



Snowlion Rep is *Theater Made in Maine*

December 2019

**A Look Back and a Look Forward
for you, our faithful Snowlion Rep supporters!**

Snowlion's 2019 Productions Explored Issues Relevant to Our Time

This year Snowlion focused on new works illuminating the human condition through uniquely structured shows!

Mesmerized



May 2019 brought to our stage the long-awaited full production of the new musical ***Mesmerized***, first presented to wide acclaim during PortFringe 2012. Set in 1777 Vienna, ***Mesmerized*** tells the true story of Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer, now regarded as the father of modern hypnosis, and the scandal that erupted when he restored the sight of the young blind prodigy pianist Maria Theresa Paradies using the radical curative technique and invisible force he termed “animal magnetism.”

The show plunged the audience into Mesmer's world at the dawn of the Age of Reason, populated with characters including Mozart, Benjamin Franklin, the Queen Empress of the Holy Roman Empire, and others – all 100% true encounters had by the infamous doctor, presented in dramatic musical theater format (with an ample sprinkling of humor throughout). Marked by daring subject matter for musical theater, outstanding performances, exceptional production values, and record audience attendance, ***Mesmerized*** was hailed as “a triumphant night of theater” by the **New Maine Times** and “an impressive production...with soaring moments of song...more than able to cast a spell” by the **Portland Press Herald**.



Omniphobia



October 2019 brought a unique premiere to the stage written by Artistic Director Al D'Andrea: the devised multimedia theater piece ***Omniphobia***, a funny and razor-sharp look at all aspects of fear in contemporary society. The production was a deep and detailed study of how fear permeates our daily lives and the fabric of society as a whole. Many scenes in this hilarious yet disturbing multimedia extravaganza dramatized shared parables (such as Chicken Little), actual events from our culture, and current trends taken to their absurd conclusion. **The Portland Press Herald** called ***Omniphobia*** “a wild, mirthful ride,” advising audiences to “buckle up,” and concluding that “through this scarily entertaining piece of theater art, Snowlion has made a worthwhile contribution.”

(Photos by Craig Robinson)

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS

Snowlion Rep recently received a generous grant from the **Maine Community Foundation** in support of its Spring 2020 production. MCF has consistently demonstrated its confidence in Snowlion Rep in recent years through its ongoing generous grants in support of Snowlion Rep's productions of new plays and musicals for the stage.

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Snowlion Rep, in conjunction with **Acorn Productions**, will begin offering acting workshops taught by Al D'Andrea in 2020. The first workshop, entitled ***Imagination & Instinct: The Spirit of Acting Technique***, is part of a unique modular system Al developed based on his work with his mentors, stage legend **Stella Adler** and Hollywood sensation **Stephen Book**. For more information and to enroll in a workshop, go to www.acorn-productions.org.



SPRING 2020 PROMISES FUN AND FROLIC!



April-May 2020 brings the world premiere of the new musical ***The Secret Princess***, adapted for the stage by MK Wolfe and Thomas Adams. Audiences will remember Adams & Wolfe as the authors of the musicals ***The Sock Who Lost His Mate*** and ***The Freaks Club***, hit shows previously produced by Snowlion Rep.

Based on a short story by American master storyteller **Mark Twain**, ***The Secret Princess*** is a naughty medieval musical romp that features a lively musical theater score brimming with playful, witty, and humorous lyrics. In the duchy of Klugenstein in 1221, young Duke Conrad has a terrible secret – since birth, he has been disguised as a boy by his scheming mother the Duchess, even though he – she! – is really a girl. Complications ensue when Conrad must assume leadership of the Kingdom of Brandenburg as the 'male' heir. The ultimate outcome depends on the audience, who must vote to decide not only Conrad's fate but also who gets the girl – or guy! ***The Secret Princess*** will be our fifth new musical production, further cementing Snowlion Rep's reputation as the premiere theater in Maine for presenting never-before-seen musicals of varied style and scope.

Currently also in development at Snowlion Rep: ***Tales From The Land of Snows***, an evening of folk tales and wisdom stories drawn from the diverse peoples and regions of the Himalayas.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! Income from ticket sales, grants, and classes provides *only a portion* of the costs to produce shows, most of which compensates actors, designers, & crew for their time and talent. Snowlion Rep has become an increasingly vital contributor to the Maine Arts Economy, pumping tens of thousands of dollars into local businesses.

Can you take a moment to send us a greatly needed donation? Will you help us fulfill our mission of bringing new works of cultural, ethical, and spiritual value to audiences in Maine and beyond? We're counting on you!

(You can click the **Donate Now** button on the homepage at www.snowlionrep.org)

Tales from the Land of Snows

