

**THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY  
OFFERS WORLD PREMIERE  
Hershey Felder  
as Sergei Rachmaninoff in  
NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI**

**With J. Anthony Crane, Ekaterina Siurina,  
Charles Castronovo, Helen Farrell,  
Igor Polesitsky, Erika Bendersky,  
Jeffrey Thickman, Jonathan Brett,  
and more**

***Livestream 5pm PDT, Sunday, May 16  
(Plus streaming on-demand through May 23)***

REDWOOD SHORES, CA (13 April 2021) –**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** will offer viewers the World Premiere livestream of ***Hershey Felder as Sergei Rachmaninoff in NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI***, a new work by and starring virtuoso pianist/performer **Hershey Felder**. Presented by Hershey Felder Presents *Live from Florence*, ***Hershey Felder as Sergei Rachmaninoff in NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI*** explores the little known story of a strange meeting of Russian piano virtuoso Rachmaninoff and Anna Anderson, a woman who claimed to be Princess Anastasia, the sole surviving member of the Romanov Dynasty. Set in the Beverly Hills house in which Rachmaninoff died in 1943, ***NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI*** presents a mesmerizing memory play imbued with the composer's most beloved music.

***Hershey Felder as Sergei Rachmaninoff in NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI*** will be streamed live **5pm PDT, Sunday, May 16, 2021** (with streaming on-demand access through May 23). To buy tickets (\$55 per household) or find more information, the public can visit **TheatreWorks.org**. Ticket sales directly benefit TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

The production will also include guest stars including world-famed soprano and actor **Ekaterina Siurina** as Natalia Alexandrovna Rachmaninoff, recently seen in *Hershey Felder, PUCCINI*. Klezmerata Fiorentina violinist **Igor Polesitsky**, recently featured in *Hershey Felder as Sholem Aleichem in BEFORE FIDDLER*, appears as Dr. Golitzin. Theatre and film actor **J. Anthony Crane**, who starred in the title role in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's *Cyrano*, will perform as Tsar Nicholas II Alexandrovich Romanov. **Helen Farrell** will play Anna Anderson, and **Charles Castronovo, Erika Bendersky, Jeffrey Thickman, Jonathan Brett**, and more join the cast of this World Premiere.

*Hershey Felder as Sergei Rachmaninoff in NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI* features a book by **Hershey Felder** and direction by Felder and **Stefano DeCarli**, Production design is by **Hershey Felder**. Film production and live editing is by the **DeCarli Live** film company. Live broadcast and sound design production are by **Erik Carstensen**. Historical & Biographical research by **Meghan Maiya**. Costumes and Hair are by **Camilla Saccardi**.

**Hershey Felder** (*Writer & Performer*). Named to Time Magazine's 2016 Top 10 Plays and Musicals, Hershey Felder has played over 6,000 performances of his self-created solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theatres, consistently breaking box office records. American Theatre Magazine has said, "Hershey Felder is in a category all his own." 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*; and *A Paris Love Story*. 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*. 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, and in 2020 created a new brand, *Live From Florence*, that operates a "theatre at home broadcast company," based in Florence, Italy. Previous broadcasts have included *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin; Hershey Felder, Beethoven; Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone; Hershey Felder, Backstory – The Story Behind the Creation of Berlin, Gershwin & Bernstein*; and *Cooking*

*French in Florence with Jeff Thickman & Hershey Felder.* The Hershey Felder Presents - *Live from Florence* 2020-21 Season of broadcasts include: *Hershey Felder as Claude Debussy in A PARIS LOVE STORY*; *Hershey Felder, TCHAIKOVSKY*; *Hershey Felder as Sholem Aleichem in BEFORE FIDDLER*; *Hershey Felder as PUCCINI*; and *Hershey Felder as Sergei Rachmaninoff in NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI*. Hershey has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Kim Campbell, the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

Felder has become an enormous favorite among South Bay Area audiences through his appearances at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, where his stage productions have smashed box office records, including the regional premieres of *Our Great Tchaikovsky* and *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*, and the World Premieres of *Hershey Felder as Claude Debussy in A PARIS LOVE STORY* and *Hershey Felder: Beethoven*. The Tony award-winning theatre has partnered with Hershey Felder Presents *Live from Florence* to offer its 2020-21 Season of broadcasts to its audiences. Felder is scheduled to perform *Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin* at TheatreWorks as part of the company's 51<sup>st</sup> season.

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** is the recipient of the 2019 Regional Theatre Tony Award. Led by Artistic Director **Tim Bond** and Executive Director **Phil Santora**, the Palo Alto-based theatre company serves more than 100,000 patrons per year and has captured a national reputation for artistic innovation and integrity, often presenting Bay Area theatregoers with their first look at acclaimed musicals, comedies, and dramas, directed by award-winning local and guest directors, and performed by professional actors cast locally and from across the country. The company's 51<sup>st</sup> season has been postponed in accordance with global efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), with TheatreWorks currently scheduled to resume in-person performances in October 2021.

#### **For Calendar Editors:**

**WHAT:** **TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** in partnership with **Hershey Felder Presents *Live From Florence*** offers streaming access for *Hershey Felder as Sergei Rachmaninoff in NICHOLAS, ANNA & SERGEI*. This World Premiere livestream explores the little known story of a strange meeting of Russian piano virtuoso Rachmaninoff and Anna Anderson, a woman who claimed to be Princess Anastasia, the sole surviving member of the Romanov Dynasty. Set in the Beverly Hills house in which Rachmaninoff died in 1943, *NICHOLAS, ANNA &*

***SERGEI*** presents a mesmerizing memory play imbued with the composer's most beloved music.

**DATES:** Livestreamed at **5pm PDT, Sunday, May 16, 2021**  
with streaming on-demand access available through May 23, 2021.

**WHERE:** Patrons who purchase a ticket to the event will be emailed a link to stream the program at home on their computer, SmartTV or other device.

**TICKETS:** \$55 per household

**INFO:** For information or to order tickets visit **TheatreWorks.org**.

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**PRESS:** Contact Carla Befera & Co.  
[lauren@cb-pr.com](mailto:lauren@cb-pr.com)

**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://cbpr.co/press/HersheyFelder2021/>