

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

**Due to overwhelming demand, two performances have been added for**  
***The Big Meal***

**This Southern California premiere almost sold out before its official opening this Saturday on the Fyda-Mar Stage at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center**



April 28, 2016 ... Anaheim, California ... Anaheim's official resident theater company, Chance Theater is pleased to announce that it has added two performances of its Southern California premiere production of *The Big Meal*. Written by Orange County native Dan LeFranc, and directed by Associate Artistic Director Jocelyn A. Brown, *The Big Meal* started previews last weekend and will continue through May 22 on the Fyda-Mar Stage at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center.

After just three preview performances, Chance Theater staff was excited to see that there were only 40 tickets left for *The Big Meal* during the remainder of its five-week run. After confirming availability with the cast and crew, the Chance is thrilled to give audiences two more opportunities to see this extraordinary story of an ordinary family.

## About the show

In this hilarious and poignant Southern California premiere, you are invited on a time-bending odyssey of birth, death, divorce and dinner. When a man meets a young waitress in a local diner, neither of them knows the nearly 80 years of history that will follow. Filled with those little moments that you will recognize from your own life, we dare you not to fall in love with this stunning, big-hearted play that tells the extraordinary story of an ordinary family.

"A life-in-overdrive comic drama." – *The New York Times*

"Intimate and exhilarating." —*The New Yorker*

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In addition to director Jocelyn Brown, the production team for ***The Big Meal*** includes scenic designer Joe Holbrook (*Maple & Vine*, *ROOMS: a rock romance*), sound designer Dave Mickey (*Overlooked*, *Sunday in the Park with George*), lighting designer Martha Carter (*After The Revolution*), costume designer Rachael Lorenzetti (*Loch Ness, a new musical*), dramaturg Laurie Smits Staude, and stage manager Bebe Herrera (*Anne of Green Gables*).

The cast for ***The Big Meal*** includes resident artists Karen Webster (*After The Revolution*), Jennifer Ruckman (*Samsara*), and Robert Foran (*After The Revolution*), as well as returning Chance artists David Carl Golbeck (*After the Revolution*), Angela Griswold (*Anne of Green Gables*), Ben Green (*Jesus Hates Me*), Abby Lutes (*Anne of Green Gables*), and Kelly Ehlert (*Maple and Vine*). Dylan Barton will be making his Chance debut with this production.

Scott and Sandra Graham are the Executive Producers for ***The Big Meal***. This is their third time as producers for the Chance, having previously been producers on last season's *The Dragon Play* and 2014's *Maple and Vine*. Producers for Chance's 2016 Season are Bette and Wylie Aitken.

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](mailto:casey@chancetheater.com).

## ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has won five Ovation Awards (including two for Best Production of a Musical--Intimate Theater for *Triassic Park -- The Musical* and *Jerry Springer: The Opera*). The Chance also received an LADCC Award for its reimagined revival of *West Side Story*. The Anaheim City Council recently named Chance Theater "the official resident theater company of Anaheim". Twice named "Outstanding Arts Organization" by Arts Orange County, Chance Theater is also a recipient of the LADCC's Polly Warfield Award for Excellence. Founded in 1999, Chance Theater is focused on its goal of being Orange County's premiere mid-size contemporary theater by contributing to a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, Network of Ensemble Theaters, and the LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

(more)

## CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: ***The Big Meal***

You are invited on a time-bending odyssey of birth, death, divorce and dinner. When a man meets a young waitress in a local diner, neither of them knows the nearly 80 years of history that will follow. Filled with those little moments that you will recognize from your own life, we dare you not to fall in love with this stunning, big-hearted play that tells the extraordinary story of an ordinary family.

*Note: This show contains some strong language.*

WHEN: **Preview Performances:** Thursday, April 21 – Thursday, April 28

Thursdays at 7:30pm

Saturday at 8pm

Sunday at 7pm

**Regular Performances**

Saturday, April 30 – Sunday, May 22

Thursdays at 7:30pm

Saturdays at 8pm

Sundays at 3pm

Special performance on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30pm

**ADDED PERFORMANCES – Fridays, May 6 & 13 at 8pm**

**REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend:**

Opening Night on Saturday, April 30 at 8pm

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

TICKETS: \$25.00 - \$35.00. Call (714) 777-3033 or visit [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com).

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