



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2016

People's Light presents the world premiere of ***The Harassment of Iris Malloy***

June 15 – July 10, 2016
By Zak Berkman
Directed by Lisa Rothe
Steinbright Stage

(Malvern, PA) – People's Light presents the world premiere of a suspenseful and sexy political drama by Producing Director Zak Berkman. *The Harassment of Iris Malloy* features award-winning stage, film and television actor Scott Bryce, and runs from June 15-July 10, 2016 in the Steinbright Stage. People's Light is located at 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, PA 19355. For tickets, call 610.644.3500 or visit peopleslight.org.

One night in Atlantic City a single mother places a bet on a new life after an intimate encounter with a high-powered U.S. Senator. This provocative new play takes a tense and tender look at the different ways women and men try to win in today's jackpot culture.

"We're so obsessed with winning and losing in our country," says playwright Berkman. "We've created this alluring myth of the 'big win' that has diminished the value of more subtle and complicated achievements, especially for women, for mothers, and all kinds of caretakers.

"There's a real distinction between the sexes regarding these fantasies about exceptionalism," Berkman observes. "Class plays a significant role as well. I want to explore these questions and contribute to a growing national conversation about our society's destructive definitions of success."

Artistic Director & CEO Abigail Adams notes that the theatre will offer curated discussions with the cast after Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday performances of this production. "The play's themes connect closely with current social issues in our country, issues that feel especially critical in light of the upcoming election," she says. "So we want to provide opportunities for immediate, in-depth conversations about the topics raised in the play.

"We hope that patrons will come to a 90-minute performance, then take part in discussions afterwards to share the thoughts, feelings and ideas this play provokes."

For information contact:

Shawn Stone
Director of Marketing & Communications
610.647.1900 x104
Cell: 484.678.9728
stone@peopleslight.org

Box Office: 610.644.3500

People's Light welcomes Scott Bryce as Senator Aarons. Bryce's extensive career encompasses theatre, television and film. Onstage, he has worked on and off-Broadway and in many regional theatres. On television, he has received two Emmy nominations, starred in numerous TV movies and miniseries, and guest-starred in dozens of TV series. His films include *Up Close & Personal* with Robert Redford and Michelle Pfeiffer, *Ghost Dog* with Forest Whitaker, and *Lethal Weapon 3* with Danny Glover and Mel Gibson, to name just a few.

"I first met Scott on the set of *As the World Turns* when I was twelve years old," remembers Berkman. "He played the scheming Craig Montgomery, manipulating his wife Betsy, who was played by Meg Ryan. I had a kid-crush on Meg, but Scott was the one whose artistry impressed me. The dimensionality he brought to his character, the empathy he was able to elicit for this con artist, captivated my young imagination. It's not an exaggeration to say Scott's work on that show greatly influenced the arc of my creative life.

"I've been fortunate to remain in touch with Scott throughout his multifaceted career. It's an honor and joy to have him here at People's Light, bringing his insight and talent to the character of Senator Robert Aarons."

This is Scott Bryce's People's Light debut. He works alongside three of the Theatre's resident artists: Julianna Zinkel (last seen in *Auctioning the Ainsleys*) plays the titular character, Iris Malloy; Teri Lamm (last seen in *Sense and Sensibility*) plays her sister, Cydney Malloy; and Pete Pryor (last seen in *Richard III*) plays Sticker, George and The Reporter. Returning guest artist Lisa Rothe (*Dear Elizabeth*) directs. The production team includes new guest artists Daniel Zimmerman (Set Designer), Tracy Christensen (Costume Designer), and Tyler Micoleau (Lighting Designer). Composer/sound designer Justin Ellington (*All My Sons*) creates music and sound. Lauren Bieber comes to People's Light for the first time to stage manage the production. Company member Gina Pisasale provides dramaturgy and Resident Director Samantha Reading serves as Fight Director.

This production contains sexually explicit language and mature themes. Best enjoyed by ages 18+.

CONNECT, ENGAGE, INTERACT AT PEOPLE'S LIGHT

Join the cast for an informal Q&A after every Tuesday evening, Thursday evening, and Sunday matinee performance.

As with every People's Light production, we offer **Scoop on Wednesdays: History, Context, and Gossip**, a lively discussion before Wednesday 7:30 pm performances. Resident Dramaturg Gina Pisasale hosts playwright Zak Berkman to get the inside scoop about the rehearsal and production process, design choices, and the world of the play. The conversation begins at 6pm in The Farmhouse Bistro on June 22, 29, and July 6. Cost of \$15 includes light fare. Call the Box Office at 610.644.3500.

Enjoy prix fixe **Dinner and A Show** packages for \$75 (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday matinee, Sunday evening) and \$84 (Friday, Saturday evening, Sunday matinee) at The Farmhouse Bistro prior to the Wed-Sun evening performances. That's a savings of up to 15% off the single ticket price. Call the Box Office at 610.644.3500.

People's Light announces *SEPTA Saturdays*. The Route 204 bus, which runs between the Paoli train station and the Theatre campus, will now service patrons before and after Saturday 2pm matinee performances. Visit www.septa.org for details.

TICKET INFORMATION

The Harassment of Iris Malloy previews on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30, Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 and Friday, June 17 at 8 pm. The play opens on Saturday, June 18 and runs through Sunday, July 10.

Standard single tickets start at \$37. Community Night tickets are \$27 for the 7:30 pm performances on June 15 and 16. **For tickets, call the Box Office at 610.644.3500.** Special discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. **For more information or to purchase group tickets, call 610.647.1900 x111 or email benedict@peopleslight.org.**

7-play subscription packages for the 2016-2017 season are available for purchase and start at \$161. Productions include *The Mountaintop* (September 28-October 30, 2016), *Sleeping Beauty: A Musical Panto* (November 16, 2016-January 15, 2017), *The Matchmaker* (February 15-March 12, 2017), *I and You* (March 29-April 23, 2017), *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (May 3-June 4, 2017), *Project Dawn* (June 7-July 9, 2017), and *Moon Over Buffalo* (July 19-August 13, 2017). Upgrade to the Ultimate Premiere Package, which includes all 7 plays plus *Back Home Again: On the Road with John Denver* (December 3, 2016-January 15, 2017) and *Surviving Twin*, written and performed by Loudon Wainwright III (January 21-February 5, 2017). The new multi-generational Spark Series for children ages 5-12 starts at \$56 and includes *Sleeping Beauty: A Musical Panto* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. The Teen Series for children ages 12-19 includes *The Mountaintop*, *Sleeping Beauty: A Musical Panto*, *The Matchmaker*, *I and You*, and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Visit peopleslight.org or call 610-644-3500 to order.

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ABOUT PEOPLE'S LIGHT

Now in its 41st season, People's Light, a professional, not-for-profit theatre in Chester County, Pennsylvania, makes plays drawn from many sources to entertain, inspire, and engage our community. We extend our mission of making and experiencing theatre through arts education programs that excite curiosity about, and deepen understanding of, the world around us. These plays and programs bring people together and provide opportunities for reflection, discovery, and celebration. Founded in 1974, we produce eight to nine plays each season, in two black box theatres with 340 and 160 seats respectively, mixing world premieres, contemporary plays, and fresh approaches to classic texts for our 7-Play, Discovery, and Teen Series.

BIOS

Zak Berkman *Playwright*

Zak's plays include *The Harassment of Iris Malloy*, *Beauty on the Vine*, *A Breath Short of Breathing*, *A Splendid Isolation*, as well as numerous short works. He has also written for daytime television including NBC's *Days Of Our Lives*. *Beauty on the Vine* was produced Off-Broadway by Epic Theatre Ensemble featuring Olivia Wilde and David Strathairn. The play was subsequently produced in Chicago, published by Dramatist Play Service, and optioned by Dirty Rice Pictures to be turned into a film. *The Harassment of Iris Malloy* was a finalist for the Smith Prize and previously received readings at The Alley All New Festival, The Public Theatre, The Lark, Next Theatre in Chicago, People's Light, and Epic. It will be produced at Detroit Public Theatre in Spring 2017.

Lisa Rothe *Director*

People's Light: *Dear Elizabeth* and *Hold These Truths* (Community Matters reading). Theatre Includes: NYC: The Lark, New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater, Epic Theatre Ensemble, New Georges, The Women's Project, Primary Stages, The Foundry, Ensemble Studio Theatre, 52nd Street Project, Naked

Angels, BAM, Summer Play Festival, NYMF, National Actors Theater, Keen Company (Keen Teens), Orchard Project, Voice & Vision, HERE, Dixon Place. She is a Usual Suspect with New York Theatre Workshop, an Artistic Affiliate with New Georges, a Drama League alumna & Artist Mentor, Women's Project Director's Lab member, Fox Fellow recipient, a member of The Actor's Center, the new co-President of the League of Professional Theater Women, and a new member of the National Theater Conference. Upcoming: *Confederates* by Suzanne Bradbeer at TheatreWorks and *Detroit '67* by Dominique Morisseau at Playmakers Repertory Theater. Training: MFA from NYU's Graduate Acting Program. Taught and directed at NYU's Graduate Acting Program, Yale School of Drama, The Juilliard School, (ESPA) at Primary Stages and many other training programs across the country.

Scott Bryce *Senator Aarons*

People's Light debut. Theatre Includes: Broadway (*Caesar and Cleopatra*), Off Broadway (*Sally's Gone She Left Her Name*) and various regional theatres. Recent stage credits include Walt Disney in *Small World* by Fred Stroppel at the Harold Clurman Theatre, The White Heron Theatre in Nantucket and *Love Letters* by A.R. Gurney with his wife Jodi Stevens at MTC. Film/Television Includes: *As the World Turns* (twice nominated for Best Actor Daytime Emmy); series regular "Mike McQueen" on Ryan Murphy's *Popular*; starred with Drew Barrymore and Jennifer Beals in the CBS series *2000 Malibu Road*; TV movies and miniseries include *Pandora's Clock*, *Visions of Murder* and *Exclusive*; recurring roles and guest starred in over 50 TV series including *Facts of Life*, *Murphy Brown*, *ER*, *Reba*, *Sex in the City* and *30 Rock*; recent guest stars include *Homeland*, *Blue Bloods*, *Person of Interest*, *Law and Order SVU*; supporting roles in films such as *Above Freezing*, *Ghost Dog*, *Lethal Weapon 3*, and *Up Close & Personal*. Scott serves on the Board of Directors of the New Paradigm Theatre and on the Board of Advisors for The White Heron Theatre, The Nantucket Theatre Institute and the Summer Theatre of New Canaan.

Teri Lamm *Cydney Malloy*

Company Member since 2015. People's Light: Fanny Dashwood/Charlotte Palmer in *Sense and Sensibility*, Annalee in *Auctioning the Ainsleys*, Varya in *The Cherry Orchard*, Leah in *Row After Row*, Jessie Mae in *The Trip to Bountiful*, Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*. Theatre Includes: *The Iceman Cometh* (Broadway), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Roundabout), *Palace of the End*, *Hannah and Martin*, *Habitat*, *Little Eyolf*, *Time and the Conways* (Epic Theater Ensemble), *Midsummer*, *Equus*, *Flea in Her Ear*, *Devil's Disciple* (The Alley Theater), *How I Learned to Drive* (Dallas Theater Center). Film/Television Includes: *Law and Order*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Third Watch*, *Trifling With Fate*. Training: MFA from NYU.

Pete Pryor *Sticker/George/Reporter*

Company Member since 2010. People's Light: Director: *The Three Musketeers*, *Stella and Lou*, *Arthur and the Tale of the Red Dragon**, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Cinderella*, *Aladdin**, *Noises Off*, *Mr. Hart & Mr. Brown*, *Treasure Island* (*co-author). Actor: *Richard III*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Treasure Island*, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Pete has directed the last eight holiday pantos and serves as the Associate Artistic Director. His play *Beautiful Boy* was produced at People's Light in 2012. Theatre Includes: The Wilma, The Arden Theatre, Act II Playhouse, The Philadelphia Theatre Co, Theatre Exile, Azuka, 1812 Productions, Montgomery Theatre, PA Shakespeare, Delaware Theatre Co, Cape May Stage, The Boarshead, and Pittsburgh City Theatre. Co-founder and former Producing Artistic Director of 1812 Productions. Resident artist/drama instructor at the Pathway School since 2005. Pete is a Lunt-Fontanne fellow and Independence Fellowship Artist and winner of four Barrymore Awards. Film/Television Includes: *Limitless*, *Lebanon Pa*, *Cellar*, *Backwards*, *Mayor Cupcake*, *Seduction of the Will*, *Hack*, *The In Crowd*, *NBFS*, *Surrender Dorothy*.

Julianna Zinkel *Iris Malloy*

Company Member since 2007. People's Light: *Auctioning the Ainsleys, Biloxi Blues, Pride and Prejudice, Barcelona, The Trip To Bountiful, The Miser, The Crucible, A Tale of Two Cities, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Theophilus North*. Theatre Includes: Off Broadway/NYC: *Three Men On a Horse* (TACT), *The Lover* (SoHo Playhouse). Regional: *Blackbird* (Theatre Exile); *Under The Skin, Stick Fly, Rabbit Hole, As You Like It, Crime and Punishment* (Arden Theatre); *The Language Archive* (Bristol Riverside Theatre); *The Eclectic Society* (Walnut Street); *From Prague* (CATF); *Big Love, Wintertime* (Wilma Theater); *Love and Communication* (Passage Theatre).

QUICK FACTS
THE HARASSMENT OF IRIS MALLOY

<p>Performances:</p> <p>Wed, June 15 7:30 pm (P)(C) Thurs, June 16 7:30 pm (P)(C) Fri, June 17 8 pm (P) Sat, June 18 8 pm (O) Sun, June 19 2 (T) & 7 pm Wed, June 22 2 & 7:30 pm (S) Thurs, June 23 7:30 pm (T) Fri, June 24 8 pm Sat, June 25 2 & 8 pm Sun, June 26 2 (T) & 7 pm Tues, June 28 7:30 pm (T) Wed, June 29 7:30 pm (S) Thurs, June 30 7:30 pm (T) Fri, July 1 8 pm Sat, July 2 2 & 8 pm Sun, July 3 2 (T) & 7 pm Tues, July 5 7:30 pm (T) Wed, July 6 2 & 7:30 pm (S) Thurs, July 7 7:30 pm (T) Fri, July 8 8 pm Sat, July 9 8 pm Sun, July 10 2 (T) & 7 pm</p> <p>Previews (P) Community Night (C) Opening Night (O) Scoop (S) Talkback (T)</p>	<p>Dates: June 15-July 10, 2016</p> <p>Location: People's Light Steinbright Stage 39 Conestoga Road Malvern, PA 19355</p> <p>Tickets: Standard single tickets start at \$37. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Community Night tickets are \$27 for the 7:30 pm performances on June 15 and 16, 2016.</p> <p>Actors, prices, productions, performance dates and times are subject to change. Additional service charges will apply. Contact the box office for more details.</p> <p><u>Public Contact Information</u></p> <p>Box Office: 610.644.3500 Groups: 610.647.1900 x111 The Farmhouse Bistro: 610.647.8060</p> <hr/> <p><u>CAST</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Senator Aarons</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Scott Bryce*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cyndey Malloy</td> <td>Teri Lamm*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sticker/George/Reporter</td> <td>Pete Pryor*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iris Malloy</td> <td>Julianna Zinkel*</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>PRODUCTION TEAM</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Director</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Lisa Rothe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Director of Production</td> <td>Charles T. Brastow*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Set Design</td> <td>Daniel Zimmerman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Costume Design</td> <td>Tracy Christensen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lighting Design</td> <td>Tyler Micoleau</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Original Music and Sound Design</td> <td>Justin Ellington</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fight Director</td> <td>Samantha Reading</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dramaturg</td> <td>Gina Pisasale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Production Stage Manager</td> <td>Lauren Bieber*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Line Producer</td> <td>Abigail Adams</td> </tr> </table>	Senator Aarons	Scott Bryce*	Cyndey Malloy	Teri Lamm*	Sticker/George/Reporter	Pete Pryor*	Iris Malloy	Julianna Zinkel*	Director	Lisa Rothe	Director of Production	Charles T. Brastow*	Set Design	Daniel Zimmerman	Costume Design	Tracy Christensen	Lighting Design	Tyler Micoleau	Original Music and Sound Design	Justin Ellington	Fight Director	Samantha Reading	Dramaturg	Gina Pisasale	Production Stage Manager	Lauren Bieber*	Line Producer	Abigail Adams
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*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers.