

January 8, 2025

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For information regarding the 2025 season: www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season

Chance Theater proudly presents the OTR Staged Reading of...
at the very bottom of a body of water
Kicking off the 2025 OTR Season!

ANAHEIM, CA – Chance Theater is thrilled to announce the staged reading of *at the very bottom of a body of water*, written by 2025 Resident Playwright **Benjamin Benne** and directed by **Sara Guerrero**. This event is part of Chance Theater's acclaimed "On the Radar" (OTR) New Play Reading Series, highlighting innovative and impactful works in progress. The reading will occur on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:30 PM** on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center.

at the very bottom of a body of water explores the daily rituals we create to anchor ourselves in the world. Marina, the protagonist, finds solace in a weekly routine: visiting her local fish store, buying a catfish, and making soup. But when her usual fishmonger is absent, her sense of comfort is disrupted, leading her to confront whether destruction brings only pain or the potential for something greater. This poetic play examines how small disruptions can spark profound personal growth.

About Our 2025 Resident Playwright: Benjamin Benne

Benjamin Benne (he/him) is Chance Theater's 2025 Resident Playwright, a Playwrights' Center '23-26 Core Writer, and was named part of "LA Vanguardia: The Latino innovators, instigators, and power players breaking through barriers" by the Los Angeles Times. His produced plays include *Alma* (Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theatre, American Blues Theater, ArtsWest, Curious Theatre, Central Square Theater, The Spot, Chance Theater, Passage Theatre), *In His Hands* (Mosaic Theater, First Floor), *Manning* (Portland Stage), and *What / Washed Ashore/ Astray* (Pillsbury House Theatre). Additionally, his work has been developed at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Public, Roundabout, Playwrights Realm, Denver Center, The Old Globe, Boston Court Pasadena, Two River, New Harmony Project, and SPACE on Ryder Farm, among many others. He has been awarded the Orange Curtain Award for Best Writing, Ojai Playwrights Conference's Dr. Kerry English Award, Portland Stage's Clauder Competition Grand Prize, American Blues Theater's Blue Ink Playwriting Award, Arizona

Theatre Company's National Latinx Playwriting Award, and KCACTF Latinx Playwriting Award, among others. He has been commissioned by South Coast Repertory and Seattle Repertory Theatre. MFA: David Geffen/Yale School of Drama. www.benjaminbenne.com

About the Director: Sara Guerrero

Sara Guerrero (she/hers), a Southern California Chicana native of Mexican/Mestizo ancestry, is a versatile theater artist and educator whose mission is to model, share, and create theater-making opportunities for and with her community.

As the founding artistic director of Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble (BOFLTE), she and the ensemble are artists-in-residence of California State University, Fullerton's Grand Central Arts Center in downtown Santa Ana. The organization was recently awarded a distinguished two-year grant from The National Latinx Theater Initiative (NLTi).

Guerrero received the 2023-24 Individual Artists Established Fellowship (IAF) by the California Arts Council, (IAF), awarded "Honorable Mention" playwright for the 46th Annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a semi-finalist for the Judith Royer Playwriting Excellence Award, a Woman of Distinction by Senate District 34 (2020, 2021), Hispanic Lifestyle Latina of Influence Honoree of 2020, Community Engagement "COVID-19 Artist Grant" Awardee, "People to Watch" by American Theatre Magazine, and "Best [Artistic] Director" and "Person of Interest" by OC Weekly. She serves on the Arts Orange County council, Fringe Benefits: Setting the Stage for Social Justice, a member of ATHE, NET Ensemble, Artistic Directors of Color Alliance of the Greater Los Angeles (ADCA), a faculty member of California State University, Fullerton School of the Arts and a CalArts Alum. teatroguerrero.com

About Chance Theater's On-the-Radar New Works Program

On the Radar consists of a new script reading series, a playwright's residency, and a commissioning program, all geared towards supporting the creation of diverse new stories by emerging U.S. playwrights. The goal of OTR is to create a deep and long-term commitment to playwrights by offering them access to a community of artists and audiences, a supportive environment, and the freedom to explore their boundaries and interests.

This year's resident playwright is Benjamin Benne. Past Resident Playwrights include Dustin H. Chinn, Keiko Green, Exal Iraheta, B.J. Tindal, Krista Knight, Jessica Huang, Joanna Garner, Ted Malawer, Jenny Connell Davis, Lauren Yee, Nick Jones, Marshall Paillet, Zayd Dohrn, and Adam Szymkowicz.

Tickets and Additional Information

Join us for the staged reading of *at the very bottom of a body of water* on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:30 PM** on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center, located in Anaheim, CA.

Tickets are available now at ChanceTheater.com or by calling the box office at **(888) 455-4212**, Monday through Friday, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

For press inquiries, photos, or to schedule interviews, please contact **Shinshin Tsai**, Producing Associate, at **(949) 346-2374** or via email at Shinshin@chancetheater.com.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

As one of Southern California's leading ensemble-driven theater companies, Chance Theater is proud to have received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for "nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre." The Chance has earned 31 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical for *Next to Normal* and *Fun Home*, Outstanding Production of a Play and Outstanding New Play for *Matinicus: The Story Of Abigail Burgess* (A Chance Theater Commission) and *Cry It Out*, as well as 6 Orange Curtain Review Awards, with Best Musical for *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. The theater's achievements also include eight Ovation Awards (four for Best Production of a Musical - Intimate Theatre) and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. In 2014, the Anaheim City Council designated Chance Theater as "the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim," and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as an "Outstanding Arts Organization." Known for using bold, personal storytelling to foster dialogue and connection in Southern California, the Chance remains committed to building a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Producers of Southern California, OC Theatre Guild, and ArtsOC, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

Here's the adjusted calendar listing with the pertinent info switched out:

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: *at the very bottom of a body of water* by **Benjamin Benne**

Marina swims in a circle of routine: every week, she goes to her local fish store, buys a catfish, and makes soup. But this week, her usual fishmonger has disappeared, and the comfort of her ritual has been destroyed. Does destruction only mean pain and suffering, or could it also mean the possibility for new and grander experiences? She's about to find out.

Performance: February 12, 2025, 7:30 pm

REVIEWERS AND OTHER PRESS are invited to the one-night showing and the reception afterward.

RUNNING TIME: TBD

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

TICKETS: \$15

MORE INFO: www.ChanceTheater.com or call **(888) 455-4212**

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