

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

**Chance Theater proudly announces the return of its
Free Summer Theater Camp...
Teens Speak Up**

Junior High and High School students will find their voice and learn to speak up onstage this summer in the Chance’s award-winning program

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is proud to announce the return of its summer youth program, **Teens Speak Up**. Since 2006, **Teens Speak Up** has given junior high and high school students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and Chance Artists as they write, design, and perform their own original plays. Through this process, students will also grow concentration and awareness, emotional freedom and connection, and self-confidence. Chance Theater Resident Artist Darryl B. Hovis will guide students through a six-week program that begins workshops on June 17, and will culminate in **public performances on August 3rd (Grades 7-9) and August 4th (Grades 10-12)**.

“Speak Up - Take a ‘Chance’ has allowed me to express myself in an artistic manner and for once I felt like I had an artistic voice and it mattered. I felt like I was part of something great, positive, and important.” - Daphne R., grade 9

“In my opinion, the most valuable aspect of the workshops were collaborating with one another. Listening, speaking, and learning from unique students from different schools. Programs like this end rivalry, and prejudice throughout the district. Suddenly theater is not a competition, but a celebration

of arts, and reflection of human experiences. It was an honor to work with these students.”

- Amilcar, grade 11

"While there are many programs in this area that may provide an opportunity for teens to perform, what makes our program unique is the creative process of self-discovery empowering students to find their unique voice and talents," says Karen O'Hanlon, one of the Speak Up instructors. "By bringing students together from all over Orange county, Students have the opportunity to expand their point of view, make new friendships and broaden their perspective outside of their own experience"

Since its inception, hundreds of students have experienced the Speak Up program free of charge thanks to the generosity of donors. Aside from the many individual donations that have come in to support scholarships, major foundations that have supported this program have been **California Arts Council, Orange County Community Foundation, Miracle Foundation, Assistance League of Anaheim, Anaheim Hills Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim, Anaheim Arts Council, and California Humanities.**

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

Darryl B. Hovis is an actor, director, and designer, and is the TYA Producing Associate at Chance Theater. He earned his MA in Theatre Production at Central Washington University and studied acting at the Professional Conservatory at UCSD under Anna Shapiro (Steppenwolf) as well as South Coast Repertory under Karen Hensel. He is the co-founder and artistic director of the Culver City Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, where he developed an intensive arts program for high school students in theatre, film, music, and art, and has gone on to develop theatre programs at other Southern California high schools, as well as Theatre International at Leysin American School in Leysin, Switzerland. He has directed a multitude of productions, some of his favorites being *Therese Raquin* (Chance Theater), *Rent* and *The Threepenny Opera* (Samohi Theatre), *Machinal* and *Resurrecting Antigone* (UniTheatre), and *The Miracle Worker* and *Treehouses* (AVPA). He dedicates his work to God and to his wife, Angela, and three children, Dylan, Andrew, and Julia.

To schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding this production, please contact Shinshin Tsai at (888) 455-4212 or stsai@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 won 22 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.

Calendar Listing

WHAT: TEENS SPEAK UP

This six-week program focuses on empowering young artists by helping them to find their unique voice and talent. Through traditional ensemble-building techniques, improvisation, and playwriting exercises, students will be guided in the creation of an original play, fully produced on the Chance Theater’s Cripe Stage. Students from grades 7-12 will learn the basics of script analysis, objectives, actions, and character analysis, and apply this to their playwriting and acting with the goal of cultivating the ability to honestly listen and respond on stage while making dynamic choices. Through exercises, students will also grow their concentration and awareness, emotional freedom and connection, and self-confidence. This program will provide a safe place for students to be part of an ensemble giving a voice to their generation, creatively exploring storytelling and leaving with a strong acting foundation taught by professional Chance Artists. No matter where their curiosity and talent lies, the theater has an outlet for everyone.

Registration Deadline: June 3, 2024

Registration: www.ChanceTheater.com/Teens

SESSION 1: (grades 7-9)

Workshops: June 17 – July 26 (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Tech Week: July 29 – August 2 (Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Performances: Saturday, August 3 at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

SESSION 2: (grades 10-12)

Workshops: June 17 – July 26 (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 12:30 – 3:30 pm)

Tech Week: July 29 – August 2 (Monday-Friday 12:30 – 3:30 pm)

Performances: Sunday, August 4 at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

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

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

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