

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

## Chance Theater proudly announces its **2016 Season of shows**

**Anaheim's official resident theater announces next year's line-up:**

**4-Show Season 18 Series,  
3-Show Theater for Young Audiences (TYA) Series  
2-Show Holiday Series,  
and a 6-Show OTR New Works Series**

January 14, 2016 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater is thrilled to announce its lineup for 2016, which will be the second to employ both stages in its new home at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center, and feature nine fully-staged productions, two workshop productions, and four readings.

On November 14, it was announced at Chance Theater's Season Preview Bash that the 50-seat second stage, which opened March of this year, will be renamed the **Fyda-Mar Stage** in honor of board member Mary Kay Fyda-Mar who contributed over \$70,000 to the "Bold New Home" Capital Campaign. It was previously announced that Chance Theater's Main Stage will henceforth be known as the **Cripe Stage**, in honor of Sophie & Larry Cripe who contributed over \$100,000 to the capital campaign.

### RESIDENT PLAYWRIGHT

Chance Theater is excited to announce that our 2016 resident playwright will be **Jenny Connell Davis**, who *The Dragon Play* was featured earlier this year at the Chance. Jenny's plays have been developed and/or produced with The Playwrights Center, ScriptWorks, SPACE at Ryder Farm, Ars Nova, NAATCO, Theater MITU, Articulate Theatre, New York Stage and Film, Shrewd Productions, and The Gift Theatre, among others. She has been a finalist or semi-finalist for the Heideman, PlayPenn, Seven Devils, BAPF, the Nicholl Fellowship and the O'Neill.

"We're thrilled to have Jenny Connell Davis join the Chance family," said Literary Manager Jennifer Ruckman. "Her writing is lyrical, clever, breathtaking, and funny all at the same time. She loves to ask tough questions that leave the audience talking long after the show is over - exactly the kind of storytelling we love to bring to our stages!"

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In 2016, Jenny will have two plays receive staged readings and one will receive a LAB Workshop. The LAB is a recent addition to the On The Radar program, designed for stories that are further in the developmental process. They receive more rehearsal time and multiple performances, with time in between to allow for fine tuning based on audience response. Prior resident playwrights Lauren Yee and Adam Szymkowicz will also have works showcased in 2016.

## SEASON SPONSORS

For the first time, a pair of patrons have stepped forward to sponsor the entire 2016 Season... Wylie & Bette Aitken. The Aitkens played an integral role in helping the Chance move into its new home by contributing a major gift of \$250,000 to name the building the “Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center.” As *Coast Magazine* recently wrote, “Alone, Wylie is known for his legal prowess and keen litigation skills, but when he is with Bette, his wife of over 50 years, they are known as the power couple of philanthropy and the arts.” In October, Wylie and Bette were honored by Arts OC with the 2015 Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award for Outstanding Arts Patron. Wylie served for five years on the California Arts Council, including two years as Chair. He also served previously as President of the Board of Trustees of South Coast Repertory, and currently serves on the Board of Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Bette currently serves on the Board of Directors of MUZEO and Chance Theater. The entire Board, staff, and resident company of the Chance is very grateful to the Aitkens for the generosity they have shown over the years, and are proud to have them as their first-ever Season Sponsors.

## 4-SHOW SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

February 5 – March 6, 2016

on the Cripe Stage

Orange County/Los Angeles Premiere

### **Dogfight**

Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Book by Peter Duchan

Directed by Matthew McCray

Musical Direction by Taylor Stephenson

Choreographed by Angeline Mirenda

Executive Producer: Mary Kay Fyda-Mar

***“The whole damn world might change tomorrow. So we go for broke today”***

In this 2013 Lucille Lortel Outstanding Musical Award winner, a plain young woman not accustomed to men’s attention is approached by a young Marine the night before he ships out for Vietnam. Little does she know why he’s really invited

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her to a party, and little does he know that this “common girl” is going to change him in ways he could never imagine. From the award-winning team of Broadway’s *A Christmas Story* and television’s “Smash” comes a new musical that brings an unexpected lesson on love and the power of compassion.

*NOTE: This show contains some adult language and themes.*

*\*Winner of Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical*

“Easily the most delicate, surprising, musically satisfying score since *Spring Awakening*” -- *Time Out New York*  
"Superbly crafted, gratifyingly intelligent, richly observant, and immensely enjoyable. This is musical theater at its finest." -- *Backstage*

April 21 – May 22, 2016

on the Fyda-Mar Stage

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

## THE BIG MEAL

by Dan LeFranc

Directed by Jocelyn A. Brown

Executive Producers: Scott & Sandra Graham

### *The extraordinary story of an ordinary family*

In this hilarious and poignant Southern California premiere, you are invited on a time-bending odyssey of birth, death, divorce and dinner. When a man meets a young waitress in a local diner, neither of them knows the nearly 80 years of history that will follow. Filled with those little moments that you will recognize from your own life, we dare you not to fall in love with this stunning, big-hearted play that tells the extraordinary story of an ordinary family.

*NOTE: This show contains some adult language and themes.*

*\* Winner of New York Times Outstanding Playwright Award*

*\* Nominee for Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play*

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July 1 – 31, 2016  
on the Cripe Stage

## A CHORUS LINE

Book by James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante  
Music by Marvin Hamlisch  
Lyrics by Edward Kleban  
Directed by Oanh Nguyen  
Choreographed by Kelly Todd  
Musical Direction by Ryan O'Connell  
Executive Producers: Sophie & Larry Cripe  
Associate Producers: Laurie Smits Staude, Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller

### *One singular sensation...*

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For 17 dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It's what they've worked for—with every drop of sweat, every hour of training, every day of their lives. It's the one opportunity to do what they've always dreamed—to have the chance to dance.

This is *A Chorus Line*, the musical for everyone who's ever had a dream and put it all on the line. Funny and exhilarating, yet raw and personal at its core, we are going to bring new life to this groundbreaking show that lifted the veil on the anonymous faces behind the stars, and uncovered a heart-rending truth about what drives artists yesterday and today.

*NOTE: This show contains some adult language and themes.*

\* Winner of 9 Tony Awards, including "Best Musical"

\* Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama

September 23 – October 23, 2016  
on the Cripe Stage

ORANGE COUNTY PREMIERE

## SEMINAR

by Theresa Rebeck  
Executive Producers: Tod & Linda White

*There's only one thing harder than writing your first novel.  
Letting him read it.*

"Writers in their natural state are about as civilized as feral dogs" ... so says Leonard, an indiscriminately relentless teacher who believes he wrote the book on what makes an author great. When four aspiring novelists sign up for his private writing class, they have no idea that they are about to get the schooling of their lives. From Pulitzer finalist

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Theresa Rebeck, comes a provocative comedy with a vicious bite that uses unwavering wit to peel back the layers of a hopeful artist and reveal the scarred humanity beneath.

*NOTE: This show contains some adult language and themes.*

"Enormously entertaining" -- *Variety*

"Sexy, Savvy, Uproarious." -- *Time out New York*

"Big laughs. An authentic rush of pleasure!" -- *New York Times*

## 3-SHOW TYA SERIES

February 25 – March 6, 2016  
on the Fyda-Mar Stage

# THE STINKY CHEESE MAN AND OTHER FAIRLY STUPID TALES

Adapted by John Glore

From the book by Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith

Directed by Darryl B. Hovis

***If geese had graves, Mother Goose would be rolling in hers.***

*The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* retells--and wreaks havoc on--the allegories we all thought we knew by heart. Though the characters may be familiar, each of your favorite storybook fables is uproariously derailed in this adaptation of Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's quintessential children's book of fractured fairy tales.

May 6 – 22, 2016  
on the Cripe Stage

ENCORE PRESENTATION

# FANCY NANCY – THE MUSICAL

Book & Lyrics by Susan DiLallo

Music by Sam Viverito

Based on the book *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Conner and illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

Directed by Kelly Todd

Executive Producer: Robert Berman

***Back by popular demand!***

Fancy Nancy and her friends Bree, Rhonda, Wanda, and Lionel are going to be performing in their very first show, "Deep (more)

Sea Dances.” Nancy is positive, that’s fancy for 100 percent sure, that she and Bree will be picked to be mermaids. When another girl wins the coveted role of the mermaid, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. Can Nancy bring fancy flair to her role, even though it isn’t the one she wanted?

October 13-23, 2016  
on the Fyda-Mar Stage  
CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

## THE BOY AT THE EDGE OF EVERYTHING

by Jonathan Josephson  
Directed by Darryl B. Hovis

***Join us on an out-of-this world adventure (literally!)***

Meet Simon. He’s a stressed out 12-year-old who just wishes that he could find a place to stop and think. Meet the Boy at the Edge of Everything. He is lonely and bored, which makes sense since he lives at the farthest point of the universe. This quirky and charming play explores what happens once these two boys meet after an unlikely series of events involving “lots and lots of fireworks”, and the epic adventure that will leave them both changed forever.

## 2-SHOW HOLIDAY SERIES

November 27 – December 27, 2015  
on the Mainstage

## LITTLE WOMEN – THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Music by Jason Howland  
Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein  
Book by Allan Knee  
Directed by Casey Long  
Musical Direction by Bill Strongin

***The classic story returns to the Chance for the fourth time***

From the novel that holds a special place in the heart of American literature, comes a new musical which proves this timeless story is still relevant, funny, and heartbreaking today. Join rambunctious Jo, practical Meg, sweet Beth, and romantic Amy as they embark on a coming-of-age tale filled with drama, romance, humor (and song!), all under the watchful eye of their beloved Marmee while father is away during the Civil War. You will not want to miss this terrific theatrical treat for the holidays, perfect for the entire family!

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December 2-8, 2016  
on the Fyda-Mar Stage

# THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES

by Jeff Goode  
Directed by Alex Bueno

## ***The "Lucky 13" Anniversary Production***

We just couldn't shut them up.... so for the 13th straight year, accusations, rumors and all-out attacks are (still) flying fast and furious around the toyshop. Hear the truth straight from the reindeer who know Santa best. When a doe says "No" she means "No."

**WARNING!!** *This show contains FOUL-MOUTHED REINDEER and very inappropriate ADULT HUMOR! Definitely no kids or anyone who doesn't want to see the dark side of Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and the North Pole!*

All tickets and subscriptions can be purchased by calling (714) 777-3033 or by visiting [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com).

To schedule press interviews, request photos, schedule press comps or for any additional information, please contact Casey Long at (714) 900-3284 or by e-mail at [casey@chancetheater.com](mailto:casey@chancetheater.com).

## ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in SouthernCalifornia, CHANCE THEATER has won five Ovation Awards (including two for Best Production of a Musical--Intimate Theater for *Triassic Parq -- The Musical* and *Jerry Springer: The Opera*). The Chance also received an LADCC Award last year for its reimagined revival of *West Side Story*. The Anaheim City Council recently named Chance Theater "the official resident theater company of Anaheim". Twice named "Outstanding Arts Organization" by Arts Orange County, Chance Theater is also a recipient of the LADCC's Polly Warfield Award for Excellence. Founded in 1999, Chance Theater is focused on its goal of being Orange County's premiere mid-size contemporary theater by contributing to a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, Network of Ensemble Theaters, and the LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

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