



Curt Columbus, Artistic Director - Kate Liberman, Executive Director  
201 Washington Street • Providence • Rhode Island 02903 • [www.trinityrep.com](http://www.trinityrep.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 29, 2023

CONTACT: Laura Weick, Communications Associate • (401) 453-9226 • [lweick@trinityrep.com](mailto:lweick@trinityrep.com)

# SALEM WITCH STORIES TAKE CENTER STAGE AS TRINITY REP OPENS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**The Good John Proctor and Becky Nurse of Salem  
run September 7 — November 12**

**PROVIDENCE:** Trinity Repertory Company opens its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with two plays performed in rotating repertory, both dark dramedies with thematic ties to gender, power, and Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. *The Good John Proctor* by Talene Monahon, directed by Kimberly Senior, will play September 7 — 15 before taking a brief pause for *Becky Nurse of Salem* by Sarah Ruhl, directed by Curt Columbus, which begins its run on September 21. Starting September 28, both plays will run in the Dowling Theater on an alternating basis through November 12. Patrons can purchase tickets at [trinityrep.com](http://trinityrep.com), by calling the Ticket Office at (401) 351-4242, or in person at 201 Washington St., Providence.

“Where Monahon’s *The Good John Proctor* is more of a prequel to the events of *The Crucible*, Ruhl’s *Becky Nurse of Salem* deals with the endless ripples that still impact our national psyche today,” Artistic Director Curt Columbus said. “Both plays revolve around the question – Why are women’s intelligence, adventurousness, and wisdom deemed ‘witchcraft’ or ‘unnatural?’ We hope that what makes this experience unique is how the conversation between these two writers opens a new dialogue around American identity and the space that women occupy in the American story. No small project, but how else would we begin our sixth decade as Rhode Island’s state theater?”

## **ABOUT THE GOOD JOHN PROCTOR**

Perhaps you recall the young women who led the “witch hunt” in Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*. But did you know that in reality, “temptress” Abigail Williams was just an 11-year-old girl? Her cousin Betty Parris was an imaginative 9-year-old; while Mercy Lewis was an anxiety-ridden child seeking refuge in alcohol, and Mary Warren an epileptic orphan. When Abigail begins working for 60-year-old farmer John Proctor, their lives

unravel from playing with poppets and churning butter into something unexpected. *The Good John Proctor* reexamines the Salem witch trials through the eyes of the four young girls at its center.

**Kimberly Senior** makes her Trinity Rep debut as the production's director. Senior and Columbus were colleagues at Steppenwolf Theatre Company more than 20 years ago and have built a strong personal and professional relationship since. Senior's previous work includes the Tony-nominated Broadway production of *Disgraced*, numerous Off-Broadway and regional credits, and *We Go Round and Round* for the Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA Program.

"In *The Good John Proctor*, we get the opportunity to go back, to speculate, 'how did we get here?'" Senior said. "The play presents the side of the story we don't usually get to hear, giving voice to centuries of women whose interior lives were silenced by those who held the pen and wrote the history we've been given thus far. Talene Monahon does this masterfully, with poignancy and humor, in a play that can be as scary as it is moving. I am so excited to explore this play here at Trinity Rep with this amazing, intelligent, artistic community that is Providence. I am overjoyed to be in the company of one of my dearest friends and collaborators Curt, and to be in service of this remarkable story written by Talene."

#### **ABOUT BECKY NURSE OF SALEM**

Life's not so charming for Becky Nurse, a modern descendant of an executed Salem "witch." She's been fired from her job, troubled by her granddaughter's boyfriend, is pining for a married man, and taking pain pills to cope after her daughter's overdose. To reverse her bad fortune, she consults an eccentric local witch ... leading to shocking, funny, and even disturbing results. Becky's life transforms into a messy dark comedy that explores how far one woman will go to hold onto what she holds dear. Playwright Sarah Ruhl returns to Trinity Rep's stage with this enchanted exploration of what is real, what is right, and what is redemptive.

Columbus, who directed last season's acclaimed run of *Sweeney Todd*, will helm this production. He said "Sarah Ruhl is a longtime Trinity Rep friend and audience favorite, and one of the most significant and influential playwrights in America in the last twenty years. I have loved *Becky Nurse of Salem* since I read an early draft several years ago — it is funny, smart, and so incredibly, achingly human that I could not wait to produce it. And in the character of Becky Nurse, Sarah captures an American story that is rarely, if ever seen, on stage. I cannot wait to introduce Trinity Rep audiences to her and this glorious play."



## THE CASTS AND CREATIVE TEAM

While each production involves a separate director and cast, the creative team is shared among both: **Shura Baryshnikov** (choreographer and intimacy director), **Mark Rose** (fight coordinator), **Michael McGarty** (set designer), **Shahzad Mazaheri** (costume designer), **Dawn Chiang** (lighting designer), and **Joanna Lynne Staub** (sound designer).

In *The Good John Proctor*, four adult actors will bring the youthful spirit of the child characters to life. Resident company member **Rachael Warren**, who played Mary Warren in 2011's *The Crucible*, will reprise the role in this production. **Rebecca-Anne Whittaker**, a recent graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Program in Acting, will portray Betty Parris. Guest artists **Deanna Myers** and **Lori Vega** make their Trinity Rep debuts as Abigail Williams and Mercy Lewis, respectively.

*Becky Nurse of Salem* features resident company member **Angela Brazil** as the title character. She's joined by returning guest artists **Alexander Crespo-Rosario II** (*Sweeney Todd*), **Rachel Dulude** (*The Inferior Sex*), **Benjamin Grills** (*A Lie of the Mind*), **Jihan Haddad** (*Sueño*), and **Dereks Thomas** (*August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean*). **Meg Thalkin** makes her Trinity Rep debut as the Witch.

The supporting sponsor for these productions is **James DeRentis, The Providence Real Estate Guy**. Trinity Rep's 2023-24 Season is sponsored by the **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)**. **Southwest Airlines** is the official airline of Trinity Rep.

## ABOUT TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.

Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for more than four decades and made memories for nearly two million audience members.



Trinity Rep's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season runs through June 2024, and includes productions of *The Good John Proctor*, *Becky Nurse of Salem*, *A Christmas Carol*, *La Broa' (Broad Street)*, August Wilson's *Fences*, and *La Cage aux Folles*. For more information, visit Trinity Rep's website at [www.trinityrep.com](http://www.trinityrep.com).



## AT A GLANCE

### ***The Good John Proctor***

By Talene Monahon

**Director** – Kimberly Senior

**Assistant Director** – Jessie March

**Choreographer and Intimacy Director** – Shura Baryshnikov

**Fight Coordinator** – Mark Rose

**Set Designer** – Michael McGarty

**Costume Designer** – Shahrzad Mazaheri

**Lighting Designer** – Dawn Chiang

**Sound Designer** – Joanna Lynne Staub

**Stage Manager** – Kelsey Emry

**Assistant Stage Manager** – Olivia Tellier

**Cast** – Featuring company member **Rachael Warren** as Mary Warren, Brown/Trinity Rep MFA alum **Rebecca-Anne Whittaker** as Betty Parris, **Deanna Myers** as Abigail Williams, and **Lori Vega** as Mercy Lewis. The understudies for this production are **Alexa Cadete** and **Mary Mullane**.

***The Good John Proctor* Opening Press Night | Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:30 pm**  
**Invitations and RSVP instructions to come**

**Pay What You Wish** – September 7

**Neighborhood Nights** – Patrons can receive 20% off tickets for the 7:30 pm performance on the following Sundays:

October 1 (Kent County residents)

October 15 (Washington County residents)

November 5 (Bristol & Newport County residents)

October 1, 15, and November 5 (Providence County residents)

**Open Caption Performances** – October 25 and November 5 at 2:00 pm; November 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 at 7:30 pm

**Sensory-Friendly Performance** – October 25 at 7:30 pm

**Project Discovery Performance** – October 26 at 10:00 am

**Ticket Office** – (401) 351-4242; 201 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903

**Group Sales** – (401) 453-9238; discounts for groups of 20 or more

**Website** – [trinityrep.com/john](http://trinityrep.com/john)

**Production Supporting Sponsor** – James DeRentis, The Providence Real Estate Guy

**Season Sponsor** – Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)

**Official Airline of Trinity Rep** – Southwest Airlines



**AT A GLANCE**  
***Becky Nurse of Salem***  
By Sarah Ruhl

**Director** – Curt Columbus

**Choreographer and Intimacy Director** – Shura Baryshnikov

**Fight Coordinator** – Mark Rose

**Set Designer** – Michael McGarty

**Costume Designer** – Shahrzad Mazaheri

**Lighting Designer** – Dawn Chiang

**Sound Designer** – Peter Sasha Hurowitz

**Stage Manager** – Polly Feliciano

**Assistant Stage Managers** – Samantha Hudgins, Olivia Tellier

**Cast** – Featuring company member **Angela Brazil** as Becky Nurse, **Alexander Crespo-Rosario** as Stan, **Rachel Dulude** as Shelby, **Benjamin Grills** as The Judge/The Jailer, **Jihan Haddad** as Gail, **Meg Thalkin** as A Witch, and **Dereks Thomas** as Bob. The understudies for this production are **Lucia Aremu**, **Dylan Michael Bowden**, **Tracy Diibon Coffey**, **Evie Dumont**, **Daniel Shtivelberg**, and **Quinn West**.

***Becky Nurse of Salem* Opening Press Night | Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:30 pm**  
**Invitations and RSVP instructions to come**

**Pay What You Wish** – September 21

**Neighborhood Nights** – Patrons can receive 20% off tickets at the 7:30 pm performance on the following Sundays:

October 8 (Kent County residents)

October 22 (Washington County residents)

October 29 (Bristol & Newport County residents)

October 8, 22, and 29 (Providence County residents)

**Open Caption Performances** – October 18 and 29 at 2:00 pm; October 18, 21, 26, 27, and 29 at 7:30 pm

**Sensory-Friendly Performance** – October 18 at 7:30 pm

**Project Discovery Performance** – October 19 at 10:00 am

**Ticket Office** – (401) 351-4242; 201 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903

**Group Sales** – (401) 453-9238; discounts for groups of 20 or more

**Website** – [trinityrep.com/becky](http://trinityrep.com/becky)

**Production Supporting Sponsor** – James DeRentis, The Providence Real Estate Guy

**Season Sponsor** – Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)

**Official Airline of Trinity Rep** – Southwest Airlines