

ABOUT THE PLAY

A World Premiere:

Dionysus Was Such A Nice Man

Written by Kate Tarker

April 23 - May 12

Directed by Dominique Serrand

The Wilma Theater



FOUR THINGS about this brand-new commission for the Hot House Company:

01 DIONYSUS: GREEK GOD OF WINE... and hang-overs?

Dionysus – also known as “the god who instills ritual madness” often played a role in Greek Tragedies. He is present here in Kate Tarker’s comedy- which explains the number of beer cans the Wilma is recycling. Laughing through this giant hang-over opens the door to a world of pain.



02 THIS PLAY IS INSPIRED BY THE MYTH OF OEDIPUS

Oedipus is warned by an oracle that he will kill his father and marry his mother so he stays away from his family in Corinth. No one tells him he was adopted. So he DOES kill his father (Laius) and marry his mother (Jocasta) to become King of Thebes. The Myth has it that Oedipus blinds himself as punishment. This play is a different version.

03 LAUGHING AT DEVILS...

French Director Dominique Serrand founded Theatre de la Jeune Lune and brought their production of *The Three Musketeers* to the Wilma in 1999. His visceral approach to comedic performance and clowning greatly inspired Kate’s work on this play that is...

“laughing at devils in order to destroy them”

– Kate Tarker, playwright



Pictured: Dominique Serrand and Jennifer Baldwin Peden in "Fishtank" at Theater de la Jeune Lune. (Photo © Michal Daniel,

04 CONTENT ADVISORY:

This play contains graphic conversations about sexual assault and domestic violence. We want to offer resources to those who might not be able to laugh at this subject matter and are working closely with local organization Women Against Abuse to help us. The Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline is a free 24-hour resource for individuals with questions or concerns about domestic violence: **1-866-723-3014**