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*Hitler's Tasters* Trailer: <https://youtu.be/lldCK1QkqGc>

**GUILD HALL TO PRESENT NEW LIGHT THEATER PROJECT'S PRODUCTION OF  
*HITLER'S TASTERS* – THE AWARD-WINNING PLAY BY MICHELLE KHOLOS BROOKS**



**EAST HAMPTON, NY (August 26, 2021)** — ONE TABLE. THREE CHAIRS. FOUR GIRLS. Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) announced today they will be presenting the New Light Theater Project's production of Michelle Kholos Brooks award-winning play *Hitler's Tasters*. Inspired by true events, the play will take the stage of the John Drew Theater from **Thursday to Saturday, September 9-11 at 8PM**. Tickets are \$50 (\$35 for Guild Hall Members and \$30 Under 30), and the Friday night performance includes a post-show talkback and audience Q&A with the playwright.

Just because you align yourself with a dictator doesn't mean you get a pass. It's Germany in 1943 and three times a day, every day, a group of young German women have the opportunity to die for their country. They are Adolf Hitler's food tasters. And what do girls discuss as they wait to see if they will live through another meal? Like all girls, throughout time, they gossip and dream, they question and dance. They want to love, laugh, and above all they want to survive.

History has revealed that Margot Woelk was a German secretary who, among 15 young women in 1942, were selected to taste German leader Adolf Hitler's food at the Wolf's Lair in East Prussia for two-and-a-half years in order to confirm that it was safe to eat. She was the only one of the 15 to survive World War II, and her background as Hitler's food taster was not revealed until a newspaper interview on her 95th birthday in December 2012. (Wikipedia)

*Hitler's Tasters* is written by Michelle Kholos Brooks, Directed by Sarah Norris, and features Hallie Griffin, MaryKathryn Kopp, Kaitlin Paige Longoria, and Hannah Mae Sturges.

"This play is the Little-Show-That-Could," shared playwright Michelle Kholos Brooks. "It has chugged along through numerous cities, generated by the great intention and passion of an extraordinary group of women. I think the investment of this all-female cast and crew has been in part due to the

relevance of *Hitler's Tasters* today, even though it takes place in the 1940's. The parallels have been uncanny—spooky even. We have found connections and adapted accordingly throughout the election, the The Kavanaugh hearings and Covid, to name a few.”

Brooks continued “I could not be more pleased that Guild Hall is bringing this gorgeous (inside and out) team back to the stage in East Hampton. I feel confident that the young women of *Hitler's Tasters* will charm their way into the hearts of the Guild Hall audience, the way that they have throughout the US and Europe. They will make you cry, gasp and laugh—even when it feels a little uncomfortable to do so.”

*Hitler's Tasters* made its World Premiere on April 6, 2018 at Centenary Stage, Hackettstown, NJ, with Sarah Norris as the Director and Catherine Rust as the Producing Director. The play made its New York City premiere on October 5, 2018 with New Light Theater Project. It is the recipient of 2017 Women Playwrights Series, Susan Glaspell Award, named ‘Best of Fringe’ by The Stage UK, and was a sell-out show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

*Hitler's Tasters* premiere at Centenary Stage Co. was done so with additional developmental support from Pacific Resident Theatre, The Boston Court Theatre, Geffen Playhouse and Wordsmyth Theatre. New Light Theater Project’s production of *Hitler's Tasters* was originally presented at IRT Theater in the fall 2018, followed by limited runs at The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts (Skokie, IL), The E2E Festival at 59E59 Theaters (NYC) and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, all in the summer of 2019.

Another recent Guild Hall collaborator, Director/Choreographer Susan Stroman, stated of the production “It’s one of the best evenings I’ve spent in the theater in a long time. It was interesting, entertaining, upsetting, and it made you think.”

#### **ABOUT MICHELLE KHOLOS BROOKS**

Michelle Kholos Brooks is an award-winning playwright with productions staged internationally. Awards and distinctions include the Susan Glaspell Award for *Hitler's Tasters*, the Reva Shiner Comedy Award for *Kalamazoo*, co-written by Kelly Younger. *Hitler's Tasters* was also named Best of Fringe at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe by Stage Magazine. *Hostage* was a finalist for the Woodward/Newman Drama Award, The Fratti-Newman Political Play Contest and a Showcase finalist for the National New Play Network. *Chair* received second place in the Firehouse Theatre Festival of New American Plays.

Plays have been produced and/or developed at Arena Stage, Skylight Theatre (World Premiere, *Hostage*), Centenary Stage (World Premiere, *Hitler's Tasters*), Pacific Resident Theatre, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Bloomington Playwright’s Project (Rolling World Premiere, *Kalamazoo*), The Colony Theatre (World Premiere, *Family Planning*) Florida Repertory Theatre, Boston Court Theatre, The Road Theatre Company, Wordsmyth Theatre, The Barrow Group, Bay Street Theatre, Venue 9 Theatre, Wings Theatre, Laurel Grove Theatre Company, Drama West, Vox Humana Theatre Ensemble, iTheatre Collaborative, New Light Theatre Project, 59E59 Theaters, Olive Theatre, Greenside at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and the Adobe Rose Theatre. Publications include Dramatists Play Service, Room literary magazine, and The Daily Beast.

Brooks earned a B.A. from Emerson College and an M.F.A. in Fiction from Otis College of Art and Design. She is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America, The Playwright’s Center and Pacific Resident Theatre. In addition, she is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security.

**Writer, director and cast are all available for interviews.**

[hitlerstasterstheplay.com](http://hitlerstasterstheplay.com)

Guild Hall has noted that guests attending any indoor John Drew Theater programs must show proof of FULL vaccination. At this time, only fully vaccinated guests are permitted to attend programs in the indoor theater. Face coverings are required indoors for all guests over the age of two, regardless of vaccinated status.

*Theater Programming supported in part by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Barbara Slifka, The Schaffner Family Foundation, Straus Family Foundation, Brown Harris Stevens, Michael Balmuth, Blythe Danner, Lang Insurance, and funding from The Ellen and James S. Marcus Endowment for Musical Programming and The Melville Straus Family Endowment.*



#### **ABOUT GUILD HALL**

Guild Hall, one of the first multidisciplinary centers in the country to combine a museum, theater, and education space under one roof, was established in 1931 as a gathering place for community where an appreciation for the arts would serve to encourage greater civic participation. For nine decades, Guild Hall has embraced this open-minded vision and provided a welcoming environment for the public to engage with art exhibitions, performances, and educational offerings. Art and artists have long been the engine of Guild Hall's activities and the institution continues to find innovative ways to support creativity in everyone.

For more information about this and other programs, visit [guildhall.org](http://guildhall.org).

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