



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER'S MASTER OF FINE
ARTS PROGRAM, CLASS OF 2016, PRESENTS
DAN LEFRANC'S *THE BIG MEAL*

FEBRUARY 24–27, 2016
THE RUEFF AT A.C.T.'S STRAND THEATER

SAN FRANCISCO (January 19, 2016)—**American Conservatory Theater's Master of Fine Arts Program, Class of 2016**, will present Dan LeFranc's *The Big Meal*—a delicious comedy about eight diners, four generations and one family—**February 24–27, 2016** in **The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater** (1127 Market Street, San Francisco). Family is not a word, it's a seating chart in this delicious and provocative comedy. Playwright Dan LeFranc orients the drama around four generations of a single family loving and laughing, fighting and yelling over a series of meals. While the passing of time in LeFranc's world is fluid (this feels like a modern cousin of Thornton Wilder's *The Long Christmas Dinner*), the meals are quick and casual—a moveable feast. One moment, two young lovers are hooking up over cocktails, the next moment, they're middle-aged and clashing about their kids. With characters that develop, flip, and shift, *The Big Meal* serves up a thought-provoking feast for audiences. The performance schedule for *The Big Meal* is as follows: **Wednesday, February 24 at 7 p.m.**; **Thursday, February 25 at 7 p.m.**; **Friday, February 26 at 7 p.m.**; and **Saturday, February 27 at 1:30 and 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www.act-sf.org/mfashows or by calling the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228**.

Directed by **Ryan Purcell**, *The Big Meal* will feature **Matthew Baldiga, Matthew Capbarat, Christina Liang, Michael McIntire, Rosa Palmeri, Jennifer Reddish, Thomas Stagnitta, and Caitlan Taylor**.

This production is made possible by generous grants from **The Bernard Osher Foundation** and **Jewels of Charity**. Additional support provided by donors to A.C.T.'s season gala.

Ranked as one of the top programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, the **A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) 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 *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Love and Information*, and *A Little Night Music*, as well as performing in new and commissioned works. Many graduates 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, Omar Metwally, Dileep Rao, 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.

#