

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly presents a staged reading of Krista Knight's

Shooter!

For Chance Theater's fourth play in our 2021 OTR Reading Series, we have a new play that confronts the difference between a perceived threat and the intimate danger that may be right in front of us.

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is excited to present a staged reading of *Shooter!*, written by Chance Theater's 2020 Resident Playwright Krista Knight. This staged reading will be directed by Hannah Wolf as part of Chance Theater's OTR New Works Series. *Shooter!* will be presented for one night only on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Shooter! introduces us to Professor Leia, who is befuddled by the task of ushering undergrads into the dramatic principles of playwriting and life lessons simultaneously. When a student brings in a violent play, she suspects him of being a possible school shooter. As Leia's home life becomes more dangerous, she doubles down on her fear of the potential shooter. A dark comedy about the danger of the dislocation of fear—both to the object of that fear and its agent.

"The university wanted me to help him. I didn't know how," Krista Knight said in reference to a former student of hers who had written a very violent play while in her playwriting class. "In 2015, I was teaching at a state school in upstate New York. I was isolated geographically, socially, culturally, and also very excited to be a full-time associate (visiting) professor for the first time. To my surprise, college teaching wasn't just about introducing young adults to playwriting (most of whom had never seen a play before). I was also called upon to be a social worker, mother, and therapist. I was unprepared." Knight continued, "My only outlet was the wit and talent of my boyfriend in another state, but he was also going through a difficult time. Sometimes when he would drink he would become verbally abusive – ripping apart my class, privilege, and supposed intellect. One night he choked me until I passed out."

When talking about the parallels between the play and her own experience, Knight explains, “The professor character in my play, Leia, too finds herself in increasing danger at home. Instead of dealing with it, she doubles down on her belief that her student is a threat. I want the play to demonstrate how we use perceived, external danger to distract ourselves from the intimate, real danger close to us. As school shootings become more prevalent, so will the urgency to predict the warning signs. I want to explore the danger of the dislocation of fear—both to the object of that fear and its agent.”

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 PLAYWRIGHT

Krista Knight 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), and Vanderbilt Writer-in-Residence (current). Her work includes LIPSTICK LOBOTOMY (2019 Kilroys List), DON’T STOP ME (new teen 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), the punk rock adaptation of Medusa HISSIFIT (Cradle Theatre, Berkeley Rep School of Theatre), 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 Theatre Festival, 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!, and The Case Western Reserve University School of Biomedical Engineering. 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 Alum of EST's Youngblood, TerraNova Groundbreakers, Page 73's Interstate 73, Civilians R&D Lab, New Georges JAM and Fresh Ground Pepper Playgroup. Winner of the 2016 Heideman Award at Actors Theatre of Louisville. 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 *Shooter!* by Krista Knight

Professor Leia is befuddled by the task of ushering undergrads into the dramatic principles of playwriting and life lessons simultaneously. When a student brings in a violent play, she suspects him of being a possible school shooter. As Leia's home life becomes more dangerous, she doubles down on her fear of the potential shooter. A dark comedy about the danger of the dislocation of fear—both to the object of that fear and its agent.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

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

TICKETS: \$15.00

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

Discounts available for seniors, students and military.

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