

PARK SQUARE theatre

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An Utterly Original Comedy for Anyone Who Has Ever Had a Mother: Park Square Theatre Presents Lisa Kron's *WELL*

Saint Paul, MN—Park Square Theatre begins the new year with one of the biggest hits out of New York in the past few years: Lisa Kron's *WELL*. This original, autobiographical show landed on the top ten lists of *The New York Times*, *Associated Press* and *The Advocate* in 2006. Previews begin Friday, January 18; the show opens Friday, January 25, and runs through February 10 in Park Square's theatre in the historic Hamm Building in downtown Saint Paul.

Michael Bigelow Dixon makes his Park Square directing debut with *WELL*. His cast features **Christina Baldwin** (in her PST debut) as Lisa, **Barbara June Patterson** as her mother, and **Heidi Bakke**, **Emil Herrera**, **Faye Price** and **Edwin Strout** as the accompanying cast of characters. **Kate Sutton-Johnson**, winner of the 2007 Emerging Artist Ivey Award, is the designer of the play's unique and visually arresting set.

In its review of *WELL*'s Broadway premiere, the *New York Times* called the show a “sparkling autobiographical play” that restores “the honor of a genre that was slipping into disgrace...*WELL* turns out to be about the mystery of human personalities, even and especially those of the people you think you know intimately.”

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At center stage in *WELL* is Lisa Kron, who simply wants to put on a nice, orderly play about her family and how she got cured of allergies. But her mother—who’s watching the play from her onstage La-Z-Boy—has her own agenda. Interrupting to correct Lisa, make friends with the actors, and feed snacks to the audience, she subverts her daughter’s plans, stealing the show. Part performance art, part neighborhood meeting, part mother/daughter wrangling, *WELL* is a touching and original comedy for anyone who has ever had a mother.

According to director Michael Dixon, *WELL* is a play that “makes fun of theatrical conventions and practices, including the favorite question ‘What is this play about?’ The truth is, the more the overall play tries to be about something, the more it gives way to the chaos and complications of a renegade but likeable life force: Mom. Within 90 minutes, Mom manages to subvert every aspect of her daughter’s play, which, in fact, does raise interesting questions about illness and health, difference and empathy, racial discrimination and integration.”

“*WELL* was a surprise success in New York – an odd-ball, genre-bending entertainment that successfully transferred from the non-profit Public Theater to a commercial Broadway run,” says Artistic Director Richard Cook. “It’s totally inventive and subversive.” Cook says he sought Dixon as the director because “I don’t know anyone in this country who is more in tune with contemporary playwriting than Michael. He deeply loves writers and their writing, their struggle with words and images, and he knows how to protect both the brain and pulsing heart of sometimes ‘messy’ storytelling.”

Schedule & Ticket Information

Public previews of *WELL* are Friday, January 18, through Thursday, January 24 (tickets for all previews are \$20, with the exception of a 99¢ preview on Tuesday, January 22). The show opens Friday, January 25, at 7:30pm and runs through Sunday, February 10. Performances are Thursdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., with 2:00 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$33 on Thursdays, Fridays and Sunday; and \$36 on Saturdays. Rush tickets are available for \$15. Tickets can be purchased by calling 651-291-7005 or online at www.parksquaretheatre.org.

Park Square Theatre's 2007–08 Season

Park Square Theatre's 2007–08 season continues in March with the area premiere of 2004 Tony nominee *Frozen* by Bryony Lavery featuring Linda Kelsey, Karen Landry and Terry Hempleman; Lanie Robertson's *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* starring Thomasina Petrus in April; and Steven Dietz's retelling of *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* in May.

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Park Square Theatre *Entertainment That Matters*

WELL Performance Schedule

January 18–February 10

Historic Hamm Building, 20 West Seventh Place, downtown St. Paul

Tickets & Information: (651) 291-7005 or www.parksquaretheatre.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY- FEBRUARY					JAN 18 (P) 7:30pm \$20	19 (P) 7:30pm \$36
20 (P) 2:00pm \$20		22 (P) 7:30pm 99¢	23 (P) 7:30pm \$20	24 (P) 7:30pm \$20	25 (O) 7:30pm \$33	26 7:30pm \$36
27 2:00pm \$33				31 (D) 7:30pm \$33	FEB 1 7:30pm \$33	2 (A) 7:30pm \$36
3 2:00pm \$33				7 7:30pm \$33	8 7:30pm \$33	9 7:30pm \$36
10 (C) 2:00pm \$33						

P=Preview O=Opening D=Post-show discussion A=ASL/AD C=Closing