



CHRIS WELLS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Chris Wells is the founding artistic director of The Secret City (theseecretcity.org), a community of artists, creatives, and others who seek a deeper engagement with the world. Wells serves as host, producer, lead artist, storyteller and head curator, presenting an endless variety of artists in a setting dedicated to connecting artists to community and building community around the arts. With events in New York City, Los Angeles, the Hudson Valley and beyond, Wells has brought the singularly joyful, celebratory work of The Secret City to thousands of people.

Wells is also an award-winning actor who's developed and performed original work with The Actors' Gang, SITI Company, Theater Offensive, La Mama, Clubbed Thumb, Cornerstone Theater, Baltimore Center Stage, Papermill Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare, Cornerstone Theater, Yale Rep, Long Wharf, Cleveland Playhouse, and San Jose Rep. In 2007, Wells was honored with The Charles Bowden Award from New Dramatists for his work in support of new play development. In 2010, he received a Special Citation Obie Award



for creating The Secret City, and for service to the artistic community of New York City.

Wells' original work includes *Liberty!*, a play about American ideals; *Swallow Me*, a musical adaptation of Salome; *Nowhere to Run*, a Buddhist pop opera; and *Olsen Terror*, the cult hit musical about a man turning into the Olsen Twins. His Off Off Broadway show *It Will All Work Out*, based on his stories and songs, premiered at Dixon Place in April 2017.

As a teacher, Wells leads the weekend writing intensive, Writing Life.

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Tuesday, September 15, 2020

CONFERENCE SESSION

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