

MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

Director's Note from Ellen Orenstein:

Why this play, *Mr. Burns*? And, why this play right now, in 2022? Several answers come to mind: the pandemic, our current geopolitical landscape and cultural climate, increasingly dire reports about our environment, on and on.

But, for me, the most poignant aspect of this play is its undying commitment to storytelling, memory, and shared experience. These past two years, in particular, have been a test of our resolve. Loneliness and isolation, fear and the unknown have plagued so many of us. And, now, as we may finally be emerging from some of it, we take solace in our communal understanding of what we have been, and are still, going through. What is our recollection? What stories did we cling to simply to survive? And, how will this recent history be retold and, perhaps, adapted into the future? Finally, what remains present, no matter how bleak our circumstances, is our human need for connection, for imagination, for creativity, and for storytelling. *Mr. Burns* gives us characters who refuse to stay silent or in the wings. They must create something that is shared, performative, joyful, and, ultimately, theatrically human.



Theresa Lang Theatre
Marymount Manhattan College
221 East 71st Street
New York, NY 10021

