

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER'S MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM AND YOUNG CONSERVATORY ANNOUNCE LINEUP OF PRODUCTIONS AND CABARET PERFORMANCES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2019–20 SEASON

SAN FRANCISCO (January 31, 2020)—**American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.)** announced today the lineup of productions and cabaret performances for the remainder of the 2019–20 season, featuring students from A.C.T.'s **Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program** and **Young Conservatory (YC)**. **Single tickets** for all productions and cabaret performances are on sale now by calling the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at act-sf.org/csvshows. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

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

Passage

February 20–March 1, 2020

by Christopher Chen

Directed by Victor Malana Maog

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

Tickets starting at \$20; Ages 35 and under: \$10

When it comes to patriotism, neutrality isn't an option. You're either for Country X or Country Y. Pick a side. Journey into the heart of the xenophobic rhetoric and immigration debate that dominate our newsfeeds. Drawing from E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, Obie Award-winning local playwright Christopher Chen explores biases, blurred lines, and bigotry—issues affecting communities right here in the Bay Area and across the world—and asks if real relationships can exist in such an imbalanced environment.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

Miscast

March 5–8, 2020; April 3–4, 2020

Directed by Kimberly Braun, Jill MacLean, and Ken Savage

High School Cabaret vocal direction by Krista Wigle

Accompanied by Joel Chapman and Thaddeus Pinkston

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

Tickets starting at \$20; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10

Join us as we have a blast singing songs from roles in which we would never get cast! Age, gender, character type—it's all up for grabs as our YC Cabaret Program ensembles take the stage and break the rules.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

Anon(ymous)

April 15–18, 2020

By Naomi Iizuka

Directed by Bob Shryock

The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco)
Tickets starting at \$20; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10

Begin in the middle. On the border. On the crossing. Begin in the place in between. In this adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey*, newly arrived refugee Anon fights to hold onto his identity in the vast melting pot of contemporary America. As he journeys across the country in search of his mother, he confronts today's gods and monsters: exploitative businessmen, clueless government officials, and fellow refugees clamoring to not be forgotten. Naomi Iizuka's *Anon(ymous)* is a poetic tale of borders and biases.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

Singer's Choice

April 30–May 3, 2020

Directed by Kimberly Braun, Jill MacLean, and Ken Savage

High School Cabaret vocal direction by Krista Wigle

Accompanied by Thaddeus Pinkston

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

Tickets starting at \$20; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10

In this A.C.T. Young Conservatory Cabaret Program performance, students bring to the stage songs of their own choosing, from a variety of musical genres. We look forward to this special night that celebrates the enormous talent and uniqueness of our YC Cabaret Program high school performers.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

Get Real(ism): Exploring Chekhov

April 4, 2020

Devised and performed by YC Spring 2020 High School Actors Ensemble

Directed by Dominique Lozano

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

Tickets starting at \$20; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10

What's so "real" about Chekhov? He's been called a saint, a sinner; a writer of true drama, and one of real comedy. Come see the rising stars of A.C.T.'s YC High School Actors Ensemble, as they present an original devised piece, and explore a slice of human life through through the lens of one the most influential writers since Shakespeare.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

The Glass Menagerie Project

April 5, 2020

by Tennessee Williams

Adapted and performed by YC Spring 2020 Middle School Actors Ensemble

Directed by Andy Alabran

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

Tickets starting at \$20; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory announces its inaugural Actors Ensemble for Middle School students with an examination of the work of Tennessee Williams, which will culminate in an adapted performance of *The Glass Menagerie*. As the text follows the trials and tribulations of the Wingfield family and a matriarch who desperately tries to carve out a future for her children, this cast of young artists will explore conflict between personal dreams and familial duties, made more resonant by their own lives offstage, as future theater- and change-makers in the world.

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

Rough Magic

May 6–10, 2020

by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

Directed by M. Graham Smith

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

Tickets starting at \$20; Ages 35 and under: \$10

Melanie can bring fictional characters to life. When she comes home to her apartment to find the monstrous (though hunky) Caliban from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, fantasy bleeds into reality. With the help of a lifeguard and a Fury from Greek tragedies, Melanie must embrace her power before evil magician Prospero destroys the world. Shakespeare meets superheroes in this whirlwind action comedy from Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, chief creative officer of Archie Comics and the mastermind behind CW's *Riverdale* and Netflix's *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*.

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

The Moors

May 7–10, 2020

by Jen Silverman

Directed by Paige Rogers

A.C.T.'s Costume Shop Theater (1117 Market St., San Francisco)

Tickets starting at \$20; Ages 35 and under: \$10

The English moors are bleak—a fertile ground for the stewing desires of two sisters longing for power, visibility, and love. When a guileless governess arrives at their estate, hidden desires come to light. In this Gothic dark comedy, the characters grapple with love, jealousy, and control—and those standing in the way of desire succumb to the ruthless landscape of the moors. Jen Silverman subverts Brontë-style Victoriana with a wickedly comic queer twist.

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

In Love and Warcraft

May 7–10, 2020

by Madhuri Shekar

Directed by Peter J. Kuo

A.C.T.'s Costume Shop Theater (1117 Market St., San Francisco)

Tickets starting at \$20; Youth tickets (ages 35 and under): \$10

College senior Evie prefers the online role-playing game World of Warcraft to real life. In the game, she's a fearless warrior with a boyfriend. In real life, she ghostwrites love letters for people, even though she's never been in love. When Evie becomes attracted to her client Raul, she must decide whether or not to let her powerful and sexy warrior character out in the real world. Playwright Madhuri Shekar (*House of Joy*, HBO's upcoming *The Nevers*) conjures a cosplay-loving romantic comedy about intimacy and love in the digital age.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

Best of the Best

June 1, 2020

Directed by Kimberly Braun, Jill MacLean, and Ken Savage

High School Cabaret vocal direction by Krista Wigle

Accompanied by Thaddeus Pinkston

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco)

Tickets starting at \$15–35; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10–\$25

Back by popular demand, our one-night-only musical extravaganza features all four ensembles in our YC cabaret program on the Strand Theater stage to highlight the best numbers from our 2019–20 season. Come share in the joy as over 40 talented middle school and high school performers combine their talents, hard work, and artistry to show you what they've accomplished this year.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory presents

The Code

August 6–15, 2020

Music, lyrics, and book by The Kilbanes

Directed by Jessica Holt

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco)

Tickets starting at \$15–35; Youth tickets (under 21): \$10–\$25

Libraries, they're full of secrets. All seven members of Valhalla Academy's Senior Seminar are sequestered in the library, waiting to discover which one of them stole the final exam and must face expulsion. When they find a secret stash of school memorabilia, mysteries emerge and history comes alive as the past and present intertwine. Commissioned for A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory, this new pop-rock musical by The Kilbanes (*Weightless*) makes its world premiere at the Strand.

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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* and *The Hollywood Reporter*, the Master of Fine Arts Program—under the direction of **Melissa Smith**—is the only theater-training program not affiliated with a US college or university accredited to award a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting. Student actors at A.C.T. perform frequently within the program in staged productions, as well as in cabaret and touring Shakespeare productions throughout Bay Area schools and communities. Third-year MFA Program actors perform in A.C.T.'s mainstage production of *A Christmas Carol* and also audition for roles in A.C.T. mainstage season productions. In recent years, students have played roles in *Hamlet*, *The Hard Problem*, *Rhinoceros*, *Top Girls*, and *Ah, Wilderness!*, and have performed in new and commissioned works. Many alumni 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. forges a wealth of talented actors for productions across the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond; graduates of the MFA 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 MFA Program functions as the cornerstone of the Conservatory, which trains more than 3,000 students annually through its combined programs, including the San Francisco Semester, Summer Training Congress, Studio A.C.T., and Young Conservatory. For more information, visit act-sf.org/conservatory.

ABOUT YOUNG CONSERVATORY

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory (YC) is an internationally recognized professional theater-training program for young artists ages 8 to 19. Students from throughout the Bay Area (and often other states) who attend the Young Conservatory develop their character, creative talent, perform in professional-caliber productions, and gain the confidence to succeed both on and offstage. Under the direction of **Jill MacLean**, the YC offers dynamic courses throughout the year for both beginners exploring acting for the first time as well as young actors with previous experience. Many YC alumni go on to study art in college, and are often seen on stages and screens in the Bay Area and across the country. YC alumni include celebrated actors such as Darren Criss, Erika Henningsen, Adam Jacobs, and Winona Ryder. For more information, visit act-sf.org/yc.