



Home of **The Nora Theatre Company** & **Underground Railway Theater**

450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139
617.576.9278 | CentralSquareTheater.org

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Contact: Nicholas Peterson (617) 576-9278 x205
ndp@centralsquaretheater.org

Underground Railway Theater presents **Nick Payne's *Constellations*** **September 7 – October 8, 2017** **In Love, the Possibilities are Infinite.**

CAMBRIDGE, MA – Underground Railway Theater is proud to present **Nick Payne's *Constellations*** from September 7 - October 8, 2017. ***Constellations*** is directed by **Scott Edmiston**. The press performance is **Monday, September 11 at 7:30PM. *Constellations*** is a Catalyst Collaborative@MIT Production.

A mesmerizing romantic journey begins simply. Marianne and Roland meet at a party. They go for a drink. They fall madly in love and start dating. Or do they? There are infinite possibilities, and a single word may alter their lives at any moment. **Scott Edmiston**, five-time Elliot Norton Award-winner for Outstanding Director, leads **Marianna Bassham** and Nael Nacer in Nick Payne's play about love, possibility, bees, and... quantum physics. Discover the reason *The New York Times* asked: "Who knew that higher physics could be so sexy?"

Constellations plays at Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, September 7 - October 8, 2017. Tickets may be purchased by calling 617.576.9278 x1, at the Central Square Theater box office, or online at CentralSquareTheater.org.

About *Constellations*

Constellations explores the relationship between Marianne and Roland through the cosmological lens of multiverses, imagining a multiplicity of possible paths for their romance. Imagine you come upon a fork in the road with an infinite number of roads all leading to different destinations (or an infinite number of roads that lead to the same ultimate destination).

In an article written by playwright Nick Payne for *The Telegraph*, he says that ***Constellations*** is an "attempt to dramatize" the dilemma of "the urge to remember versus the need to forget. But crucially it is also a play in which the science at the heart of quantum mechanics is explored through the many and varied possible lives of a single couple: cosmologist Marianne and artisan beekeeper Roland."

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Constellations Production History

Constellations premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in January 2012, with Rafe Spall and Sally Hawkins in the lead roles and direction by Michael Longhurst. The play received strong reviews from critics and subsequently transferred to the Duke of York's Theatre in the West End in November 2012. In November 2012 *Constellations* was named the winner of the best play category at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards, making the 29-year-old Payne the youngest winner of the award.

Constellations premiered on Broadway in a Manhattan Theatre Club production at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on January 13, 2015 and closed on March 15, 2015. The cast starred Jake Gyllenhaal (in his Broadway debut) and Ruth Wilson. Ruth Wilson received a nomination for the 2015 Tony Award, Best Performance By a Leading Actress in a Play. The play received three Drama League Award nominations: Best Play, Best Actor, Gyllenhaal, and Best Actress, Wilson.

About Playwright Nick Payne

Nick Payne (*Playwright*) who won the prestigious George Devine Award in 2009 with his play *If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet*. Produced at the Bush Theatre in October 2009 and directed by Josie Rourke and starring Rafe Spall. In 2012 it went to the Roundabout Theatre, New York, starring Academy Award nominee Jake Gyllenhaal and directed by Michael Longhurst. Mr. Payne studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama and the University of York, making his debut at the Royal Court theatre in September 2010 with his comedy *Wanderlust*. In January 2012, Mr. Payne's play *Constellations* opened at the Royal Court Upstairs starring Rafe Spall and Sally Hawkins and directed by Michael Longhurst. *Constellations* transferred to the West End in November 2012 where it received universally glowing reviews. It also won the Evening Standard Best Play Award and was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Play. In 2015 *Constellations* transferred to Broadway. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Ruth Wilson and directed by Michael Longhurst it won outstanding reviews. Mr. Payne also writes for film and TV. He has adapted Julian Barnes's *The Sense Of An Ending* for BBC Films, to be released in 2017 with Jim Broadbent starring and Ritesh Batra directing. In development are an adaptation of David Nicholls' *Us* as a three-part TV drama for the BBC and an original piece, *Wanderlust*, for Drama Republic and the BBC.

About Director Scott Edmiston

Scott Edmiston (*Director*) returns to Central Square Theater where he directed Tony Kushner's *But the Giraffe* and *Brundibar* for Underground Railway Theater. Mr. Edmiston has directed more than 60 Boston-area productions at American Repertory Theater, Lyric Stage Company, SpeakEasy Stage Company, New Repertory Theatre, and Gloucester Stage, among others. For The Nora Theatre Company, he directed *Betrayal* (2003 Elliot Norton Award Outstanding Production) and *Molly Sweeney* (1998 Elliot Norton Award Outstanding Director). His 2017 production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* received the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production; and his 2015 production of *My Fair Lady* was named among the best of the year by the *Wall Street Journal* and earned him the Elliot Norton Award, the IRNE Award and the Arts Impulse Award. Other highlights: *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *The History Boys*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Time Stands Still*, *Casa Valentina*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Five by Tenn*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Next Fall*, *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*, *A Marvelous Party*, *Reckless*, *The Women*, *Miss Witherspoon*, *A Marvelous Party*, *Nixon in China*, and *Dinner with Friends*. Scott is the recipient of four Elliot Norton Awards, three IRNE Awards, the StageSource Award, and the Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence in Theatre. He is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Northeastern University. Among his publications, he is the author of "Acting Misbegotten: The Creative Journey to Eugene O'Neill" in the anthology *Critical Insights: Eugene O'Neill* (Salem Press, 2012). He received the 2014 Penn State Alumni Award and the 2017 Excellence in Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award from

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Northeastern. Later this season, he will direct *Shakespeare in Love* for SpeakEasy Stage Company and *Anna Christie* for Lyric Stage Company of Boston.

About the Cast of *Constellations*

Marianna Bassham (*Marianne*) is delighted to return to Central Square Theater, where she appeared with The Nora Theatre Company in *Antigone*, *Not Enough Air* and CST in *Matt & Ben*. Around town: *I Was Most Alive with You*, *Becoming Cuba*, *Our Town*, *The Luck of the Irish* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Blackbird* (Elliot Norton Award), *Reckless* (IRNE Award), *In The Next Room (or the vibrator play)* and *Hand to God* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Hedda Gabler*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Far Away*, *King Elizabeth*, and *The Real Thing* (The Gamm Theatre); and many other productions at The Lyric Stage Company of Boston, New Repertory Theatre, Stoneham Theatre, Boston Playwrights' Theater, and Actors' Shakespeare Project, where she is a resident acting company member. Film/TV: *Olive Kitteridge*, *The Makeover*, *Moonrise Kingdom*, and the upcoming Hulu series *Castle Rock*.

Nael Nacer (*Roland*) returns to Central Square Theater after having previously appeared in Underground Railway Theater's *Sila* and *Distracted*. Other area credits include: *A Doll's House*; *Bedroom Farce*; *Come Back, Little Sheba*; *Awake and Sing!*; *Our Town* (IRNE Award for Best Supporting Actor); and *The Seagull* (Huntington Theatre Company), *45 Plays for 45 Presidents*; *It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre), *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*; *Intimate Apparel* (Elliot Norton Award, Best Actor); *The Temperamentals*; and *Animal Crackers* (Lyric Stage Company of Boston), *A Number*; *Pattern of Life*; *Lungs*; *The Kite Runner* (New Repertory Theatre), *Bank Job*; *The Flick* (Gloucester Stage Company, IRNE Award, Best Actor), *A Future Perfect*; *Tribes* (SpeakEasy Stage Company), *Rhinoceros*; *Windowmen*; *The Farm*; *Gary* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre), *Love Person*; *1001*; *The Aliens*; *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Company One), and *Shear Madness* (Charles Playhouse).

The artistic and design team includes **Susan Zeeman Rogers** (*Scenic Design*), **Charles Schoonmaker** (*Costume Design*), **Jeff Adelberg** (*Lighting Design*), **Dewey Dellay** (*Sound Design & Original Composition*), **Amelia Broome** (*Dialect Design*), & **Sabrina Dennison** (*Director of Artistic Sign Language/American Sign Language Consultant*). **Nora Mally** is the Production Stage Manager with **Brian M. Robillard** taking over from October 4-8. **Aisha Stewart** is the *Assistant Stage Manager*.

Central Square Theater (CST) opened in 2008 through a groundbreaking partnership between **The Nora Theatre Company** (The Nora) and **Underground Railway Theater (URT)**. This collaboration has been called a model for the arts community (The Boston Foundation, Culture is our Commonwealth, and The National Collaboration Prize), as it has paired two like-minded performing arts organizations in a strategic alliance with the City of Cambridge and MIT, resulting in the development of a state-of-the-art performing arts center in the heart of Central Square. CST has a mission to support its two theaters-in-residence while maintaining a shared vision of artists and audiences creating theater vital to their communities. The Nora and URT have a combined track record of over 50 years producing award-winning theater. Located in Central Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and steeped in its multiracial, intergenerational, ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods, the CST theater experience exudes a democratic energy where classes, races and age groups come together to be inspired, entertained and energized.

Press inquiries should be directed to Central Square Theater's Director of Marketing, Nicholas Peterson, phone: 617.576.9278 x205 or via email ndp@centralsquaretheater.org.

Central Square Theater is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating. For further information please call 617.576.9278 or visit CentralSquareTheater.org.

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CALENDAR AND RELATED FACTS AT A GLANCE

CONSTELLATIONS

By Nick Payne

Directed by Scott Edmiston

September 7 - October 8, 2017

A mesmerizing romantic journey begins simply. Marianne and Roland meet at a party. They go for a drink. They fall madly in love and start dating. Or do they? There are infinite possibilities, and a single word may alter their lives at any moment. Scott Edmiston, five-time Elliot Norton Award-winner for Outstanding Director, leads Marianna Bassham and Nael Nacer in Nick Payne's play about love, possibility, bees, and... quantum physics. Discover the reason *The New York Times* asked: "Who knew that higher physics could be so sexy?"

Produced by: Underground Railway Theater

Cast: **Marianna Bassham & Nael Nacer**

Director: **Scott Edmiston**

Stage Manager: **Nora Mally** (through October 2), Brian Robillard (October 5 -8)

Design Team: **Susan Zeeman Rogers** (*Scenic Design*), **Charles Schoonmaker** (*Costume Design*), **Jeff Adelberg** (*Lighting Design*), **Dewey Dellay** (*Sound Design & Original Composition*), **Amelia Broome** (*Dialect Design*), & **Sabrina Dennison** (*Director of Artistic Sign Language/American Sign Language Consultant*).

Performing at: Central Square Theater,
450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 02139

Run Time: 80 minutes with no intermission

Press Performance: Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7:30PM

Ticket Prices: Tickets begin at \$46. Seniors Save \$5,
Students (with Univ. ID): \$20. Under 18: \$15.
Discounts for Groups.

Box Office: 617.576.9278 x1, CentralSquareTheater.org

Media Information: Nicholas Peterson, 617.576.9278 x205

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