



THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

By Thornton Wilder

Girl Friday Productions Stages 1943 Pulitzer Prize Winning Masterpiece
THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH by Thornton Wilder

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St. Paul, MN, December 17, 2018 – A surprisingly modern and optimistic tribute to the invincibility of the human spirit, **Thornton Wilder’s THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, produced by Girl Friday Productions and directed by Joel Sass, opens February 9, 2019** on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre. Girl Friday Productions brings its signature large ensemble cast to this comedy of epic proportions.

“All I ask is the chance to build new worlds...” – Mr. Antrobus in THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH.

Winner of the 1943 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH juxtaposes everyday life with the historical and mythological past to create a wonderfully odd world. The play follows the adventures of an eternal American family residing in prehistoric and contemporary New Jersey who prevail over a series of apocryphal catastrophes. The ice age, the great flood, world war, family strife, political conventions... the Antrobus family, their maid Sabina, and a host of other characters survive through

eons of calamity with their hope intact. Continually facing the end of days, humanity perseveres. This 75-year old comedy about resilience and hope feels fresh and profoundly relevant for today.

Girl Friday Productions is offering a rare opportunity for Twin Cities' audiences: the last local professional production of *THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH* was their own. *"When Girl Friday first explored this work in 2009, our country was in the depth of economic crisis,"* says **Girl Friday Productions Artistic Director Kirby Bennett**. *"Ten years later, we find ourselves at a time of moral peril, facing different yet familiar world calamities: conflicts at home and abroad, a refugee crisis, climate change, a loss of faith in our leaders, a loss of hope. THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH explores all this and more, in ways that are at once unexpected, hilarious and moving. And where else will you see a dinosaur and mammoth onstage?"*

Acclaimed Twin Cities' theatre artist Joel Sass is both directing and creating the scenic design for THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH. A longtime collaborator and advisor to Girl Friday Productions, Sass previously designed sets for Girl Friday Productions' *OUR TOWN* and *STREET SCENE*. His work has been seen regionally and nationally at the Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Open Eye, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Arizona Theatre Company, among many others. A prolific director, designer and adaptor, and winner of multiple local and national awards, Sass is among the most lauded theatre artists in the region.

"So many people read the play for the first time and cannot believe it was written in 1942," comments **Sass**. *"THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH still feels utterly fresh, edgy, funny and topical—and if it were written this year it would still be worthy of its Pulitzer Prize. A particular joy of working on this production will be the double opportunity to collaborate with a handful of people I've known and grown with for nearly two decades—and another group of amazing talents I have admired around town but not yet worked with. Together we will tackle this 'mammoth' of a script and bring its humor, political critique and optimism to a new audience."*

Actors **Alayne Hopkins** as Sabina, **John Middleton** as Mr. Antrobus and **Kirby Bennett** as Mrs. Antrobus **lead** Girl Friday Productions' stellar ensemble cast of 15, which features many Twin Cities' favorites as well as upcoming talent. The full cast includes: **Kirby Bennett, Ernest Briggs, Pedro Juan Fonseca, Wendy Freshman, Kathryn Fumie, Alayne Hopkins, Sam Landman, Alice McGlave, John Middleton, Victoria Pyan, Jim Ramlet, Taj Ruler, Neal Skoy, Mike Swan** and **Dana Lee Thompson**. Joining Sass on the exceptional design team are: Lighting Designer **Mike Kittel**, Costume Designer **Kathy Kohl**, Projections Designer **Kathy Maxwell**, Sound Designer **C. Andrew Mayer** and Properties Designer **Rick Polenek**.

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund; and by the Saint Paul Cultural STAR Program. THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH is being produced by Girl Friday Productions as part of Park Square’s “Theatres in Residence” Series.

Photo of Alayne Hopkins as Sabina by Richard Fleischman [HERE](#)
Group photo by Richard Fleischman [HERE](#). Pictured left to right Front row: Taj Ruler, Kathryn Fumie, Neal Skoy, Back row: Dana Lee Thompson, Kirby Bennett, John Middleton, Alayne Hopkins, Ernest Briggs.

About Girl Friday Productions

“It’s wonderful to see these rarely produced gems.” – Girl Friday Productions audience member

The little company that does big plays, Girl Friday Productions focuses on larger scale American plays of exceptional literary merit that are less frequently produced today. The company’s mission is to nurture artists, inspire audiences and illuminate the human condition. Girl Friday Productions chooses to focus on a singular major project every other year. This approach maximizes efforts to work with challenging texts, large and skilled ensemble casts, and distinguished directors and designers. Girl Friday Productions’ work is characterized by exceptional literature, humanity, relevance and stimulating theatricality.

Founded in 2004 by Artistic Director Kirby Bennett, Girl Friday Productions' most recent productions were IDIOT’S DELIGHT (*Lavender Magazine* notable performances in 2017), THE MATCHMAKER (2015 year-end recognition from Twin Cities Theatre Bloggers), CAMINO REAL (*Lavender Magazine* notable performances in 2013) and STREET SCENE (2011 “Top Ten”/Year End Highlights in the *Star Tribune*, *Pioneer Press* and *Lavender Magazine*; Ivey Award for director). Other highlights include THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH (*MinnPost* “Favorite for 2009”) and OUR TOWN (*Pioneer Press*’ “Top Ten Shows of 2007”).

Girl Friday Productions presents THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH by Thornton Wilder February 7 – March 3, 2019

Location: Park Square Theatre’s Proscenium Stage
Historic Hamm Building in Downtown Saint Paul
20 West Seventh Place
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tickets: Preview: \$20/\$27/\$37; Regular Run: \$25/\$40/\$60; discounts for seniors, students, age 30 & under, groups, fringe buttons, MPR members, active military personnel; Pay What You Wish February 25.

Tickets: parksquaretheatre.org or call 651.291.7005 (noon – 5:00 p.m. Tuesday – Friday)
Information and company website: girlfridayproductions.org

Performance Schedule (18 performances over 4 weeks)

Evening shows at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2:00 pm. The specific performance dates are:

Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 pm	Preview
Friday, February 8 at 7:30 pm	Preview
Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 pm	Opening night and reception
Sunday, February 10 at 2 pm	
Wednesday, February 13 at 7:30 pm	Post show discussion
Thursday, February 14 at 7:30 pm	
Friday, February 15 at 7:30 pm	Audio description and sensory tour
Saturday, February 16 at 7:30 pm	
Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 pm	
Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 pm	
Friday, February 22 at 7:30 pm	
Saturday, February 23 at 7:30 pm	
Sunday, February 24 at 2:00 pm	American Sign Language and post show discussion
Monday, February 25 at 7:30 pm	Pay What You Wish
Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 pm	
Friday, March 1 at 7:30 pm	Open captioning
Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 pm	Open captioning
Sunday, March 3 at 2:00 pm	Open captioning, closing performance

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