

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

OC Premiere of Dael Orlandersmith's *Yellowman*

This 2002 Pulitzer Prize Finalist tells a forbidden love story about two people being kept apart by the biases we inherit from our community and family

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater is excited to announce that the Orange County premiere of Dael Orlandersmith's *Yellowman* will be the fourth show in our 23rd Anniversary Season. The drama will be directed by Khanisha Foster and perform September 24 - October 24, 2021 on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts center in Anaheim.

A celebration of language and the human spirit, *Yellowman* is an exquisite and provocative exploration of the challenges of overcoming racism, class, biases, and prejudices inherited both from community and family. Alma, a dark-skinned African-American woman, and her childhood friend Eugene, a light-skinned African-American man, have been life-long friends — yet when their friendship turns to love, will they find that some obstacles are just insurmountable? Please note that this show contains adult language and subject material.

This searing script has received acclaim from multiple productions across the country. Some highlights include:

“A landmark in theater history... Enthralling... Mind-altering.” -- *The New York Times*

“Both a celebration of young love and a harrowing study of smoldering domestic violence, the play is both heartwarming and ultimately heartbreaking.” – *Variety*

“It’s a play worth standing for.” – *Star-Ledger*

“This is a wonderful play.” – *CurtainUp*

“One of the most gripping, instructive, transforming hours in contemporary theater.” -- *The Times*

The play was a Finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Drama in a year of all female playwright nominees (Suzan Lori-Parks took home the award that year for *Topdog/Underdog*). Orlandersmith won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize in 2003. The Wilma Theatre production of *Yellowman* won Philadelphia Barrymore Awards for Outstanding New Play, with Orlandersmith winning Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play. *Yellowman* also received three Drama Desk Award nominations for Outstanding Play, Outstanding Actress in a Play (Orlandersmith), and Outstanding Lighting Design (Russell H. Champa).

“I live to watch people fall in love, and at the center of everything this is a love story,” says *Yellowman* director Khanisha Foster, who was previously a Fox Fellow at Chance Theater from 2017-2018. “Childhood love, off limits love, family love, self-love, and the cravings we feel that only a single person walking this earth can fill.”

Joining Foster on the design team are scenic designer Kristin Campbell, lighting designer Andrea Heilman, costume designer Wendell C. Carmichael, sound designer Darryl B. Hovis, and stage manager Bebe Herrera. Both stars of *Yellowman* are making their Chance debut with this production -- Julianne Chidi Hill as Alma and Dante Alexander as Eugene.

Chance Theater’s COVID-19 policy requires General Performance ticket holders to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. Those who are under the age of 12 -- and anyone without proof of being fully vaccinated -- must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours (3 days) prior to entering the theater. Masks are required at all times for all patrons and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted. Get the most up to date information about Chance Theater’s health and safety protocols at www.ChanceTheater.com/safety.

For those who are more cautious, we are also offering a select number of “Vaccinated+ Performances.” Unlike General Performances, Vaccinated+ Performances will not accept proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test and there will be minimal socially distanced seating between parties.

Any questions can be directed to (888) 455-4212, or by sending an email to info@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 recently won the Ovation Award for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre) for the intimate revival of *Fun Home*. Previously, Chance Theater 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 and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: **Yellowman**

The Pulitzer Prize Finalist “Yellowman” makes its Orange County premiere this Fall at Chance Theater. A celebration of language and the human spirit, “Yellowman” is an exquisite and provocative exploration of the challenges of overcoming racism, class, biases, and prejudices inherited both from community and family.

Alma, a dark-skinned African-American woman, and her childhood friend Eugene, a light-skinned African-American man, have been life-long friends — yet when their friendship turns to love, will they find that some obstacles are just insurmountable?

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

WHEN:

Preview Performances: September 24 - October 1, 2021. Fri at 8 p.m., Sun at 7 p.m., Thu at 7:30 p.m.

Regular performances: October 2 - 24, 2021

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.

Special Wednesday, October 6th performance at 7:30 p.m.

** All audience members will be required to provide proof of being fully vaccinated or a negative PCR COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to the performance. All audience members will be required to wear a face-covering.*

Vaccinated+ Performances: Sunday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 p.m.; Friday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m.

** Proof of vaccination, photo ID, and a face-covering are required for “Vaccinated+ Performances”*

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS PERSONNEL are encouraged to attend:

Opening Performance on Saturday, October 2 at 8:00 p.m.

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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