

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly presents a staged reading of

Crimson Lit: Scarlet Letter Setlist

This brand-new punk rock grrrrr riot musical is an all-female adaptation of Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, with songs by our 2020 Resident Playwright, Krista Knight and Jill Sobule (singer-songwriter of "Supermodel," "I Kissed A Girl")

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is delighted to present a staged reading of a new show called *Crimson Lit: Scarlet Letter Setlist* as part of the 2021 OTR New Works Series. This new musical adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter* will have music and lyrics by Jill Sobule and book and lyrics by Krista Knight. The staged reading will be directed by Chance Theater's Associate Artistic Director Jocelyn A. Brown and music directed by Barry Brinegar. There will be performances on Wednesday, October 20 and Sunday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.

You're not going to want to miss this staged reading of a brand new pulpy riot grrrl musical adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter* written by singer-songwriter Jill Sobule ("I Kissed a Girl," "Supermodel") and our 2020 Resident Playwright Krista Knight (*Shooter!*, *Crush*, *Lipstick Lobotomy*). In this musical, poetic justice has finally come for rebellious teen Winnie. She's going to fail summer school and have to repeat the 11th grade unless she's able to complete a book report. But that's not the worst part. The worst part is that the book is Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*—which Winnie does NOT want to read. Well, that's too bad because she's in a whole play about it.

Answering the question of why now is the perfect time for a pulpy riot grrrrl adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter*, Krista and Jill said, “The old labels can no longer go unchecked when those who wield them unapologetically control the narrative. To this end, we have dug up the corpse of Nathaniel Hawthorne so that we may squat in solidarity. *The Scarlet Letter* is an established American myth which goes to show how old and embedded these conversations and labels really are. On stage, we will celebrate the humanity and femininity of this relic from a fresh perspective. Bold heroines saturated in colorful pop overdrive tear down the scaffolds of old in a summer awakening through non-consensual American Lit.”

Joining director Jocelyn A. Brown and music director Barry Brinegar on the production team for this reading are dramaturg Jenny Jacobs, stage manager Cynthia C. Espinoza, and OTR producing associate James Michael McHale. The reading will star Monika Peña (*Lizzie, The Musical*), Mandy Foster (*Emma - The Musical*), Brooke Aston (staged reading of *The Queer Couch*), Samantha Labrecque (*Goosebumps, The Musical*), Lydia Myers Margitza (*Big Fish*), and Camryn Long (*A Chorus Line*).

Chance Theater’s COVID-19 policy requires General Performance ticket holders to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. Those who are under the age of 12 -- and anyone without proof of being fully vaccinated -- must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours (3 days) prior to entering the theater. Masks are required at all times for all patrons and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted. Get the most up to date information about Chance Theater’s health and safety protocols at www.ChanceTheater.com/safety.

ABOUT OTR NEW WORKS SERIES

Chance’s On the Radar (OTR) New Works Program 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 own boundaries and interests. Past Resident Playwrights include Krista Knight, Jessica Huang, Joanna Garner, Ted Malawer, Jenny Connell Davis, Lauren Yee, Nick Jones, Marshall Paillet, Zayd Dohrn, and Adam Szymkowicz. Our 2021 Resident Playwright is B.J. Tindal.

MEET THE WRITERS

Jill Sobule (Music and Lyrics) Over 10 albums and almost two decades of recording, Jill Sobule has mused on topics such as the death penalty, anorexia, shoplifting, reproduction, the French resistance movement, adolescence and the Christian right. Early hit songs include "I Kissed a Girl (the original)" and "Supermodel." In 2015, Jill made new fans (as well as some enemies) with her pre-election song, "When They Say We Want Our America Back, What the F*ck Do They Mean?" -a history of anti-immigration sentiment in the US. Her latest record, "Nostalgia Kills" has been on many critics' best of lists. Over the last few years, Jill has been writing for the theater. In 2018, NYU produced her musical, *Times Square*, and in Sept 2020, the Pittsburgh City Theater debuted her one-woman show, *F*#k 7th Grade* to a live drive-in audience. More at www.jillsobule.com.

Krista Knight (Book and Lyrics) is a Juilliard School Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program Fellow (2016- 2018), Page 73 Playwriting Fellow (2007), MacDowell Fellow (2008), Shank Playwriting Fellow at the Vineyard Theatre (2011-2012), Vanderbilt Writer-in-Residence (2020), Chance Theater Resident Playwright (2020), winner of the Heideman Award at Actors Theatre of Louisville (2016), and winner of the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival (2020). Her work includes CRUSH (*NY Times* Recommended, Nashville Scene Critics Pick, featured in *American Theatre Magazine*), LIPSTICK LOBOTOMY (Kilroys List, Trap Door Theatre), DON'T STOP ME (musical with Dave Malloy), KIRK AT THE SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT HYATT (NYTW's Summer Residency, Vineyard Theatre reading series, Playwrights Foundation Rough Reading, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse/MacDowell Benefit), PRIMAL PLAY (New Georges, Playwrights Center of MN), HISSIFIT (Cradle Theatre, Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, McCoy Theatre at Rhodes College), SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN (Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, Ars Nova Ant Fest, Fingerlakes Musical Theatre Festival, Inkwell, KCACTF Musical Theatre Award from the Kennedy Center for best book), DOOMSURFING (Parkside Lounge, UCSD), SELKIE (Williamstown Workshop, Dutch Kills), and 17 plays and musicals for young audiences. Commissions include the script for a ride at Tokyo Disney, The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, The Assembly, Live Girls!, Crystal Springs Uplands School, The Steinmetz Lab, and an EST/Sloan Commission (2020). Krista has been in residence at La Napoule Art Foundation, Tofte Lake, The Orchard Project, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Page 73's Summer Residency at Yale, Santa Fe Art Institute, UCROSS, Yaddo, and MacDowell. BA: Brown University. MA: Performance Studies from NYU. MFA Playwriting: UC San Diego. Alum of EST's Youngblood, TerraNova Groundbreakers, Page 73's Interstate 73, Civilians R&D Lab, New Georges JAM, Fresh Ground Pepper Playgroup, and The Orchard Project Professional Lab. www.KristaKnight.com

Chance Theater's 2021 OTR Reading Series would not be possible without our incredible sponsors: National Endowment for the Arts, The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation, Elizabeth George Foundation, and Ashleigh Aitken & Michael Penn.

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 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 recently won the Ovation Award for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre) for the intimate revival of *Fun Home*. Previously, Chance Theater has won seven Ovation Awards, including three for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre) for its regional premiere of *Lizzie, The Musical*, the West Coast premiere of *Triassic Park – The Musical*, and Southern California premiere of *Jerry Springer – The Opera*, as well as 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 and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: Staged Reading of *Crimson Lit: Scarlet Letter Setlist*

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WHEN: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

TICKETS: \$13-15

Call (888) 455-4212 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

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