

Dramatic reading of 'Roe' takes Fountain Theatre stage

The Fountain Theatre once again jumps into action with a hyper-staged reading of "Roe," a powerful, poignant and often humorous play by Lisa Loomer that cuts through the headlines to reveal the real-life women behind Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that gave women the right to safe, legal abortion. Vanessa Stalling directs a limited eight-performance run, June 25-July 10, on the Fountain's outdoor stage. Two additional preview performances will be held on June 23-24.

"We're acting quickly and urgently in answer to the upcoming Supreme Court ruling expected to overturn Roe v Wade," Fountain artistic director Stephen Sachs said. "We intend to use theater as a vehicle for social and political action. A call to action. Guerrilla-style theater. Actors holding scripts. Simple staging. Lisa has revised her script to bring it up-to-date, and we're lucky to have Vanessa, who directed the 2020 production at the Goodman Theatre."

Reprising their roles from the Goodman production, Kate Middleton will star as Norma McCorvey, the woman who

would come to be known to the world as "Jane Roe," opposite Christina Hall as Sarah Weddington, the lawyer who argued the landmark case at the Supreme Court. An ensemble of actors will take on the myriad of other roles.

Roe is a fast-moving, fair-minded look at the complicated human beings behind the case, the challenging years that followed the court's fateful decision, and the polarization around the issue in America today. Originally commissioned through the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions program in a production that traveled to Arena Stage and Berkeley Rep, Roe is the recipient of both the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award and the Pen Award.

All performances are at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$20. The Fountain Theatre is located at 5060 Fountain Ave. Patrons are invited to relax before and after the show at the Fountain's indoor/outdoor café. Check the Fountain website for up-to-date, day-of-performance Covid-19 protocols.

For reservations and information, call (323)663-1525 or go to fountaintheatre.com.