

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly presents an OTR staged reading of the new play
“Norine & The King of Swatsville”

Chance Theater’s 2023 OTR New Works Series continues with a brand new play based on the riveting true crime mystery of Baseball Hall of Famer, Ed Delhanty

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is excited to present a staged reading of a brand new play as part of the 2023 OTR New Works Series. Written by **Jonathan Josephson**, and directed by Chance Theater’s Artistic Director **Oánh Nguyễn**, this staged reading will be presented on Wednesday, September 20th at 7:30pm.

In July of 1903, famed baseball player Edward “Big Ed” Delahanty was found dead at the base of the Niagara Falls gorge. Now, Ed’s widow, Norine, is determined to uncover the truth behind her husband’s tragic end and find the ones responsible for his death. Little could she have anticipated that her investigation would take her down an ever-darkening road of Big Ed’s hidden life, and inner demons. Based on a true story.

Playwright Jonathan Josephson explained, “I was initially drawn to this true story because, one, I’m a huge baseball fan, and two, Ed Delahanty’s life is chalk full of larger-than-life, bizarre, complex, mysterious circumstances that couldn’t be more theatrical if I created them out of thin air. But the play really came alive upon a deeper investigation of the facts of Big Ed’s life as we know it, and then my own interpretation of those facts (i.e. my fiction) which took me down a personal exploration of what it means to be happy, and when happy on the outside doesn’t necessarily mean happy on the inside.”

When asked about returning to the Chance, Josephson mused, “As a playwright, this will be my fifth new play adventure with Chance Theater! I couldn’t wish for a more supportive, professional, and talented group of artists and staff to help me tell stories and make theatrical magic.”

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT

As a former Literary Director and Company Member, **Jonathan Josephson** (JJ) served as a dramaturg for numerous Chance productions from 2007-2009. Over the years, several of his plays have appeared on Chance stages including “The Giant and The Pixie” (2008), “The Legend(s) of Sleepy Hollow” (TYA, 2015), and the 2017 Chance-a-thon. He is also the founding Executive Director of Unbound Productions and one of the creators of the multi-award-winning immersive theatre events “Wicked Lit” (Mountain View Mausoleum and Cemetery), “Mystery Lit” (Los Angeles Arboretum), and “History Lit” (Pasadena Museum of History). Forty of his plays have been produced all over the world including Actors Theatre of Louisville (Humana Festival), Milwaukee Rep (RepLab), and the Sam French Off-Off Broadway Play Festival (Festival Winner). Fifteen of his plays are published by Sam French, Playscripts, Stage Rights, YouthPlays, and others. He is a member of the Antaeus Playwrights Lab, DG, and ALAP. jonathanjosephson.com

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Oánh Nguyễn has been serving as Chance Theater’s founding Artistic Director since 1999. Oánh is a recipient of TCG’s New Generations Grant and the TCG Nathan Cummings Young Leaders of Color Fellowship. He was awarded the Outstanding Artist Award by Arts Orange County, profiled in Orange County Register’s “Most Influential People” series and *OC Weekly*’s People Issue, inducted into Anaheim High School’s Hall of Fame and was a commencement speaker for Chapman University College of Performing Arts. Oánh was Producing Associate at South Coast Repertory for three years. He also served on the advisory board of the Anaheim High School Performing Arts Conservatory, the board of Network of Ensemble Theatres, LA’s 99-seat Transitional Committee, and OC Theatre Guild, as well as panels and committees for Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Alternative Theatre Los Angeles, National Endowment for the Arts and Theatre Communications Group. His directing credits include productions at Chance Theater, East West Players, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, South Coast Repertory, Aurora Theatre Company, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, Chapman University, Azusa Pacific University, AMDA, CSU Fullerton, and served as the Associate Director for the international tour of David Henry Hwang’s “Chinglish” (Berkeley Repertory, South Coast Repertory, Hong Kong Arts Festival). His selected film credits include “Two Brothers” directed by Jean-Jacques Annaude, “Rush Hour 3” directed by Brett Ratner, and “Lonely Boy” directed by Dale Fabrigar (Best First Feature Grand Jury Prize at the 2013 Louisiana International Film Festival and Audience Award Winner at the 2013 BolderLife Festival).

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 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 Exal Iraheta, Krista Knight, Jessica Huang, Joanna Garner, Ted Malawer, Jenny Connell Davis, Lauren Yee, Nick Jones, Marshall Paillet, Zayd Dohrn, and Adam Szymkowicz. Our 2023 Resident Playwright is Keiko Green whose play "Exotic Deadly, or The MSG Play" had its world premiere at The Old Globe earlier this year after having a final staged reading at Chance Theater in February.

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 14 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical ("Next to Normal") and Outstanding Production of a Play ("Cry It Out"). Previously, Chance Theater won eight OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical ("Fun Home"), 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.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: Staged Reading of “Norine & The King of Swatsville”

In July of 1903, famed baseball player Edward “Big Ed” Delahanty was found dead at the base of the Niagara Falls gorge. Now, Ed’s widow, Norine, is determined to uncover the truth behind her husband’s tragic end and find the ones responsible for his death. Little could she have anticipated that her investigation would take her down an ever-darkening road of Big Ed’s hidden life, and inner demons. Based on a true story.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 20th @ 7:30 pm

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

TICKETS: \$15

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

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