



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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CHANGE OF DIRECTOR FOR 2018 PRODUCTION OF *EXIT THE KING*

Tim Ocel to step in for Kenneth Albers

Spring Green, Wis: American Players Theatre (APT) announced that **Kenneth Albers** will have to step away from directing this season's production of *Exit the King* in the Touchstone Theatre due to serious, but not life-threatening, health concerns. **Tim Ocel**, who most recently directed last season's acclaimed production of *A View From the Bridge* will be taking over for Mr. Albers.

Artistic Director **Brenda DeVita** said, "Ken is heartbroken, as are we, that he won't be able to travel to APT and direct this play, but we all agree it's best for his health to stay where he is and take care of himself. With his usual wry humor, Ken pointed out the irony that the play is about what happens to a king that is too sick to rule and he is a director that is too sick to direct. It's safe to say that he has incredible perspective on the situation, and in perfect Ken style, continues to inspire us."

DeVita continued, "I truly believe there is no director better suited to take over this play than Tim Ocel. We are fortunate and grateful that he is willing to take the reins. It's a great testament to our company and our audience that he is ready to drop everything on a moment's notice to come to Spring Green to direct this play."

Mr. Albers added, "I have nothing but the greatest admiration for Tim Ocel. I did one of my productions of [*Death of a Salesman*] with him, and I introduced APT to him. I wish everyone involved in the production my best.

In addition to *A View From the Bridge*, which *The Wall Street Journal's* Arts Critic, Terry Teachout called "...a masterpiece of sustained tension," Mr. Ocel has directed five productions at APT over the years, including *As You Like It* (2010), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2011), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2013) and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2015). Additionally, Mr. Ocel has directed productions at Indiana Repertory Theatre, Geva Theatre Center, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Shakespeare Festival Saint Louis, Theatre Emory, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Sacramento Theater Company, Metro Theatre Company, The New Jewish Theatre, Union Avenue Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Boston Lyric Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Tulsa Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He is adjunct faculty for Webster University's Conservatory.

About the Theater

APT is a professional repertory theater devoted to the great and future classics. It was founded in 1979 and continues to be one of the most popular outdoor classical theaters in the nation. APT is located in Spring Green, Wis., on 110 acres of hilly woods and meadows above the Wisconsin River. The 1,089-seat outdoor amphitheater is built within a natural hollow atop an oak-wooded hill. In 2009, APT opened the 201-seat, indoor Touchstone Theatre, offering a different type of play and experience. For more information, visit www.americanplayers.org.