



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak, Charles Zukow Associates | 415.296.0677 | kevink@charleszukow.com

“A musical that deals with mutating identity and time warps becomes one of the most mutated, time-warped phenomena in show business” —*The New York Times*

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES
FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR
RICHARD O’BRIEN’S *THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW*

Directed by Tony Award–nominated director-choreographer Sam Pinkleton,
The Rocky Horror Show will feature an all-local cast of performers

A.C.T.to present a host of pre- and post-show festivities and activities in conjunction with *The Rocky Horror Show* that will engage the San Francisco Bay Area community

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater
April 23–May 17, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO (March 5, 2020)—**Tony Award winner and American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** announced today the full cast and creative team for Richard O’Brien’s *The Rocky Horror Show*. On a dark and stormy night, Brad and Janet get a flat tire . . . So begins the party at the Geary Theater. Tony Award–nominated director-choreographer **Sam Pinkleton** (*Soft Power* and *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) reimagines this swirling, sci-fi world for 2020 San Francisco. Before this cross-dressing classic was ever a midnight movie at the Strand, Richard O’Brien’s Dr. Frank-N-Furter, Magenta, and Riff Raff started life as a smash rock musical. Experience the Geary as never before in this outrageous celebration of sex, drag, rock’n’roll, and being who you really are. In a dazzling mix of sequins and fishnet stockings, “Let’s do the Time Warp again!” Richard O’Brien’s *The Rocky Horror Show* will play at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco) **April 23–May 17, 2020**. Press night for *The Rocky Horror Show* will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Single tickets (ranging from \$15–\$110) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at act-sf.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“Our open call auditions this past Halloween brought more than 210 Bay Area curious-enough-to-sign-up-brave-enough-to-show up-hugely-talented-with-deep-and-varied-experience performers to the attention of the *Rocky* creative team,” says **MacKinnon**. “We are thrilled to say that 8 out of our 15 company members were met

through this uniquely inclusive, welcoming-while-rigorous process that celebrates who we are and can be in the San Francisco Bay Area.”

“I'm so excited to make *The Rocky Horror Show* at A.C.T. as it is perhaps the only show that has ever existed that might just be as colorful, hilarious, terrifying, challenging, and idiosyncratic as the Bay Area itself,” adds **Pinkleton**. “We'll throw open the big gold doors of the fabulous Geary Theater to all corners of San Francisco this spring, creating a weeks-long block party—anchored by a brilliant cast with deep Bay Area ties and exploded outward in all directions by Bay Area celebrity special guests, local visual artists, drag performers, DJs, curators, *Rocky Horror* buffs, bartenders, aliens, and audiences of all ages and stripes to come together and do the ‘Time Warp’ in a way that could only happen in San Francisco. *The Rocky Horror Show* is a celebration of absurd and gleeful otherness that comes as the world fills with so much *ugh*, a celebration that proclaims DON'T DREAM IT, BE IT at the top of its glittery lungs. Pack your wig, San Francisco. I can't wait to meet you there.”

Under the direction of Pinkleton, *The Rocky Horror Show* features (*in alphabetical order*): **Rotimi Agbabiaka** (Frank-N-Furter), **Tanika Baptiste*** (Transylvanian), **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro** (Magenta), **Daya Curley** (Narrator), **Cookie Harrist*** (Transylvanian), **Sean Okuniewicz*** (Brad), **Maya Phillips*** (Understudy), **Kunal Prasad*** (Rocky), **Travis Santell Rowland*** (Transylvanian), **Chris Steele** (Understudy), **Branden Noel Thomas*** (Riff Raff), **Alysha Umphress** (Janet), **Ryan Patrick Welsh*** (Transylvanian), **Ada Westfall** (Columbia), and **Phil Wong** (Dr. Scott/Eddie).

**Cast from A.C.T.'s Open Call Auditions held on October 31, 2019*

The creative team for *Toni Stone* includes **Sam Pinkleton** (Director & Choreographer), **Ani Taj** (Associate Director & Co-Choreographer), **David Israel Reynoso** (Scenic Designer & Costume Designer), **Alexander V. Nichols** (Lighting Designer), **Jessica Paz** (Sound Designer), **Ada Westfall** (Music Director), and **David Möschler** (Associate Music Director).

In connection with *The Rocky Horror Show*, A.C.T. will present a host of pre- and post-show festivities and activities that will engage the San Francisco Bay Area community. These include:

- **Tuesday night post-show drag nights**
- **Thursday night post-show open mic nights**
- **Friday night dance parties**
- **A piano bar night in collaboration with Feinstein's at the Nikko**
- **And more**

In addition, A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while having an entire night out at the theater. Visit act-sf.org/interact to learn more about these events:

- **Bike to the Theater Night:**
Thursday, April 23, 6:30 p.m.
Providing a greener alternative to theater transportation, A.C.T. and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition offer free valet bike parking, as well as a special discount on tickets, for these select performances.
- **Drinks & Drama Friday:**
Friday, April 24, 6 p.m.
A new preshow evening of specialty cocktails, pop-up food, and low-priced tickets to the performance
- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, April 28, 5 p.m.
Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the director and artistic staff.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m. | Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, May 13, 2 p.m.
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.
- **Pride Night (formerly OUT with A.C.T.):**
Wednesday, May 6, before and following the 7:30 p.m. performance
A revamped pre- and postshow party celebrating LGBTQ+ pride within the theater community
- **Wine Night:**
Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area's hottest local winery.
- **PlayTime:**
Saturday, May 16, 12:45 p.m.
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with the artists who make it happen at this interactive theater workshop.

A.C.T.'s production of *The Rocky Horror Show* is made possible by Company Sponsor **The Marymor Family Fund**; Executive Producers **Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson**; **Marcy and Paul Nathan**; and **John and Heather Stallings Little**; Producers **Norman Abramson** in celebration of **David V. Beery**; **Marcia and Jim Levy**; and **Ms. Merrill Randol**; Associate Producers **Anonymous**; **Paul Angelo and Cindy Low**; **Janet Cluff**; **Ken Lamb**; **Pamela D. Lee**; and **Barbara Phillips**; and Benefactors **Kenneth and Sharon Wilson**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2019–20 Season Presenters **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Jeff and Laurie Ubben; Jay Yamada; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck;** and Company Sponsors **Mrs. Barbara Bakar; Lesley Ann Clement and Karl Lukaszewicz; Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson; Fred M. Levin in honor of Nancy Livingston Levin, The Shenson Foundation; The Marymor Family Fund; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; David and Carla Riemer; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Abby and Gene Schnair; Nola Yee.** Additional support provided by **Hilton Union Square** and **Parc 55 San Francisco**, A.C.T.'s Official Hotel Partner.

#

FACT SHEET FOR RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

WHAT:

Tony Award–nominated director-choreographer **Sam Pinkleton** (*Soft Power* and *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) reimagines this swirling, sci-fi world for 2020 San Francisco. Before this cross-dressing classic was ever a midnight movie at the Strand, Richard O'Brien's *Dr. Frank-N-Furter*, *Magenta*, and *Riff Raff* started life as a smash rock musical. Experience the Geary as never before in this outrageous celebration of sex, drag, rock'n'roll, and being who you really are. In a dazzling mix of sequins and fishnet stockings, "Let's do the Time Warp again!"

WHO:

Music, lyrics and book by **Richard O'Brien**
Directed by **Sam Pinkleton**

CAST:

(*in alphabetical order*): **Rotimi Agbabiaka** (Frank-N-Furter), **Tanika Baptiste*** (Transylvanian), **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro** (Magenta), **Daya Curley** (Narrator), **Cookie Harrist*** (Transylvanian), **Sean Okuniewicz*** (Brad), **Maya Phillips*** (Understudy), **Kunal Prasad*** (Rocky), **Travis Santell Rowland*** (Transylvanian), **Chris Steele** (Understudy), **Branden Noel Thomas*** (Riff Raff), **Alysha Umphress** (Janet), **Ryan Patrick Welsh*** (Transylvanian), **Ada Westfall** (Columbia), and **Phil Wong** (Dr. Scott/Eddie).

*Cast from A.C.T.'s Open Call Auditions held on October 31, 2019

CREATIVE TEAM:

Sam Pinkleton (Director & Choreographer), **Ani Taj** (Associate Director & Co-Choreographer), **David Israel Reynoso** (Scenic Designer & Costume Designer), **Alexander V. Nichols** (Lighting Designer), **Jessica Paz** (Sound Designer), **Ada Westfall** (Music Director), **David Möschler** (Associate Music Director)

WHERE:

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)

WHEN:

April 23–May 17, 2020

Press Night: Wednesday, April 29, 2020

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Fridays at 8 p.m.

Saturdays at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

InterACT Events

Bike to the Theater Night: **Thursday, April 23, 6:30 p.m.**

Drinks & Drama Friday: **Friday, April 24, 6 p.m.**

Prologue: **Tuesday, April 28, 5 p.m.**

Audience Exchanges: **Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m.** | **Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m.** | **Wednesday, May 13, 2 p.m.**

Pride Night (formerly Out with A.C.T.): **Wednesday, May 6, following the 7:30 p.m. performance**

Wine Night: **Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.**

PlayTime: **Saturday, May 16, 12:45 p.m.**

TICKETS & INFORMATION:

415.749.2228 | act-sf.org

\$15–\$110

Ticket prices are subject to change without notice

PRESS:

Kevin Kopjak, Charles Zukow Associates, 415-296-0677 or kevink@charleszukow.com