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New Stage Unframed Series presents
Wit
by Margaret Edson

Jackson, Mississippi – The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre presents ***Wit*** by Margaret Edson on May 1st and 2nd at 7:30pm and 3rd at 2:00pm. Tickets may be purchased online at newstagetheatre.com for $10 until May 1st at 4:00pm. If there is seating available, tickets may also be purchased for $15 starting one hour before each show. The performances are presented at New Stage's Warehouse Theatre, located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood.

Wit, directed by Seth Rodivich, is a striking and sharply funny reflection on the frailty of existence and the complex relationship between knowledge and love. A celebrated but exacting professor of metaphysical poetry, Vivian Bearing has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. It seems her life is nearing its final chapter. As she submits herself to an experimental treatment, Vivian approaches her illness with the same uncompromising rigor she brings to bear on the sonnets of John Donne. Through it all she comes to reassess her life and her work with profundity and a moving wry humor.

In 1999, Margaret Edson's play ***Wit*** won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama as well as the "Best New Play" award from the New York Drama Critics' Circle. The 2012 Broadway production was nominated for the Tony Award and Best Revival of a Play. Edson's first and only play, ***Wit*** is inspired by Edson's time working as a unit clerk in the AIDS and cancer treatment wing of a research hospital. Rooted in reality, her work is marked by a self-aware blend of comedy and tragedy that meticulously carves out themes of pain and compassion from both an academic and practical understanding of language.

“I am excited that Unframed is producing one of the most acclaimed plays of the 1990s as this season’s closing production,” says New Stage Artistic Director Francine Reynolds “Margaret Edson’s Pulitzer Prize-winning ***Wit*** is a powerful and deeply emotional exploration of the fragility of existence.”

The cast of ***Wit*** includes Anna Fanning (Vivian), Anne Baker Fulton (Young Vivian), Tarvorious House (Jason), Hannah Beth Rollman (Susie), Ben Williams (Kelekian/Ensemble), Michaela Williams (E.M. Ashford/Ensemble), Wyatt Wilson (Ensemble), and Allyn Dilly (Ensemble).

Seth Rodivich, the Director, expressed “I am honored to be wrapping up Unframed’s 17th season with Margaret Edson’s ***Wit***. Though the play provides large commentary on the ethics of common health care practices, I intend to pursue the relationship between our romantic view of death versus its practical application.”

Created in 2006, The Unframed at New Stage Theatre series provides a distinctive theatre experience to the community. The focus is on producing new works and contemporary drama as an alternative to the traditional New Stage subscription series. Unframed at New Stage provides artistic opportunities to emerging artists allowing them to get more experience working with a professional theatre company and on fresh, exciting material that’s not typically produced on the main stage. In the past the series has produced works such as ***Fairview, Race, The Pillowman, Stop Kiss, Steal Away!,*** and ***The Laramie Project***. New Stage is excited about Season 17 with a program full of intriguing new drama that is equal parts entertaining and thought provoking.

Wit opens Friday, May 1st at 7:30pm. Following performances are Saturday, May 2nd, at 7:30pm, and Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00pm. Tickets may be purchased online in advance at newstagetheatre.com for $10 until May 1st at 4:00pm. If there is seating available, tickets may also be purchased for $15 up until one hour before each show. The performances are staged at New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre. The theatre is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. For more information on The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre, find us on Facebook or Instagram at Unframed at New Stage Theatre or call 601.948.3533 (ex. 223.)

2025-2026 Season

Lost Girl by Kimberly Belflower
January 22, 23, & 24, 2026
Long after returning from Neverland, Wendy decides that she must find Peter in order to reclaim her kiss and move on with her life.
"A new play about standing in the center of your own story instead of the shadow of someone else's."

Tambo & Bones by Dave Harris
March 13, 14, & 15, 2026
Tambo and Bones are two characters trapped in a minstrel show. Their escape plan: get out, get bank, get even.
"Will make you second-guess everything you do in a theater."

Wit by Margaret Edson
May 1, 2, & 3, 2026
Vivian Bearing explores her last days with ovarian cancer by confronting her own morality.
"A genuinely life-enhancing play about death."