



CONTACTS AT THE NEW 42nd STREET:

Allison Mui Mitchell amui@new42.org 646.223.3067

Corinne Fitamant cfitamant@new42.org 646.223.3065

**New Victory Presents
CollaborationTown & Flint Repertory Theatre's
Riddle of the Trilobites**



Lee Sunday Evans Directs Musical for Kids About Climate Change

New York Premiere February 7 - 23, 2020

New York, NY (December 19, 2019) -- Two-time Obie Award winner and Waterwell Artistic Director **Lee Sunday Evans** (*In the Green, Dance Nation, The Things That Were There*) directs ***RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES***, an original new musical by **CollaborationTown** [*Family Play (1979 to Present)*]. When young Aphra discovers an ancient prophecy, "The trilobites cannot live, but will not die," she and her arthropod pals set off on an underwater adventure to solve the riddle before a sea change of epic proportions destroys their home. Will they save the trilobite kingdom? Scuttle over to the New Victory Theater from February 7 - 23, 2020 to find out!

Set 500 million years ago, ***Riddle of the Trilobites*** brings prehistoric sea creatures to life with humor, heart and eye-popping puppetry designed by **Amanda Villalobos** (*In the Green, Amelie, Cute Activist*). An allegory about climate change, this all-ages musical tackles a difficult subject--the state of our planet--with a creative team whose credits include *Homos*, or *Everything in America* (Labyrinth Theater Company), *Family Play (1979 to Present)*, named one

of *The Advocate's* 10 Best LGBT Plays of 2014; *The Deepest Play Ever: The Catharsis of Pathos* (The New Ohio Theater); *The Play About My Dad* (59E59 Theaters); *The Momentum* (2012 GLAAD Media Award nomination); *Children at Play* (The Living Theater); and *6969* (59E59 Theaters; winner of three NYIT Awards).

Over a two-year period with New Victory LabWorks, the theater's new work development program, ***Riddle of the Trilobites*** premiered to great acclaim at Flint Repertory Theatre in March of 2019. "Flint Rep launches [Riddle of the Trilobites] with beauty, respect and commitment," says Encore Michigan. "Nothing short of magic," raves Flint Stages.

CollaborationTown creates ensemble-driven, humorous and heartfelt new plays that defy expectations of how stories can be told in the theater. The company maintains a consistent core ensemble which collaborates regularly with an ever-expanding community of artists, and creates new plays that are relevant beyond traditional theater audiences. Awarded an Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theatre in 2014, CollaborationTown most recently devised a new play, *Candy*, under commission from LCT3 / Lincoln Center.

Riddle of the Trilobites was created by CollaborationTown and is directed by **Lee Sunday Evans**; book & lyrics by **Geo Decas O'Donnell** and **Jordan Seavey**; music & lyrics by **Nicholas Williams**; puppetry design by **Amanda Villalobos**.

The cast includes **Tiffany Iris*** (*When We Went Electronic, Locked Up*), **Sifiso Mabena*** (*Red Hills, The Art of Luv Part 6*), **Joel Oramas*** (*Pegao*), **Julia Sirna-Frest*** (*Lunch Bunch, [Porto]*), **Richard Saudek*** (*Beep Boop*), and **Phillip Taratula*** (*An Evening with Pam Goldberg, Empire Travel Agency, The Lily's Revenge*), with Flea Theater company member **Sophia Aranda*** as Understudy. *Member, Actors' Equity Association.

The creative team also includes set design & Elder Robe design by **Deb O**, costume design by **Katherine Nelson**, lighting design by **Eric Southern**, sound design by **Emma Wilk**, and puppet fabrication by **Amanda Villalobos** with additional puppet fabrication by **Puppet Kitchen**; musical direction, arrangements & orchestration by **Nicholas Williams**; puppet direction by **Pam Arciero**; associate director **Alex Tobey**; assistant director **Laura Galindo**; assistant stage manager and puppet wrangler **Brodrick Jones**; production stage manager **Rachel Kaufman**; production management & technical direction by **Tech without Tears**; line produced by **Ilana Becker**; associate produced by **Michael Todd Cohen, Adrian Frandle & TJ Witham**; produced by **Lee Sunday Evans, Geo Decas O'Donnell, Jordan Seavey & Nicholas Williams**.

Learn more about ***RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES*** at NewVictory.org.

Public Performance Schedule:

Friday, February 7 at 7pm

Saturday, February 8 at 12pm / 5pm

Sunday, February 9 at 12pm* / 5pm

Saturday, February 15 at 12pm / 5pm

Sunday, February 16 at 12pm** / 5pm

Monday, February 17 at 2pm

Wednesday, February 19 at 2pm

Friday, February 21 at 12pm
Saturday, February 22 at 12pm / 5pm
Sunday, February 23 at 12pm / 5pm

*Sensory-friendly performance
**Sign-interpreted performance

RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES has a running time of 80 minutes with no intermission, and is recommended for ages 6 and up.

Ticket Information

Full-price tickets for *RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES* start at \$17. Tickets are available online (NewVictory.org) and by phone (646.223.3010).

To purchase tickets in person, the New Victory box office is located at 209 West 42nd Street (between 7th / 8th Avenues). Box office hours are Sunday & Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

About CollaborationTown

Founded in 2003, CollaborationTown creates ensemble-driven, humorous and heartfelt new plays that defy expectations of how stories can be told in the theater. The company maintains a consistent artistic core (Boo Killebrew, Geo Decas O'Donnell and Jordan Seavey; resident director Lee Sunday Evans; resident composer Nicholas Williams; and artistic associate TJ Witham) which collaborates regularly with an ever-expanding community of artists to create plays that are relevant beyond traditional theater audiences. CollaborationTown's work, created through a queer and feminist lens, is intended to reach the widest audience possible. Winner of the Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theatre in 2014. CollaborationTown most recently devised a new play, *Candy*, under commission from LCT3 / Lincoln Center.

About New Victory LabWorks

New Victory LabWorks is committed to fostering an inclusive program where every artist feels welcome. Through this new works program, New Victory fosters the creation of innovative, adventurous productions for young audiences. By supporting New York artists and providing them with invaluable responses and feedback from kids, New Victory LabWorks invites artists to hone their craft, expand their skills, make contacts in the field, take artistic risks and make bold choices with their work. New Victory LabWorks has helped develop over 55 projects on their journey to the stage.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. A global leader in arts education, youth development and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts

Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About The New 42nd Street

Under the leadership of President Russell Granet, New 42nd Street is a performing arts nonprofit whose mission is to make extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward. Driven by a deep commitment to performing arts access, we connect people to world-class performances, essential education and employment programs, and creative communities that push culture forward. Through New Victory and New 42 Studios, we serve artists, educators and New Yorkers of all ages with invaluable arts engagement and resources in and beyond the performing arts. Together with our supporters, we open new perspectives, incubate new works and create new opportunities to move us all.

#