

## A Note from the Artistic Director

My mind gets tied up with so many things on the day to day.

*What will happen to the middle class? What about the working class? Why are a new generation of people turning to drugs? Will I be a good parent in a world like this? What will happen if my child does something horrible?*

And, sometimes, I need a laugh.

Our spring season goes after all of this in spades. We start with *Detroit*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist that in the face of major changes to our tax code and divisiveness in every facet of our political lives has become even more relevant since its premiere. Does the American Dream exist? Does the Middle Class? Funny and unflinching Lisa D'Amour gives us a world trying to fake a smile while hiding an ulcer.

We follow it with Jennifer Fawcett's beautiful look at motherhood in the middle of the opioid crisis, *Apples in Winter*. Written while Jenn was pregnant it looks at all the hopes and obsessions our children bring, even in the face of a cold world. Winner of the Smith Prize for Socially Conscious theater it is truly stunning theater.

And we end with Mark St. Germain's, *Ears on a Beatle*. A comedy detailing the FBI surveillance on John Lennon, written by the man behind our smash plays *Dancing Lessons* and *Relativity*. This will replace our previous announced *Tooth and Nail* (written by me).

Why the change?

As Artistic Director it is my job to be attuned to where we are as a community and where we need to go. Sometimes that means a play that pushes our audience to uncomfortable places. And sometimes it means some straight up fun. It's been a hard year. Let's have a laugh. Besides, if I'm replacing my own play you better believe you're getting something good in return!

As always, thank you.

It's been a great two years at Riverside. Our audiences have been brave and adventurous. And we have pushed ourselves to bring work that may challenge you more than you are used to, work that stretches what theater can be, work that is social and work that is sometimes confounding. But work we will always commit to doing to the highest of our standards.

Welcome.

Sean Christopher Lewis  
Artistic Director