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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE CONTINUES 47TH SEASON WITH
AN EXHILARATING EXPLORATION OF DEMOCRACY:

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

Featuring new and never-before-seen material for 2025

WRITTEN BY HEIDI SCHRECK

DIRECTED BY MORGAN GOULD

FEATURING KIMBERLY GILBERT & MICHAEL GLENN

January 15 – February 16 at Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (December 19, 2024) – Round House Theatre continues its 2024-2025 Season with *What the Constitution Means to Me*, the exhilarating, Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-nominated exploration of democracy, written by **Heidi Schreck**. **Featuring a recently updated script, incorporating new material for 2025 and seen only at Round House**, this timely production, directed by **Morgan Gould**, examines the United States’s founding document and its impact on women’s rights and dignity, while mixing deeply personal and political perspectives. Press Night is on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30pm. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.**

As a teenager, Heidi Schreck traveled across America, earning her college tuition by winning constitutional debate competitions. Now, as an Obie Award-winning playwright, she takes a closer look at the Constitution and its effects on four generations of women in her family. *What the Constitution Means to Me* is a profoundly personal look at our nation’s most debated

document and how it could evolve to fit our modern times. One of the most popular and beloved plays in America, this “electrifyingly topical and eye-opening” (*The New York Times*) Pulitzer Prize finalist has never been more relevant, urgent, or needed.

"This is a truly special piece that was first born out of Heidi Schreck investigating what the Constitution meant to her in different stages of her life, and as the piece goes on, we get to witness an elegant expansion that grapples with how our laws have very real human impact," says **Director Morgan Gould**. "This play – just like the Constitution itself – is a living document, and we will be treating this script as such throughout the rehearsal process. I’m so happy to be working with actors Kimberly Gilbert and Michael Glenn, and dramaturg Lauren Halvorsen, alongside an incredible creative team. As we dig into rehearsals, I’m already blown away by how much this piece reveals about who we are as citizens and what we could be as a country."

"We’re thrilled to bring *What the Constitution Means to Me* back to the DC area with an updated script that has never been seen before," says **Artistic Director Ryan Rilette**. "Heidi’s examination of the Constitution through the lens of her history and that of her family makes for a powerful, feminist play that deals with some of the most important laws affecting women today. We are so grateful to Heidi and Morgan for working together to update the script so that it takes into account recent Supreme Court rulings."

The powerhouse cast includes **Kimberly Gilbert** (*Jennifer Who Is Leaving* at Round House Theatre and *POTUS* at The Arden), **Michael Glenn** (*The Seafarer* and *Ink* at Round House Theatre), **Fadekemi Laniyonu** (Round House Theatre and professional debuts), and Kat Pascual (Round House Theatre and professional debuts). Understudies for this production include **Amy Benson** and **Mason Catharini**.

The cast is joined by a brilliant creative team, which includes Scenic Designer **Shoko Kambara**, Costume Designer **Taylor Payne**, Lighting Designer **Minjoo Kim**, Sound Designer **Delaney Bray**,

Associate Scenic Designer **Madeline Goddard**, Dramaturg **Lauren Halvorsen**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Assistant Director **Katrina Clark**, and Production Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**,

Tickets may be purchased by calling 240.644.1100 or ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro's Red Line.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Heidi Schreck (Playwright) is a writer and performer living in Brooklyn. Her critically acclaimed play, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, played an extended, sold-out run on Broadway in 2019, and was nominated for two Tony Awards. A filmed version of the play premiered on Amazon Prime Video and was nominated for a Critics Choice Award, a PGA Award, and a DGA Award. *What the Constitution Means to Me* was named Best of the Year by the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Time Magazine*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *The New Yorker*, and more. Schreck's other plays—*Grand Concourse*, *Creature*, and *There Are No More Big Secrets*—have also been produced in New York City and all over the country. Most recently, she created a new translation of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* for the Broadway production at Lincoln Center. Screenwriting credits include *I Love Dick*, *Billions*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *Dispatches from Elsewhere*. She is the recipient of three Obie Awards, a Drama Desk Award, and a Theatre World Award, as well as the Horton Foote Playwriting Award and the Hull-Warriner Award from the Dramatists Guild. Schreck was awarded *Smithsonian Magazine's* 2019 American Ingenuity Award for her work in the performing arts.

Morgan Gould (Director) is a New York-based playwright, director, and screenwriter. Her most recent play, *Jennifer Who is Leaving* premiered at Round House in the 2023 National Capital New Play Festival. *DC Theatre Arts* called it "a knockout play that should be destined for Broadway," and the *Washington Post* called it "a superb comedy...hilarious and meaningful." Her prior plays include *Nicole Clark is Having a Baby* as part of the 44th Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, which was sadly cancelled due to COVID-19 after only five

performances; *I Wanna Fucking Tear You Apart* (world premiere at Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C.; Helen Hayes Award Nomination for Outstanding New Play); *All the Stupid Bitches*; and *Three Fat Sisters*. Gould is a Resident Playwright at New Dramatists, a Member Artists at Ensemble Studio Theatre, a Yaddo Colony Fellow, and a MacDowell Fellow. She is a proud alumnus of the Dramatist Guild Foundation Fellows Program, Interstate 173 at Page 73 Productions, the Ingram New Works Fellowship at Nashville Rep, The Women's Project Lab, the Civilians R+D Group, Target Margin Lab, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, SDC Observership Program, the BAX AIR Residency, Playwrights Horizons Directing Residency, and New Georges Writer/Director Lab. She has previously held staff positions at Playscripts, Inc., Lark Play Development Center, Cape Cod Theatre Project, and was the Associate Artistic Director of Young Jean Lee's Theatre Company. She is also the Artistic Director of Morgan Gould & Friends, her theatre company with nine actors, three designers, and a filmmaker. MG&F's work has been featured in and at the New Ohio/Ice Factory Festival, Dixon Place, The Brooklyn Lyceum, HERE Arts Center, Ars Nova, CAP21, BAX, New Georges, and The Culture Project. As a director, Gould has directed world premieres and contemporary works by herself and other playwrights at Marin Theater Company, Primary Stages, WP Theater (Women's Project), Hangar Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Page 73, and many more. Gould is a graduate of Fordham University at Lincoln Center (B.A., Directing), Brooklyn College (M.F.A, Playwriting), and the Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellowship at Juilliard. Proud union/guild member of WGA East, SDC, and Dramatists Guild.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Kimberly Gilbert (Heidi) last appeared at Round House Theatre in *Jennifer Who Is Leaving* and *Oslo*. Other RHT credits include *The Book of Will*, *Angels in America*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Lyons*, and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Recent credits include *Marjorie Prime* at Prologue, *POTUS* at The Arden in Philly, and *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's. Kimberly has been in the DC Theatreverse since the year 2000, where she has been fortunate enough to play on the stage of Round House, as well as Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Kennedy Center, Folger Theatre, Studio Theatre, Theater J, Forum, Mosaic, Source, Metro Stage, Spooky Action,

Prologue, and, most often, Woolly Mammoth and Taffety Punk Theatres, both of which she is a proud Company Member. Kimberly is a graduate of The Academy at STC.

Michael Glenn (Mike) is excited to be returning to Round House Theatre for *What the Constitution Means to Me*. Previous Round House productions include *The Seafarer*, *Ink*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Stage Kiss*, and *THIS*. A Maryland-based actor, Michael has performed with nearly every theatre in the area. Some favorite previous credits include *Red Velvet* and *The School for Lies* at the Shakespeare Theatre; *Junk* and *Good People* at Arena Stage; *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* at Signature Theatre; *Jumpers for Goalposts* at Studio Theatre; *Tiger Style!* and *Marjorie Prime* at Olney Theatre Center; and *Sense & Sensibility* and *Arcadia* at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre. Michael has also worked extensively on full-cast audio books for Graphic Audio productions, appearing in literally hundreds of their titles over the past few years.

Fadekemi Laniyonu (Debater) is thrilled to make her professional theatre debut with Round House Theatre in *What the Constitution Means to Me*.

Kat Pascual (Debater) is a senior at Fairfax High School and is thrilled to make her professional debut at Round House Theatre with *What the Constitution Means to Me*. Some of her favorite credits with her high school theatre department, the FX Players, include Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Sister Mary Lazarus in *Sister Act*, Tilly in *She Kills Monsters*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo & Juliet*, and Marfa/Featured Dancer in *Anastasia*. She was a 2024 Semi-Finalist at the ESU National Shakespeare Competition and is a theatre critic via the NCA Cappies Program, president of her school's drama club, and co-captain of her school improv team. She will be attending William & Mary in the fall to study history and theatre. Instagram: @kat.pxscual

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

What the Constitution Means to Me

Written by Heidi Schreck

Directed by Morgan Gould

Jan 15 – Feb 16, 2025

CAST LIST (alphabetical order):

Kimberly Gilbert: Heidi

Michael Glenn: Mike

Fadekemi Lanionu: Debater

Kat Pascual: Debater

WHERE:

Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave. and Metro's Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

As a teenager, Heidi Schreck traveled across America, earning her college tuition by winning constitutional debate competitions. Now, as an Obie Award-winning playwright, she takes a closer look at the Constitution and its effects on four generations of women in her family. *What the Constitution Means to Me* is a profoundly personal look at our nation's most debated document and how it could evolve to fit our modern times. One of the most popular and beloved plays in America--featuring brand new material updated for 2025, seen only at Round House--this "electrifyingly topical and eye-opening" (*The New York Times*) Pulitzer Prize finalist has never been more relevant, urgent, or needed.

DATES AND TIMES:

What the Constitution Means to Me runs from January 15 to February 16, 2025. Performances are Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Audio described performance: Saturday, January 25 at 2:00 pm

Open captioned performance: Sunday, January 26 at 2:00 pm; Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 pm

Mask-required performances: Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 pm; and Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 pm

TICKETS:

Tickets can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office. Available ticket discounts include:

- **Free Play** – free tickets for students ages 13 through college: Round House Theatre’s Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay or email Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- **On the House** community ticket access program: Round House’s next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is On the House, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/On-TheHouse or email Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- **Pay-What-You-Can performances:** PWYC tickets go on sale online or by phone only (no walk-up sales) beginning three weeks before the first performance of each show. The patron decides the admission price. Limit of two tickets per order. PWYC tickets are available for performances on Wednesday, January 15 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, January 18 at 2:00 pm and are subject to availability.
- **Blue Star Theatre Program:** Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets.
- **2-For-1 Tuesday:** For all Tuesday performances of *What the Constitution Means to Me*, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (240.644.1100) with promo code TWOFORONE. Discounts may not be combined.

Not valid on previously purchased tickets.

- **Group Sales:** Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

ROUND HOUSE THEATRE HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

Round House Theatre no longer requires that audience members wear masks for most performances in our theatre. However, masks are required for certain performances and for events in other Round House spaces, including our Event Room. We continue to strongly recommend masks as the best way for individuals to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other seasonal viruses, and we ask our audience members to respect the choices of others.

Round House will offer a limited number of mask-required performances for audience members who may prefer a fully masked environment. **Masks are required for performances on February 4 (7:30 pm) and 8 (2:00 pm).**

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, DC area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 227 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 52, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students ages 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth.

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