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ROUND  
THEATRE  
HOUSE

Dear Friends,

We hope you and your families are safe and healthy, and that you have enjoyed the programming we've brought to our virtual stage so far this season—*American Dreams*, *The Work of Adrienne Kennedy: Inspiration & Influence*, and *The Catastrophist*.

When we announced these virtual programs back in September, we'd hoped that we would be able to return to the theatre this spring with in-person performances. As the pandemic progressed—and with our commitment to the health and safety of our community as our top priority—it became clear that we would need to carry on virtually through the remainder of 2020-2021 Season.

And so, today we're thrilled to announce three virtual performances that will conclude our 2020-2021 Season.

- Colman Domingo's ***A Boy and His Soul***, a vibrant journey into Domingo's own history, his identity, and the soul music that was his family's soundtrack.
- Lucy Alibar's ***Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up***, a one-woman love letter to family, her childhood in the Florida panhandle, and the belief that everyone deserves a defender.

- Young Jean Lee's ***We're Gonna Die***, a life-affirming exploration of the inevitability of death and the comfort found through community—all backed by a four-person indie rock band.

Read more about these performances below.

All we want to do right now is sit around a kitchen table or a backyard bonfire (or the bar at the theatre!) and have a long conversation with our friends. And in this moment when we're all trapped in our own individual homes, our hope is that these deeply personal individual performances by remarkable actors can bridge that divide and offer a sense of the community we all so deeply miss.

We hope you enjoy these performances and look forward to seeing you in our virtual audience in the coming months, until we are able to be together in person again.



Ryan Rilette  
Artistic Director



Ed Zakreski  
Managing Director

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## SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SAVE!

**Subscribe today** with a virtual subscription to our three Spring Season shows— ***A Boy and His Soul***, ***Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up***, and ***We're Gonna Die***—and **save more than 15% off** single ticket prices!

As always, subscribers enjoy increased flexibility with **free ticket exchanges** and pay **no service charges**. Subscribers also receive **priority ticket access** to future performances, whether in-person or virtual, as well as other perks when we return to the theatre!

**Call the Box Office** Monday through Friday from 11:00am – 5:00pm at **240.644.1100**, or

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

**Questions?** Our Box Office associates are happy to assist you at 240.644.1100. Our associates are working remotely, Monday through Friday, from 11:00am – 5:00pm.

*Have a credit on your account from a canceled show last season? Apply it to a virtual subscription or single tickets today! Choose this option when ordering online or contact our Box Office for assistance.*

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***A Boy and His Soul***

By Colman Domingo

Directed by Craig Wallace

“Keep a song in your heart, and you will always find your way”—that’s what JJ’s mom always said. And sure enough, music is what reconnects him to his family when he clears out their West Philadelphia house to be sold. When JJ finds an old record collection of disco, R&B, and classic soul, he is transported by the vibrant soundtrack of his youth through memories of coming of age and coming out in the 1970s and 80s. Tender, funny, and “blazingly charismatic” (*The New York Times*), *A Boy and His Soul* is a one-man show best enjoyed, according to the playwright, with a glass of scotch and wearing your favorite kaftan.

[LEARN MORE](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)***Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up***

By Lucy Alibar

Directed by Ryan Rilette

A small Florida farmhouse on a watermelon field may not seem like much, but for one little girl, it's where magic happens. It's where her father runs with her every morning, plays Sam Cooke on the radio, and defends death row inmates who have no one else to stand up for them. Oscar-nominated author Lucy Alibar (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*) presents an unforgettable story about her childhood as a fourth grader and part-time legal secretary. Told through a series of heartfelt and irreverent vignettes, *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* is a one-woman love letter to family, the South, and the belief that everyone deserves a defender.

[LEARN MORE](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)

*Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* is sponsored by Nan Beckley.



### ***We're Gonna Die***

By Young Jean Lee

Directed by Paige Hernandez

Bad things will happen to all of us. That's a certainty in life, but it also means that none of us are alone. And while we can't avoid breaking up, getting sick, and losing loved ones, we can sing a little song to feel a little better. Based on true stories of tragedies and traumas, Young Jean Lee creates an experience that is part one-woman stage play, part live-band rock concert, and totally life-affirming. *We're Gonna Die* is a "goofily grim and oddly uplifting" (*Vogue*) meditation on the human experience, blending indie songs with down-to-earth storytelling to offer a simple but hopeful message: *We are going to die...and it'll be okay.*

[LEARN MORE](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)

*We're Gonna Die* is sponsored by Doug and Lorraine Bibby and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

**In order to help Round House through this period of uncertainty,  
please consider a gift to our Resilience Fund.**



[DONATE NOW](#)



Round House Theatre's 2020-2021 Reimagined Virtual Season is sponsored by Mitch & Heidi Dupler, Linda Ravdin & Don Shapero, and The Zickler Family.

Round House is a theatre for everyone. We enrich our community through bold, outstanding theatrical and educational experiences that inspire empathy and demand conversation.

All sales are final. Shows, artists, dates and times are subject to change.

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## THE CATASTROPHIST PREMIERES TONIGHT



*The Book of Will* playwright **Lauren Gunderson** returns with a time-jumping tale based on the life and work of her husband, renowned virologist **Nathan Wolfe**. A deep dive into the profundities of scientific exploration and the harrowing realities of facing your own mortality, *The Catastrophist* is a world premiere theatrical experience built for this moment in time. Premieres tonight (January 26) at 7:00 pm ET and remains available for on-demand streaming through February 28.

How do you plan for catastrophe? [Watch William DeMeritt as Nathan in the trailer for \*The Catastrophist\*.](#)

[BUY TICKETS](#)

## The Washington Post

Virus hunter Nathan Wolfe is the subject of a new play at Round House. He's also the playwright's husband.



[Read the feature on \*The Catastrophist\* in \*The Washington Post\*.](#)

## San Francisco Chronicle

Lauren Gunderson makes a science of writing plays, this time about a spouse who's a virologist

Lauren Gunderson writes about Nathan Wolfe for a Marin Theatre Company and Round House Theatre world premiere



[Read the feature on \*The Catastrophist\* in \*The San Francisco Chronicle\*.](#)

**ADRIENNE KENNEDY FESTIVAL RECOGNIZED NATIONWIDE**

# The New York Times

## A Trip Into the Otherworldly With Adrienne Kennedy as Guide

A digital four-play retrospective, capped by a world premiere, illuminates this writer's fascination with doubling, violence and Black identity.



**[Read the feature in \*The New York Times\*.](#)**

BUY & WATCH NOW

## The Washington Post

**"The lyrical mosaic of *Etta and Ella on the Upper West Side* denotes a play-builder in her prime. That the puzzle master in question is 89 years young makes the dramatic results all the more remarkable."**

**[Read the full review.](#)**

## THE NEW YORKER

**"Kennedy's work is unusually well suited to filmic treatment: when her characters speak, they not only advance the plot but impart lush and unlikely images."**

**[Read the full review.](#)**

## The New York Times

"Round House is showcasing Kennedy's uncanny ability to capture a sense of untethered Blackness, disconnected from time, space and an immutable identity."

[Read the full review.](#)

Adrienne Kennedy's *He Brought Her Heart Back in a Box*, *Sleep Deprivation Chamber*, *Ohio State Murders*, and *Etta and Ella on the Upper West Side* are all available for on-demand streaming through February 28.

**Purchase a [full festival pass](#)** for all four plays to waive all handling fees!

You may also purchase [tickets to individual events](#).

BUY & WATCH NOW

Round House Theatre's 2020-2021 Reimagined Virtual Season is sponsored by Mitch & Heidi Dupler, Linda Ravdin & Don Shapero, and The Zickler Family.

*The Catastrophist* is co-produced with Marin Theatre Company and sponsored by Bonnie and Alan Hammerschlag.

*The Work of Adrienne Kennedy: Inspiration & Influence* play festival is produced in association with McCarter Theatre Center and sponsored by The RPM Fund.



Header photo of actors Caroline Clay and William DeMeritt.

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# THE CATASTROPHIST

BY LAUREN M. GUNDERSON

**CRITICS ARE MESMERIZED BY THE WORLD PREMIERE**

STREAMING ON DEMAND THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

[BUY TICKETS](#)

"Gunderson allows the audience to experience the **immeasurable power of both the sciences and the arts.**"

– *Los Angeles Times* ([Read More](#))

"*The Catastrophist* sheds compassionate light on the all-too-human tendency to ignore catastrophe until it is too late. **There's no risk, and plenty of reward, in watching this essential lesson.**"

– *The Economist* ([Read More](#))

"**Stunning....** Timely, surprising, fascinating."

– *New York Theater* ([Read More](#))

"A play that is **fitting for this unprecedented time.**"

– *Broadway World* ([Read More](#))

"**Bill DeMeritt** manifests a classical actor's ability to use words as springboards. Each moment compresses a thousand thoughtful choices into one."

– *San Francisco Chronicle* ([Read More](#))

"★★★★★...A play for **now**, a play for **yesterday**, a play for **tomorrow**."

– *West End Best Friend* ([Read More](#))

"This is **a show to savor and get lost in**.

It may be one man's journey, but in a way it's all of ours."

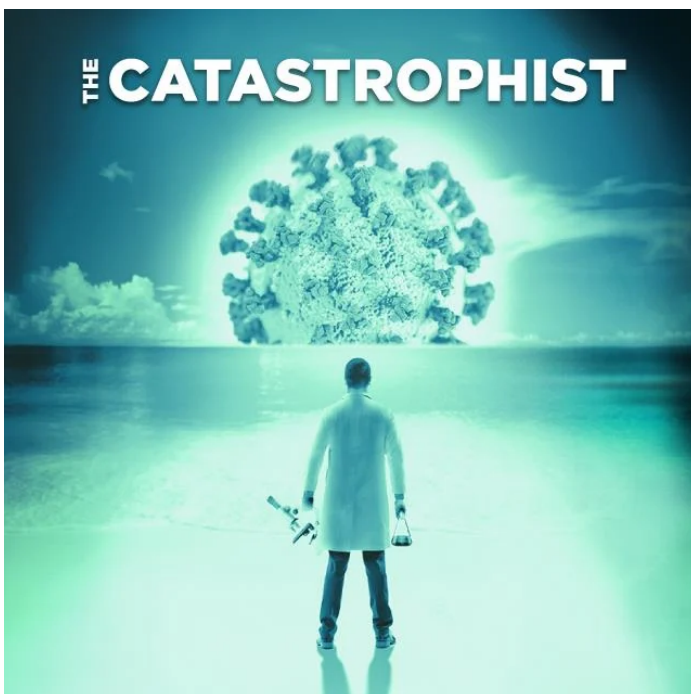
– *MD Theatre Guide* ([Read More](#))

"**Deeply affecting...sensorial...warmly comical**. Readymade for this historical moment."

– *San Francisco Examiner* ([Read More](#))

BUY TICKETS

## ABOUT THE PLAY



*The Book of Will* playwright **Lauren M. Gunderson** returns with a time-jumping tale based on the life and work of her husband, renowned virologist **Nathan Wolfe**. A deep dive into the profundities of scientific exploration and the harrowing realities of facing your own mortality, *The Catastrophist* is a world premiere theatrical experience built for this moment in time. Purchase now for on-demand streaming through February 28.

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Photo/video of actor William DeMeritt.

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