

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

The Play's the Thing Presents

Rosenberg by David Meyers



Directed and Stage Directions
by Linda Fortunato*

Setting

Washington, D.C., 1953

Cast

Sam Jordan Golding
Judith Emma Rosenthal*
Dorothy Ayanna Bria Bakari*
Robert Noah Simon*

* - Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

Mark your calendars for our upcoming readings!

Monday, March 2 - *In the Doorway* by Sean Grennan

After a sudden heart attack, Jonathan finds himself in a limbo crowded with long-dead relatives who have strong opinions, questionable timing, and zero respect for personal space. As his adult children struggle and old wounds surface, Jonathan must decide whether he's ready to step through the door...or fight his way back.

Monday, April 6 - *the after wife* by Sophie McIntosh

It's 1963, and Nora is the perfect housewife. She was built to be. The most authentically humanoid robot prototype yet created, she's undergoing a trial run in the home of robotic engineer Martin and his teenage kids, Ruth and Wally. But Ruth can't get over how much Nora looks like her own mother Lillian, who has disappeared without a trace. Martin faces surging pressure from his employers to make Nora the new and improved model for motherhood, and Ruth is forced to work against her father and the powerful corporation behind him as she desperately tries to track down her real mother.

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Meet the Cast

Rosenberg



Ayanna Bria Bakari - Actor



Ayanna Bria Bakari is a governing ensemble member of The Story Theatre in Chicago, IL. She is currently directing the world premiere of *Pot Girls* by Paul Michael Thomson at the Theatre. She graduated with a BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Chicago credits include: *Purpose and Last Night and the Night Before* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *Relentless, Too Heavy for Your Pocket* (TimeLine Theatre); *Relentless, How to Catch Creation* (Goodman Theatre); *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Niceties* (Black Theater Alliance Award) and *Stickfly* (Writers Theatre); *At The Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* (asst. director, 2019 and wig design, 2025) and *Leave me Alone!* (The Story Theatre). Regionally; *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Seattle Repertory Theatre); *The Colored Museum* (Studio Theatre); *The Salvagers* (asst. director at Yale Repertory Theatre); *Clyde's* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *Sunflowered* (Northern Sky Theater); *The Rainmaker* (Peninsula Players Theatre); and *The Originalist* (Indiana Repertory Theatre). Television: *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (Hulu); *The CHI* (Showtime); *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Fire*, *Empire* (FOX); and *61st Street* (AMC). Film: *Holiday Heist* (BET). Ayanna Bria is represented by Stewart Talent.

Jordan Golding - Actor



Previous Peninsula Players Theatre credits include: *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Mary's Wedding*. Chicago credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre); *Once, The Band's Visit* (Writers Theatre); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Paramount Theatre); and *Drunk Shakespeare* (The Lion Theatre). Regional credits include: *The Band's Visit* (TheatreSquared); *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Timber Lake Playhouse); and *Barefoot in the Park*, *Macbeth*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Treasure Island*, *Inherit the Wind* (Oberlin Summer Theater Festival). TV credits include *Chicago Fire*. He holds a BA in theatre from Oberlin College and received classical training at the British American Drama Academy's London Theatre Program. Instagram: @thejordangolding

Emma Rosenthal - Actor



Previous Peninsula Players Theatre credits include: *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, *Little Women The Broadway Musical*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *The Actuary*, and *George Washington's Teeth*. Chicago credits include: *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* (Northlight Theatre); *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *West Side Story*, *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Drury Lane Theatre); *Big Fish*, *Hello, Dolly!* (Marriott Theatre); *Athena* (Writers Theatre), *The Fantasticks* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *The Tempest* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *Brigadoon*, *Candide* (Goodman Theatre). Off Broadway credits include: *The Threepenny Opera* (Marvell Repertory Theatre, Drama Desk Nomination: Best Musical); *Liberty* (Theatre80). Regional credits: Berkley Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre of DC, Weston Playhouse, Cardinal Stage, Third Avenue PlayWorks, Williamstown Theatre Festival. Proud graduate of Northwestern University, member of AEA, and finalist on season one of Fox's *Crime Scene Kitchen*.

Meet the Cast, Director & Playwright *Rosenberg*



Noah Simon - Actor



Noah Simon is a professional Theatre Artist with 30 years of experience. Having taught theatre at both University of Wisconsin - Green Bay and St. Norbert College, Noah is now fully engaged in community engagement through storytelling. In 2024, Noah co-wrote the play *In Plain Sight* with four local poets. The play is a lyrical journey through a homeless encampment called "the heap," and is meant to help the audience understand some of the ways that human beings can become unhoused. Noah spent the overwhelming majority of his career in the Storefront Theatre community of Chicago, where he either acted in, directed or produced over 60 productions large and small. Noah has also worked regionally with Peninsula Players Theatre, Third Avenue PlayWorks, Theatre Z and The Weidner. As a proud member of the stage actors union, Actors' Equity, Noah holds both a BA in theatre from Butler University and an MFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Linda Fortunato - Artistic Director, Director & Stage Directions



Linda's Peninsula Players Theatre credits span over 20 seasons, in which she has acted, directed and choreographed. Linda was previously the artistic director of Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana, where she directed *Cabaret*, *Big River*, *The Tin Woman*, *Steel Magnolias*, and participated in a dozen other shows as the director, choreographer or actor. Other credits include work with Marriott Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, BoHo Theatre, American Players Theatre, and teaching in the theatre departments of both Loyola University and Columbia College Chicago.

David Meyers - Playwright



David Meyers is an American playwright, screenwriter, and actor based in New York City. His plays have been developed and produced off-Broadway and nationally by organizations including Abingdon Theatre Company, The Barrow Group, The Lark Play Development Center, Naked Angels, Nylon Fusion Collective, and Project Y. His work is published by Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, Smith and Kraus, and Indie Theater Now. A former White House staffer and U.S. Senate speechwriter, Meyers often explores the intersection of personal conscience and public life in his writing. As an actor, his film and television credits include *Winning Time* (HBO), *Pam & Tommy* (Hulu), *Magnum P.I.* (NBC), and *General Hospital* (ABC).