

Crowded Fire Theater

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CROWDED FIRE THEATER'S 2015 SEASON
THREE ELECTRIFYING PLAYS BY
A. REY PAMATMAT, IDRIS GOODWIN AND GEETHA REDDY
AT THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO

***Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* by A. Rey Pamatmat,**
February 26-March 21 (Press Opening March 2)
***Blackademics* by Idris Goodwin,**
April 9-May 2 (Press Opening April 13)
***On a Wonderverse* by Geetha Reddy,**
October 1-24 (Press Opening October 5)

Thick House
1695 18th St, San Francisco

San Francisco - Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Executive Producing Director Tiffany Cothran announce the line-up for Crowded Fire's 2015 season. It is a season that continues the company's long tradition of producing theater that is intellectually and emotionally challenging, asking audiences to see themselves through the stories of others. "I'm incredibly proud to program my final CFT season with these plays! There is an dominant theme in all three that centers around women and the choices women make to stay alive, to follow their voices, and to pursue their convictions" states out-going Artistic Director Marissa Wolf.

"This is a season filled with poetry, grit, humor, and fantasy..." remarks Executive Producing Director Tiffany Cothran "...the plays work in concert with one another thematically while showcasing three very different voices in the American theater." Beginning in March, Crowded Fire's 18th season includes ***Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* by A. Rey Pamatmat, February 26-March 21**, directed by Desdemona Chiang; ***Blackademics* by Idris Goodwin, April 9- May 2**, directed by Mina Morita; and the world premiere of ***On a Wonderverse* by Geetha Reddy, October 1-24**.

"From Edith as a young girl unafraid of protecting herself and her brother in ***Edith Can Shoot Things...***, to Anne and Rachelle in ***Blackademics*** fighting with tenacity for their voices to be heard, to Dr. Alpharez Schen in ***On a Wonderverse*** who must encounter the most basic and profound human questions of whether to keep or destroy her creation, each of these women offers a brilliant, textured look at being a woman in our world today. It is a season bursting with feminist energy and vitality!" says Artistic Director Marissa Wolf.

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David Hyry & Associates 300 Page St. San Francisco CA 94102 (415) 864-3547

Crowded Fire's 2015 Season -add one

World premiere programming in Crowded Fire's 2015 Season is funded by generous support from the San Francisco Foundation (The Matchbox), and the San Francisco Arts Commission (The Matchbox). Crowded Fire gratefully acknowledges general operations funding from Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund and The Kenneth Rainin Foundation

The Matchbox: Commissioning and Developing New Plays

Concluding the season will be the 2015 Matchbox Readings Series, Crowded Fire's annual festival of staged readings, presenting four plays in development November 13, 14, 15. Titles to be announced.

The Matchbox: Commissioning and Developing New Plays grew out of CFT's need to bolster playwrights' revision processes in order to strengthen the scripts before rehearsals for the professional productions began. *The Matchbox* programming includes three different initiatives, including Commissions, in-house Workshops, and slots in the annual *Matchbox Readings Series*. Recent Crowded Fire Commissions through the Matchbox and first seen in the *Matchbox Readings Series* include *The Hundred Flowers Project* by Christopher Chen and *The Taming* by Lauren Gunderson and this season's *On a Wonderverse*, a co-commission by Geetha Reddy with Playwrights Foundation. The 2014 *Matchbox Reading Series* will take on four surprising new plays, by Geetha Reddy, Andrew Saito, MJ Kaufman, and Eugenie Chan in readings from December 1-9, 2014 at the Thick House Theater.

The Plays

***Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* February 26-March 21 (March 2 – opening)**

by A. Rey Pamatmat □

Directed by Desdemona Chiang

Kenny and his spunky sister Edith are a-ok. Sure, Edith talks to her stuffed frog, and stands sentry with a pellet gun at night. There isn't much food in the refrigerator and there's even less adult supervision. But against all odds, they are making it work...and making up the rules as they go along. When Kenny falls for his best friend Benji and Edith shoots something more than a bale of hay, the formerly indifferent outside world comes barging in. Full of humor, this sweet coming-of-age story celebrates the love that binds us. *"It's rare to see a play centered around such a fierce central female role, much less one of a young girl! At age 12 Edith faces the world with a hunger and depth rare in most adults. Pamatmat's rendering of layered and full characters allows **Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them** (March 2-21) to sing with hope and beauty in an otherwise ugly world."* - M. Wolf

This 2012 Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association Citation Nominee was a fan and critical favorite at the 2012 Humana Festival. *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* has been hailed by critics as an "utterly sincere and winning drama about three good kids that sparkles with moments of gentle comedy."

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Blackademics West Coast Premiere **April 9-May 2 (April 13 – opening)**

By Idris Goodwin

Directed by Mina Morita

Two ravenous African-American scholars arrive for their coveted dinner reservation at a select café. But what starts as a celebration, quickly takes a raucous turn. Banter turns to debate, and debate into battle as the women figuratively and literally vie for a seat at the table. In this West Coast premiere, playwright Idris Goodwin serves up a meal of searing wit, pop-culture humor, and psychological menace in an absurdist take on “post-racial America.” Chicago critics hailed the world premiere of *Blackademics* as “80 minutes of verbal and mental gymnastics...provocative...hilarious” and “timely.” *“Underneath the smart conversations that the women share about race and politics inside of academia, Idris Goodwin offers a deeply complicated, haunting portrait of race and power in America in **Blackademics** (April 13- May 2). Using the metaphor of having to fight for every item at the dinner table, from a glass of water, to a fork, to a chair, this play offers a scathing and sometimes hilarious journey of reckoning.”*--M. Wolf

On a Wonderverse World Premiere **October 1-24 (October 5 – opening)**

by Geetha Reddy

As the sole woman on a team of award-winning scientists, Dr. Alpharetz Schen is often uncredited or dismissed by her peers. Then one fantastical night in her lab, she creates something surprising and incredible...a vibrant new universe. Bay Area playwright Geetha Reddy weaves a highly imaginative and breathtaking look at the intersection of science and spirituality, as Dr. Schen becomes an avatar of Shiva and must decide whether to keep or destroy her growing Universe. *“Reddy’s richly imaginative world, (October 5-24) forces us to question realities larger than ourselves.”* -M. Wolf

This new play is the latest co-commission from Crowded Fire and Playwrights Foundation who last teamed up on the Glickman award winning *The Hundred Flowers Project*.

Playwrights and Directors

A. Rey Pamatmat is the author of “*after all of the terrible things I do*” which began as a South Coast Rep commission, made its debut at Milwaukee Rep under the direction of May Adrales and will be seen next at Huntington Theatre under the direction of Peter Dubois. His play *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* began a rolling world premiere at the Actors Theatre of Louisville’s Humana Festival of New American Plays before productions at New Theater, Actor’s Express, Mu Performing Arts, B Street Theater, Manbites Dog Theater, Theatre Confetti and Artists at Play. The play received a Citation Award from the American Theater Critics’ Association/Steinberg New Play Awards. His play *Thunder Above, Deeps Below*, initially produced by Second Generation, was the inaugural production in the new space of San Francisco’s Bindlestiff Studio.

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Crowded Fire's 2015 Season -add three

Desdemona Chiang (Director) is a stage director based in Seattle and the San Francisco Bay Area. Co-Founder of Azeotrope (Seattle). Her previous directing credits with Crowded Fire include the award winning *The Hundred Flowers Project* by Christopher Chen and Lauren Gunderson's *Exit, Pursued By A Bear*. Directing credits include Playmakers Repertory Company, Aurora Theatre Company, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Azeotrope, Impact Theatre, FringeNYC, Playwrights Foundation, Golden Thread Productions, Washington Ensemble Theatre, One Minute Play Festival, Unicycle Collective, SIS Productions, Ohio Northern University, University of Washington, and Cornish College of the Arts, among others.

Idris Goodwin is a playwright, spoken word performer, and essayist. He is the author of the award winning and widely produced play *How We Got On*. Other plays include *This Is Modern Art* (co-written with Kevin Coval for Steppenwolf Theater) *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay* (StageOne Family Theater.) *Bars And Measures* will world premiere at B Street Theater in Summer 2015. His play *The Realness* is part of the upcoming Ruth Easton Series at Playwright's Center. He is the author of the pushcart nominated essay collection *These Are The Breaks*. He's performed on HBO and Sesame Street.

Mina Morita (Director) is the Artistic Associate at Berkeley Rep and its center for creation and development of new work, The Ground Floor. During her time at Berkeley Rep, Mina has artistically coordinated the Fireworks Festival, directed *Crazy Wisdom Saves the World Again*, and directed a staged reading of *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*. As assistant director there, she has worked on a number of productions including with Tony Taccone for Tony Kushner's *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures* and with Les Waters for Sarah Ruhl's *In The Next Room, or the vibrator play* (which received a Tony nomination). In 2012, Mina worked with Anna Deavere Smith as the artistic coordinator for her play, *On Grace*.

Geetha Reddy is a five-time recipient of PlayGround's Emerging Playwright Award. Her play *Safe House* premiered in 2010 at SF Playhouse. At Central Works she and Aaron Loeb collaborated to create *Blastosphere!* In 2008 *Safe House* was selected for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival and Sacramento's Capital Stage's Playwright's Revolution Festival. Geetha's plays *Me Given You* and *Girl in a Box* were part of the Playwright's Foundation's "In the Rough" reading series. She was awarded PlayGround's June Anne Baker Prize in 2005 and has since received three PlayGround Alumni commissions. Her plays have also appeared in the San Francisco Fringe Festival, the Santa Rosa Quickies festival, Just Theatre Lab, and the Best of PlayGround Festival. Her short film OBIT is currently showing at film festivals nationwide including LA Shorts Fest, NYC Indie Fest, and BendFilm Festival. Geetha is a member of the Dramatists Guild and Resident Playwright at the Playwrights Foundation.

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Crowded Fire's 2015 Season -add four

For Calendar Editors

Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) Artistic Director Marissa Wolf and Executive Producing Director Tiffany Cothran announce the line-up for Crowded Fire's 2015 season. It is a season that continues the company's long tradition of producing theater that is intellectually and emotionally challenging, asking audiences to see themselves through the stories of others. Beginning in March, Crowded Fire's 18th season includes ***Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* by A. Rey Pamatmat, February 26-March 21**, directed by Desdemona Chiang; ***Blackademics* by Idris Goodwin, April 9-May 2**, directed by Mina Morita; and the world premiere of ***On a Wonderverse* by Geetha Reddy, October 1-24**. From Edith as a young girl unafraid of protecting herself and her brother in ***Edith Can Shoot Things...***, to Anne and Rachelle in ***Blackademics*** fighting with tenacity for their voices to be heard, to Dr. Alpharez Schen in ***On a Wonderverse*** who must encounter the most basic and profound human questions of whether to keep or destroy her creation, each of these women offers a brilliant, textured look at being a woman in our world today. It is a season bursting with feminist energy and vitality.

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WHERE: Thick House, 1695 18th St, San Francisco.
(between Carolina St. & Arkansas St. in Potrero Hill)

PERFORMANCES:

Wed-Saturdays 8 PM

With Special Opening Night Performances on Mondays, 8PM

Tickets: Prices range from \$10-\$35 progressively during the course of the run.

We offer Pay-What-You-Can Preview performances and student/senior/group rates.

Tickets: Visit www.crowdedfire.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Box Office by phone 415) 746-9238

www.crowdedfire.org or (415) 655-3866