

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater launches our 2020 TYA Family Series with

A Wrinkle in Time

John Glore’s highly theatrical adaptation of the acclaimed 1962 novel for young adults takes us on an epic journey through time and space.

January 16, 2020 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, presents “A Wrinkle in Time,” kicking off the company’s TYA (Theater for Young Audiences) Family Series for its 2020 season. Playwright John Glore has created a wild, highly theatrical adaptation of Madeleine L’Engle’s acclaimed 1962 story about three teens who traverse the boundaries of time and space in search of a beloved parent, bringing it magically to life on the Chance’s Fyda-Mar Stage.

Directed by Darryl B. Hovis and James McHale, *A Wrinkle in Time* previews February 14 through 16, 2020, with regular performances running February 20 to March 1 on the Fyda-Mar Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center.

On the proverbial literary “dark and stormy night,” the eccentric Mrs. Whatsit arrives at the home of Meg Murry, a young teen who doesn’t fit in with her peers at her New England high school. Meg’s scientist father vanished more than two years ago under mysterious circumstances. Aided by Mrs. Whatsit and her friends, Meg, her gifted brother Charles Wallace, and her friend Calvin are transported through time and space on a mission to rescue Meg and Charles’ father from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet. Those familiar with the novel will find John Glore’s adaptation an absolute delight.

Chance Theater recommendation: *A Wrinkle in Time* is suitable for ages 4 and up – a great play for the entire family.

“A suspenseful, life-and-death drama that is of believable cosmic significance. Complex and rich in mystical religious insights, this is breathtaking entertainment.” – *School Library Journal*

“Madeleine L’Engle mixes classical theology, contemporary family life and futuristic science fiction to make a completely convincing tale.” – *The New York Times Book Review*

First published in 1962, the young adult novel ***A Wrinkle in Time*** won numerous awards for American author Madeleine L’Engle, including the Newberry Medal, the Sequoyah Book Award and the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, and was the runner-up for the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

The focal characters of *Wrinkle* are three teens – Meg Murry, Charles Wallace Murry, and Calvin O’Keefe – who embark upon a journey through space and time that takes them from one universe to another as they endeavor to save Meg and Charles’ father... and the entire planet Earth. The novel offers a glimpse into battles between the forces of good and evil as the young heroes mature from children to adolescents during the course of their journey. The novel wrestles with questions of spirituality and purpose as the characters are often thrown into conflicts of love, divinity and goodness. ***A Wrinkle in Time*** became the first of what is known as its author’s “*Time Quintet*,” a series of five novels that follow the characters of Meg, Charles and Calvin as they mature.

L’Engle modeled the Murry family on her own, and scholar Bernie E. Cullinan has noted that she created characters who “share common joy with a mixed fantasy and science-fiction setting, thus generating scientific and religious undertones that are highly reflected of L’Engle’s own life.

A Wrinkle in Time has inspired two film adaptations, both by Disney. The 2003 version, directed by John Kent Harrison, was created especially for television. The 2018 version is a theatrical motion picture directed by Ava DuVernay.

Time-wise, John Glore’s stage adaptation of the novel falls directly between the two, having premiered at South Coast Repertory in 2010. Glore wrote the play as an ensemble for a cast of six actors who portray the story’s 12 parts. While three actors portray the teen protagonists, one actor fulfills the roles of Mrs. Whatsit, The Man with Red Eyes, and Camazotz Man, while a second portrays Dr. Kate Murry, Mrs. Who, Mamazotz Woman, and Aunt Beast.

Following its Costa Mesa world premiere, Glore’s play received productions in Bethesda, Maryland; Cincinnati; Philadelphia; Orlando; and Portland, Oregon, among other cities. Chance Theater’s new staging is among the play’s first new productions in an Orange County theater since the play’s SCR debut nearly a decade ago.

The earliest stage adaptation of L’Engle’s novel was created by James Sie, getting its premiere at Lifeline Theatre in Chicago in 1990. It encored there in 1998 and again in 2017. Tracy Young created another stage adaptation at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in the spring of 2014, a show that then made the rounds at various college stages and small theater companies throughout the U.S.

Glore’s version, however, has garnered the most attention, and that’s the script Chance Theater patrons will have the opportunity to see.

“We are excited to bring Madeleine L’Engle’s ***A Wrinkle in Time*** to the stage” says the show’s director, Darryl Hovis, who also oversees the entire TYA Family Series at the Chance. “I feel this story about the importance of love, family and, most of all, self-acceptance, is one that needs to be heard again and again. It’s a reminder that love can conquer all. John Glore’s clever adaptation allows us to be creative in bringing this story to the intimate setting of the Fyda-Mar Stage.”

Co-Director James McHale continued, “The themes are perhaps even more relevant today as they were when Madeleine L’Engle’s novel was first published in 1962. This is a story about darkness and light, good versus evil, truth versus lies, and individuality and otherness versus conformity, where the key to winning the fight is not anger, but love.”

MEET THE TEAM

Madeleine L'Engle (author of source novel) was born in New York City in 1918, a versatile writer whose output included fiction (novels, children's books and short stories), non-fiction, poetry and young adult fiction. Her works reflect two powerful influences in her life: Her Christian faith and her strong interest in science. She is best known for the 1962 novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, which spawned four sequels: *A Wind in the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, *Many Waters*, and *An Acceptable Time*. She passed away in Connecticut in 2007 at the age of 88.

John Glore (adapter/playwright) is the associate artistic director of South Coast Repertory, an award-winning playwright whose work for young audiences includes his adaptation of *A Wrinkle in Time*, which has moved on to numerous productions nationwide since its debut at SCR in 2010; an adaptation of Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, which had its professional premiere at Coterie Theatre and has since had dozens of U.S. productions; and his newest, an adaptation of Laura Amy Schlitz's *The Night Fairy*, which has been produced at SCR and Imagination Stage in Washington, D.C. Other plays for young audiences: *Wind of a Thousand Tales*, *Folktales Too*, *Rhubarb Jam*, and *The Day After Evermore*.

Glore's plays for adult audiences include *On the Jump* (produced by SCR and Arena Stage in Washington D.C.); *The Company of Heaven*; *Preludes and Fugues*; and *City Sky* (a scenario for a dance piece). With the performance trio Culture Clash he has co-authored adaptations of two plays by Aristophanes, *The Birds* and *Peace*. His works have also been produced at Berkeley Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Round House Theatre, The Children's Theatre Company, First Stage, Childsplay, Oregon Children's Theatre, the Getty Villa, and many others. He received a 2000 Playwright Fellowship from the California Arts Council and has occasionally taught playwriting and related subjects at UCLA and Pomona College.

Darryl B. Hovis (director) earned his M.A. 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. Darryl 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 the disciplines of theater, film, music and art, and has gone on to develop theater programs at other Southern California high schools and for Theatre International at the Leysin American School in Leysin, Switzerland. Some of his favorite stage productions are *The Threepenny Opera* (Samohi Theatre), *Machinal and Resurrecting Antigone* (UniTheatre) and *The Miracle Worker* and *Treehouses* (AVPA). One of his earliest shows with Chance Theater was *Therese Raquin*, which led to a long and productive working relationship with the company. He has directed and sound-designed and worked as a producing associate on countless productions at Chance Theater stretching back to 2014 and has been involved with numerous shows created for the company's TYA Family Series, which Darryl runs, manages and directs – including "Alice in Wonderland," "The Legend(s) of Sleepy Hollow," "The Boy at the Edge of Everything" and "Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach."

James McHale (director) is a Resident Artist and Artistic Council Member of Chance Theater, where he recently directed *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. He has appeared most recently onstage at the Chance as John Dodge in the Southern California premiere of *Middletown* and as the titular character in *The Little Prince*. He came on board during Chance's 2013 production of *The Laramie Project/The Laramie Project 10 Years Later* and has been an integral company member since, appearing in *Dogfight*, *Samsara*, *Maple and Vine* and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. He recently played Hamlet in the repertory productions of *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at American Coast Theater Company, where his theater credits include *All My Sons* and the West Coast premiere of *The Hiding Place*.

James also works as a director and teaching artist, with recent directing credits that include the world premiere of *Comedy of ERRORS* (ACTC) and *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* (Chance Theater). He has taught and directed for local

middle schools, Musical Theater Playground, and for Chance Theater's Speak Up youth program. He received his B.A. in Theater Arts Performance from CSU Long Beach and has studied with Michael Chekhov Association and The Actor's Center (NYC).

Joining directors Hovis and McHale on the production team are scenic designer **Megan Hill**, costume designer **Adrianna Lambarri**, lighting designer **Chris Henrriquez**, sound designer **Hunter Moody**, Ovation Award-winning projection designer **Nick Santiago**, and stage manager **Randi Salang**.

The cast for *A Wrinkle in Time* includes returning Chance artists **Christopher Diem** (*James and The Giant Peach*) as Charles Wallace, **Lola Kelly** (*Elevada*) as Mrs. Who, **Jeff Lowe** (*Emma, The Musical*) as Father, and **Matt Takahashi** (*A Charlie Brown Christmas*) as Mrs. Whatsit. Making their Chance Theater debuts with this production are **Alyssa Corella** as Meg and **Shane Weikel** as Calvin.

The Executive Producer for this production is Elizabeth Jones, and Bette & Wylie Aitken are the Season Producers for the entire 2020 Season.

To schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding this production, please contact Casey Long, the Chance's managing director, at 714-900-3284 or 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 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, Orange County Theatre Guild, and LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: A Wrinkle in Time

One dark and stormy night, the eccentric Mrs. Whatsit arrives at the home of Meg Murry, a young teen who doesn't fit in at her New England high school. Meg's scientist Father vanished over two years ago, under mysterious circumstances. Aided by Mrs. Whatsit and her friends, Meg, her gifted brother Charles Wallace, and her friend Calvin are transported through time and space on a mission to rescue their Father from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet. John Glore's delightful, wildly theatrical adaptation brings Madeleine L'Engle's acclaimed story magically to life.

Recommendation: Ages 8 and up. A great show for the entire family.

WHEN:

Preview Performances:

Feb. 14 - 16, 2020

Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturday at 5 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m.

Regular performances:

Feb. 20 - Mar. 1, 2020

Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS PERSONNEL are encouraged to attend:

Opening Performance on Thursday, February 20th at 7 p.m.

WHERE:

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

TICKETS: \$24.00 - \$30.00.

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

Discounts available for children (ages 4-12)

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