



Eminent Domain

by Laura Leininger-Campbell

Directed by Jamie Bullins

Cast:

Rob MacLeod:	Richard Nielsen
Adair MacLeod:	Claire McClannan
Bart MacLeod:	Scott Shomaker
Theresa MacLeod:	Britta Tollefsrud
Cam MacLeod:	Brian Foley
Jane MacLeod:	Gretchen Foley
Evan MacLeod:	Christian McClure
Trent Nichols:	Ian McKercher
Abdullah (Abe) Hadid:	Jean-Paul Zuhur



Eminent Domain is presented by special arrangement with the playwright.

Synopsis:

When Rob MacLeod's family farm is threatened by construction of a pipeline underneath it, the event will light a fuse, threatening to divide the family he loves. On the surface, *Eminent Domain* exposes the hard-fought battle between America's family farms and corporate energy. Dig a little deeper, and the greater struggle is revealed: a Heartland way of life without its next generation. Our most crucial resource is not the land—it is our kin, our clan, and our heritage.

About the Playwright:

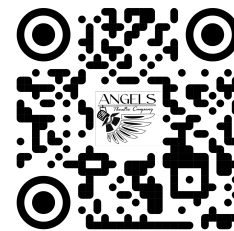
Laura Leininger-Campbell is a playwright and actor. Her writing, including the plays *Eminent Domain*, *Worms*, *Terminal*, and her new work, *Buried Phoenix*, will always be a search to illuminate the intersections between our real-world struggles and the hope we conjure within ourselves to get us through. She is currently a resident playwright with Great Plains Theater Commons. *Eminent Domain* premiered at the Omaha Community Playhouse in 2017. Her plays *Worms* and *Terminal* were workshopped at the Great Plains Theater Conference in 2017 and 2019. She wrote and directed the film *The Phantom of Knockmourne Hall* in 2020. Literary awards include: O'Neill Playwriting Conference (Finalist, 2015), Henley Rose Playwriting Competition (Runner-up, 2022), Great Plains Theater Conference (Playlab Playwright, 2017 and 2019), and the Omaha Entertainment Awards (Best Play and Best Original Script, 2018) She has written a number of adaptations, including Bram Stoker's *The Jewel of Seven Stars*; and *Dangerous Beauty*, based on Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Laura received her theater training from Connecticut College, the National Theater Institute, and received the Lee Strasberg Institute Scholarship, training in New York City.



Funding for the Salon Reading Series is provided by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment

Dramaturgical Notes:

Eminent Domain is an old school family drama. It's an historical and effective formula that gives the play an intimate feel while imbuing it with the grand scope of a classic American family tragedy. These plays are always more than the sum of their parts. Made famous in America by Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene O'Neill, these plays are focused and intimate while simultaneously revealing a larger scope and truth in our world. The family drama speaks to a contemporary issue that is at the same time, personal and universal. It leads by example, and offers practice in empathy.



Salon Reading Series

This is not to say the *Eminent Domain* is an old play. Laura Leininger-Campbell injects life into this trope by bringing us a relevant political and social conflict woven into the personal dynamics of a family in crisis. And, while the crisis is central to the plot, what we witness is a family in the act of living—an intimate portrait of people struggling to connect with one another despite their differences. Such is the world of the MacLeods. The disagreement surrounding a pipeline through a small section of land aggravates older family wounds surrounding legacy, presence, and commitment, forcing the Macleods to engage with one another on a more human and empathetic level.

For our series and our theme, *Eminent Domain* offers a profoundly literal sense of home as the land itself. Much like old King Lear, Rob has a tangible legacy to leave his children, who largely do not share his dreams and reject, each in their own way, his bequest. Through the events of the play, he must learn to see his bequest less as a physical location, and more as the creation of opportunity for his children to thrive. Likewise, *Eminent Domain* allows its audience to re-conceive “home” as a family rather than a number of acres. Rob’s transition, and ours, is a vision of home based in the membership of our family, however defined, and not the physical place where the family resides. And, this distinction is not without its negative impacts. Nationally, the disappearance of the family farm is alarming. And it is a direct result of the concerns raised in Leininger-Campbell’s play. However, the focus on family and generational growth regardless of location will always lead to more satisfying outcomes both for our families health and the world around us.

Much like watching *Titanic*, there is no mystery to reveal. We know where this play is headed. The headlines and consistent news cycle forbid the MacLeods from prevailing in their case against the pipeline. But Leininger-Campbell skillfully wraps inevitable defeat in a cloak of optimism and allows the family to heal just enough to continue moving forward. The path forward may be different for Rob and Clan MacLeod, but there is a path forward. As Rob states late in the play “We’ve seen a lot of storms come at us: twisters, drought, debt, dust, and death. And all of us have dug in and held our ground.” And, without giving away the ending, we know that this fight will continue and that the MacLeod’s will live to fight another day - as only a midwest farmer can. If the Macleods can do it - so can we.



While our readings are free to the public, we appreciate goodwill donations in support of Angels Theatre Company and the 2023-24 Salon Reading Series.
Thank you for your contribution!



EASTMONT

Special Thanks to Turbine Flats and Eastmont Living for hosting the Salon Reading Series; thanks to the Angels Theatre Company Board of Directors, Jamie Bullins, Laura Leininger-Campbell, and the cast of *Eminent Domain* for their work.

Thank you for supporting ATC and the 2023-24 Salon Reading Series!
See you next time, Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 2:00 PM and Thursday December 7 at 6:30 PM for *Romeo & Her Sister* by Jillian Blevins!