

**2015**  
ESSENTIAL  
THEATRE  
PLAY  
FESTIVAL

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**TWO WORLD PREMIERES BY GEORGIA PLAYWRIGHTS!**  
+ BARE ESSENTIALS PLAY READING SERIES  
**JULY 24-AUGUST 23**



# 2015 Festival Highlights



eyedrum

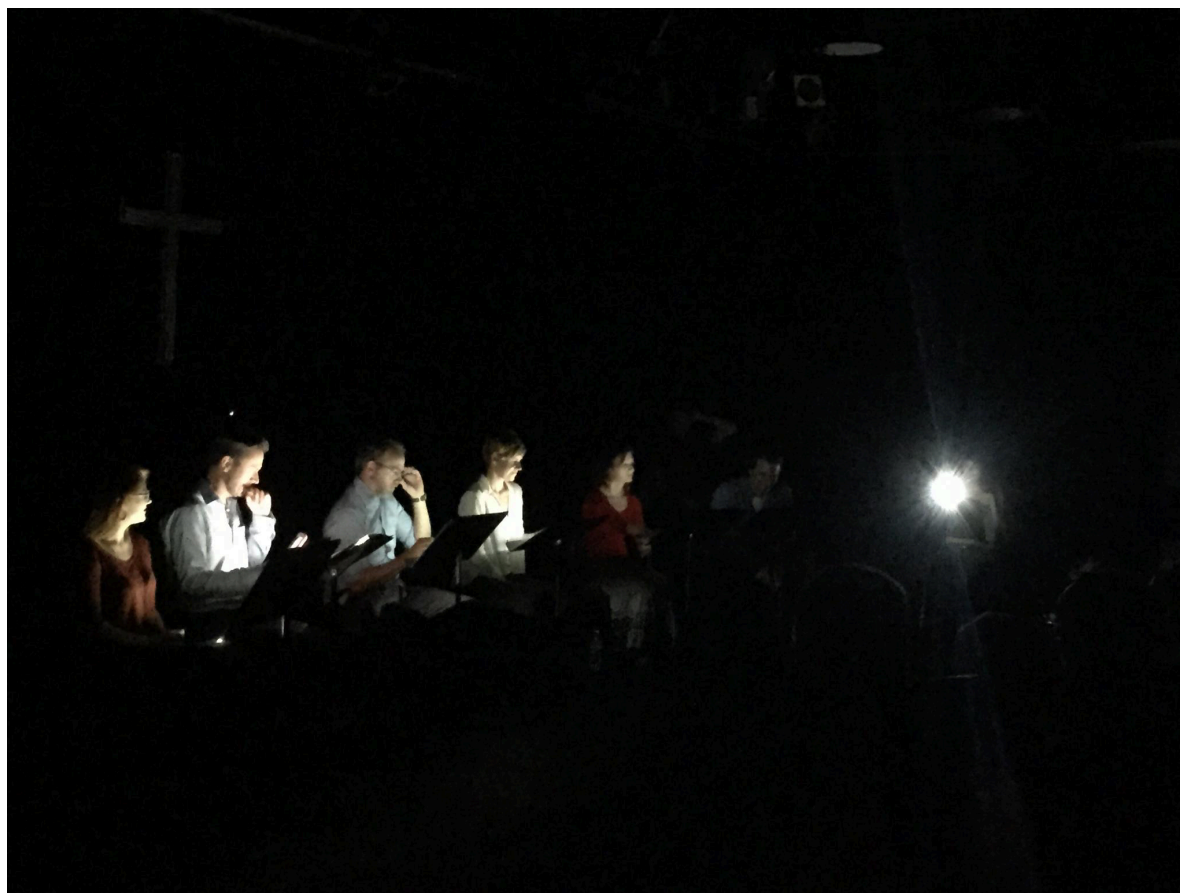
**Our seventeenth Festival,  
the fourth all-Georgia Festival,  
our second year partnering with the West End Performing Arts Center  
and with Eyedrum Art & Music to showcase a local visual artist  
and further support Georgia artists of all kinds.**



**Two great and well-received world premieres  
by two talented and gracious Georgia Playwrights**



**our best-attended Bare Essentials Play Reading Series ever --  
despite a power outage during one reading as the result of an afternoon  
thunderstorm.**



And we're making good on a promise  
that's a long time coming,  
to produce Bare Essentials readings  
outside of the Festival as well,  
with our first reading of the fall coming  
up this Wednesday, September 30.

# bare essentials

Bare Essentials Presents a Stage Reading of

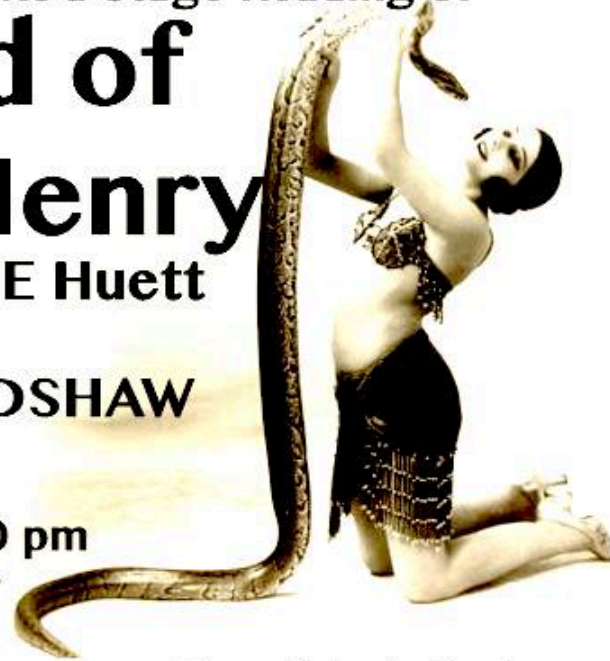
## The End of William Henry

by CALEB ZANE Huett

directed by

Amber BRADSHAW

September 30th, 7:30 pm  
Woodruff Arts Center  
3rd Floor Black box



Free Admission!

## Praise from audience and critics alike!

“The Old Ship of Zion is good story telling, simply done with moments of great beauty.”

“I’m definitely coming back and bringing friends.”

“A well-written, superbly acted drama which touched just about every emotion...  
I encourage all Atlanta theatre goers to take the opportunity to see this. You’ll be glad you did.”

“Sometimes, a work of theatre cloaks itself in the paradigms and tropes of Biblical Axioms, and, if it ‘reaches out and grabs my heart,’ attention must be paid. Such a work is Natalia Naman’s *The Old Ship of Zion*, a play filled with faith and testimony, but also filled with characters and incident and self-examining doubt and questioning.”

“A totally ‘now’ production.”

“Tara definitely likes it.”

“a well-written, superbly acted drama which touched just about every emotion...I encourage all Atlanta theatre goers to take the opportunity to see this. You’ll be glad you did.”

“If the other two readings were as sterling as the one by Diane Dexter last night, the audience will be in for a real treat.” –Hank Kimmel

“The Essential Theatre Play Festival produces theatre unlike anywhere else in Atlanta. Almost 30 years running, it creates a vital opportunity for us to experience stories that demand to be heard.”  
-TK Hadman, Edge Media Network

“[Peter Hardy’s] choices are diverse in the very best way – playwrights, topics, and casting, and I applaud his integrity and ability to make these happen.” -Ann Neff



**On a Personal Note**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Essential Marketplace or bought a hat before *The Old Ship of Zion*.

All proceeds will be donated to the Jo Howarth Noonan Foundation for the Performing Arts.

The donation will be made in honor of Jo and of Sharon Cage Allen Mansfield whom audiences loved this summer as Mama Gwen in *The Old Ship of Zion* and who passed away on September 27.

We are proud and blessed to have had them both grace our stage, Jo regularly over the course of several years, and Sharon this summer for the first and final time.



# Thanks to everyone who helped make this summer's festival possible:

## Our Donors

Jessica Linden  
John Thigpen  
Leslee Sinclair  
Phillip R. Mertz  
Milton Sams  
Jane Walsh

Jill Patrick  
James Grimsley  
Mark Perloe  
Chris Carlsten  
Thom, Lori & Sydney Stanley  
Jennifer Kimball

## Our Volunteers

Yolanda Asher  
Parker Hilley  
Betty Mitchell  
Billy and Erin Langley  
Wiley Rinaldi  
Wendell Bohannon  
Susan Fast  
Mary Wellington  
Barbara O'Haley  
Olubajo Sonubi

Carter Bevis  
Amie Kroessig  
Homer Duke  
Suzanne Roush  
Shirley & Reuven Dobry  
Michael Harrison  
Letitia Sweitzer  
Chris Carlsten  
Cathy Jamison

## Our Sponsors


This program is supported in part by:



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS







**Thank you for supporting Essential Theatre.  
Thank you for helping us  
to support the work of Georgia playwrights.  
Thank you for supporting live theatre.**

**We hope to see you at Bare Essential readings  
in the coming year,  
and we'll see you at the Festival in 2016!**

**[www.EssentialTheatre.com](http://www.EssentialTheatre.com)**