

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers, and Calendar Listings

**Chance Theater presents...**

# *Gloria*

***by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins***

## **OC Premiere of The Pulitzer Prize finalist**

**ANAHEIM, CA:** Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is thrilled to announce the Orange County Premiere of *Gloria*, the provocative and darkly comedic play by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins. Directed by the award-winning Marya Mazor, *Gloria* will run at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center from September 27 to October 20, 2024.

### **A Riveting Satire on Modern Media**

Set in the bustling world of a New York City magazine office, *Gloria* uncovers the cutthroat ambitions of a group of editorial assistants, whose ordinary day spirals into chaos with a shocking event. This sharply satirical play examines the dark underbelly of the media industry, exploring themes of ambition, exploitation, and the stories we tell ourselves and others. *Gloria* was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and has been described by *The New York Times* as "whip-smart," *The Hollywood Reporter* calls it "provocative and playfully theatrical."

With its biting humor and intense commentary on the cost of success, *Gloria* offers audiences a gripping experience that will challenge their views on modern-day media and the personal toll of ambition.

## **Spotlight on the Director: Marya Mazor**

Marya Mazor, an award-winning theater director, brings her dynamic vision to *Gloria* at Chance Theater. Her previous work includes *The Model Apartment* at The Geffen Playhouse, *Tigers Be Still* and *Tribes* at Chance Theater (which won the OC Register's Best Play of 2017), and *The Rescued* at The Road Theater, for which she received a Stage Raw Award Nomination. Mazor has also directed at renowned venues like South Coast Rep, Edinburgh Fringe, and Pasadena Playhouse. A former show director for Disney, she founded Voice & Vision theater in New York and holds an MFA from Yale. Her vast experience and keen directorial insight promise to bring a fresh and powerful perspective to this production.

## **Meet the Cast**

The cast of *Gloria* features a talented lineup of actors making their Chance Theater debuts, including:

- **Branda Lock** as Gloria/Nan
- **Emma Laird** as Ani/Sasha/Callie
- **Audrey Forman** as Kendra
- **Will Martella** as Dean/Devin
- **Johnathan Middleton** as Miles/Shawn/Rashaad
- **Erik Scilley** as Lorin

## **Creative Team**

- **Christopher Scott Murillo**, Scenic Designer: Known for his work on *Alma*, *Ragtime*, and *A Bright New Boise* at Chance Theater, Murillo has also designed for television, including *Halo the Series: Declassified*.
- **Adriana Lámbarri**, Costume Designer: Lámbarri has designed for numerous productions at Chance Theater, including *Cry It Out* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.
- **Andrea Heilman**, Lighting Designer: Heilman's impressive portfolio includes *Fun Home*, *Green Day's American Idiot*, and *Yellowman* at Chance Theater.
- **Jordan Jones**, Stage Manager: Jones has managed several successful productions, including *The Secret Garden* and *West Side Story*.
- **Jocelyn L. Buckner**, Dramaturg: Buckner's credits include *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Skylight* at Chance Theater.
- **Martin Noyes**, Fight Director: Noyes has lent his expertise to *Sweeney Todd*, *Alma*, and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*.

## **Community Partners**

- **Mariposa Center**, at Mariposa, we find that seed of hope and the opportunity to regain wellness within everyone. For over 46 years, we have served Orange County’s women, men, and families with innovative counseling programs and therapies. From individual substance abuse counseling and domestic violence counseling to group sessions with fellow survivors, Mariposa is here to support your healing journey.
- **PROJECT INDEPENDENCE**, our mission is to promote civil rights for people with developmental disabilities through services that expand independence and choice.
- **Straight Talk**, the mission of Straight Talk Counseling is to make available a variety of mental health, substance abuse, and rehabilitative services to individuals and families in need for whom access or utilization of such services is limited, restricted, or otherwise unavailable.
- **Cafe Bianni’**, Our mission is to bring Oaxacan culture into the lives of others. We are all about the experience and authenticity. We welcome those who visit us and hope they enjoy their stay and love our coffee and cuisine.

### **Tickets and Information**

Tickets for *Gloria* are now on sale. This production contains mature content and strong language. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit Chance Theater's website or call the box office at (888) 455-4212.

To schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding this production, please contact Shinshin Tsai, Chance’s Marketing Manager, at (949) 346-2374 or [Shinshin@chancetheater.com](mailto:Shinshin@chancetheater.com).

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## **ABOUT CHANCE THEATER**

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has 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 won 31 OCTG Theatre Awards, including two for Outstanding Production of a Musical (“Next to Normal” and “Fun Home”) and one for Outstanding Production of a Play (“Cry It Out”). Previously, Chance Theater won eight Ovation Awards, including four for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre), and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has

twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, The Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles, and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

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## **CALENDAR LISTING**

### **WHAT: Gloria**

Style. Status. Success. A group of twentysomething editorial assistants are pursuing it all at one of New York’s most esteemed cultural magazines. When a seemingly normal day at the office turns out to be anything but, these aspiring journalists recognize an opportunity to seize a career-defining moment. Who has the right to tell whose story? Simultaneously funny and shocking, Gloria is an adrenaline rush of a show as MacArthur “Genius” grant winner Jacobs-Jenkins skewers the cutthroat, opportunistic culture of modern media.

### **WHEN:**

**Previews:** September 27 - October 4, 2024; Friday 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday 7 p.m.

**Performances:** September 27- October 20, 2024

Fridays at 7 p.m. (only Sep 29) and 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. & Sundays at 3 p.m.

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**REVIEWERS AND OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend Opening Night on Saturday, October 5 at 8 p.m.**

**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 10 minutes with intermission

**WHERE:** Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center on the Cripe Stage

5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

**TICKETS:** \$41-44

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

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