austin Hinz, August Scarpelli, The Board of Ensemble Theatre, & Kyle Huff.

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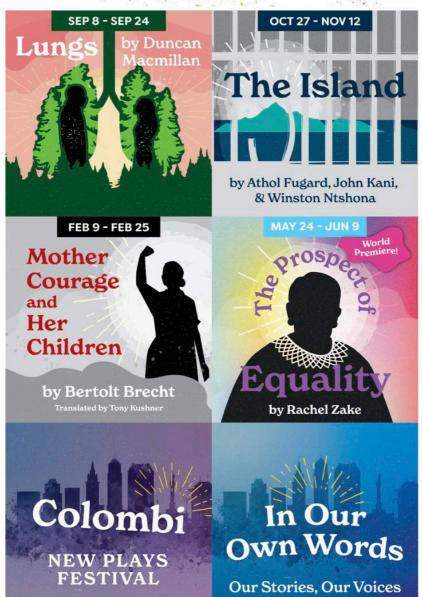
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### Meet the Crew:

Rebecca Moseley (Director/General Manager):: (she/her/hers) has worked in and around theatre for many years in a variety of capacities, and is happy to continue to do so for the second season at Ensemble's new home at Notre Dame College. In addition to serving as Ensemble's General Manager, she has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager for a number of Ensemble shows since 2013, including Describe the Night, Angels in America, A Raisin in the Sun, The Penelopiad, Intimate Apparel, The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, the Iceman Cometh, Anna Christie, Death of a Salesman, and many, many more. She co-directed Run, Kingsbury, Run, Assistant Directed East of Eden, and most recently Assistant Directed Norte Dame College's production of She Kills Monsters. She has been lucky enough to be on stage many times as well, most recently in Ensemble's 2023 production of The River. Long story short, she's been quite busy this past decade, theatrically speaking, and wouldn't have it any other way. She thanks Ian and Celeste for building and nurturing a theater that provides a constant supply of great scripts, and wonderful people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.

**Kaya Sandel (Production Stage Manager)**: has been involved in theatre since her freshman year of high school. Although she has spent many years in different theaters, she has found her new home here with Ensemble Theatre. This will be her first show with Ensemble and she could not be more proud! She is so grateful to her friends and family for all of their encouragement and support and would like to thank everyone involved in creating this beautiful show. Enjoy!

**Sam Landgraf (Reh. Stage Mgr/Production Asst.) :: (she/her/hers)** is excited to be working with Ensemble again and for the first time in their new space! Her and Becca have been working together since college and Sam is thrilled to be working the stage manager/director relationship for the first time! Previous Ensemble shows include The Great Gatsby (stage manager), Angels in America: Part I (crew), Phantom Tollbooth (stage manager), The Little Prince (stage manager), and others. She also has stage managed shows for Notre Dame's theatre program and Seat of The Pants. Sam is also a boat captain and works for Argonaut and the Port of Cleveland on Flotsam and Jetsam cleaning up the Cleveland waterfront with students from Davis Aerospace and Maritime High school. She would like to thank Ian, Celeste and Becca for bringing her baack into the Ensemble and Jordan for always understanding the rehearsal process.

**Jill Kenderes (Costumer)**:: (she/her/hers) is happy to return to Ensemble Theatre after previously designing The River, Clybourne Park, Intimate Apparel and Kindertransport. She has been performing on stages in Northeast Ohio for seventeen years and is grateful for that journey leading to the costuming world. Her work has been seen at theatres around the area including Blank Canvas Theatre, Broadview Heights Spotlights, French Creek Theatre and Clague Playhouse. Thank you to Joe, Anthony and Samantha.

lan Hinz (Set & Lighting Design) :: (he/him/his) is a graduate of Ohio University. Ian has worked professionally as a producer, award winning director, Light, Set, & Projection Designer, director of operations and theater educator for over twenty years in Ohio and New York. He is co-founder of the Ensemble Stage-Wrights' workshop, two-time winner of the Cleveland Critics' Circle Best Director award and served as Artistic Director and Operations Manager for the city of Cleveland Heights' historic Cain Park Amphitheater. He has worked in operations for The Ohio State University Jerome Schottenstein Center and the Cleveland State University Department of Music as a stage production specialist. He has produced off-off-broadway at the Gene Frankel Theater and worked in business development in the tech startup industry in New York City. He was the Executive Director of Raise the Roof for the Arts which operates The Historic Sidney Theatre in Sidney, Ohio from 2018 to 2023. He is excited for the next chapter as he steps into his new role as the General Manager of Cain Park for the City Cleveland Heights.







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