



Artistic Director  
Adam Webster

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# World premiere from Kathleen Tolan, Midwest premiere of Daniel Talbott headlines *side project's* 2013-14 Season

*9-Project season opens Thursday, August 22 with free eight-day festival of site-specific short plays; continues in October with second annual storytelling festival*

**CHICAGO**— In its 2013-14 season of nine shows, **the side project** continues its drive to create world premiere collaborations. Artistic Director Adam Webster says, “We are thrilled to present a world premiere from renowned playwright Kathleen Tolan (Victory Gardens’ *Memory House*), as well as continue the relationship we have with NY-based playwright Daniel Talbott, whose play *Slipping* we world premiered in 2008” and which was subsequently shortlisted for the 2010 Lambda Award, along with *The Brother/Sister Plays*. “Further, we are excited to team up with Tympanic Theatre Company for our first co-production, *Sandalwood*,” Webster said. Tympanic’s last co-production was of Scott T. Barsotti’s *Brewed*.

**Season begins Thursday, August 22 with *It Comes In* - a free, eight-day festival of seven short plays.** Each about seven minutes long, all seven plays will be performed each night in succession over approximately one hour, in locations around the Jarvis Square Red Line El stop (Jarvis Ave at North Greenview Ave). Locations include the basement and back courtyard of The Side Project, a parking lot, under the El tracks, in the Poinit Stil bar, outside Towbar restaurant, and in a nearby apartment building’s laundry room.

## SEASON XIV LISTING INFORMATION

All productions (other than the site-specific show, *It Comes In*) will take place at The Side Project Theatre, located at 1439 Jarvis Avenue. Tickets are \$12-\$20 and may be purchased online. Also: All season, *the side project* is continuing its \$10 “rush” tickets for all empty seats to Rogers Park residents with I.D. bearing 60626 and 60645 ZIP Codes. For more information, visit [www.thesideproject.net](http://www.thesideproject.net) or call the theatre’s box office at [773-340-0140](tel:773-340-0140).

***It Comes In:*** A site-specific festival of seven-minute plays

Thursday, Aug 22 to Thursday, Aug 29, 2013

7:30pm nightly (all seven plays run each of the 8 nights)

FREE (Donations accepted)

*Written by: Brooke Allen, Dan Caffrey, Randall Colburn, Shawn Galligan, Stephen Murray, Allison Shoemaker, and Adam Webster*

*Directed by: Amy Johnson, Kate Leslie, Michael Manocchio, Brian Ruby, Allison Shoemaker, Megan A. Smith, and Amy Szerlong*

Fall 2013 – Our Second Annual Storytelling Festival!

**The Kindness of Strangers: A Festival of Storytelling**

October 20-November 6, 2013

Sundays through Wednesdays at 7:30pm

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-- ADD ONE --

*More than 30 storytellers converge in this 3-week festival featuring a mix of first-time and experienced tellers, including week-long headliners Kim Morris, Amy Sumpter & Eric Warner.*

Winter 2014 – An FX Kroetz Double bill!

**Through the Leaves** | Directed by Andy Hager

Featuring HB Ward and Laurie Larson

January 3-February 2, 2014

*A female butcher and her caustic lover struggle to find a connection in this starkly naturalistic tale.*

**Request Concert** | Directed by Mary Ellen O'Hara

Featuring Meg Elliott

January 22-February 2, 2014

*A mundane evening routine silently implodes revealing a life of desperation in this harrowing one-woman show. It's another lonely night ... but this one will be different.*

Spring 2014 – World premiere co-production with Tympanic Theatre Company

**Sandalwood**, by Dan Caffrey | Directed by Aaron Henrickson

March 27-April 20, 2014

*Someone keeps making new ghost towns. And only one man can stop him in this new psycho-Western.*

June 2014: A two-show rep exploring longing, memory, and living

**What to Listen For**, by Kathleen Tolan | Directed by Adam Goldstein

June 1-July 6, 2014

*Cultural history and the challenge of modern music is portrayed through encounters with famous musical figures and renegades, including Arnold Schoenberg, Gustav Mahler, Sigmund Freud and Glenn Gould.*

*"Romantic, wise, winsome, and full of lyrical associations that interlace critical surliness and human tenderness...a beautiful piece of modern language for the stage," (Theatre J, in Washington, DC, which helped develop the piece).*

**Hello Failure**, by Kristen Kosmas | Directed by Adam Webster

June 15-July 10, 2014

*Rebecca isn't going to today's support group meeting. She'd rather spend the day in her bathroom with submarine inventor Horace L. Hunley, despite his having died in 1863. A whimsical, poetic, lyrical look at grieving, connecting, forgiving, forgetting. And then remembering.*

August 2014: A two-show rep exploring the nature of intimacy, dependency, and need

**Mike and Seth**, by Daniel Talbott | Directed by Adam Webster

August 2-31, 2014 – Sunday - Wednesday evenings

*Childhood friends Mike and Seth share a hotel room the night before Mike's wedding. Unable to sleep, they try to make sense of themselves, each other, and the future. What do you say before everything changes?*

**Miles Away**, by Christine Whitley | Directed by Scott Weinstein

August 6-31 2014 – Sunday - Wednesday evenings

-- MORE --



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-- ADD TWO --

*In Miles Away, Ron and Sissy, two desperate pool hustlers holed up in a cheap hotel, face a brutal cycle of dependency, betrayal and hope. And then they learn that grace comes in many forms...you just have to wait.*

### **About It Comes In**

On each of the eight nights of the festival, the audience will meet at The Side Project Theatre at 1439 W. Jarvis, where they'll be broken into small groups that will travel around the neighborhood to view the first six of the seven plays to be performed concurrently. Each group will travel from one location to the next, all moving at once like musical chairs. After all of the groups have seen all of the first six plays, they will gather back together at The Side Project Theatre to watch the seventh and final play as one group.

According to *side project* Artistic director Adam Webster: "We wanted to top our 2010 festival of extant plays that we retrofit into neighborhood locales by commissioning site-specific plays. We found a number of themes inspired by our neighborhood that would allow us to set the pieces all within a short walk of our theater." The short plays include stories about coyotes in Rogers Park, urban decay and the disappearance of neighborhood businesses. "This led us to an overall festival theme of *'What happens when the wild enters the grid,'*" he said.

On August 23, after that evening's showing, the company will hold a season-launch party at Poitin Stil Irish Bar (1502 W Jarvis) featuring excerpts from the season's plays, live music, beer and wine, a raffle, Season ticket pre-sale, and more! The party, like the Festival, is also free, with a cash bar; an unlimited beer/wine bracelet is available for \$20.

### **About the side project**

*The side project* connects Chicago's most innovative and engaging writers, directors, designers, and performers in an ongoing exploration of the power of hyper-intimate theatre. Its focus is not simply on world-premiere plays, but on world-premiere collaborations: creating never-before-seen teams of artists, each of whom has a body of work which speaks to the others in unique and exciting ways.

Over its 13-year history, *the side project* has presented more than 70 productions, including 40 full-length plays (featuring 28 world premieres, three of which were subsequently published), 15 one-act festivals (featuring 100 plays – including 73 world premieres), four sketch comedy shows, and a community-based storytelling festival. For its work, *the side project* received the 2006 Spirit of Rogers Park Award, the 2009 Broadway in Chicago Emerging Theatre Award, the 2013 Rogers Park Business Leadership Award, and Artistic Director Adam Webster was named one of PerformInk's "Top 25 Artists Making a Difference" (2004) and New City's "Top 50 Artists Making Chicago Theatre Work" (2009).

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