



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harlequin's *Hedwig* will punk rock you!

Olympia, WA – May 31, 2022 – Harlequin Productions presents *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask, June 24 – July 30 at the State Theater. Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct. Honoring Olympia's status as a punk rock center, every weekend will feature a different local band opening the show with a 45-minute set.

The place: The State Theater. The time: The early-mid 90s. The opening act: local bands including Sugar and the Spitfires, [Keven James Hoffman](#), [Golden Ruins](#) and [Smelly Cat](#). The Berlin Wall is down. Gender is a construct. Just try and tear her down. This is Hedwig in punk rock Olympia, WA.

Brilliantly innovative, heartbreaking, and wickedly funny, Hedwig and the Angry Inch is the landmark musical by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask that is "groundbreaking and undoubtedly ahead of its time" (Entertainment Weekly). This genre-bending, fourth wall-smashing musical sensation, with a pulsing score and electrifying performances, tells the story of one of the most unique characters to ever hit the stage. Winner of four 2014 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, Hedwig will take you by storm!

Since its howling debut at the Jane Street Theatre in 1998, *Hedwig* has received countless conceptual reimaginings. Harlequin's production aims to take the show back to its roots. Set in the "early-mid 90s", director Aaron Lamb's staging recalls the era when the Capitol Theater's backstage (one block from the State Theater) was a center for the riot grrrl movement and hosted international [punk rock music festivals](#). Bringing in local bands to open the show is a part of this vision.

Lamb was there for the show's first off-Broadway run, though he didn't know it at the time. As he recalls, "I was a young, arrogant actor in NYC in 1998, in town for auditions. I found a room from the back of the Village Voice. It was the Jane Street Hotel in the middle of the Meatpacking District. Every night for two weeks, I came back to an obnoxious band playing very loudly in the basement of this dirty, rat-infested hole. I walked by every night with my nose in the air. That was the original production."

With the passage of 30 years of relative global stability, the edge and danger of the period just after the fall of the Berlin Wall seems far away. Or does it? The war in Ukraine and rising violence in our own country are bringing back glimpses of that darker, more dangerous time when punk rock served as an outlet for global tensions and fear.

Says Lamb, "The more I delve into Hedwig's story, the more I see that she was ahead of her time in 1998, and she may once again be ahead of her time today."

Production Information

Aaron Lamb (he/him) - *Director* is the Producing Artistic Director of Harlequin Productions. As Artistic Director, he has directed *A Christmas Carol*, *The Highest Tide*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, *Man of La Mancha*, *A Doll's House*, *Love and Information*, and *The 1940s Radio Hour*. In eleven seasons as an actor and guest director with Harlequin he has also directed *I Am My Own Wife*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Ruthless!*, *August: Osage County*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Time Stands Still*, *Middletown*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. As an actor, he most recently appeared in the 2021 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Aaron has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He holds an MFA in Acting from California State University, Fullerton, a BA from Washington State University, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Adam Rennie* (he/they) - *Hedwig* is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Originally from Sydney, Adam is now based in NYC. He was recently seen as Hedwig in the New Zealand premiere of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (The Court Theatre). Australian credits include New York Times Critics Pick, *Who's Your Baghdaddy* (Curveball Creative); *Melba* (Hayes Theatre Co.); *Love Never Dies* (Really Useful Co); *Prodigal* (Bryant & Frank); *The Producers*; *Crazy for You* (The Production Company) *Jekyll & Hyde* (TML); Dr Frank N Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Gordon Frost Organization) and Will Bloom in *Big Fish* (RPG); American Credits include Nick Hurley in *Flashdance* (NETworks); *Once We Lived Here* (Urban Stages); *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Ogunquit Playhouse); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Hilton Head); *NYC3 & Shades of Bubl * (EPIC).

Mandy Rose Nich ls* (they/them) - *Yitzhak* is a graduate of Arizona State University. Their post-grad work brought them to the Pacific Northwest by way of University of Oregon. Select favorite roles: Sweeney Todd (*Sweeney Todd* - 2019 Gregory Award Nominee), Eponine (*Les Mis* - 2016 Spotlight Award Nominee), and John Dickinson (*1776*). Select regional credits; *Celia, Zen ...* (Book -It); *Rizzo, Grease* (Arizona Broadway Theatre); *Martha Cratchit u/s, A Christmas Carol* (ACT); *Frenchie, Cabaret* (Phoenix Theatre). When not on stage, Mandy works as a voice over actor, host, and puppeteer. More at mandyrose.com.

Adam Rennie* and **Mandy Rose Nich ls*** will be understudied by two local actors. **Chris Bolduc** will understudy the role of Hedwig, and **Heather Matthews** (*The Women*) will understudy the role of Yitzhak.

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, the Tony-winning rock musical by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask. Featuring opening acts by local bands. Directed by Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: June 24 – July 30, 2022

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at **360-786-0151**, or in person **12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Washington Center**, and **beginning 2 hours before performances at the State Theater**.

General admission tickets are \$42

Senior 60+/Military \$38

Student/Youths Under 25 \$25

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) General \$21; Senior/Military \$19, Student/Under 25 \$12.50; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Preview: Thursday, June 23 at 7:30 pm

Tickets to the Preview are \$20 General Admission

Opening Night: Friday, June 24 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday Matinee: Wednesday, July 27 at 2:00pm

Pay-What-You-Can: Three performances TBA prior to opening

CATEGORY: Musical

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12 and over with guidance

CAST:

Adam Rennie*	<i>Hedwig</i>
Mandy Rose Nichøls*	<i>Yitzhak</i>
Chris Bolduc	<i>Understudy Hedwig</i>
Heather Matthews	<i>Understudy Yitzhak</i>

THE ANGRY INCH:

Brent Pendleton	<i>Skszp (Band Leader/Piano)</i>
Matt Fearon	<i>Jacek (Bass)</i>
David Broyles	<i>Krzyzhtoff (Guitar)</i>
Andy Garness	<i>Schlatko (Drums)</i>

* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

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