FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Missy Moore
Thunder River Theatre Company
missy@thunderrivertheatre.com
(970) 963-8200 - Theatre
(303) 847-5339 - Direct

Carbondale, CO. November 17, 2026: TRTC hosts its second Thunderchat: A Keynote Speaker Series of our 2026-2027 season, featuring Dr. Heather Kelley as our keynote speaker Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm.



Featuring Dr. Heather Kelley

A Scholar and Adjunct Professor from CU Boulder,
speaking on her current research regarding the intersections
between theatre and spirituality

with Moderation by Hattie Rensberry

Sunday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm // Tickets $35

This Programming is Sponsored By

Alpine Bank

Join us for Thunderchat with Dr. Heather Kelley, moderated by Hattie Rensberry. Scholar, artist, educator, and theatre-maker, Heather explores the fascinating intersection of theatre, spirituality, and the supernatural. Heather brings a wealth of performance experience and academic expertise to her research into theatre ghostlore and haunted stages. From reported hauntings in historic American theatres to the ghosts that linger in our collective imagination, this conversation promises to explore the spooky, surprising, and sometimes unexplainable side of the theatrical world. Don't miss this intriguing evening of theatre, storytelling, and things that go bump in the night.

About Dr. Kelley

Dr. Heather Kelley (she/her) is a scholartist and adjunct faculty member at the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Northern Colorado. She holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory and a Ph.D. in Theatre & Performance Studies from CU Boulder. Prior to moving to Colorado, Heather taught acting at Kean University in New Jersey, where she also served as the Director of Audience Services for Premiere Stages, the Equity theatre in residence at Kean. She is a former company member of the New York Neo-Futurists and Mad Dog Theatre Company and performed for many seasons with South Brooklyn Shakespeare Company in New York. Heather's current research focuses on intersections between theatre and spirituality, with a focus on theatre ghostlore and depictions of the supernatural on stage and on screen. Her dissertation, "Spectating Spirits: Three American Theatres and Their Ghosts," examined the reported hauntings of the Alley Theatre (Houston, TX), Eugene O'Neill Theater Center (Waterford, CT), and Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré (New Orleans, LA).

Recent Creative Activity

- *Daisy Violet the Bitch Beast King* at Feather Fall Theatre Company (Dramaturg)
- *Let the Right One In* at CU Boulder (Director)
- *Celebration, Florida* at Square Product Theatre (Actor)

Recent Publications

- "On Welcoming Ghosts Into Your Classroom." *Theatre History Studies* 46 (forthcoming).
- "Cryonics and Zombie Bar Crawls: Performing Colorado's Frozen Dead Guy Days." *Theatre Annual* 79 (forthcoming).
- "Hope Springs Eternal: Performing Grief, History, and Resilience in Boulder's Columbia Cemetery." *Performance, Religion & Spirituality* 7, no. 1 (2026).

The Staff

Artistic Director: Missy Moore
Managing Director: Dani Taylor-Moxon
Marketing & Patron Services Manager: Emily Henley
Technical Director: Matt Brann

Upcoming at Thunder River Theatre Company

- The World Premiere of *Beyond Reason* by Kristin (K.D.) Carlson and directed by Missy Moore (November 14th - 29th)
- Pink to Black Concert Series featuring *Deadtronica* (December 5th)
- *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)* by Michael Carleton, James Fitzgerald and John K. Alvarez and directed by Emily Henley

About Thunder River Theatre Company

Providing inspired theatre and innovative artistry since 1995, Thunder River Theatre Company offers award-winning, year-round theatre productions, New Play Development, Signature Cabaret Series, A Keynote Speaker Series, Pink to Black Concert Series and Theatre for Young Audiences. Thunder River Theatre Company is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Carbondale, Colorado.