

THE MIDNIGHT COMPANY
COVID-19 PLAN
August 14, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Midnight Company is working with The Kranzberg Arts Foundation to present an indoor arts event at one of their spaces in late October, 2020.

In preparation, Midnight has carefully reviewed Missouri Arts Safe guidance. Midnight is committed to the Missouri Arts Safe pledge, and is preparing to enact all of their universal measures (detailed below).

Midnight has also reviewed documents from all organizations posted on the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts site (vlaa.org), including very relevant measures from the Kranzberg Arts Foundation Green Light Manual, Actors Equity Association and the American Repertory Theatre Roadmap, and more general policies from the National Endowment From The Arts, Be Safe Chicago and others.

These documents go into great detail on shared commitments to artist and audience safety, and overall understanding of the threat the virus poses. Midnight's Plan will not repeat some of these philosophies, but will instead focus on the specific plans of action for their Company and possible presentation. Midnight shares a similar commitment and understanding with these organizations. Midnight understands the theory that the arts are only as strong as our weakest link - it's up to all of us to make the arts experience safe and comfortable for audiences, so other arts groups can eventually successfully present.

BACKGROUND

The Midnight Company (midnightcompany.com) has been presenting professional theatre in St. Louis for over twenty years, performing in a number of spaces around town including The Missouri History Museum, The Contemporary Art Museum, Christ Church Cathedral, The Duck Room at Blueberry Hill and a variety of pubs, coffee houses and television studios, along with appearances at The Jesse James Farm in Kearney, MO and the Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

Midnight is a Resident Company with The Kranzberg Arts Foundation and over the past few years has presented work at several of their theatre spaces, including the .ZAK and both theatre spaces at Kranzberg Arts Center. They've also presented work for the St. Louis Theatre Crawl and the St. Louis Fringe Festival at Kranzberg theatre spaces, and Artistic Director Joe Hanrahan has performed with The Black Rep and Metro Theater Company at Kranzberg's Grandel Theatre.

Midnight had scheduled several productions for the 2020 season.

- One production was scheduled to open in May at The Chapel. With the onrush of the pandemic, that show was moved to July, then mid-August, and finally rescheduled for July, 2021.
- One production was scheduled to open in late October at the Black Box Theatre at Kranzberg Arts Center. Because it has a cast of five, that show has been rescheduled for October, 2021.

- Another show was scheduled to open in mid-September at the Kranzberg's .ZACK Theatre. That show has been cancelled.

Midnight would like permission to stage a production at the Black Box Box Theatre at Kranzberg Arts Center. This show would open October 29 and run through November 14, with performances Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm, with one Sunday matinee on November 8. It will be filling the calendar space resulting from rescheduling the originally planned production.

SHOW/REHEARSAL

The scheduled show is a one-person play. Running time is just over an hour, with no intermission.

Rehearsals for the show will take place at the Winter Opera space on The Hill. There, they have a large rehearsal room, with space for social distancing. Midnight will provide hand sanitization for time spent at the Winter Opera space. Also, high touch surfaces will be wiped down with an EPA approved disinfectant

The few rehearsals that will happen will primarily involve only the Director (masked) and the Actor. When the Actor stops his work, he will be masked for any discussion with the Director. The two of them will support live work with discussions on ZOOM.

Key crew members will attend one rehearsal each, late in the process, to familiarize themselves with the show and their duties. This includes the Stage Manager, the Production Designer and the Lighting Designer. Each of these are experienced, reliable, and mature theatre professionals who will follow all COVID policies of masking and social distancing.

SHOW/MOVING INTO THE THEATRE

Midnight will move into the Black Box theatre at Kranzberg Arts Center on Monday, October 26.

The same previously mentioned crew members will be working there Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Along with the Director and Actor.

While their duties are distinct, there is an amount of collaboration. That will be achieved with consistent masking and social distancing.

The Actor and Stage Manager are the only two who will be allowed into the backstage dressing room. When the Stage Manager has to convey something to the actor - half-hour and 15 minute calls for example, or any other issues, she will knock, and she and the actor, both masked, will connect.

Midnight will provide hand sanitization during this process. High touch surfaces will be wiped down with with an EPA approved disinfectant

If temperature checks are recommended, Midnight will work with Kranzberg to determine best practices for that.

SHOW/WELCOMING THE AUDIENCE

Midnight is fortunate to be scheduled to work in a Kranzberg Arts Foundation space. They have been leading the way in COVID safety procedures, and have been developing their COVID plan for months. They have said they will have their people at any possible indoor performance. Midnight would look on that person as the lead person in safety prep and procedures.

While none of the crew, except the stage manager, that prepared the play will be necessary for production, there will be two additional Midnight people working front of house. One will handle tickets, and since this will be a touchless event, will basically be checking lists of audience coming to the show. Another we will call our House Manager. (Although we see the Kranzberg people serving as true house manager, overseeing the entire event and front of house, we anticipate our House Manager serving more as an Audience Manager, making sure the Audience are respecting the prepared socially distanced seating and other protocol.) We anticipate that our Stage Manager and Box Office person should have additional time either prior to or during the Audience arrival to assist with any duties. Midnight will work with Kranzberg to establish specific responsibilities.

The theatre will be open for seating early to discourage any gathering. There will be strict monitoring of restroom visits.

Masks will be required for all Midnight people. And all of these people have already been engaged for this production. Again, all are experienced theatre folks. And all are available on our lists for possible contact tracing. All of our people are registering with Missouri Arts Safe, and watching the training video on their site.

Midnight will be providing hand sanitization for our crew and backstage, and will work with Kranzberg to make sure the same is available for all audience.

Midnight will respect all Kranzberg policies. They also include: All Audience in masks; Capacity in the theatre to be limited; Seats will be socially distanced; And the theatres, like all Kranzberg spaces, will have before and after cleanings of the space.

COVID POLICIES

- Midnight will work with Kranzberg to establish temperature checks for all - including Midnight people during the technical setup and for performances. And will work with Kranzberg to establish these same procedures if required of audiences
- Masks will be required for all Midnight people at rehearsals or performances (with the exception of the Actor while performing.) Masks will be required of all Audience members.
- Hand Sanitization will be available at all spaces. Its use, and regular hand washing, will be required,

- Performances will be a touchless experience for Audiences. Reservations will be required; either paid through MetroTix or complimentary for critics or friends (also required to make reservations.) No tickets can be purchased the night of a performance; there will be no money or credit card exchange. Our Box Office person will have a list, and can admit Audience after their names are checked. Since all attendees will have reserved tickets, their names will also be available for contact tracing.

Programs will be digital. Audience can check the Midnight web site to see the performance program.

- The Kranzberg Arts Foundation has published their COVID policies on their website. Once approved, The Midnight Company will do the same, and will use social media to spread the awareness of these policies for Audiences who might attend the show.

IN CONCLUSION

We appreciate your consideration of this effort. We understand the responsibility we all share: City health officials, Kranzberg personnel, artists and audience.

We're hoping a theatre piece, if approved, can bring a ray of light and hope, and some thoughtful entertainment, to theatre fans who, like all of us, have been deprived of some of their simplest pleasures.

Thank you.

Submitted by:
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