

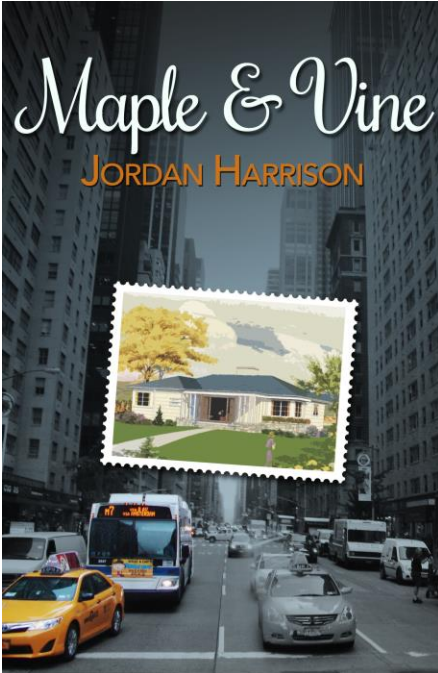
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

**Chance Theater presents the fourth show in its new theatrical home
The Greater Los Angeles Area Premiere of...**

Maple and Vine

**This uniquely dark “what if” dramedy starts performances on September 19
at the intimate Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center**



August 19, 2014 ... Anaheim Hills, California ... Chance Theater is proud to present the fourth show of its 16th Anniversary Season – the clever and sharply drawn fantasy, *Maple and Vine*. Written by Jordan Harrison, with direction by Mark Ramont. ***Maple and Vine* will preview from September 19 through 25, regular performances will begin September 26 and continue through October 19 at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center.**

Maple and Vine follows the story of Katha and her husband Ryu (a young Asian doctor), who have become allergic to their 21st-century lives. After they meet a charismatic man from a community of 1950s reenactors, they forsake cell phones and sushi for cigarettes and Tupperware parties. In this compulsively authentic Eisenhower America, Katha and Ryu are surprised by what their new neighbors—and they themselves—are willing to sacrifice for happiness.

"Exceptionally clever." – *Chicago Sun Times*

"One of the most intriguing premises of the year." – *New York Post*

"A clever, sharply drawn fantasy... makes a sneaky, compelling case for the seductions of living the Ozzie and Harriet life"
– *New York Times*

"It seems to me that technology has taken over our lives in ways that leave us wanting a quieter, calmer time, where things are more black and white," said director Mark Ramont. "Where there is time to pursue the simple things in life, and where we aren't constantly bombarded with information, noise, shiny objects, and strident, often apocalyptic (more)

opinions about the world we live in. It's crazy out there, so who doesn't long to escape?"

There's another universal question that this show asks its characters and its audience – "What does it take to be happy?" Ramont asks. "This is a central question for almost anyone I know, and more and more it seems like people are constructing their own happiness, often at the cost of Truth. What happens to truth when you construct your own happiness and shut out anything that challenges it? Is it possible to construct your own happiness? If so, what is the cost?"

DOUBLE EXPOSURE FOR A RISING TALENT

Playwright Jordan Harrison will be getting double attention from Southern California theaters this September and October. While *Maple and Vine* is making its Greater Los Angeles Area premiere at the Chance, Mark Taper Forum will be producing another one of his plays, *Marjorie Prime*, at the same time. Jordan Harrison is a rising talent in the American theater, and we're thrilled to be one of the theaters producing his work.

Jordan Harrison's play *Maple and Vine* ran Off-Broadway at New York's Playwrights Horizons and at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater after premiering in the 2011 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Mr. Harrison's other plays include *Doris to Darlene* (Playwrights Horizons), *Amazons and their Men* (Clubbed Thumb), *Act a Lady* (2006 Humana Festival), *Finn in the Underworld* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *Futura* (Portland Center Stage, Theater @ Boston Court), *Kid-Simple* (2004 Humana Festival, SPF), *The Museum Play* (Washington Ensemble Theatre), *Standing on Ceremony* (Minetta Lane Theatre), and *Fit for Feet* (2003 Humana Festival). His children's musical, *The Flea and the Professor*, won the 2011 Barrymore Award for Best Production after premiering at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre, and his grown-up musical, *Suprema*, was workshopped at the O'Neill Music Theatre Conference. Mr. Harrison is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University, a Theater Masters' Innovative Playwright Award, the Kesselring Prize, the Heideman Award, the Loewe Award for Musical Theater, Jerome and McKnight Fellowships from The Playwrights' Center, and a NEA/TCG Playwright-in-Residence Grant. *Maple and Vine* and *Act A Lady* were nominated for GLAAD Media Awards for Best Production. A graduate of Stanford University and the Brown University MFA program, he is an alumnus of New Dramatists.

In addition to director Mark Ramont, the production team for *Maple and Vine* will also include two returning artists from last season's Ovation Award winning musical, *Triassic Park – The Musical* -- scenic designer Joe Holbrook and sound designer Ryan Brodtkin. They are joined by costume designer Bradley Locke, whose work was last seen at the Chance in (more)

this season's opener, *Lysistrata Jones*, lighting designer Jayne Dutra, dramaturg Jocelyn L. Buckner, props designer Amy Ramirez, and assistant director Travis Donnelly all making their Chance debuts.

The production will feature a cast that includes Chance Theater Resident Artists Jennifer Ruckman and James McHale, as well as Robert M. Lee, Daniel Fagan and Kelly Ehlert making their Chance debuts.

Scott & Sandra Graham will serve as Associate Producers for this production.

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.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER recently won three Ovation Awards, including Best Production of a Musical – Intimate Theater, for its West Coast premiere of *Triassic Parq – The Musical*. 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.

(more)

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: MAPLE AND VINE

Katha and her husband Ryu (a young Asian doctor) have become allergic to their 21st-century lives. After they meet a charismatic man from a community of 1950s reenactors, they forsake cell phones and sushi for cigarettes and Tupperware parties. In this compulsively authentic Eisenhower America, Katha and Ryu are surprised by what their new neighbors—and they themselves—are willing to sacrifice for happiness.

WHEN: Preview Performances

Friday, September 19 through Thursday, September 25
Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8pm
Sunday at 7pm

Regular Performances

Friday, September 26 through Sunday, October 19
Fridays at 8pm
Saturdays at 8pm
Sundays at 2pm
Special performance on Tuesday, September 30 at 8pm
No performance on Saturday, October 11

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend:

The Press Performance on Friday, September 26 at 8pm; or
The Opening Gala on Saturday, September 27 at 8pm, which includes a post-show reception

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center, 5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

TICKETS: \$20.00 - \$35.00. Call (714) 777-3033 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

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