

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly announces its

24th Anniversary Season

The award-winning theater company jumps back into producing live shows with a broad range of subjects, in stagings that meet current pandemic protocols

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, announces its 2022 Season encompassing 10 plays running January 21 through December 23, 2022. The season, Chance's first full season of live productions since 2019, includes Orange County premieres of two hard-hitting dramas, intimate revivals of award-winning musicals, and a world premiere co-production with Berkeley's Aurora Theatre.

In 2022, Chance Theater's Main Series will include cutting-edge musicals "Next to Normal" and "Green Day's American Idiot," as well as OC premieres of "Cry It Out" and "The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity." The TYA Family Series, Holiday Series, and OTR Reading Series will all be announced at a later date.

The entire 2022 Season is being produced by community leaders, Bette & Wylie Aitken, with the Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar as the season's associate producers.

"Next To Normal" is a groundbreaking, Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning rock musical that explores the impact of mental illness on not just the person suffering from it, but the entire family. With book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt, the show takes audiences into the minds and hearts of each of its characters, presenting the story of one family with love, sympathy, and heart.

Directed by Matthew McCray and starring Jocelyn A. Brown, Chance's production runs January 28 through February 27 on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center. Linda and Tod White are the show's Executive Producers. Laurie Smits Staude and Susan Bowman and Freddie Greenfield are its associate producers.

Next up is the Orange County premiere of Molly Smith Metzler's "**Cry It Out**," a dark comedy that takes a sharp and honest look at the double-edged sword of motherhood in all its joys and perils.

Metzler is known for being a writer and producer on "Shameless," "Orange is the New Black," and the new Netflix series "Maid." Hailed by critics as "laugh-out-loud entertaining" and "tender, revealing and incisive," "Cry It Out" runs April 1 through May 1 on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center and is executive produced by Elizabeth Jones.

Like "Next to Normal," "**Green Day's American Idiot**" broke new ground for the American musical, with the music of Green Day, the lyrics of lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong and a book by Armstrong and Michael Mayer capturing the zeitgeist of a generation. The highly theatrical hit stage show takes the raw emotions of the Grammy Award-winning, multi-platinum album and puts them front and center in a thoroughly satisfying rock opera that literally burns up the stage.

The show's regional premiere, directed by James Michael McHale and choreographed by Miguel Cardenas, runs July 15 through August 14 on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center. Rachele Menaker and Eddie Schuller are the production's executive producers.

Wrapping up the 2022 Main Series is the Orange County premiere of "**The Elaborate Entrance Of Chad Deity**," the Pulitzer Prize-nominated play by Kristoffer Diaz that makes you see the world of professional wrestling in a whole new light... or perhaps for the first time.

Lifelong wrestling fan and wrestler Macedonio Guerra finds himself working as a "jobber" – a wrestler paid to enter the ring and lose to bigger-name stars like the heralded Chad Deity. A chance meeting prompts Mace to push his life to its limits as he puts it all on the line – or, more precisely, on the mat.

Diaz's 2008 play captured critical attention and praise for the way it interweaves unspoken racism, politics and personal courage. Directed by Jeremy Aluma, Chance's production plays on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center from September 23 through October 23, and is executive produced by Sophie and Larry Cripe and associate produced by Laurie Smits Staude and Susan Bowman and Freddie Greenfield.

Chance Theater will also be associates on a production of "Sweat" in Los Angeles at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre, and co-producing a rolling world premiere of "Colonialism is Terrible, but Pho is Delicious" with Berkeley's Aurora Theatre Company.

Just after the arrival of the new year. Morgan Wixson Theatre will present a live semi-remount of Chance Theater's 2021 virtual Orange County premiere of Lynn Nottage's "**Sweat.**" Featuring the same director and cast as Chance's production, "Sweat" depicts a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, laughs, and secrets while working together on a factory floor. External forces then begin to chip away at their trust as they fight to stay true to themselves and each other.

Directed by Elina de Santos, this associate production with the Morgan-Wixson Theatre in Santa Monica runs January 21 through February 6.

Oanh Nguyen, Chance Theater's founding artistic director, will be taking the directorial helm of the world premiere of Dustin Chinn's "**Colonialism is Terrible, but Pho is Delicious,**" a dark comedy that uses a three-part vignette structure to span centuries, continents, and cultures.

This world premiere co-production with the Aurora Theatre Company will first run November 11 through December 11 at the Aurora's home space in Berkeley before traveling to Chance Theater's home base at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center in 2023.

Casey Long, the Chance's managing director, can be reached at 714-900-3284 or to schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding the theater's 2022 Season.

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.

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