

BURBAGE THEATRE CO

249 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | www.burbagetheatre.org
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeff Church, *Artistic Director*
(401)323-5323, jeff.church.jr@gmail.com

Burbage Theatre Co continues their Eighth Season with the Rhode Island Premiere of *THE HYPOCHONDRIAC*

PAWTUCKET, RI (October 24, 2018)_ The Burbage Theatre Co announces the second production of their Eighth Season (2018-2019) with the **Rhode Island premiere** of a new adaptation of Moliere's ***THE HYPOCHONDRIAC, or the Imaginary Invalid***, directed by Wendy Overly, opening for previews on November 9 and closing on December 2.

"A few things about this play and it's author: Moliere was a french playwright during the 17th Century. "The Hypochondriac" was Moliere's 30th and final play (this production happens to be the 30th that Burbage has produced in Rhode Island). Moliere was one of the greatest comedians of all time. Moliere died while performing this play.

"This play shows us the grim and all-to-timely prospect that **good liars could rule the world as long as they continue to tell the lies we want to hear**," says Artistic Director Jeff Church, "Moliere, who had been dying for eight years before writing and actually dying in this play, was well acquainted with the doctors of his time. Medicine was young, and the medical profession was rife with pedantic peddlers of false remedies to misunderstood ailments that were often more dangerous than the diseases themselves; **Doctors were, in short, quacks**. They could promise doom and then engender the hope of salvation by presenting the only solution to the problem they created in the first place.

"But this play is not about the fools, the liars, the doctors, but about those of us who believe their lies at the expense of those nearest us, and **how if we overcome our feelings, put our faith instead in those who truly have our best interests at heart, and employ reason, the truth will out**. Moliere's comedy is of his **most hysterical** and **most poignant** to a modern audience."

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC runs from November 9 to December 2 at TEN31 Productions.
Tickets are \$25 (General admission), \$15 (Students); preview performances are \$15. Buy online at www.burbagetheatre.org.

For more information, info@burbagetheatre.org or leave a message at (401)484-0355.

Members of the Press are invited to either our PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN Performance on Saturday November 10 at 8pm or our PRESS Preview matinee on Sunday November 11 at 2pm.

ABOUT THE HYPOCHONDRIAC

"Riotously entertaining... a fresh-as-paint reimagining of a usually dusty comedy that suggests that Moliere's diagnosis of hypochondria and quack remedies remains bang on the money." - Telegraph UK

Moliere's classic farce pokes fun at Argan, a man so obsessed by his own imaginary ailments that he can no longer control his haphazard household or the mercenary medics he employs. With doctors determined to grow fat from the profits of his condition, Argan's closest relatives battle to show him the truth of his situation. Using elaborate trickery, they strive to cure the real disease from which he suffers, managing to pile confusion upon hilarious confusion.

"Fundamental French farce...The show's virtue is its fidelity to Molière in combining broad-bottomed farce with an assault on the morbid egotism of those for whom illness becomes a way of life." - The Guardian

"A richly satirical comedy." - The New York Times

"Arrogant doctors, mysterious maladies, incomprehensible jargon, "The Imaginary Invalid" might be the latest medical drama, rather than a 17th century comedy by the French playwright Molière. No doubt, that is why the play holds up so well. Despite all the discussions of bile and other humors, the fundamental relationships haven't changed that much." - Culture Vulture

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC

by Jean Baptiste Moliere
directed by Wendy Overly

CAST

Argan, a hypochondriac	F. William Oakes
Toinette	Clare Blackmer
Beline	Lee Rush Schwartz
Beralde	Valerie Westgate
Angelique	Gabrielle McCauley
Cleante	Mike Puppi
Dr Diafoirus	Andrew Stigler
Thomas/Dr Purgon	Ryan Leverone
Louison	Kelly Robertson
Bonnefoi/Fleurant	Michael Thibeault

PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Management, Ava Mascena
Lighting Design/Production Management, Jessica Winward
Set Design/Assistant Stage Management, Andrew Iacovelli
Costume Coordination, Ava Mascena
Costume Design Team, Ava Mascena, Jeff Church, Jess Winward
Production Assistant, Liz Hallenbeck
Wig Design/Styling, Emily Christofferson

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Friday, November 9 at 8pm Preview Performance
Saturday, November 10 at 8pm PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN Performance/ **PRESS** Performance
Sunday, November 11 at 2pm **PRESS** Preview Performance

Friday, November 16 at 8pm
Saturday, November 17 at 8pm
Sunday, November 18 at 2pm

Friday, November 23 at 8pm
Saturday, November 24 at 8pm
Sunday, November 25 at 2pm

Friday, November 30 at 8pm
Saturday, December 1 at 8pm
Sunday, December 2 at 2pm