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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 7, 2021

The Impostors Theatre Company returns for Season Three  
with the Chicago premiere of *The House of Baba Yaga*

**Written by ensemble member Emma Smart**

**Directed by Artistic Director Stefan Roseen**

**CHICAGO, IL** — The Impostors Theatre Company (ITC) returns this November for their third season with the Chicago premiere of *The House of Baba Yaga*, by ITC ensemble member **Emma Smart** and directed by ITC Artistic Director **Stefan Roseen**. *The House of Baba Yaga* runs **November 5 – 20, 2021** in the performance space at **City Lit Theater Company, 1020 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60660**. [Press are welcomed to join us any time from Thursday, November 4th until closing.](#)

Four teenagers break into a secluded, likely-condemned, definitely-haunted house in the woods. An evening of proverbial secret sharing and scare tactics quickly escalates into a frightening, supernatural game. Because the house really isn't abandoned at all—its tenant is one of the most ancient witches in all time, and she's been calling this game for a lot longer than her guests. The prize? Walking away with their lives.

Written by Impostor Emma Smart and brought to its taloned feet by a team of visionaries, *The House of Baba Yaga* plunges—or, rather, skyrockets—its characters and audience into the belly of a larger-than-life funhouse. This contemporary take on an age-old fable will challenge expectations, beliefs, relationships, and the pitfalls of wielding power and agency. Consider the door open.

The cast of *The House of Baba Yaga* includes ITC ensemble member **Emily Gulbrandsen** in the titular role of Baba Yaga, with **Alexandra M. Hunter** as Piper, **Asya Meadows** as Fred, **Jaclyn Jensen** as Willow, and **Anna Sciacotta** as Ursula. The cast is rounded out by **Kelsey Fortier**, **Tulsi McDaniels**, **Anna Roemer**, and **Rachel Borgo** as the Spirits of the House.

Following *The House of Baba Yaga*, The Impostors Theatre Company's third season features *Hertha Nova* written by ITC Executive Director **Rachel Borgo**, running from **February 11-26, 2022**; and *Footholds Vol. 3*, an anthology play by the community, running from **June 10–19, 2022**.

## About the Artists

**Emma Smart (Playwright)** is a Chicago based playwright, musician, actress, and storyteller. She serves as the development director for The Impostors Theatre Company. Emma received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal performance from Valparaiso University, followed by her Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. At Eastman, Emma was seen in productions of *Cendrillon* (Madame de la Haltière), *Turn of the Screw* (Mrs. Grose), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Marcellina), and won awards in both the Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition and the Friends of Eastman Opera Aria Competition. After graduating, Emma was a Vocal Fellow at the prestigious

Music Academy of the West. In 2017, Emma moved to Chicago to work with Chicago Opera Theater as a young artist. She made her Chicago debut in the premiere of *Elizabeth Cree* by Kevin Puts and continued on with the company to perform her second role of Marta in *Iolanta* by Tchaikovsky. In the fall of 2019, Emma went on tour with Opera in the Neighborhoods, the outreach program of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, performing the role of the Mother in *Earth to Kenzie*, a children's opera. Most recently, Emma participated in the radio reading of *Hertha Nova* by Rachel Borgo.

**Stefan Roseen (Director)** is a Chicago director, playwright, and designer. He serves as the artistic director for The Impostors Theatre Company. Stefan most recently worked with The Impostors in October 2020 as director for the anthology film *Footholds 2020*. Additional directing credits include: *Summer & Smoke*; *Tippy: Stories from the River*; *Footholds 2019*; *Caged: An Allegory*; *The Wood*; *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan*; *Art*; and *The Altercation in the Underworld* — Winner “Best Of” for MadKap Production’s Short Play Festival. Stefan earned his degree in theatre and studio art from Valparaiso University where he has returned to direct. He has also led multiple workshops and directed numerous staged readings including *Tippy: Stories from the River*; *Hertha Nova*; *The House of Baba Yaga*; *Caged: An Allegory*; and *The Wood*. Stefan’s more recent theatrical designs include sets for *25/25*, *Occidental Express*; the Jeff-recommended *They*; and the Jeff-nominated *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* — all for Trap Door Theatre.

## Fact Sheet | *The House of Baba Yaga*

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Title:</b>         | <b><i>The House of Baba Yaga</i></b>  |
| <b>Written by:</b>    | ITC ensemble member <b>Emma Smart</b>   |
| <b>Directed by:</b>   | ITC Artistic Director <b>Stefan Roseen</b>  |
| <b>Featuring:</b>     | ITC ensemble members <b>Emily Gulbrandsen</b> (Baba Yaga) and <b>Rachel Borgo</b> (Spirit of the House), as well as <b>Alexandra M. Hunter</b> (Piper), <b>Asya Meadows</b> (Fred), <b>Jaclyn Jensen</b> (Willow), <b>Anna Sciacotta</b> (Ursula), <b>Kelsey Fortier</b> (Spirit of the House), <b>Tulsi McDaniels</b> (Spirit of the House), and <b>Anna Roemer</b> (Spirit of the House)  |
| <b>Creative Team:</b> | ITC ensemble members <b>Becky Valek</b> (Stage Manager), <b>Mallory Swisher</b> (Lighting Design), <b>Emma Smart</b> (Dramaturg), <b>Kyle Smart</b> (Costume Design), <b>Stephanie Lewis</b> (Movement & Assistant Director), <b>Dominick Vincent Alesia</b> (Composer & Sound Designer), <b>Jessica Miller</b> (Special Effects Designer), <b>Ethan Gasbarro</b> (Technical Director), as well as <b>Elyse Estes</b> (Set Design) <b>Maya Prentiss</b> (Fight Director), <b>Paige Morin</b> (ASM/The Woman in the Painting) and <b>Jackie Bobbitt</b> (Propmaster) |
| <b>Press Preview:</b> | <b>Thursday, November 4 at 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>Opening Night:</b> | <b>Friday, November 5 at 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>Regular Run:</b>   | <b>November 5 – November 20, 2021</b>   |
| <b>Schedule:</b>      | <b>Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30pm</b><br><b>Sundays at 3pm</b>   |

**Location:** **City Lit Theater Company**  
1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60660

**Tickets:** **General Admission – \$15**  
**Reserved Seating – \$20** (more information at [theimpostorstheatre.com/boxoffice.html](http://theimpostorstheatre.com/boxoffice.html))

**Group Discount:** Purchase 6 or more tickets to receive a \$5 discount off of each ticket. Contact the Box Office at [impostorstheatre.boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:impostorstheatre.boxoffice@gmail.com) for more details and to book your event.

**Box Office:** [theimpostorstheatre.com/boxoffice.html](http://theimpostorstheatre.com/boxoffice.html)

**Press Photos** for *The House of Baba Yaga* will be available the morning of Friday, November 5, 2021.

**Parking and Transportation:** City Lit Theatre Company is located in Edgewater in the Bryn Mawr Historic District on the corner of N. Kenmore Ave and W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Due to limited availability, the ParkChicago app is recommended for street parking, while apps like Spot Hero are highly recommended to ensure a parking spot in advance.

There is metered street parking in the Edgewater area. Pay boxes on Bryn Mawr have a three hour maximum duration and are free on Sundays.

The theater is easily accessible via the Broadway (#36), Sheridan (#151), or Outer Drive Express (#147) bus, and just steps off of the Bryn Mawr Red Line El station.

**Covid-19 Policy and Procedures:**

The Impostors Theatre Company requires proof of vaccination from staff, performers, and patrons eligible to receive the vaccination. Patrons must bring a physical vaccination card or a photo of a vaccination card paired with a valid form of identification to the performance. Patrons will be permitted to enter the performance space if the current date is 14 days after the final dose. Those ineligible to receive the vaccine must provide physical or electronic proof of a negative covid-19 test within 72 hours of the performance.

The Impostors Theatre Company requires that all patrons, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks covering nose and mouth throughout the duration of the performance and while on City Lit premises. Patrons are asked to bring their own masks to the performance.

These policies are in accordance with the City of Chicago recommendations and [the protocols set forth by City Lit Theatre](#). Failure to observe these policies may result in our staff turning away noncompliant patrons at the door. Refunds and exchanges are at the discretion of the company.

**About The Impostors Theater Company**

The Impostors Theatre Company stages stories at the crossroads of retrospect and innovation, where the fantastic collides with the everyday. In order to better our discourse, our relationships, and ourselves. A commitment to challenge, cultivate, and coalesce drives the company forward, encouraging all to “Embrace the Art of Pretend.”

Returning for their third season, The Impostors have crafted a new series of productions that look into the most human and realistic of experiences of home, relationships, and the lengths we go to get what we want, all set in the most otherworldly and fantastical settings.

The Impostors Theatre Company is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a 501(c)3 non-profit arts service organization.

For more information about The Impostors Theatre Company, we invite you to visit [theimpostorstheatre.com](http://theimpostorstheatre.com)  
Follow ITC on [facebook.com/theimpostorstheatre](https://facebook.com/theimpostorstheatre) and on [instagram.com/impostorstheatre](https://instagram.com/impostorstheatre).