

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly presents the West Coast premiere of

The Vandal

Hamish Linklater's spooky comedy is the final show in our 21st Anniversary Season!

August 14, 2019 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is delighted to present Hamish Linklater's eerie drama-comedy, ***The Vandal***. Written by Hamish Linklater and directed by Kari Hayter, ***The Vandal* will preview from September 20th through September 27th; with regular performances beginning September 28th and continuing through October 20th on the Fyda-Mar Stage at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center.**

Two strangers are waiting for the bus on a cold road at night... next to a cemetery. The bus is late. The woman's coat is too thin. And this fast-talking teenager waiting at the same bus stop won't leave her alone. He works hard to get her to talk to him, using everything from philosophical riffs to brash seduction. Just around the corner is a liquor store, whose owner is waiting for a special delivery. All three people have no idea what this fateful night holds in store... and that it may provide the answers they've all been looking for. Hamish Linklater's funny and spooky debut play goes on a twisty journey exploring the important topics of life, death, and Doritos.

Recommended for ages 13 and up. Contains frequent use of adult language.

"Tart, often friskily funny dialogue. All three characters are effectively drawn with sharp contours... [Their] antagonism gives way to a growing sense of camaraderie in their mutual acceptance of life's sadness, and the long, inescapable shadow of mortality"

– *New York Times*

"Wistful... It's about the unbreakable bond between life and death and the little pleasures and huge hurts along the way... Linklater could take the narrative anywhere. He leads it to the *Twilight Zone*" – *New York Daily News*

Hamish Linklater is best known by the general public as a film and television actor, having appeared in the Oscar-nominated *The Big Short*, and television shows like *Fargo* and *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. However, Linklater is a veteran of the stage, having appeared on Broadway in the original cast of *Seminar*, alongside Alan Rickman, and locally in South Coast Repertory's production of *Hamlet*. Linklater made his first foray into playwriting with ***The***

Vandal, which premiered in 2013 at the Flea Theater in New York. The play was met with critical and audience praise upon release.

“What excites me about this play is the element of surprise. I love the reminder that we must always be open to the unexpected and to what we cannot control,” says director **Kari Hayter**. “*The Vandal* takes you on a wild ride that is similar to an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. It explores the struggles of the human experience as it questions reality and one’s perception of reality as we negotiate through life’s challenges and the power of loneliness. *The Vandal* is smart and honest about the complicated connections and questions that humans face every day.”

MEET THE TEAM

Hamish Linklater (Playwright) Theater acting credits include Broadway: *Seminar*. Off-Broadway: *The School for Lies* (Classic Stage Company, Obie); *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Winter’s Tale*, *Twelfth Night* (Drama Desk nomination), *Hamlet*, *The Square* (NYSF/Public); *The Busy World is Hushed* (Drama League nomination), *Recent Tragic Events* (Playwrights Horizons); *Good Thing* (New Group); *Cyclone* (Studio Dante); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Love’s Fire* (Acting Company). Regional: *Hamlet*, *The Violet Hour* (South Coast Rep.); *Hamlet* (CT Critics Circle Award), *Singing Forest* (Long Wharf); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Measure For Measure* (Ahmanson, Paul Green Foundation Award). On television, Hamish has appeared in *5 Days to Midnight* and *Live From Baghdad*, as well as *The Good Wife*, *The Newsroom*, *The Big C*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, and *The Crazy Ones*. Films include *42*, *The Angriest Man in Brooklyn*, *Lola Versus*, *Battleship*, *The Future* (Berlin and Sundance Film Festivals), and *Groove* (Sundance Film Festival).

Kari Hayter (Director) Prior Chance Theater credits include the Ovation Award nominees for Best Musical *Parade* and *Lysistrata Jones*, as well as *Hairspray* and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Ovation Recommended, *LA Times* Critics’ Pick). Some of Kari’s favorite directing projects include *Urinetown the Musical* (Coourage Theatre: Ovation, *Stage Raw* and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nomination for Direction), *Rock of Ages* (Summer Repertory Theatre), *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (CSUF), the one-man show adaptation of *Judevine* (Vine Theatre, San Diego), and the award-winning remount of *365 Days*, a historical account of medics and their patients during Vietnam. Most recently, Kari directed *The Laramie Project* at Citrus College, *In the Heights* and *Edges* at California State University Northridge, and assistant directed *Once* at South Coast Repertory.

Joining Hayter on the production team for ***The Vandal*** are returning Chance artists scenic designer **Joe Holbrook** (*The Big Meal*), lighting designer **Nick Van Houten** (*Violet*), sound designer **Cricket S. Myers** (*The Other Place*), costume designer **Elizabeth Cox** (*Violet*), stage manager **Jazmin Pollinger** (*Elevada*), and resident artist **Karen O’Hanlon** is the Assistant Director. They are joined by dramaturg **Morgan Green**, who is making her Chance debut with this production.

Starring in ***The Vandal*** are resident artist Robert Foran (*Good People*) as Man and returning Chance artists Amanda Zarr (*Good People*) as Woman, and Sam Bullington (*Skylight*) as Boy.

The Executive Producers for this production are Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller. Bette & Wylie Aitken are the Season Producers and for the entire 2019 Season.

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.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: **The Vandal**

Two strangers are waiting for the bus on a cold road at night... next to a cemetery. The bus is late. The woman’s coat is too thin. And this fast-talking teenager waiting at the same bus stop won’t leave her alone. He works hard to get her to talk to him, using everything from philosophical riffs to brash seduction. Just around the corner is a liquor store, whose owner is waiting for a special delivery. All three people have no idea what this fateful night holds in store... and that it may provide the answers they’ve all been looking for. Hamish Linklater’s funny and spooky debut play goes on a twisty journey exploring the important topics of life, death, and Doritos.

Recommendation: Ages 13 and up. Contains frequent use of adult language.

WHEN:

Preview Performances: Sept. 20-27, 2019

Fridays at 8pm; Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 7pm

Regular Performances: Sept 28-Oct 20, 2019

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 3pm

Special Thursday performance on October 3 at 7:30pm

Special Saturday matinee performances on Oct. 12th and 19th at 3pm

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend:

Press Performance on Friday, September 27 at 8:00pm

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

TICKETS: \$20.00 - \$39.00. Call (888) 455-4212 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

Discounts available for children (ages 4-12), seniors, students, and military.

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