

PRESS RELEASE

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Clear Space Opens Its Fall Season with a Pulitzer Prize Winner!

On Friday, September 23, Clear Space Theatre Company kicks off its fall season with Paula Vogel's edgy, captivating and often controversial play, HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE. The winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE is a memory play which is at turns wildly funny, deeply troubling, and generously forgiving as it reveals a story of the relationship between a young woman, Li'l Bit (Shannon Parks), and her driving instructor (David Warick). A three-person Greek chorus (Liz Roe, Charles Keenan and Cat Timko) voices all the spectators and family members and enhances the environment of the play.

Asked about his role, David Warick spoke to both the play's complexity and its appeal: "Paula Vogel pulled off an amazing feat, writing about these difficult people in such a loving, yet uncompromisingly honest way, meanwhile producing a play that is also very darkly funny. I saw HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE some years ago, and it blew me away with its insane balance of humor, horror, warmth, nostalgia, social criticism and complex emotions. I've wanted to play this role ever since – it's the hardest and most complex role I've ever tackled."

Shannon Parks, making her Clear Space debut, echoes Warick's sentiments: "I am really thrilled to be tackling such a powerful and nuanced script! The role of Li'l Bit is one I've longed to play for many years. I appreciate her humor and her courage in grappling with – and, ultimately, coming to terms with – her past."

Says David Button, Director, "I'm excited to be bringing this wonderful, edgy, contemporary play to Clear Space's stage. HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE is a stretch for our performers – and may be as well for some of our audience members. But it's an exercise that will be well-rewarded: Growth, catharsis, healing – this play brings them all within reach."

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE runs weekends, September 23 through October 9, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:00 pm and Sunday performances at 3:00 pm. Tickets for all shows are \$15 - \$32, and may be purchased on-line at www.clearspacetheatre.org, or by calling the box office at 302-227-2270.