

CHARLIE JOHNSON READS ALL OF PROUST St. Louis Premiere From
The Midnight Company, Opening May 30

The Midnight Company will present the St. Louis Premiere of the one-person show CHARLIE JOHNSON READS ALL OF PROUST by Amy Crider, May 30 - June 15, with performances Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm at the Kranzberg Black Box Theatre, 501 N. Grand. Tickets will be \$20 and will be on sale in April from MetroTix.com.

CHARLIE JOHNSON READS ALL OF PROUST, which premiered in Chicago in January, 2019, at the Den Theatre, tells the story of an older man taking a break from Christmas shopping with his family at a Starbucks. Hungry for dinner, he tides himself over with the purchase of a small package of soft, spongy cookies. When he dips one in his coffee, his snooty daughter-in-law asks him if he's having his "Madeleine moment," and then proceeds to lecture him about Marcel Proust and Remembrance of Things Past - the classic multi-volume novel inspired by the narrator dipping a madeleine cake into tea, with the taste bringing back memories of his boyhood, and leading to a retelling of his time in 19th/20th century aristocratic France. Charlie decides he's going to read that book (not realizing it's seven books) and be able to talk about it with his daughter-in-law next Christmas. And along the way, he discovers the epic that is his own life.

Amy Crider is the playwright. She's studied writing with Second City and Chicago Dramatists, and attended the LaMaMa International Playwrights Retreat in Spoleto, Italy. She's been a semifinalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference as well as the Princess Grace Award, and her work has been seen in New York and around the Midwest. Her play, THE MORRIGAN, is currently in production in Illinois.

Joe Hanrahan will portray Charlie Johnson. Midnight's Artistic Director, he's been seen in the past year in JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG, his own scripts of AUDITION (at the Theatre Crawl) and NOW PLAYING THIRD BASE FOR THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS...BOND, JAMES BOND (at the Fringe), and APOLOGY/FAUSTUS & THE HUNCHBACK VARIATIONS for Midnight; as well as DR. FAUSTUS for SATE and THE CRUCIBLE for Stray Dog. Currently he's in Midnight's POPCORN FALLS. And after CHARLIE JOHNSON..., his new script, PATIENT #47 will be presented at the 2019 Theatre Crawl.

Sarah Lynne Holt will direct. Recent full-length directing credits are PERFECT ARRANGEMENT and boom for R-S Theatrics, and shorter pieces for the Coming Out Festival at the Q Collective, Briefs: A Festival of short LGBT Plays for That Uppity Theatre Company, and a number of shows for 24-Hour Play Festivals for PRIME.

For more information, visit MidnightCompany.com.