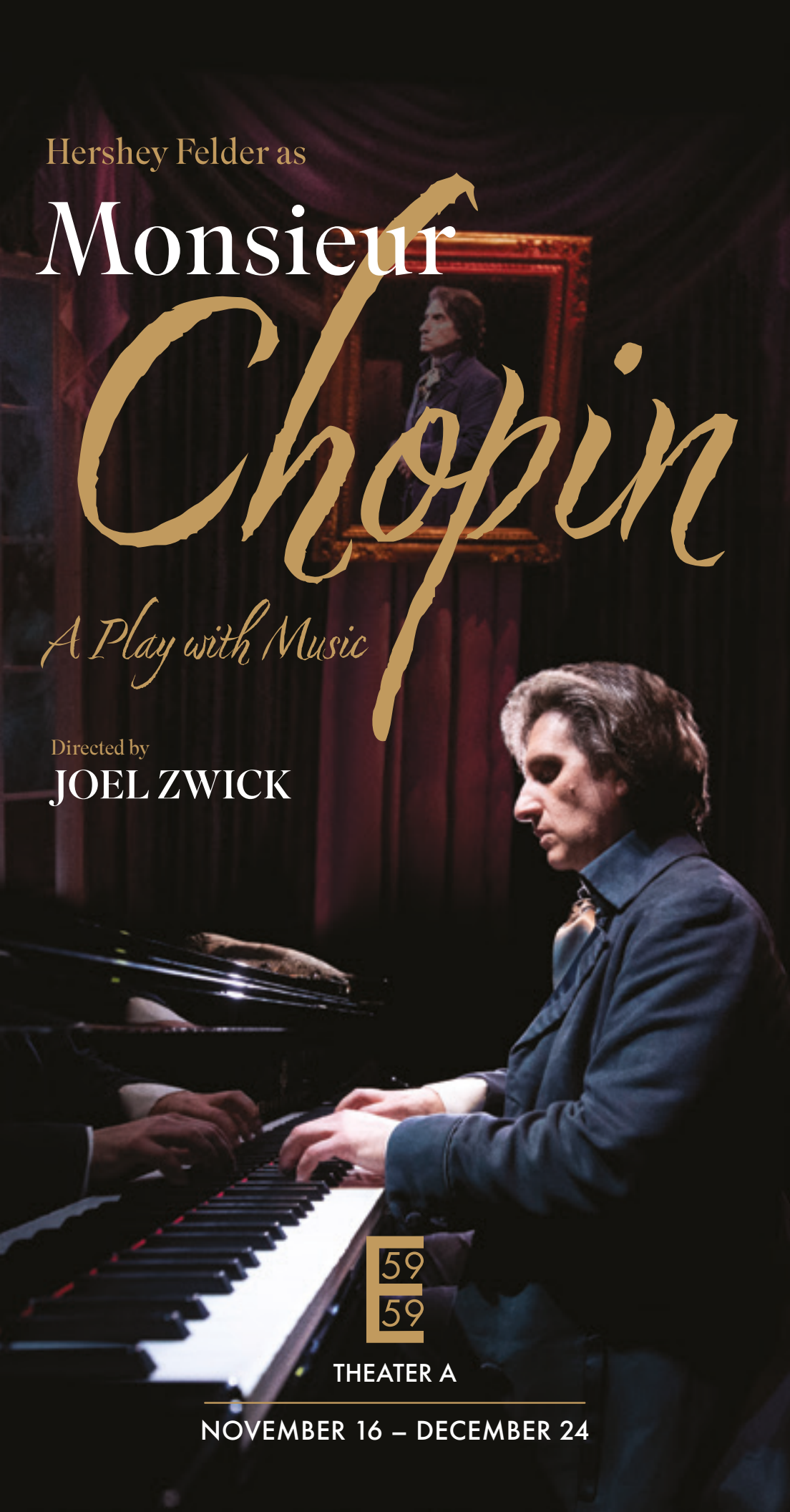

Hershey Felder as
Monsieur
Chopin
A Play with Music
Directed by
JOEL ZWICK
59
59
THEATER A
NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 24

Hershey Felder as

Monsieur Chopin

Directed by
JOEL ZWICK

Cast

Fryderyk Chopin ..... HERSHEY FELDER

Creative & Production Team

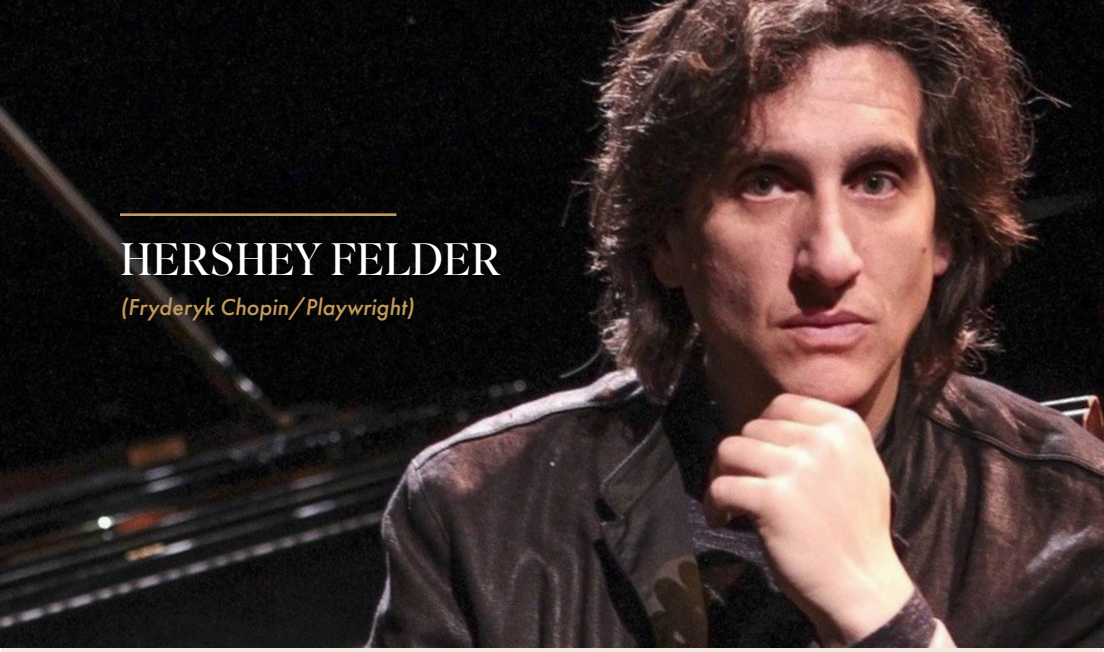
Playwright ..... HERSHEY FELDER
Director ..... JOEL ZWICK
Associate Director ..... TREVOR HAY
Scenic Design ..... HERSHEY FELDER
Lighting Design ..... ERIK S. BARRY
Video Design/Production Management ..... ERIK CARSTENSEN
Associate Producer ..... TAMMY GLOBERMAN
Sound Operator ..... JEREMY ARTUR KALKE
Production Consultant ..... JEFFREY KALLBERG, PHD

Run time: 2 hours with no intermission



STEINWAY & SONS

The production thanks Steinway & Sons for their courtesy in providing the concert grand piano.



HERSHEY FELDER

(Fryderyk Chopin/Playwright)

American Theatre Magazine has said, "Hershey Felder - actor, Steinway Concert Artist and theatrical creator - is in a category all his own." Following 28 years of continuous stage productions and over 6,000 live performances throughout the US and abroad, Hershey Felder created Live from Florence, An Arts Broadcasting Company, which has produced more than eighteen theatrical films to date. They include the recently-released *The Assembly Chopin and Liszt in Paris*; *Violetta*, the story of Verdi's *Traviata; Dante and Beatrice; Mozart and Figaro in Vienna;* the world premiere musicals *Nicholas, Anna & Sergei;* the story of Sergei Rachmaninoff; *Puccini*, the story of famed opera composer Giacomo Puccini; *Before Fiddler,* a musical story about writer Sholem Aleichem; *Great American Songs and the Stories Behind Them, Leonard Bernstein and the Israel Philharmonic,* a documentary, and the popular *Musical Tales in the Venetian Jewish Ghetto*. Two seasons of programming are currently available at www.hersheyfelder.net. Hershey has given performances of his solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theaters and has consistently broken box office records. His shows include ***George Gershwin Alone*** (Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre, West End's Duchess Theatre), ***Monsieur Chopin***, ***Beethoven, Maestro (Leonard Bernstein)***, ***Franz Liszt in Musik***, ***Lincoln: An American Story***, ***Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin***, ***Our Great Tchaikovsky***, ***A Paris Love Story***, and ***Chopin in Paris***. His compositions and recordings include "Aliyah," "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra;" "Fairytale," a musical; "Les Anges de Paris, Suite for Violin and Piano;" "Song Settings; Saltimbanques for Piano and Orchestra;" "Etudes Thematiques for Piano;" and "An American Story for Actor and Orchestra," and the new opera "Il Quarto Uomo," which premiered in Fiesole in the summer of 2023. Hershey is the adaptor, director, and designer for the internationally performed play-with-music ***The Pianist of Willesden Lane*** with Steinway artist Mona Golabek; producer and designer for the musical ***Louis and Keely: "Live" at the Sahara***, directed by Taylor Hackford; and writer and director for ***Flying Solo***, featuring opera legend Nathan Gunn. Hershey has operated a full-service production company since 2001. He has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell. It was recently announced that Mr. Felder is the first artistic director and managing director of the newly restored TEATRO DELLA SIGNORIA in the center of historic Florence, opening to the public on September 19, 2024.

www.teatrodellasignoria.it

JOEL ZWICK

(Director)

Joel Zwick directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time. Mr. Zwick directed the Broadway production of ***George Gershwin Alone***; he and Hershey Felder have also collaborated on ***Beethoven*** and ***Maestro***. Mr. Zwick has directed Broadway, Off Broadway, and Broadway touring companies, and began his theatrical career at La Mama ETC, as director of the La Mama Plexus. New York productions have included ***Dance with Me*** (Tony nomination), ***Shenandoah*** (Broadway national tour), ***Oklahoma*** (national tour), and ***Cold Storage*** (American Place Theater). He acted in the original New York production of ***MacBird*** and directed ***Esther*** (Promenade Theater, NY), ***Merry-Go-Round*** (Chicago and Las Vegas), ***Last Chance Saloon***, and ***Woycek*** (West End). Mr. Zwick is recognized as one of Hollywood's most prolific directors of episodic television, having directed over 650 episodes. He has taught drama at Yale University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College, and the University of Southern California, and is a graduate (BA, MA) of Brooklyn College.

TREVOR HAY

(Associate Director)

Trevor Hay directed the world premieres of ***An American Story for Actor and Orchestra***, ***Abe Lincoln's Piano***, ***Hershey Felder as Franz Liszt in Musik***, ***Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin***, ***Our Great Tchaikovsky***, and ***A Paris Love Story***. He is associate director for Mona Golabek's ***The Pianist of Willesden Lane***, ***George Gershwin Alone***, and ***Maestro***. Former member of the historic Old Globe Theatre in San Diego where, at the age of nine, his first position was selling Old Globe memorabilia. Over the next 32 years, Mr. Hay went on to various aspects of production on more than 80 presentations.

ERIK S. BARRY

(Lighting Design)

Erik is a freelance lighting designer based in Chicago. He received the Non-Equity Joseph Jefferson Award in 2019 for ***The Displaced*** with Haven Theatre. His designs have been seen at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall, Seattle Rep, Harris Theatre (Chicago), and the Detroit Music Hall. He has done extensive gaffer/production electrician work, including multiple 2020 Presidential Debates and on Fox Sports Pre/Post show for the MLB World Series. MFA - Lighting Design: University of Wisconsin-Madison.

www.eriksbarry.com

ERIK CARSTENSEN

(Production Manager/Video Design)

Erik has worked for Eighty-Eight Entertainment since 2008. He has served as sound designer on ***Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin***, ***Our Great Tchaikovsky***, ***A Paris Love Story***, ***Maestro***, ***Louis and Keely "Live" at the Sahara***, ***An American Story***, ***Beethoven As I Knew Him*** (Ovation Award winner), ***The Pianist of Willesden Lane*** (Ovation Award nomination), and numerous other productions. Formerly, he was the master sound technician at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and was production engineer on over 60 productions.

TAMMY GLOBERMAN

(Associate Producer)

Based in Los Angeles, Tammy joined the Hershey Felder Presents team in the summer of 2020. She worked with Hershey on his earlier projects in the late 1990's and 2000's before working with talent agencies specializing in below-the-line talent for film and television. After taking some time off to be with her two children, she is excited to be working again with Hershey and his team.

SAMANTHA F. VOXAKIS

(Director of Operations)

Since shortly after joining the company in early 2004, Sam has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of Eighty-Eight LLC and Hershey Felder Presents. Prior to that, she spent twelve memorable years in the front office of the Baltimore Orioles. With special thanks to her family and Mr. Felder.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Moses and Susan Libitzky, Daniel and Phyllis Epstein, Gail Gudmundsen and Mead Killion, Josef and Margot Lakonishok, Oscar and Didi Schafer, Stephen and Jacqueline Swire, Tom Wirtshafter; Maria and Byron Janis, Ken and Maria Cole; Mariusz Brymora, Phil Grabsky, Dr. Jeffrey Kallberg; Vivian Chiu, Alexandra Scheer, and Steinway & Sons; Amy Carstensen; Karen Racanelli.

Baci e tanti abbracci a la nostra famiglia in Italia – Tommaso, Eva, Elena, Alice e el Re Sergio.

A heartfelt thank you to my team of devoted artists without whom none of our work would be possible.

Elysabeth Kleinhans, Val Day, Brian Beirne, Erica Pierre, Lloyd Mulvey, Cristina Greenfield, Melinda Graber, the box office and house staff, and everyone at 59E59.

A special thank you to Candice and Joel Zwick, and Joel Zwick "Alone".

My sister Tammy and my nieces Avery and Kiley. And of course, doggie Leo and Kim (xo).



AUTHOR'S NOTE

MONSIEUR CHOPIN - *A "Romanza" for actor and piano.*

Fryderyk Chopin (Zelazowa Wola, Poland, 1810 - Paris, France, 1849) is thought of today as the "poet of the piano" whose keyboard compositions are of an unparalleled beauty. He is considered the inventor of the romantic piano sound, as well as the originator of the technical approach to the keyboard still in use today. His unprecedented and exotic use of melody and harmony anticipates impressionism in music – a movement that would only come to fruition almost half a century after his death.

When Fryderyk Chopin first arrived in Paris from his Polish homeland in 1831, his abilities at the keyboard caused a sensation not only among Paris' high society, but also among his accomplished and celebrated artist peers. However, even though he made Paris his home, he continued to live as a Pole in exile rather than as a Parisian. He surrounded himself with other Polish exiles, and he instilled his Polish soul into every note that he composed. Even throughout his love affair with France's most famous woman, his longing for the sounds and the rhythms of his homeland was the basis of many of his compositions.

Today, we know Fryderyk Chopin as the most perfect of keyboard composers but, in his day, he earned his living as a piano teacher for the very wealthy and cultured elite. He had but a few professional pianists among his students, yet he took his teaching very seriously and his students were expected to be equally as serious about their own work.

It is known that on matters of daily life, Chopin did not express his innermost feelings so readily, but his students did report that every now and then during their lessons, Chopin would begin to reveal himself to a degree that no one besides his students would experience. In the end, those who knew Fryderyk Chopin best have said that only his students really experienced the most personal gifts of their master.

Paris, the 4th of March, 1848
Welcome to your lesson.



CURATOR'S NOTE

Hershey Felder is a fan-favorite at 59E59 for good reason. His singular blend of music and storytelling never fails to dazzle and delight us as he delves into the biographies of music's greatest figures.

Hershey's previous hits at 59 include portrayals of Leonard Bernstein and Irving Berlin, illuminating these legendary composers and bringing them to life to share their own stories. Now Hershey invites us into Fryderyk Chopin's Paris salon circa 1848 for an intimate portrait and conversation with the musical innovator whose tumultuous life left an enduring legacy.



VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
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JOEY PITTORINO Front of House Assistant
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
BIONDYS DURAN-MENDOZA Usher
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH CALLIOPE STAGE PRESENTS

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BY MICHAEL AGUIRRE | MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS BY GRACE YUKICH & JENNIFER C. DAUPHINAIS | DIRECTED BY SARAH NORRIS

Accompanied by live music from Carl Sandburg's American Songbag, the family careens around America's iconic landmarks and cultural relics.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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