



When you take freedom away from an artist?
He doesn't just quit, he vanishes.

BAUER

An extraordinary tale of art, love and betrayal
by Lauren Gunderson

Jan 22, 23, 29, 30, 31, Feb 4, 5 & 6 2016

The performance on Sunday January 31st will be at 2pm, followed by a discussion with the artists.
All other performances at 8pm.

All performances are held at Penelope's Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Road in Southgate, MI

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Did you know anything about Rudolf Bauer or his art before seeing/reading the play? If so, how did the play represent what you already knew and present additional information or points of view?
- 2) What events from world and art history did you recognize in the play? How did the story fit into your understanding of the historical context?
- 3) Rudolf Bauer and Hilla have very different perspectives on the infamous contract between Bauer and Guggenheim. Did you believe one side more than the other? Why?
- 4) How did you feel about each of the characters? Did that change as the play progressed?
- 5) While the events discussed in the play are historically accurate, this meeting of Hilla, Louise and Bauer never happened. Why do you think the playwright imagined this particular meeting, with this particular ending? What are the challenges in telling a story based on historical facts and characters, but an event that is fictional?
- 6) Did you find the resolution of the play satisfying? Why or why not?
- 7) How did the play make you feel?
- 8) What did you like about the artwork of Bauer? What didn't you like? Has *Bauer* made you think differently of art? Do you think you will look differently at paintings? How about other art: will you have different considerations for music, theatre, dance, etc?
- 9) In December 2014 Open Book Theatre produced the play *Red*, about painter Mark Rothko. If you are familiar with *Red* what is similar about the plays? What is different? Why might theatre artists be drawn to plays about visual artists?

If you are interested in learning more about Rudolf Bauer's history and art we recommend the books *Rudolf Bauer* and *Rudolf Bauer (Works on Paper)*. Also of interest is *Art Of Tomorrow: Hilla Rebay And Solomon R. Guggenheim*

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