

||SF BREAKING CHARACTER MAGAZINE™



Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, develops and produces great American theater created by the today's most gifted, adventurous artists.

Founded by Joan and Robert Rechnitz in 1994, Two River Theater enjoys recognition in the national theater community for its acclaimed revivals of classic pieces and its new-play commissioning program, which was launched in 2010 to create a pipeline for developing work that contributes to the vitality and future of the American theater. In 2015, two of these commissions blossomed into full productions: *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine*, written and directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson; and *Be More Chill*, a new musical with music and lyrics by Joe Iconis and book by Joe Tracz, based on the 2004 novel by Ned Vizzini, which was choreographed by Chase Brock and directed by Stephen Brackett. An original cast recording of *Be More Chill* was released by Ghostlight Records in 2015. In the 2016-2017 season another commission, *Hurricane Diane* by playwright Madeleine George (whose *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England* had its world premiere at Two River Theater in 2012) will make its debut. Other commissions currently in development include new works by David Greenspan (celebrated performer and playwright), Lisa Kron (writer and performer of *2.5 Minute Ride* and *Fun Home*), Tony Meneses (whose plays *Guadalupe in the Guest Room* made its debut at Two River in 2014-15, and whose play *The Women of Padilla* will be

produced this season), Martin Moran (writer and performer of *The Tricky Part and All the Rage*), Tanya Saracho (playwright of *Mala Hierba*), and another musical by Joe Tracz and Joe Iconis.



BE MORE CHILL.

Two River has also featured many celebrated revivals of classic works of theater in its history. In recent years, highlights have included a production of *Macbeth* conceived and co-directed by famed magician Teller and former Two River Artistic Director Aaron Posner. In 2012 playwright Suzan-Lori Parks directed her own modern classic *Topdog/Underdog*, starring brothers Brandon J. Dirden and Jason Dirden. In 2013 David Lee, co-creator of the television show *Frasier*, directed a highly praised production of *Present Laughter* starring Michael Cumpsty, and Lee returned in 2014 with his adaptation of the classic Lerner and Loewe musical *Camelot*, which was just as warmly embraced. Two River has committed to staging the entire 10-play American Century Cycle by August Wilson, and his plays *Jitney*, *Two Trains Running*, and *Seven Guitars* have been given stellar productions—two of them directed by celebrated actor, director and playwright Ruben Santiago-Hudson, who returns in the current season to direct *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.



SEVEN GUITARS.

Each season, Two River hosts numerous artist residencies, workshops, and readings to support the development of new work for the American theater. Ongoing programs include a Cabaret of New Songs for the Musical Theater in association with NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program; Crossing Borders, a five-day festival of new plays by Latino writers and free community events; and Nosotros, a program that fosters a closer relationship between the theater and Latino artists and audiences. Two River cultivates a new generation of theatergoers through innovative arts education programs that introduce young people to the theater and create opportunities for them to engage with renowned theater artists. The theater's "A Little Shakespeare" series, launched during its 20th Anniversary Season, showcases an annual production of a Shakespeare play performed by high-school students and includes both public performances and student matinees. Each year, Two River's education programs and student matinees serve students in 50 schools across the region. Classroom residencies support academic achievement and, in partnership with schools and community organizations across our region, Two River offers multiple programs that introduce at-risk adolescents to theater.



A LITTLE SHAKESPEARE.

Each year, more than 55,000 patrons and guests come through Two River's doors to see exceptional productions in the theater's intimate performance spaces, the Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater and the Marion Huber Theater. Audiences come here knowing that whether Two River is producing a beloved classic, something brand new, or a rediscovered masterpiece, we are inviting them on an adventure: to experience great stories on stage, engage with us in conversation, and encounter the life of the human spirit in all its shifting modes.