

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES PROJECTS FOR 2021 DNA NEW WORK SERIES

**New Works by Francisca Da Silveira, Noah Diaz,
Lisa Sanaye Dring and Andrew Rosendorf to Receive Readings
During Popular Play Development Series**

LA JOLLA, CA — La Jolla Playhouse is pleased to announce the four projects in its **2021 DNA New Works Series**: *SUMO*, by **Lisa Sanaye Dring**, directed by **Ralph B. Peña**, on July 22 and 24 at 7:30pm; *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*, a Playhouse commission by **Noah Diaz**, directed by **Kat Yen**, on July 23 at 7:30pm and July 25 at 2:00pm; *not-for-profit (or the equity, diversity and inclusion play)*, by **Francisca Da Silveira**, directed by **Reginald L. Douglas**, on July 29 and 31 at 7:30pm; and *One-Shot*, by **Andrew Rosendorf**, directed by **Chip Miller**, on July 30 at 7:30pm and August 1 at 2:00pm. All readings will take place at the Playhouse. Tickets are free; reservations are required.

The Playhouse's **DNA New Work Series** offers playwrights and directors the opportunity to develop a script by providing rehearsal time, space and resources, culminating in public readings. This process gives audiences a closer look at the play development process, while allowing the Playhouse to develop work and foster relationships with both established and up-and-coming playwrights.

"DNA serves as a vital pipeline for new work – on our stages and beyond, as well as a hotbed for fostering new artist relationships. Over the years, it has become one of the Playhouse's most popular programs; in fact, this year we've expanded the series to offer two readings of each work. Patrons relish the opportunity to take part in the birth of these new works, while giving playwrights invaluable support and feedback in the early stages of their piece's development," said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse.

The DNA New Work Series has been a launching pad for numerous projects that have gone on to full productions in future Playhouse seasons, including Pulitzer Prize winner Ayad Akhtar's *The Who & The What*; *Chasing the Song*, by the Tony Award-winning team of Joe DiPietro and David Bryan (*Memphis, Diana*); Michael Benjamin Washington's *Blueprints to Freedom*; UC San Diego MFA graduate Jeff Augustin's *The Last Tiger in Haiti*; *Miss You Like Hell*, by Pulitzer Prize winner Quiara Alegria Hudes and Erin McKeown; *Kill Local*, by UC San Diego MFA graduate Mat Smart; *What Happens Next*, by UC San Diego MFA graduate and faculty member Naomi Iizuka; Melissa Ross' *The Luckiest* and Keith Bunin's *The Coast Starlight*.

The 2021 DNA New Work Series is made possible in part by the Sheri L. Jamieson New Work Development Fund, as well as co-sponsors Linda Chester and Dr. Kenneth Rind, The Jendy Dennis Endowment Fund of the JCF, Bill and Judy Garrett, Kay and Bill Gurtin, Dwight Hare and Stephanie Bergsma, The Perlmeter Family Foundation, Robin and Larry Rusinko, Peggy Ann Wallace and in loving memory of Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Friedman.

– more –

All DNA New Work Series projects take place with no scenic, costume or staging elements, and actors have scripts in hand. The creative teams will be available for interviews for feature coverage; however, in order to preserve the developmental nature of the program, DNA New Work Series presentations are not open to review.

The health and safety of all La Jolla Playhouse patrons, staff and artists is the top priority as live events resume. For all in-person activities, the Playhouse will follow COVID-19 guidelines and strategies provided by UC San Diego, San Diego County, California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Theatre will continue to monitor government and university guidelines for COVID-19 and will keep patrons updated on all safety protocols. For up-to-date information on the Playhouse's COVID-19 safety plans, visit lajollaplayhouse.org/plan-your-visit.

DNA New Work Series Projects

SUMO

By Lisa Sanaye Dring

Directed by Ralph B. Peña

Thursday 7/22 and Saturday 7/24 at 7:30pm

Entrenched in a training facility for sumo wrestlers, six men practice, eat, love, play and ultimately fight. Mixing ancient, divine ritual with the guttural ferocity of competition, they struggle to carve themselves – and one another – into the men they dream of being. *SUMO* is a story about the pursuit of the impossible.

All the Men Who've Frightened Me

La Jolla Playhouse commission

By Noah Diaz

Directed by Kat Yen

Friday 7/23 at 7:30pm and Sunday 7/25 at 2:00pm

When Ty's wife learns that she can't conceive a child, he makes the impulsive decision to work his way off his testosterone and carry the baby himself. But when men from Ty's past inexplicably begin appearing in the rooms of their new house, the would-be father and mother's preparations for parenthood begin to collapse.

not-for-profit (or the equity, diversity and inclusion play)

By Francisca Da Silveira

Directed by Reginald L. Douglas

Thursday 7/29 and Saturday 7/31 at 7:30pm

Nadine and her fellow junior staffers at RiseUP, an education nonprofit, just want to do right by the community they serve — even though they're overworked, underpaid and have to deal with out-of-touch board members, microaggressive co-workers and unqualified consultants. But in the face of a sudden scandal, RiseUP might be brought down by even the most well-intentioned of workers.

One-Shot

By Andrew Rosendorf

Directed by Chip Miller

Friday 7/30 at 7:30pm and Sunday 8/1 at 2:00pm

It's 1999. Ellen has already come out on her TV show. Jack's about to do the same on *Dawson's Creek*. And David and Martin – two young video store employees, film buffs and best friends – are waiting to hear about a film scholarship to NYU that could change the trajectory of their lives. An exploration of privilege, identity and the ever-present celluloid closet, *One-Shot* examines who gets the space to tell what stories.

– more –

Artist Biographies

Francisca Da Silveira (Playwright, *not-for-profit*) is a Cape Verdean-American playwright and Boston native who holds a BFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and an MSc in Playwriting from the University of Edinburgh. In 2018, Fran made ArtsBoston's list of "10 Contemporary Black Playwrights You Should Know." More recently, she was featured in the Los Angeles Times' timely and deeply affecting piece, "40 Black playwrights on the theater industry's insidious racism." She is an Affiliated Artist with the National New Play Network, a Company One Theatre Surge Lab Writer, a 2020-2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow, a member of The Public Theater's 2020-2022 Emerging Writers Group and a Colt Coeur Commissioned Artist. frandasilveira.com

Noah Diaz (Playwright, *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*) is a playwright and television writer from the Iowa/Nebraska border. His plays have been developed with Roundabout Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Two River Theater, The Sol Project, First Floor Theater and The Playwrights Realm, where he is the current Page One Resident Playwright. He is a recipient of the ASCAP Cole Porter Prize for Excellence in Playwriting, a five-time recipient of playwriting awards from the Kennedy Center, and is currently under commission from La Jolla Playhouse, Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan, The Great Plains Theatre Commons, Baltimore Center Stage and Audible/Amazon Studios. For television he has written on *Joe Exotic* (NBC, USA and Peacock) and *Vampire Academy* (Peacock), and is developing projects for Eva Longoria's UnbeliEVable Entertainment, AMC and Hulu. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

Reginald L. Douglas (Director, *non-for-profit*) is a director, producer and advocate dedicated to creating new work and supporting new voices, and the Associate Artistic Director of Studio Theatre in Washington, DC. He has directed work at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Everyman, TheaterWorks Hartford, CATF, Audible, Weston Playhouse, Pittsburgh CLO, Arizona Theatre Company, TheatreSquared, Ford's Theatre, Playwrights' Center, Profile Theatre, Playwrights Realm, Kennedy Center, Cape Cod Theater Project, B Street, McCarter, Florida Rep, Barrington Stage, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Cygnet Theatre, Third Rail, Luna Stage, Harlem Stage, Negro Ensemble Company, wild project, Drama League, The Lark (where he was the inaugural Van Lier Directing Fellow), New York Theatre Workshop (where he was an inaugural 2050 Directing Fellow) and City Theatre, where he served as the Artistic Producer from 2015-2020. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the National New Play Network and was the 2020 recipient of the National Theatre Conference's Emerging Professional Award. www.reginalddouglas.com.

Lisa Sanaye Dring (Playwright, *SUMO*) was honored as a recipient of the 2020/21 PLAY LA Stage Raw/Humanitas Prize. *The Wicked One* was a finalist for the Relentless Award, a finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a finalist for the Seven Devils Playwrights Conference and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwrights Conference. *Kaidan Project: Walls Grow Thin*, a play she co-wrote with Chelsea Sutton, was nominated for eight Ovation Awards including Best Production (winner of five). She is writing *Kaidan Project: Alone*, an augmented reality experience, with the same team, which will be coming this fall. Lisa's work has been developed/ produced by The New Group, Actors Theatre of Louisville, East West Players, Circle X, SCF @ Son of Semele, Playwrights' Arena, Rogue Artists Ensemble, The Motor Company, Theatre of NOTE and with the DCA's Reimagine Public Art Series. She recently served as the head writer on *Welcome to the Blumhouse Live*, an interactive film event for Blumhouse/Amazon Prime by Little Cinema. Lisa was a member of East West Players' Playwrights Group and is a MacDowell and Yaddo Fellow.

– more –

Chip Miller (Director, *One-Shot*) is a director and producer, currently in the role of Associate Artistic Director at Portland Center Stage at the Armory. They were previously the Artistic Associate/Resident Director at Kansas City Repertory Theatre. Directing: *Hedwig & The Angry Inch* and the world premiere of *Redwood* (Portland Center Stage at the Armory); *Journeys to Justice* (Portland Opera); *School Girls; or, The African Mean Girls Play*, *Welcome to Fear City*, *Sex with Strangers*, *A Raisin in the Sun* (KCRep); the world premiere of *Becoming Martin* by Kevin Willmott (The Coterie); *dwb: driving while black* (Lawrence Arts Center, Baruch Performing Arts Center); *4:48 Psychosis* (The Buffalo Room). Chip has developed work with playwrights including Kevin Willmott, Kara Lee Corthron, Brittany K. Allen, Catherine Trieschmann, Darren Canady, Andrew Rosendorf, Susan Kander & Roberta Gumbel, Michelle T. Johnson and Michael Finke. They have developed work at The William Inge Theatre Festival, NYU's New Plays for Young Audiences, Portland Center Stage's JAW Festival, The Midwest Dramatists Center, KCRep's OriginKC New Works Festival, The Living Room Theatre and Musical Theatre Heritage. BFA: New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.

Ralph B. Peña (Director, *SUMO*) Recent Off Broadway directing credits include *The Wong Kids*, *Microcrisis*, *Among The Dead*, *The Chinese Lady*, *Felix Starro* and the short film *Vancouver*. His work has been seen on the stages of The Public Theater, Long Wharf Theater, Laguna Playhouse, Victory Gardens, LaMama ETC, The Children's Theater Company and Vineyard Theater, among others. Ralph is Ma-Yi Theater Company's Artistic Director, and has been instrumental in establishing Ma-Yi Theater as the country's leading incubator of new works by Asian American playwrights, reaping numerous Obie and Drama Desk Awards, a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical (*KPOP*) and the 2018 Ross Wetzsteon Obie Award.

Andrew Rosendorf's (Playwright, *One-Shot*) work has been produced or developed at La Jolla Playhouse, MCC, KCRep, Signature Theatre, the National New Play Network, American Theater Company, Nashville Rep, City Theatre, Geva Theatre, Actor's Express and Curious Theatre Company. He is an alum of NNPN's Playwright-in-Residence program, the Ingram New Works program, terraNOVA Collective's Groundbreakers Playwrights Group, and has been a SPACE on Ryder Farm, Tofte Lake Center, VCCA and MacDowell fellow. He was a previous McKnight and Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center. He's currently a Core Writer at the Playwrights' Center and an Associate Artist with Local Theater Company.

Kat Yen (Director, *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*) is a Taiwanese-American theatre artist who has directed at Ars Nova, Cherry Lane, Alvin Ailey Theater, EST, Bushwick Starr, JACK, New Ohio, INTAR, Harvard/A.R.T., The Flea, HERE Arts, Yangtze Repertory Theatre and New Georges, amongst others. Recent productions include *Two Mile Hollow*, *Fade*, *Othello*, *Mr. Burns A Post-Apocalyptic Play* and *References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot*. She is an alumnus of Lincoln Center Directors Lab, a former Resident Director at The Flea Theater, the 2016-2017 Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage and the former Co-Artistic Director of Spookfish Theatre Company. She is also a teaching artist at Stella Adler and LAByrinth Theater company. MFA Directing: Yale School of Drama. www.katyen.com @katkoral

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 105 world premieres, commissioning 60 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

#