

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

# Orange County premiere of *Sweat*

**The virtual production of this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Lynn Nottage is the second show in Chance Theater's 23rd Anniversary Season.**

**ANAHEIM, CA:** Chance Theater is excited to announce that the Orange County premiere of Lynn Nottage's acclaimed play, *Sweat* will be the second show in its 23rd Anniversary Season. The Pulitzer Prize winner is directed by Elina de Santos (*Seminar*). The show will have scheduled virtual performances from June 20 - July 18, 2021. This production is presented in association with The Morgan-Wixson Theatre.

Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, Lynn Nottage's *Sweat* tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets, and laughs while working together on the factory floor. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other in a heart-wrenching fight to stay true to themselves and each other. Please note, this show contains adult language and subject material.

Lynn Nottage began working on the play in 2011 by interviewing numerous residents of Reading, Pennsylvania, one of the poorest cities in America with a poverty rate of over 40%. She explored the effects on residents due to the loss of heavy industry and the changing ethnic composition of the city. *Sweat* was first performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2015 before playing at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. later that year. *Sweat* opened Off-Broadway at The Public Theater on November 3, 2016. This production closed six weeks later in order to transfer to Broadway. The production opened on Broadway at Studio 54 on March 26, 2017. The production was lauded by critics and audiences alike. Some of the honors include:

WINNER of 2017 Pulitzer Prize

WINNER of Obie Award: Playwrighting

WINNER of Evening Standard Award: Best Play

NOMINATED for 3 Tony Awards, including Best Play

NOMINATED for Drama Desk Award: Outstanding Play

NOMINATED for Laurence Olivier Award: Best New Play

“a superb, vital contribution to contemporary drama that could not be more timely... Keenly observed and often surprisingly funny—but ultimately heartbreaking—the work traces the roots of a tragedy with both forensic psychological detail and embracing compassion. Ms. Nottage...is writing at the peak of her powers” -- *New York Times*

“passionate and necessary...a masterful depiction of the forces that divide and conquer us. Along with the rage, despair and violence, there’s humor and abundant humanity” -- *Time Out NY*

Chance Theater’s production team includes director Elina de Santos, projection designer Nick Santiago, costume designer Adrianna Lambarri, lighting designer Masako Tobaru, sound designer & fight coordinator Marc Antonio Pritchett, specialty makeup artist Bebe Herrera, sound supervisor Ryan Brodtkin, video editor James Tran, and stage manager Niko Montelibano.

The production will star Cary J. Thompson as Brucie, Dalia Vosylius as Tracey, Darrin Hickok as Jason, Elijah Rashad Reed as Chris, Jozben Barrett as Evan, Marlene Galán as Jessie, Rey Pulice as Oscar, Scott Sheldon as Stan, and Estelle as Cynthia.

Any questions can be directed to (888) 455-4212, or by sending an email to [info@chancetheater.com](mailto:info@chancetheater.com).

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## 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 won seven other 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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## CALENDAR LISTING

### WHAT: **Sweat**

Chance Theater is proud to present the Orange County premiere of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, *Sweat*. Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, this acclaimed play tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets, and laughs while working together on the factory floor. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other in a heart-wrenching fight to stay true to themselves and each other.

*Please note: This show contains adult language and subject material.*

### VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

WHEN: June 20 - July 18, 2021, Fri/Sat 7:00 p.m. PDT; Sun 2:00 p.m. PDT

TICKETS: \$20-\$39

MORE INFO: [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com) or call (888) 455-4212

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