



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860  
PO Box #1498, Pawtucket RI 02862 | (401) 484-0355 | [www.burbagetheatre.org](http://www.burbagetheatre.org)  
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(401)484.0355, [info@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:info@burbagetheatre.org)

**Burbage Theatre Co announces the Rhode Island Premiere of *Hand to God* by Robert Askins directed by Kate Kataja**

PAWTUCKET, RI (Oct 22, 2019) - The Burbage Theatre Co announces the second production of their Ninth Season (2019-2020) ***Hand to God* by Robert Askins directed by Kate Kataja** (*Venus in Fur, Polaroid Stories*), running from **November 14 to December 8**, at Burbage's new home in Pawtucket, 59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, 02860.

"We follow our record-breaking run of David Ives's *The School for Lies* with another Rhode Island Premiere: a comedy of a completely different sort. **Another arraignment of human life and love and hope — but much more malevolent,**" says Artistic Director Jeff Church, "***Hand to God* is as much a satirical glimpse of the regionalisms of Texan Christianity and the fine line between release and repression, as it is about causality: that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.** This is the cornerstone of drama, as it is in the natural world.

"When we are pressed from all sides — compounded past our limits and cornered like a wild animal — our will to fight back will manifest in equally extraordinary ways. And then when God — the ostensible Great Good — is one of the oppressors, it follows that an equal and opposite force — to all of this — will inevitably manifest. And there's only one opposite to God... **Enter Tyrone**, who unleashes **an unconventional, uniquely theatrical reign of terror unlike anything you've seen on stage**, laying bare those uniquely human but often unspoken things that lurk in the dark corners of our minds and hearts. Things we all fear. ***Hand to God* is an irreverent, provocative, darkly hilarious, and heartbreaking lens through which to examine our own impulses to resist what oppresses, represses, and ultimately frees us in a world beyond our understanding.**"

*Hand to God* runs from *November 14 to December 8* at 59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI.

Tickets are \$25 (General admission), \$15 (Students); Preview performances are \$15.  
**High school students receive free admission to any performance that isn't SOLD OUT.**

*Buy online at [www.burbagetheatre.org](http://www.burbagetheatre.org).*

For more information, email us at [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org) or call (401)484-0355.

**Members of the Press** are invited to either of our PRESS Preview Performances.  
See 'Calendar of Performances' below for specific Press Dates.

## **ABOUT HAND TO GOD**

"The fearsome critter [Tyrone], who takes possession of a troubled teenager's left arm in Robert Askins' darkly delightful play really inspires goosebumps as he unleashes a reign of terror...But he's also flat-out hilarious, spewing forth acid comedy that will turn those goosebumps into guffaws." —*The New York Times*

After the death of his father, meek Jason finds an outlet for his anxiety at the Christian Puppet Ministry, in the devoutly religious, relatively quiet small town of Cypress, Texas. Jason's complicated relationships with the town pastor, the school bully, the girl next door, and—most especially—his mother are thrown into upheaval when Jason's puppet, Tyrone, takes on a shocking and dangerously irreverent personality all its own. *Hand to God* explores the startlingly fragile nature of faith, morality, and the ties that bind us.

"A filthy triumph... a savage, often hilarious, and profoundly irreligious satire..." —*Guardian*

"Furiously funny...Askins' most impressive talent is his ability to make us laugh while juggling those big themes that make life so terrifying: death, depression, alcoholism, sexual guilt, emotional repression, religious hypocrisy and the eternal battle between your good puppet and your bad puppet."—*Variety*

"*Hand to God* is so ridiculously raunchy, irreverent and funny it's bound to leave you sore from laughing. Ah, hurts so good."  
—*New York Daily News*

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

### ***HAND TO GOD***

by Robert Askins

directed by Kate Kataja

### **CAST**

Andrew Iacovelli, *Timothy*

Brian Kozak, *Jason/Tyrone*

Maggie Papa, *Jessica*

Melissa Penick, *Margery*

Michael Thibeault, *Pastor Greg*

### **PRODUCTION CREW**

Stage Management/Assistant Direction, Ava Mascena

Set Design, Baron E. Pugh

Lighting Design, Jessica Winward

Costume Design, Matthew Oxley

Puppet Design, Roger Lemelin

Sound Design, Jeff Church

### ***HAND TO GOD* CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES**

Thursday, November 14 at 8pm

Friday, November 15 at 8pm

Saturday, November 16 at 8pm **PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN/PRESS Preview**

Sunday, November 17 at 2pm **PRESS Preview**

Friday, November 22 at 8pm **OPENING PERFORMANCE**

Saturday, November 23 at 8pm

Sunday, November 24 at 2pm

Friday, November 29 at 8pm

Saturday, November 30 at 8pm

Sunday, December 1 at 2pm

Friday, December 6 at 8pm

Saturday, December 7 at 8pm

Sunday, December 8 at 2pm

## **ABOUT BURBAGE THEATRE CO**

The Burbage Theatre Company strives to excite and engage a new generation of theatre-goer with socially relevant and compelling stories, both classic and contemporary, told by an inventive and expert ensemble of actors.

Burbage is dedicated to the growing and cultivating of the diverse artistic community in Rhode Island by providing affordable access to the performing arts and perpetuating a discourse about, not only content, but the actor's role as storyteller in today's world.

Burbage strives to foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all people regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or national origin.