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

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER'S MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM AND YOUNG CONSERVATORY ANNOUNCE LINEUP OF UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS AND CABARET PERFORMANCES

SAN FRANCISCO (February 21, 2018)—**American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.)** announced today the lineup of upcoming productions and cabaret performances featuring students from A.C.T.'s **Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Program** and **Young Conservatory (YC)**. **Single tickets** for all productions and cabaret performances are **\$20** and available now by calling the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at www.act-sf.org/csvshows.

A.C.T.'s Master of Fine Arts Program presents

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

by Stephen Adly Guirgis

Directed by David Mendizábal

The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market Street, San Francisco)

Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 23, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 2, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 3, 7 p.m.

The next case on the docket in downtown Purgatory: God versus Judas Iscariot. Featuring a witness list that includes a hard-of-hearing Mother Teresa, a sarcastic Satan, and a hot-headed Sigmund Freud, this darkly comedic story from Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis explores faith and forgiveness in all its foul-mouthed, complicated glory.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

PUT ANOTHER DIME IN THE JUKEBOX, BABY

The Garret at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco)

Friday, April 6, 5:30 p.m. (*High School Musical Ensemble*)

Saturday, April 7, 5 p.m. (*High School Cabaret Ensemble*)

Sunday, April 8, 5 p.m. (*High School Cabaret Ensemble*)

Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m. (*High School Musical Ensemble*)

Jukebox musicals have exploded on Broadway. From *Mamma Mia* and *Motown* to *Rock of Ages* and Carole King's *Beautiful*, transforming radio hits into Tony Award-winning scores is a trend that continues to

delight audiences and musical theater performers alike. Join us for an evening of jukebox hits interpreted by our extraordinary group of student cabaret performers.

A.C.T.'s Junior Cabaret Ensemble presents

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

The Garret at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco)

Friday, April 13, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 14, 5 p.m.

Join us for a musical road trip through California, celebrating our state's musical history. Featuring duets, solos, and group numbers from musical theater, pop, rock, and folk genres, this cabaret is a love letter to our beautiful state.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

BEGETS: FALL OF A HIGH SCHOOL RONIN

by Qui Nguyen

Directed by M. Graham Smith

The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market Street, San Francisco)

Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, 7 p.m.

Geek gurl Emi Edwards is a righter of wrongs, the slayer of her school's cruel shoguns. But, as she journeys to dethrone each clique leader, will her own cravings for popularity and power corrupt her quest to establish a new world order? An action-packed samurai story set inside the halls of an all-American high school, *Begets: Fall of a High School Ronin* explores whether violence always begets more violence.

A.C.T.'s Master of Fine Arts Program presents

FUENTEVEJUNA

by Lope de Vega

Directed by Dominique Lozano

The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market Street, San Francisco)

Wednesday, May 9, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 7 p.m.

Resistance. Dishonor. Torture. Power. The citizens of Fuenteovejuna are fed up. Their commander is raping their women and murdering anyone who stands in his way. In a small town caught between two armies, who can the citizens turn to except each other? An exploration of honor, morality, and leadership from Renaissance Spain's most beloved playwright.

This production is made possible by the generous contribution of M.F.A. Producer Jennifer S. Lindsay

A.C.T.'s Master of Fine Arts Program presents

THE BACCHAE OF EURIPIDES

by Wole Soyinka

Directed by Stephen Buescher

The Costume Shop Theater (1117 Market Street)

A battle is raging in Thebes. On one side, a king. On the other, a god. It's man versus nature in Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka's visceral drama of vengeance and defiance. Brimming with Soyinka's poetic, muscular voice, *The Bacchae of Euripides* is a dark, unflinching look at humanity's power to imprison, test, and endure.

This production is made possible by the generous contribution of M.F.A. Producer Jennifer S. Lindsay

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 10, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 7 p.m.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

SINGER'S CHOICE

The Garret at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco)

Friday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. (*High School Musical Ensemble*)

Saturday, May 19, 5 p.m. (*High School Cabaret Ensemble*)

Sunday, May 20, 5 p.m. (*High School Cabaret Ensemble*)

Monday, May 21, 5:30 p.m. (*High School Musical Ensemble*)

In the final cabaret performance of the 2017–18 season, student performers bring to the stage songs of their own choosing from a variety of musical genres. We look forward to celebrating another wonderful season with this special night showcasing the enormous talent and uniqueness of our cabaret ensemble members.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Young Conservatory's summer musical, the three-time Tony Award winner *Urinetown: The Musical*, will take place April 8–10, 2018 at A.C.T. (*exact location to be announced*). In addition, auditions for *SeaChange**, a world-premiere play that explores issues of social justice as seen through the eyes of young people, will take place on April 24 at Destiny Arts Center and April 25–26 at A.C.T. (*exact location to be announced*). This play was commissioned by A.C.T. from renowned playwright Marisela Treviño Orta and will be presented by the Collaborative Youth Arts Project—a collaboration with A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory, A.C.T.'s Education & Community Program, and Oakland's Destiny Arts Center. Performances of *Urinetown: The Musical* will take place August 7–19, 2018 in the Rembe at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater. Performances of *SeaChange* will take place July 24–29, 2018 in the Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater and at Destiny Arts Center in Oakland. For up-to-date information regarding auditions and performances, visit: www.act-sf.org/yc-auditions.

*working title

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ABOUT THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM

Ranked as one of the top programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, the Master of Fine Arts Program—under the direction of **Melissa Smith**—is the only theater training program in the country accredited to award the master of fine arts degree, yet is not affiliated with a college or university. The essence of A.C.T.'s actor training lies in the interplay between the professional company and the Conservatory. Student actors at A.C.T. perform frequently within the program in studio productions, as well as in cabaret and Shakespeare productions that tour throughout the larger Bay Area. Third-year M.F.A. Program student actors perform in A.C.T.'s mainstage production of *A Christmas Carol* and also audition for roles in A.C.T. mainstage productions. In recent years, students have played roles in *Hamlet*, *The Hard Problem*, *The Unfortunates*, *A Little Night Music*, *Love and Information*, and *Ah, Wilderness!*, as well as performing in new and commissioned works. Many alumni of the program go on to distinguished careers in theater and film and include such celebrated actors as Elizabeth Banks, Annette Bening, Christopher Fitzgerald, Danny Glover, Anika Noni Rose, Anna Deavere Smith, and Denzel Washington. A.C.T. provides a wealth of talented actors for productions across the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond: graduates of the M.F.A. Program have taken on leading roles in productions at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, San Jose Stage, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz, among others. The M.F.A. Program functions as the cornerstone of the A.C.T. Conservatory, which also includes the Summer Training Congress, Studio A.C.T., the Young Conservatory, and the San Francisco Semester, and trains more than 3,000 students annually. For more information, visit act-sf.org/conservatory.

ABOUT YOUNG CONSERVATORY

The Young Conservatory (YC) at A.C.T. is an internationally recognized professional theater training program for young people between the ages of 8 and 19. Young actors from throughout the Bay Area (and often other states) who attend the Young Conservatory develop their creative talent, perform in professional-caliber productions, and learn confidence and communication skills. Under the direction of Jill MacLean, the Young Conservatory offers dynamic courses throughout the year for both beginners exploring acting for the first time as well as young actors with previous experience. Classes are designed to develop imagination, concentration, character, professionalism, and technique, and to strengthen the student's command of his/her body and voice. For more information, visit www.act-sf.org/yc.