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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF KATE ATTWELL'S *TESTMATCH*

Directed by Tony Award winner and A.C.T.'s Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon, *Testmatch* is a contrast of two time-traveling stories focusing on cricket, a game of strict rules and hidden violence

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater
October 24–December 8, 2019

SAN FRANCISCO (September 9, 2019)—**Tony Award winner and American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** announced the full cast and creative team for the scorching world premiere of **Kate Attwell's *Testmatch***, a contrast of two time-traveling stories focusing on cricket, a game of strict rules and hidden violence. In the first story, tensions in the locker room rise during a match between rival women's cricket players from England and India, as secrets spill about relationships, influencers, and the integrity of the sport. Then in 1800 (or so), Abhi, the Number One Sepoy of the East India Co., struggles to force two bungling, cheating British administrators—absorbed in setting down the rules of cricket—to focus on the famine they have created outside the compound walls. Asking hard-hitting questions about colonialism, gender, and power, *Testmatch* launches an exciting new voice in American theater. *Testmatch* is a recipient of an **Edgerton Foundation New Play Award**. *Testmatch* performs at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco) **October 24–December 8, 2019**. Press nights for *Testmatch* will be held on Wednesday, November 6 and Thursday, November 7, 2019. 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.*

Says **MacKinnon**: “Digging ever more explicitly into A.C.T.’s season theme of “Rules of Play,” I am thrilled to be directing this world premiere by Kate Attwell. Using the world’s biggest sport, cricket, as a lens, *Testmatch* is a play for the ages—funny and devastating, smart and fanciful.”

Adds **Attwell**: “I’m so thrilled to have *Testmatch* premiering at A.C.T. I think many of the particular dynamics of the city are going to be reflected in the play, and the opportunity for art and context to be in dialogue like that is extremely exciting to me. I’m also so happy to be getting the chance to work with Pam MacKinnon and am already so excited about what she’s bringing to the text. Because the play relies on the reality of theater itself, I hope there’s lots of room for the director, lots of room for the actors, and ultimately lots of room for the audience in order to make it. I can’t wait to dive in with this extraordinary cast of badass women.”

Under the direction of MacKinnon—in her Strand Theater debut—*Testmatch* features (in alphabetical order): **Arwen Anderson, Millie Brooks, Meera Rohit Kumbhani, Lipica Shah, Avanthika Srinivasan, and Madeline Wise.**

The creative team for *Testmatch* includes **Nina Ball** (Scenic Designer), **Beaver Bauer** (Costume Designer), **Marie Yokoyama** (Lighting Designer), and **Elisheba Ittoop** (Sound Designer and Original Music).

In connection with *Testmatch*, 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 subscribing to these events throughout the season:

- **Bike to the Theater Night:**
Thursday, October 24, 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, October 25, 6 p.m.
A new preshow evening of specialty cocktails, pop-up food, and low-priced tickets to the performance.
- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, November 5, 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.
- **Theater on the Couch:**
Friday, November 8, following the 7:30 p.m. performance
This exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Tuesday, November 12, 7 p.m. | Sunday, November 24, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, November 27, 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, November 13, 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, November 26, 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, November 30, 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 *Testmatch* is made possible by Producers **Dianne and Ron Hoge; Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Pering;** and Associate Producers **Scott Delman; Betty Hoener;** and **Marmor Foundation/Drs Michael and Jane Marmor.**

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2019–20 Season Presenters **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Mary and Steven Swig; Jeff and Laurie Ubben;** and **Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck;** and Company Sponsors **Mrs. Barbara Bakar; Lesley Ann Clement and Karl Lukaszewicz; Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty; Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson; James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen-Hormel; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGrath; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; David and Carla Riemer; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Aaron Vermut and Adriana López Vermut; Jack and Susy Wadsworth;** and **Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy.** Additional support provided by **Hilton Union Square** and **Parc 55 San Francisco,** A.C.T.'s Official Hotel Partner.

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PAM MACKINNON (Artistic Director) is A.C.T.'s fourth artistic director. She is a Tony, Drama Desk, and Obie award–winning director, having directed upwards of 70 productions around the country, off-Broadway, and on Broadway. Her Broadway credits include Beau Willimon's *The Parisian Woman* (with Uma Thurman), *Amelie: A New Musical*, David Mamet's *China Doll* (with Al Pacino), Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* (with Elisabeth Moss), Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (with Glenn Close and John Lithgow), Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle nomination), and Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park* (Obie Award for Excellence in Direction, Tony and Lucille Lortel nominations). After five years as board chair of Clubbed Thumb, a downtown New York theater company dedicated to new American plays, she sits on its advisory board. She is an artistic associate of the Roundabout Theatre Company, a Usual Suspect of New York Theatre Workshop, and an alumna of the Drama League, Women's Project, and Lincoln Center Theater's Directors' Labs. She is also the executive board president of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). She grew up in Toronto, Canada, and Buffalo, New York, acted through her teens, but majored in economics and political science at the University of Toronto and briefly pursued a PhD in political science at UC San Diego, before returning to her true passion: theater.

JENNIFER BIELSTEIN (Executive Director) has more than 25 years of theater management experience. She serves on the board of Theatre Forward and is president of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT)—an organization that represents 75 theaters nationwide— having previously served as LORT's vice president; chair of its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee; secretary; and on multiple union negotiating teams. Before relocating to the Bay Area, Bielstein was the managing director of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, managing director of Actors Theatre of Louisville, and executive director of Writers Theatre in Chicago. She has also worked for Steppenwolf Theatre Company, About Face Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and Lincoln Park Zoo, and served on the boards of the League of Chicago Theatres, the Arts and Cultural Attractions Council, and other civic boards. She has received the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's Pyramid Award of Excellence in Leadership, and has been recognized in Louisville's *Business First's* 40 Under 40. In 2017, Bielstein was named by *Twin Cities Business* as a Person to Know, and, in 2018, *Minnesota Business* magazine named her as a Real Power 50 member. Bielstein is a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, attended Stanford's Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders in the Arts, and earned an MBA from Bellarmine University, where she received the MBA Faculty Merit Award and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for business programs.

FACT SHEET FOR *TESTMATCH*

WHAT:

In the first story, tensions in the locker room rise during a match between rival women's cricket players from England and India, as secrets spill about relationships, influencers, and the integrity of the sport. Then in 1800 (or so), Abhi, the Number One Sepoy of the East India Co., struggles to force two bungling, cheating British administrators—absorbed in setting down the rules of cricket—to focus on the famine they have created outside the compound walls. Asking hard-hitting questions about colonialism, gender, and power, *Testmatch* launches an exciting new voice in American theater.

WHO:

Written by **Kate Attwell**

Directed by **Pam MacKinnon**

CAST (*in alphabetical order*):

Arwen Anderson, Millie Brooks, Meera Rohit Kumbhani, Lipica Shah, Avanthika Srinivasan, and Madeline Wise

CREATIVE TEAM:

Nina Ball (Scenic Designer), **Beaver Bauer** (Costume Designer), **Marie Yokoyama** (Lighting Designer), and **Elisheba Ittoop** (Sound Designer and Original Music).

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

October 24–December 8, 2019

Press Nights: Wednesday, November 6 and Thursday, November 7, 2019

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

INTERACT EVENTS:

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