

## NEWS RELEASE



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**PHOTOS:** The online press kit for *Hamlet* and *Saint Joan* can be found [here](#). For access to ASF's full digital media kit, visit [ASF.net/media-kit](http://ASF.net/media-kit).

## Bedlam in Alabama

### *Acclaimed NYC theatre group brings productions of HAMLET and SAINT JOAN to ASF*

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.,** (August 28, 2019) —Alabama Shakespeare Festival, in partnership with Bedlam theatre company, presents William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and George Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan* in repertory on the Octagon Stage beginning September 5 and running through October 6.

Bedlam was founded in New York City in 2012, producing Shaw's *Saint Joan* with only four actors playing more than 25 characters. Terry Teachout of *The Wall Street Journal* was an early admirer, describing it as "Thrilling! An unforgettable show! The most exciting George Bernard Shaw revival I've ever seen, bar none." In 2013, Bedlam produced William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* with the same four actors, again playing more than 25 characters. Ben Brantley, the head theatre critic of *The New York Times*, wrote, "Every member of Bedlam hears voices. Not of God and his saints, but of Shaw (who probably would have said that's the same thing) and Shakespeare...anyone who listens to the eminently sane and persuasive voices of Bedlam is destined to become a convert."

ASF Artistic Director Rick Dildine saw both productions early in their runs and was instantly captivated by the company's imagination and commitment to plays with heightened language. "With a passion for Shakespeare and Shaw, this company of artists is imaginative, ambitious, and committed to great performances. There are no dull moments in a Bedlam show," said Dildine.

Bedlam Artistic Director Eric Tucker, who has been hailed as the "best classical director of his generation," promises audiences an unforgettable experience. "A truly great play will do the work for you if you don't overcomplicate it. We present these two plays simply and with very little in the way of sets, costumes, or props and let the great writing take center stage," said Tucker.

**Dria Brown** portrays Joan in *Saint Joan* and Gertrude, Ophelia, and others in *Hamlet*. Her credits include the national tour of Bedlam's *Hamlet* and *Saint Joan*, *Cadillac Crew* at Yale Rep, and *The Revolutionists* at Gulfshore Playhouse.

New York-based actor **Mike Labbadia** appears as Cauchon, Poulengy, and others in *Saint Joan* and Claudius, Rosencrantz, and others in *Hamlet*. Previous theatre credits include *Hedda* at Bridge Production Group and *Strictly Dishonorable* at the Attic Theater Company.

**Edmund Lewis** plays Dauphin and John de Stogumber in *Saint Joan* and Polonius, Horatio, and others in *Hamlet*. Edmund is a founding member of Bedlam, having most recently appeared in their production of *Uncle Romeo Vanya Juliet*. Other Bedlam productions include *Twelfth Night / What You Will*, *New York Animals*, *Peter Pan*, and *Sense & Sensibility*.

The role of Hamlet is portrayed by **Andy Rindlisbach**. In *Saint Joan*, he appears as Dunois, Warwick, and others. Andy is a resident artist with Riot Act Theatre and has worked at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and Pioneer Theatre Company.

The *Hamlet* and *Saint Joan* creative team includes Director/Costume Designer/Sound Designer **Eric Tucker**, Assistant Directors **Juliana Beecher** and **Nathan Winkelstein**, Scenic Designer **John McDermott**, Lighting Designer **Les Dickert**, Stage Manager **Hannah-Jean Farris**, and Production Assistant **Katie An Siegel**.

*Hamlet* and *Saint Joan* are presented on the Octagon Stage. Tickets start at \$26. To purchase, call 334.271.5353, visit the ASF Box Office (open Monday – Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.), or go online: [ASF.net](http://ASF.net). Evening performances begin at 7:00 p.m.; matinees start at 2:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays and at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays.

### **About Bedlam**

Bedlam is an NYC-based not-for-profit theatre company under the leadership of Artistic Director Eric Tucker and Managing Director Kimberly Pau Boston. Founded in 2012, Bedlam received instant recognition for its production of George Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan* in which only four actors played over 25 characters. Additional past shows include *Sense & Sensibility*, *Uncle Romeo Vanya Juliet*, *Pygmalion*, *Peter Pan*, *The Seagull*, *Dead Dog Park*, *New York Animals*, *Hamlet*, and two productions of *Twelfth Night* that ran in rep with each other. Bedlam's productions have been noted as Ben Brantley's "Critics' Picks" for The New York Times six times, included on The New York Times "Top Ten Best Show Lists" two times, as well as those of The Wall Street Journal and Time magazine respectively. The Wall Street Journal also named Eric Tucker as "Director of the Year" in 2014. Bedlam has won three IRNE Awards, two Off-Broadway Alliance Awards, and an Obie Grant. Bedlam has also been nominated for two Lucille Lortel Awards, a Drama League award, and six Elliot Norton awards, winning for Outstanding Visiting Production and Best Ensemble for *Saint Joan* and Outstanding Visiting Production for *Twelfth Night / What You Will*. Bedlam also offers a free Veteran Outreach program and adult education workshops in acting, producing, and directing. [bedlam.org](http://bedlam.org)

### **About Alabama Shakespeare Festival**

Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. As a beloved Alabama arts institution, ASF broadens the cultural identity of the South by producing Shakespeare, contemporary plays, musicals, and exciting new works that focus on the Southern experience. A leader in education and outreach, ASF serves more than 40,000 students annually with artistic programming. ASF is supported by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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