

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly announces the return of its summer youth program...

Teens Speak Up

**Junior high and high school students need to apply by June 3rd
to participate in this signature summer youth program**

April 17, 2019 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is proud to announce the return of its summer youth program, **Teens Speak Up**. Now in its 16th summer, **Teens Speak Up** gives local junior high and high school students the opportunity to connect with their peers and Chance Artists as they write, design, and perform their own original play. Through this process, students will also grow concentration and awareness, emotional freedom and connection, and self-confidence. Chance Theater Resident Artists Darryl B. Hovis and Education Director, Karen O'Hanlon will guide students through the six-week program, which begins on **June 17, 2019** and culminate in **four public performances on July 27 and 28 at 11:00am and 7:00pm**.

"Speak Up - Take a 'Chance' has allowed me to express myself in an artistic manner and for once I felt like I had a 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

"**Speak Up** is different from a lot of other programs being offered in that it gives students an opportunity to take ownership of the entire show, from conception to production," said Darryl Hovis, a **Speak Up** instructor. "It really immerses them in the entire theatrical process from start to finish. This gives them a greater degree of ownership as individuals and as a collective. Since the show is created collaboratively through devised theater methods, they work as a community to create a work that addresses their concerns and validates them as an important part of that community, and the greater community as a whole. It helps them find their voice as artists, and, more importantly, as people."

Since its inception, hundreds of students have experienced the **Speak Up** program free of charge thanks to the generosity of donors. Major support for this program has been provided by Assistance League of Anaheim, Anaheim Hills Rotary, Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim, California Humanities, and the Orange County Community Foundation.

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.

Karen O’Hanlon, a Philadelphia area native, is Chance Theater’s Education Director and a proud resident artist. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from East Stroudsburg University and has worked as a teaching artist, actress, and director throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Delaware. At the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey, she spent several years teaching and directing for the First Stage program, as well as their in-school residency program. Karen was the regional director for Creative Theatre, where she worked to bring after-school and summer camps to children throughout the east coast. In addition, she has worked with several outreach programs designed to help at-risk youths and teens find their voice through creative expression. In California, Karen taught Theatre at Fairmont Private School, where she produced student-driven new work. Karen is also a coach and judge for the Orange County middle school debate program.

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 has won six Ovation Awards, including two for Best Production of a Musical – Intimate Theater for its 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.

MORE INFORMATION

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 Fyda-Mar 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.

WORKSHOPS: June 17 - July 19, 2019

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Grades 7-9): 9:00am - 12:00pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Grades 10-12): 12:30pm - 3:30pm

REHEARSALS: July 22 - 26, 2019

Monday - Friday (all grades): 9:00am - 3:30pm

PERFORMANCES: July 27 & 28, 2019

Saturday - Sunday: 11:00am and 7:00pm

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

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