

The  
Theatre  
Artists **Studio**

MARCH 1-24, 2024

# MARJORIE JORDAN HARRISON **PRIME**

DIRECTED BY KATHLEEN BUTLER

FEATURING  
JUDY LEBEAU  
LAURA MUNOZ BOTTINI  
TOM KOELBEL  
AARON SEEVER



What would we remember and what would we want to forget? A lovely story about the exploration of the mysteries of identity and the limits, if any, on what technology can replace. A timely play about Artificial Intelligence and a timeless play about family, memories, and the human heart! You will be talking about this one!

*Marjorie Prime* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Theatre Artists Studio ~ [www.TheStudioPhx.org](http://www.TheStudioPhx.org) ~ 602-765-0120  
12406 N. Paradise Village Parkway East, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

The show runs approximately 70 minutes. There is no intermission.

**Time:** Sometime in the near future.

----- **Cast** -----

Marjorie..... Judy Lebeau  
Jon..... Tom Koelbel  
Tess..... Laura Munoz-Bottini  
Walter..... Aaron Seever

----- **Production Staff** -----

Director..... Kathleen Butler  
Producer..... Judy Lebeau  
Production Manager..... Mary Robinson  
Stage Manager..... Amy Hartman  
Rehearsal Assistant..... Marcia Weinberg  
Technical Coordinator/Dir, Lighting Design..... Stacey Walston  
Scenic Designer/Set Dressing..... Paul Steele  
Set painters..... Jeff Roames, Curt Hills  
Booth Operators..... Nancy & Clark DesSoye  
Props, Costumes..... Delores Goldsmith

----- **Studio Staff** -----

Artistic Director..... Carol MacLeod  
Producer..... Theatre Artists Studio  
Marketing..... Kandyce Hughes  
Graphic Design..... Michael Fleck  
Social Media, Ticketing, Program..... Clark DesSoye  
Box Office Manager..... Mary Robinson  
Photographer..... Mark Gluckman



## Bios



**Judy Lebeau** (Marjorie) has appeared on The Studio stage in dozens of productions including *The Marriage Play*, *On Golden Pond*, *The Price*, *Doll's House 2*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Outgoing Tide*, *The Heiress*, *The Children*, *A Delicate Balance* and *Trip to Bountiful*. Her film and television credits include Disney's *Not Quite Human* and *Match Point*, NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* and *Search for Tomorrow*, Cannon Films' *Ninja III*, CBS's *Rescue 911*, and BBC's *The Eagle Falls*. Judy's deepest gratitude to Carol MacLeod for her vision and endless dedication to our Studio of theatre artists. Thank you Kate Butler for traveling so far to direct this production. Thank you to our audiences who share our stories.



**Tom Koelbel** (Jon) is an Artistic Member of The Studio. Last season he appeared in *Lifespan of a Fact* and *The Perfect Party* and made his directorial debut with two *Summer Shorts* and performed alongside his wonderful wife, Lidia, in another. He was also in *Private Lives* at Don Bluth's Front Row Theatre where he received ariZoni nomination for lead actor and *Gaslight* at Fountain Hills Theatre. Tom is grateful to get to work with Kate and this wonderful cast and crew. And he would like to thank Lidia, Courtney, Calvin and Megan for their love and support. Tom is

represented by Dani's Agency.

**Laura Munoz-Bottini** (Tess) has emerged on-screen and beyond as an actress, host, and philanthropist. She graduated from Cal Berkeley and worked as a psychologist giving her the perfect beginnings to studying many aspects of human nature. Laura's credits include many national commercials, infomercials and various film and TV roles. She can be seen co-starring with Daniel Greene, Erin Bethea and Kenton Duty in *A Life Connected*, and lead in the series *Saddle Up* where she plays the owner of a family ranch. Laura's theater credits include leads in *12 Angry Jurors*, *A Life Assembled*, *Always A Bridesmaid*, *Laughing Stock*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *27 Signs* and she appeared on TAS stage for two different *Summer Shorts*! Laura has worked on production teams for a few projects, recently co-producing her

first short comedy, *The Right Place to Go* and is in pre-production for her first feature film, filming Sept. 2024. Laura dedicates time fund raising with the John Wayne Cancer Foundation and Hushabye Nursery, where her official job is to cuddle newborns born with addiction.

**Aaron Seever** (Walter) an artistic member, is elated to return to the TAS stage and honored to work with such an amazing cast and director. Favorite roles include Don in *Rapture Blister Burn*, Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*, Dr Sanderson in *Harvey*, and Andrew in *I Hate Hamlet*. When not performing Aaron spends his time writing, mountain biking and filmmaking.



**Kathleen Butler** (director) is the founding partner of Triumvirate Artists Theatre Production Company dedicated to promoting work for theatre professionals over 55. New York credits: *Seeing Stars*, a play with music by Ellen Gould and co-developed by Ms. Butler (Best Director and best Production Awards United Solo Festival), *Pound* with Christopher Lloyd, the award-winning *Delirium's Daughters*, *Falling Awake* with Tony award winners Judith Ivey and Edward Herrmann. Most Recently: *The Prospect* at Mile Square Theatre. She is delighted to be back at The Studio where she previously directed *Marriage Play*, *A Delicate Balance* and *An Evening with Edward Albee*. As an actor, Kathleen has originated roles in the World Premieres of *Three Tall Women*, *Occupant* and *Marriage Play*, all by the remarkable Edward Albee. Recent New York credits include: *Such Things Only Happen in Books* (one-act plays by Thornton Wilder), *The American Dream*, *Wapato*, *The Play About the Baby*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Triangles*, *Lucky Rita* and *Hiding on the Outside*. REGIONAL: Over 40 productions in Regional Theatres such as Yale Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Long Wharf, The Alley, The Humana Festival, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Florida Studio Theatre, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Charlotte Rep and most recently, *Marjorie Prime* at The Olney (DC) and a new Sam Shepard play, *Heartless*, at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival. Film: *A League of Their Own*, *Bottom of the 9th*, *Swallow*, *Thursday*, *Night Curtain*, *Vision 20/20*. Television: *Lisy's Story* (by Stephen King), *Blacklist*, *Friends from College*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *Odd Mom Out*, *Louie CK*, *Law and Order*, *Kenny the Shark*, several Soap Operas and many commercials (CLIO Award). Special thanks to the extraordinary Carol MacLeod and the superb cast and crew of *Marjorie Prime*.

## Support for Theatre Artists Studio is generously provided by:





I feel I have to perform  
around you



Well you don't.  
... It's just me. It's just Walter.





JON: Look.

Peanut butter.

TESS: Small miracles. Maybe she's finally succumbing to my nagging campaign.





TESS: That's a good sweater on you.

MARJORIE: Thank you. You picked it out for me, remember?

TESS: Three Christmases ago.

MARJORIE: Three years isn't a long time. Not for me.





JON: ... "Age will be no obstacle" – whoa – "age will be no obstacle to our love."

TESS: Don't make fun. He wanted to see her.

JON: Did she  
write back?

TESS: Not that I  
know of.





JON: ...I went to look for you. I hadn't been looking a minute. You were in the tree.

They said – you hadn't been there very long.

TESS: Don't cry. Don't cry.

MARJORIE: ...All I can think is how nice. How nice that we could love somebody.





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REVIEW



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## *Marjorie Prime* at Theatre Artists Studio

Review by Gil Benbrook, TalkinBroadway

<https://www.talkinbroadway.com/page/regional/phoenix/phnx1114.html>

Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa revolutionized the digital world with their voice-activated and intuitive technology, responding to voice commands and answering questions, playing music, setting reminders and alarms, and giving news and weather updates. But what if Alexa knew more about you than just your shopping habits and the questions you've asked it, and had knowledge of

your past so it could serve as a stand-in relative or friend who's always around to provide comfort and support? Jordan Harrison's play *Marjorie Prime* poses that question and intricately explores memory, technology, and human relationships. With a



talented cast and firm direction, Theatre Artists Studio is presenting an intriguing production of this thought-provoking play.

Set in the not-too-distant future, the play introduces us to the concept of *Prime*: artificial intelligence robots that resemble our loved ones and are designed to help us retain memories and provide a positive mental health environment. Through the interactions among Marjorie, her family, and the *Prime* resembling her late husband

Walter, the play delves into the fallacies of memory, the complexities of familial relationships, and the ways in which we navigate, or choose to ignore, painful issues and events from our past.

While the play isn't perfect due to a few parts that could be

further fleshed out to fill in some details, Harrison beautifully explores the theme of memory and the role it plays in our lives and relationships. For a play that focuses on memory and memory loss, navigating through delicate family relationships, and what we remember but what we also choose to forget, I doubt that there is a person who sees this show that will not find several aspects that resonate on a personal level.

Kathleen Butler's direction beautifully navigates the 70-minute, one act, intimate drama that allows the themes to unfold organically and skillfully. The short scenes build on the narrative



which plays out on a fairly simple set by Paul Steele. Stacey Walston's lighting creates an immersive yet appropriately sterile atmosphere, while Delores Goldsmith's costumes are character-appropriate.

Judy Lebeau's nuanced depiction of Marjorie captures the character's confusion, vulnerability and resilience. Laura Munoz-Bottini and Tom Koelbel are strong as Tess and Jon. All three actors embody characters wrestling with their own struggles and



complexities. Munoz-Bottini's portrayal of Tess beautifully captures the internal conflict of wanting to shield her mother from pain while also grappling with her own unresolved emotions, and the interactions she has with Lebeau are compelling and heartbreakingly realistic. Aaron Seever brings a warm yet appropriately impersonal touch to his portrayal of Walter Prime.

Marjorie Prime at Theatre Artists Studio offers a compelling

examination of memory and its impact on human relationships. With a gifted cast and concise direction that pulls you into the plot, it should leave audiences with plenty to think about concerning memory, family, and the future of artificial intelligence.



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