

**LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES *HUNDRED DAYS*,
THE BENGSONS' "LUMINOUS MUSICAL MEMOIR,"
AS FINAL PRODUCTION OF 2018/2019 SEASON**

RUN DATES SET FOR FULL SEASON SLATE

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces *Hundred Days*, book by **The Bengsons** and **Sarah Gancher**, music and lyrics by **The Bengsons**, directed by **Anne Kauffman**, and movement direction by **Sonya Tayeh**, as the final production of its 2018/2019 season, to run **September 22 – October 21** in the Mandell Weiss Forum.

Dubbed "a luminous musical memoir" and a Critic's Pick by *The New York Times*, *Hundred Days* is an exhilarating and heartrending autobiographical piece, written and performed by husband-and-wife team Abigail and Shaun Bengson, about embracing uncertainty, taking a leap, and loving as if you only had a hundred days to live. With their magnetic chemistry and unique musical style, the Bengsons explore the fundamental question of how to make the most of the time you have.

"This deeply honest and life-affirming show is a terrific addition to the 2018/2109 season," said Playhouse Artistic Director and 2017 Tony Award winner **Christopher Ashley**. "I'm always looking for vibrant and distinct new voices – as well as unique ways of storytelling – and the Bengsons speak to both these aims, culminating in a singular piece of theatre that defies genres. I can't wait to share with our audiences."

Hundred Days joins the previously-announced 2018/2019 season productions of **The Squirrels** (June 5 – July 1), **queens** (July 3 – 29), **Seize the King** (August 21 – September 16), **The Year to Come** (December 4 – 30) and **Diana** (February 19 – March 31, 2019). Tickets to the Playhouse's 2018/2019 season are available by subscription only at LaJollaPlayhouse.org or **(858) 550-1010** for tickets and information.

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Married duo **The Bengsons** have appeared at such venues as Joe's Pub (NYC), MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA) and the Market Theater (Johannesburg, South Africa). Their music has been featured on "So You Think You Can Dance" (FOX) and most recently in *Anything that Gives Off Light* (National Theatre of Scotland/The Team); *Sundown, Yellow Moon* (Ars Nova/WP); *Hurricane Diane* (Two River Theatre); *you'll still call me by name* (New York Live Arts) and *Iphigenia in Aulis* (Classic Stage Company). They are founding members of the Real Make Collective. Abigail Nessen Bengson has toured as a member of tUnE-yArDs, including an appearance on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." Upcoming work includes *The Lucky Ones* at Ars Nova and a commission with Lincoln Center.

Sarah Gancher's writing has been seen on stages across the US and internationally, including London's National Theatre, Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre, Steppenwolf, The Public Theater, Seattle Rep, Hartford Stage, Ars Nova, P73, the Women's Project, The Flea and NYC SummerStage. Honors include the New York Stage and Film Founder's Award, the Clifford Odets Commission, a Time Warner Fellowship at the Women's Project, the AR Gurney Prize and a Drama League nomination for Best Production of a Musical. She is a member/alum of P73's writer's group Interstate 73, The Playwrights Realm Writing Fellows program, the Women's Project's Lab and the Ars Nova Play Group. Sarah was a co-writer of *The TEAM's Mission Drift* (Drama League nom, Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Prize, Scotsman Fringe First, Herald Angel; London's National Theatre, int'l tour to Europe, Asia, and Australia). Sarah frequently collaborates with devising ensembles including Telluride Theatre and Hand2Mouth (Portland, OR) and has served as the in-house writer for Blue Man Group, as well as enjoyed previous and concurrent lives as a jazz violinist and circus clown. Recently: world premieres of *I'll Get You Back Again* at Round House Theater, directed by Rachel Chavkin and *Seder* at Hartford Stage directed by Elizabeth Williamson. MFA: NYU.

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Anne Kauffman's credits include: *A Life* (Lortel, Drama League and Drama Desk nominations), *Marjorie Prime* (Lortel and Drama League nominations), *Detroit*, *Your Mother's Copy of the Kama Sutra* and *Maple and Vine* at Playwrights Horizons; *The Nether* at MCC; *Smokefall* at MCC, The Goodman Theater and South Coast Rep; *Buzzer* at the Public Theater; *You Got Older* (Drama Desk nomination) with P73 Productions; *Belleville* at Yale Rep, NYTW and Steppenwolf; *Hundred Days* at Under the Radar, Z Space and The Know Theater; *The Muscles in our Toes* at Labyrinth Theater Company; *Somewhere Fun* and *God's Ear* (also with New Georges) at the Vineyard Theater; *Stunning* and *Slowgirl* at LCT3; and *You Better Sit Down: Tales from My Parents' Divorce* with the Civilians at Williamstown, ArtsEmerson and The Flea. Anne is a founding member of the Civilians, a Clubbed Thumb Associate Artist, where she helped create the CT Directing Fellowship, a New Georges Associate Artist, a Sundance Program Associate, member of the Artistic Council of Soho Rep, and an Executive Board Member of the SDC. Awards include OBIES for Directing and for Sustained Excellence, the Joan and Joseph Cullman Award for Exceptional Creativity from Lincoln Center, the Alan Schneider Director Award, and two Barrymore Awards.

Sonya Tayeh (Movement Direction, *Hundred Days*) is a New York-based choreographer and director. Since paving her professional career, her work has been characterized as a blend of powerful versatility and theatrical range. Tayeh's selected credits include: *you'll still call me by name*, a dance-symphony directed, and choreographed for her commission from Bill T. Jones' institution New York Live Arts; Martha Graham Dance Company/*Lamentation Variation*; *Hurricane Diane* (Two River Theatre); *Hundred Days* (Public Theater/Know Theatre); *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Theatre For A New Audience); Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (City Center Encores); *Iphigenia in Aulis* (Classic Stage Company), *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre), *The Last Goodbye* (San Diego's Old Globe). She has gleaned accolades for her versatile work, including two Emmy nominations for Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance," and the Lucille Lortel and Obie Awards for Outstanding Choreography for her work on David Henry Hwang's dance-play *Kung Fu*, for which she also received a Drama Desk nomination. Upcoming projects include: *Moulin Rouge!* (The Colonial Theatre) and *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova).

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About the 2018/2019 Season

The Squirrels

World Premiere

By Robert Askins

Directed by Christopher Ashley

June 5 – July 1

Mandell Weiss Forum

Winter is on its way, and the squirrels are restless. Mistrust is growing between the Grey Squirrels, who enjoy a rich cache of nuts, and the outcast, hungry Fox Squirrels. When a wily outsider ignites a savage war, the consequences are catastrophic. Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley (*Come From Away*) directs Tony Award nominee Robert Askins' (*Hand to God*) ambitious, outlandishly funny (and downright furry) new play about reveals the animal instincts driving us all.

queens

West Coast Premiere

By Martyna Majok

Directed by Anne Kauffman

July 3 – 29

Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre

In 2017, a young immigrant looking for answers arrives at a tenement in Queens, New York. This strange visitor stirs up the memories of her new landlord, another immigrant who first stood on the same doorstep 16 years earlier. As they find out more about each other, the old brownstone reverberates with the voices of the fierce and proud women who preceded them. This exquisite new play from Martyna Majok (*Ironbound*) is a moving study of the things we run from and toward, and the people who shepherd us – and challenge us – along the way.

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Seize the King
World Premiere
By Will Power
Directed by Jaime Castaneda
August 21 – September 16
Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre

Will Power (*The Seven*) returns to the Playhouse in a five-person, full-throttle reinterpretation of Shakespeare's *Richard III*. With England's throne empty, Richard knocks down threats to his rule, fueling his insatiable ambition and paranoia. Even if he can be stopped — who can ensure it won't happen again? Jaime Castañeda (*Guards at the Taj*) directs this time-blurring story of tyrannical power.

Hundred Days
Book by The Bengsons and Sarah Gancher
Music and lyrics by The Bengsons
Directed by Anne Kaufman
Movement direction by Sonya Tayeh
September 22 – October 21
Mandell Weiss Forum

Dubbed “a luminous musical memoir” and a Critic’s Pick by *The New York Times*, *Hundred Days* is an exhilarating and heartrending autobiographical piece, written and performed by the husband-and-wife team of Abigail and Shaun Bengson, about embracing uncertainty, taking a leap, and loving as if you only had 100 days to live. With their magnetic chemistry and unique musical style, the Bengsons explore the fundamental question of how to make the most of the time you have.

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The Year to Come
World Premiere
By Lindsay Ferrentino
December 4 – 30
Mandell Weiss Theatre

Every New Year's Eve a family gathers in their Florida backyard to ring in the coming year. In between dips in the pool, politically-incorrect banter and a highly-anticipated onion dip, their relationships grow and fracture in moments that become family legend. Unfolding backwards from 2017 to 2000, *The Year to Come* shows how the promise of our future is shaped by the lens of our past. Rising playwright Lindsey Ferrentino (*Ugly Lies the Bone*) introduces us to a distinctly American family whose evolution mirrors the turbulence of the 21st century.

Diana
World Premiere
Book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro
Music and lyrics by David Bryan
Choreographed by Kelly Devine
Directed by Christopher Ashley
February 19 – March 31, 2019
Mandell Weiss Theatre

It's 1981 and the world is hungry for a royal wedding – but is the 20-year-old bride prepared for what comes after? Following her fairytale union, Princess Diana faces a distant husband, an unmovable monarchy and overwhelming media scrutiny. But her modern perspective and remarkable compassion galvanizes a nation, even as it threatens the royal family's hold on England. Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and the writers behind the Tony Award-winning *Memphis* create this highly-anticipated musical, featuring an epic and sweeping contemporary score.

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La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Currently led by 2017 Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg, the Playhouse was founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer. Playhouse artists and audiences have taken part in the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 95 world premieres, commissioning 50 new works, and sending 30 productions to Broadway – with two more set to open Spring 2018 – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, including the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. For more information, visit LaJollaPlayhouse.org.