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THE PRICE OF PASSION: EDGE OF THE WOOD SEASON FINALE FEATURES TWO SHOWS IN REP

CHICAGO, IL (October 27, 2016) – The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood presents two plays exploring the balance between passion and compromise in their space at the Edgebrook Community Church, November 4-20.

The series opens November 4 with Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Perhaps the most popular of the Russian author's plays from the 1890s, the story centers around the consequences of making choices based on passion or reason, exploring the dynamic between obsession and sacrifice for love, art, and family. The following week marks the opening, on November 11, of Philip Barry's *Holiday*, a romantic comedy from 1920's America about a man caught between embracing tradition to marry a woman he loves, and abandoning a promising career to embark on a journey to find out who he really is.

The two shows were chosen and cast with returning ensemble members in mind, and there are multiple actors who appear in both productions. Producing two shows in rotating repertory is a new experiment for the Resident Theatre, and the group is relying on their veteran talent to make it work. "We're testing the limits of what's possible with our modest resources," says Artistic Director John Chambers, who also stars in *Holiday*. "It's an exciting challenge for our returning ensemble members to perform roles in two different shows on the same day, and for us all to discover how the plays relate and speak to each other."

Stacey Lind, who is directing *Seagull* as well as performing in *Holiday*, says both plays dive into what happens when we are confronted with the reality behind our aspirations. "Sometimes we know we will never get what we want, but we can't let go of hope, because it sustains us. Sometimes we get what we think we wanted, but it turns out to be not at all what we expected." Though the tone of *Holiday* and *Seagull* are very different, the underpinnings are the same. "When you form an idea of who you are and what you want, but everything around you tells you something different, what happens next? Do you try to change the world or try to change your dreams? Maybe neither is possible."

Edge also continues to welcome new artists, and *Holiday* marks the Chicago directing debut of Wes Meador, originally from Memphis, who praises the "passion and dedication" of the actors bringing the stories to life in a "funny, yet touching way." "*Holiday* is a play that asks how far one will go to fulfill a dream and what compromises are required to get there," says Meador.

It's a question the Resident Theatre is asking itself, its artists, and its audiences.

*The Seagull* runs November 4-20, and *Holiday* runs November 11-20. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for students. Two-show discounts are available. For tickets and information visit [edgeofthewood.com](http://edgeofthewood.com).

**ABOUT EDGE OF THE WOOD THEATRE**

The Edge of the Wood school in Chicago's Edgebrook Community Church is a complete theatre program where young people, ages 6-18, become versed in acting, improv, speech, movement, and musical theatre skills in a professional atmosphere. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, Edge of the Wood has served hundreds of students, many of whom have gone on to careers in the performing arts and arts education.

The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood was founded in 2013 and produces family-friendly shows across genres, bringing professional-caliber theatre to the Edgebrook community, and engaging and inspiring young people as performers and theatre-goers. Past productions include the Pulitzer Prize-winning American classic *Our Town*, the ensemble of which Lt. David Haynes of WGN Radio called "phenomenal."

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Press photos available at [edgeofthewood.com/resident-theatre](http://edgeofthewood.com/resident-theatre).