



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kevin Kearney

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Matthew Nicola

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2018

Contact: Matthew Nicola, Artistic Director
mnicola@thehighwoodtheatre.org | 301-587-0697

The Highwood Theatre Continues Its “Off Your Rocker” Season with *“The Dog Must Die”*

A provocative original play addressing what happens when life on Earth is no longer sustainable

The Highwood Theatre is proud to present a new play by award-winning 18-year-old playwright Madison Middleton, in a continuation of its 2017-2018 theme, Off Your Rocker: Redefining and Defying the Status Quo.

Middleton’s new play, *The Dog Must Die*, is a thought-provoking environmental dystopian piece presenting a world that is uninhabitable, where concrete columns have formed above ground to house and save society. What happens when life on Earth is no longer sustainable? The play examines the conflicts that result, challenging our conceptions of humanity and our obligations to the environment, and forcing us to confront the dark, primordial nature within us.

Directed by 12th-grader Samuel Intrater, *The Dog Must Die* is Highwood’s second Professional Your Theatre Production of the season, and features a diverse cast of five professional actors representing a wide mix of ages, genders, backgrounds and experiences. Artistic Director Matthew Nicola explains that, “Through its professional actors, this production explores themes of environmental sustainability and conservation despite the human conflicts that unfold as the play progresses.”

This is the second play written by Middleton and produced by Highwood. The first, *The Requiem*, was the only student-written and student-produced piece in D.C.’s 2015 Women’s Voices Theater Festival, and was named one of the top 10 shows in that Festival by DC Theatre Scene. “All of us at Highwood are excited to support Madison and her new play, particularly since it fits so well with the theme of our 2017-2018 season,” says Highwood Executive Director Kevin Kearney.

THE HIGHWOOD THEATRE
914 Silver Spring Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

www.thehighwoodtheatre.org | info@thehighwoodtheatre.org | (p) 301-587-0697 | (f) 703-533-8749



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kevin Kearney

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Matthew Nicola

Highwood's 2017-2018 season of shows stems from its mission of building community through theatre and giving everyone a voice in the theatre they produce. The season, with seven musicals and six plays, spotlights shows built around defying norms and comes at a time when it is especially important for audiences to consider different ways of thinking. *The Dog Must Die* fits squarely within this construct.

Opening on January 25, 2018, *The Dog Must Die* will run through February 11, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM and Sunday afternoons at 2 PM. Tickets are \$25. Student rates are available for high school and college students on specified student nights. All shows will take place at The Highwood Theatre, 914 Silver Spring Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. Tickets may be purchased online at www.thehighwoodtheatre.org/tickets or through the box office, which can be reached at reservations@thehighwoodtheatre.org, at 301-587-0697 or by visiting the box office during regular business hours.

The Dog Must Die

An original play by Madison Middleton; Directed by Samuel Intrater

January 25 - February 11

What happens when life on Earth is no longer sustainable? This provocative drama by Highwood's own Madison Middleton transports us to a world that is uninhabitable - where concrete columns have formed above ground to house and save society. The conflict that ensues not only challenges our conceptions of humanity and our ties to the environment, but forces us to examine the dark, primordial nature within us.

About The Highwood Theatre

The Highwood Theatre is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the community together through theatre. Now in its 15th Season, Highwood's guiding principle is "anyone can do theatre." Highwood was founded in 2004 and began executing its mission through seasons of professional quality theatre featuring all-student casts, design teams, and production staff. In 2013, in conjunction with its relocation to the heart of downtown Silver Spring, The Highwood Theatre expanded to carry out its mission more fully and develop innovative, engaging programming for artists of all ages through professional and student productions, classes, and programs in schools and for home schooled students.

Contact Information

Tickets: <http://www.thehighwoodtheatre.org/tickets.html>

The Highwood Theatre Office: 301-587-0697

General Information: info@thehighwoodtheatre.org

Website: www.thehighwoodtheatre.org

###

THE HIGHWOOD THEATRE
914 Silver Spring Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910