

NO SPRING CHICKEN

BY GINNA HOBEN

Directed by Jim Warren
Starring Dawn Tucker

December 18&19

flagshakes.org



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HAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With Respect and Humanity,

We first acknowledge the words of the stewards of the lands in which we reside or occupy, who are the Indigenous Peoples of the Southwest.

In honoring and respecting life, we acknowledge the presence and first footsteps of the Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Yavapai, Zuni, Piute, the Ute, White Mountain Apache, Chiricahua, Mescalero, Navajo, Tohono'O'Odham, Gila River, and Mojave Nations.

By acknowledging these Five Fingered Beings, we also acknowledge the injustices and profess to continually work to be at better service to Indigenous Peoples. We recognize our presence in a Sacred Space held sacred and holy by these 13 Nations.

In the arms of this Mountain, we declare ourselves as instruments of healing and reconciliation as we work towards justice and equity for all Peoples of all walks of life, as the Stewards of the land had first demonstrated.

Crafted in collaboration with FlagShakes by Makauis, 19 year old Dine male

NO SPRING CHICKEN



Cast & Creative Team

Directed by Jim Warren

Jenn played by Dawn Tucker

Man in the Moon played by Sean Golightly.

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Hannah Fontes - Marketing Director &
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Dawn Tucker - Executive Director

Becki Zaritsky - Production Manager

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NO SPRING CHICKEN

Director's Note

This Show Will Change the World
and
It's Only Rock and Roll

Ginna Hoben is one of my favorite playwrights.

Having spent the majority of my three-decades-plus directing career working on Shakespeare, his contemporaries, on other classics, I don't throw that first sentence around carelessly.

I first hired Ginna as an actor at the American Shakespeare Center (based in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia at the Blackfriars Playhouse, the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theatre) to tour the country with multiple plays in true rotating repertory back in 2007. I enjoyed working with her during that first year-long contract so much that I offered her another contract to tour the following year. While she was on that second tour, she began writing a play that she cautiously sent me via email. It was a one-woman show titled *The Twelve Dates of Christmas*. I immediately fell in love with the script and programmed it into the Blackfriars Holiday Season for 2010, starring Ginna.

Ginna and I had a blast collaborating on that world premiere production of *Twelve Dates*. We worked, we honed, we refined, we shaped the language to turn that first draft into what I thought was an amazing piece of theatre. I ran that show in rep with my own adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* (and *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris) for seven consecutive years. Since that first production, *Twelve Dates* has been produced 70 times world-wide, including some live-streamed productions in 2020.

I saw the first production of *No Spring Chicken*, with Ginna playing Jenn, at NextStop Theatre in Herdon, VA (a theatre whose Artistic Director, Evan Hoffman, is also one of my former actors at

the ASC). Director Sullivan Canaday White and Ginna worked together to transform Ginna's blog posts into a truly solo one-woman show as part of the Washington DC-area inaugural Women's Voices Theater Festival in 2015. In 2016, I once again hired Ginna to be part of the resident troupe of actors at the Blackfriars Playhouse performing 5 plays in rotating repertory (including the professional world-premiere of Emma Whipday's *Shakespeare's Sister*, in which I directed Ginna as the title character). A new wrinkle to this gig was that Ginna brought her husband, actor Sheffield Chastain, and their young daughter, Katie Lu with her; and during the last weeks of this season, Ginna, Sheffield, and I started working on transforming *Chicken* from a one-woman show into a two-person show with Sheffield providing onstage sound effects and embodying/expanding several small characters that were only a voice from the sound/light booth in the original production. Once again, collaborating with Ginna was a total blast. She and Sheffield kept working on that two-person version of *Chicken* and performed it later that year at Project SEE Theatre at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, once again under the direction of Sullivan Canaday White.

After that production, Playscripts Inc. published both solo and duo versions of *No Spring Chicken*; this production by the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival is the first since the play's publication.

I don't want to talk about what happens in the plot of *Chicken* itself because I just want you to watch it and enjoy it. But I do want to mention how important I think this play, and other plays written by women, featuring women characters, are in our world today. Part of the Revolution I write about in an article published in *American Theatre* in October, <https://www.americantheatre.org/2020/10/29/you-say-you-want-a-revolution/> includes the theatre industry transforming how it conducts business and with whom it does business. One bottom line is: we need more stories by women, about women, featuring women. We need to abandon the notion that tv/films/plays that center on women are versions of what some used to

call “chick flicks.” As basic, fundamental, and perhaps silly as it may sound: we are women. Women are us. The fact that the theatre industry has deliberately kept itself in the dark ages by choosing the vast majority of its programming written by men, about men, is simply stupid. Women make up far more than half of theatre-goers (and are an even larger percentage of the decision-makers choosing which shows to see). And I’m just talking about including women so far; I haven’t even mentioned people of color and the LGBTQ+ community that are also woefully underrepresented on and off the stage in the theatre world.

On the one hand, *No Spring Chicken* is “just” a 70min show about a forty-year-old woman trying to have a baby. On the other hand, this show is an important part of the Revolution where we change theatre standards from the male-centric, male-dominated models of the past and tell stories about more of us.

No Spring Chicken will make you laugh, make you think, make you feel – no matter your gender, race, religion. *No Spring Chicken* exposes, illuminates, and demonstrates what it means to be human. I look for every opportunity to say: good art exposes us to humanity, warts and all. And when we see ourselves, our families, our friends, our government on stage, we get to see the things and people we want to be and who/what we don’t want to be. Exposing ourselves to humanity gives us the opportunity to become better people. And when we become better people, we make the planet a better place to be.

And at the same time: it’s only rock and roll. We hope you have a good time watching our show.

Jim Warren

***No Spring Chicken* director**

NO SPRING CHICKEN

Jim Warren



(he/him) Jim Warren is the Founding Artistic Director of the American Shakespeare Center (ASC). He directed the ASC's first show and a total of 128 ASC productions, including 32 of Shakespeare's 38 plays.

Jim co-founded the ASC in 1988 as the traveling troupe Shenandoah Shakespeare Express. He grew the ASC touring scope from 14 performances of Richard III in Virginia to over 200 performances of 3 full-length Shakespeare plays and 1 modern classic in 6 countries during 1995; by the end of the millennium, the ASC had also performed in 47 states and one US territory.

In 2001, the ASC opened the Blackfriars Playhouse, the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theatre. In 2008, Governor Tim Kaine awarded Jim Warren and Ralph Alan Cohen the Virginia Governor's Award for the Arts. Before retiring from the ASC in 2017, Jim created Shakespeare's New Contemporaries, a groundbreaking undertaking to develop a canon of 38 new plays that are inspired by and in conversation with Shakespeare's work; it's an opportunity for playwrights of every gender, race, and creed to partner with Shakespeare and become today's squad of world's greatest playwrights.

After a 29-year run of guiding the ASC from startup to international acclaim, Jim is pursuing new opportunities as a director, educator, and consultant, currently freelancing and working on the American Globe Center project in Stratford, CT while writing a book about the first three decades of the bellwether company he started. He is a member of the Theatre Communications Group and Shakespeare Theatre Association and now enjoys traveling the country making art, sharing his experience and expertise, and empowering a new generation of actors to explore the text and make the most of every moment.

www.jimwarren-director.com

www.americanglobecenter.org

NO SPRING CHICKEN

Dawn Tucker

(she/her) Having grown up in Flagstaff, Dawn's lifelong dream has been to bring her passion for Shakespeare to her beautiful hometown. Dawn has a Master's Degree in Shakespeare in Performance from the American Shakespeare Center in partnership with Mary Baldwin University and a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Wisconsin. Dawn is thrilled to be taking the stage under the direction of the incomparable Jim Warren and to perform this play with her real-life partner Sean Golightly. She is grateful to both of them for making this possible and to Ginna Hoben for writing such wonderful plays for women. Special thanks to the women who keep FlagShakes running, Becki Zaritsky and Hannah Fontes.





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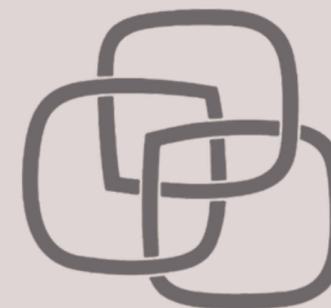
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