TheatreWorks
SILICON VALLEY

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY PRESENTS READINGS OF FUTURE THEATRE HITS

23rd ANNUAL NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

August 7-16, 2026
Lucie Stern Theatre, Palo Alto

WHAT: *Come From Away* composers **Irene Sankoff** and **David Hein** will be among the nationally and internationally renowned artists converging in Palo Alto to unveil new plays and musicals in process at **TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's 23rd Annual New Works Festival**. At this wildly popular event, hundreds of lovers of new theatre gather for an advance look at tomorrow's hits. Continuing the company's legacy of fostering new plays and musicals, this unique festival offers audiences an extraordinary opportunity to experience brand new theatre pieces in their early stages of development. With multiple performances of each work, playwrights and composers are able to revise and refine their shows during the festival, allowing audiences to view the exciting evolution of new entries into the theatrical canon.

Among the works receiving readings in the 2026 New Works Festival is ***Vienna*** by **Irene Sankoff** and **David Hein**. The first act of this new musical was featured in TheatreWorks' 2025 New Works Festival. Sankoff and Hein will return for TheatreWorks' 2026 New Works Festival to present readings of both Act I and II, offering audiences the long-awaited conclusion to this climactic tale and additional opportunities for Bay Area theatre fans to experience this new musical. The festival will also include ***Roja***, a new twist on the Little Red Riding Hood story fusing traditional Mexican folk music and Mestizo folklore, written by **Jaime Lozano** ("Songs by an Immigrant," orchestrations for *In the Heights* film) and **Tommy Newman** (*Tinyard Hill*); ***Floor 37*** by Susan Fairbrook Core Writers Group alumna **Margot Melcon** (*Christmas at Pemberley* series); ***RE–*** by **Kimber Lee,** playwright of *tokyo fish story* and *brownsville song (b-side for tray)*; and a double bill of Hip Hop solo plays: ***The Tell Tale Heart*** by Susan Fairbrook Core Writers Group alumnus **Carlos Aguirre** (*Freestyle Love Supreme* guest artist) and ***Rap Monologues*** by Latin Grammy-nominated composer **Austin Dean Ashford** (*Beauty & the Beat*).

Irene Sankoff and **David Hein** will also perform a one-night-only fundraising engagement of ***Cut From Away*** on **August 14, 2026**. With an option to join the creators for a Gander-themed pre-show dinner, this special event showcases the "stranded" songs, stories, and characters that were cut from *Come From Away* before it made its Broadway debut. This special New Works Festival event celebrates the process of creating theatre, providing a behind the scenes look at developing new works, uplifting fantastic songs that ultimately didn't make the cut, and sharing tales behind the journey to Broadway.

WHEN: **August 7-16, 2026**
August 14: *Cut From Away* featuring Irene Sankoff and David Hein

WHERE: **Lucie Stern Theatre**, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto

TICKETS: Festival Passes ($90) for readings are currently available by calling TheatreWorks' box office at **877-662-8978** and will be available online at a later date (Festival Passes do not include *Cut From Away*). Single event tickets will be available soon. Pricing subject to change.

Cut From Away: $125 show only, $250 dinner and show, $1400 table for 6

INFO: Information and tickets will be available at **theatreworks.org** or by calling **877-662-8978.**

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PRESS: Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here: http://cbpr.co/press/newworks2026