

Innovative Theatre
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Acclaimed new theater company partners with Stageworks to explore neurodiversity in PROOF
Production follows “spectacular” regional debut at Tampa International Fringe Festival**

After their “spectacular” regional debut at the Tampa International Fringe Festival (according to *Creative Loafing*), Innovative Theatre is thrilled to partner with Stageworks on the company’s second production: David Auburn’s Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Proof*. The show runs at the famous Channelside theatre July 20-30.

The production opens two months after *Creative Loafing* placed Innovative’s “must-see” premiere production of *Dark Vanilla Jungle* among the top three shows at the Tampa Fringe. After critic David Warner praised the “mercurial intensity” of its pre-production preview, *Creative Loafing*’s Mark E. Leib called *Dark Vanilla Jungle* “sharply unforgettable, more affecting than most dramas I see in a typical season.”

Auburn’s Tony Award-winning script, which was later adapted into the 2005 film starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins, examines the difficulties of loving relationships within a neurodiverse family, and the challenges a neurotypical outsider must confront when he begins to care about one of them.

The plot spirals around Catherine, a bright young woman who has placed her life on hold for years to care for her father, Robert, a brilliant but increasingly unstable university mathematician. When Robert’s condition worsens, sudden changes must take place.

But dramatic questions arise as Catherine’s father, a smothering older sister, and a young math professor begin to focus on the long-neglected daughter. How much of Robert’s mathematical genius has Catherine inherited—and has she inherited his instability as well?

Auburn’s suspenseful play reframes age-old issues that apply across a broad range of human relationships. In a budding young love, among old family ties, and with a just-discovered, potentially ground-breaking mathematical paper, the questions are the same. How much of someone else are we prepared to accept on faith? What will we never accept about them without proof? Can someone we doubt ever fully prove themselves—and what could such proof look like?

After what critic Mark E. Leib described as her “shattering performance” in *Jungle*, Marie-Claude Tremblay explores the psyche of Catherine, the troubled young woman at the heart of this provocative family drama. Regional stage veteran

Dennis Duggan, whose portfolio includes awards for roles in *Of Mice and Men* and *A Few Good Men*, plays Catherine's father, Robert. Innovocative founder and artistic director Staci Sabarsky will direct and take the role of Catherine's older sister, Claire. Newcomer Devin Devi makes his professional debut as Hal, a young math professor who is falling for Catherine.

Like *Dark Vanilla Jungle*, *Proof* furthers the company's plans to produce shows that are innovative, evocative and thought-provoking – the elements that make up Innovocative's hybrid name.

The company will also partner with the Hillsborough chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness by hosting a talkback session with chapter president Karen Fredricks and Dr. Marketa Wills after the July 23 performance. "It's important that we portray Robert's decline in an authentic way because so many Florida families are dealing with mental health issues including manic-depression, Alzheimer's, dementia, and on-going care for aging family members, that *Proof* touches on," states Sabarsky.

Sabarsky and Tremblay are both available for interviews about Innovocative Theatre's intrepid first offering, and its plans for future growth. Contact them at the email or phone number listed at the top.

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Innovocative Theatre's production of ***Proof*** will run for nine performances at Stageworks Theatre:

Thursday, July 20 at 8:00 p.m. (Preview Night)
Friday, July 21 at 8:00 p.m. (Opening Night)
Saturday, July 22 at 3:00 p.m. + 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Friday, July 28 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 29 at 3:00 p.m. + 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

Adult: \$30
Senior: \$25
Groups of 10 or more: \$20 per ticket
Student/Military (ID required): \$20
Preview Night: \$15
Opening Night: \$35 (includes post-performance reception)

NAME: *Proof*

DATES: July 20, 21, 22, 28, 29 at 8:00 p.m.; July 22, 23, 29, 30 at 3:00 p.m.

VENUE: Stageworks Theater

TICKETS: \$15 - \$35 general admission

INFORMATION/RESERVATIONS: For tickets visit stageworkstheatre.org or call 813.374.2416 ext 1