

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF *ALL THE MEN WHO'VE FRIGHTENED ME*

New Play by Noah Diaz to Be Directed by Kat Yen in Culmination of Inaugural Director Fellowship

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast and creative team for its world-premiere production of *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*, by **Noah Diaz**, directed by the Playhouse's inaugural Directing Fellow **Kat Yen**, running **September 16 – October 12** in the Mandell Weiss Forum. For tickets and information, please visit lajollaplayhouse.org.

The cast features **Kineta Kunutu** as "Nora," **Keren Lugo** as "Carrie," **John Padilla** as "Third," **Armando Riesco** as "Second," **Leonardo Romero** as "First," **Dale Soules** as "Dale" and **Hennessy Winkler** as "Ty," along with understudies **Maya Sofia Enciso**, **Petey Gibson**, **Linda Libby**, **Ricardo Lozano, Jr.** and **Richard Rivera**.

The creative team includes **Adam Rigg**, Scenic Design; **Jennifer Brawn Gittings**, Costume Design; **Carolina Ortiz Herrera**, Lighting Design; **UptownWorks – Daniela Hart**, **Noel Nichol**, **Bailey Trierweiler**, Sound Design and Composition; **Madeline Charne**, Dramaturg; **Michael Raine**, Movement Consultant; **TBD Casting**, **Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA**, and **Hannah Reinert**, Casting; **Heather M. Brose**, Stage Manager; and **Katie Davis**, Assistant Stage Manager.

Young married couple Ty and Nora are preparing to move into Ty's childhood home to start a family. While they are busy choosing paint colors, lamps and throw pillows, they learn that Nora is unable to carry the child they so desperately want. So Ty, a trans man, makes the decision to carry the baby himself. As they prepare for their new arrival – while simultaneously navigating a barrage of well-intentioned if unsolicited parenting advice from family – three mysterious men from Ty's past arrive to help with renovations. But they are there to change more than just the wallpaper – and soon Ty finds himself scared to answer the question that's been bubbling up inside of him: "Will I be a good father?" Helmed by the Playhouse's inaugural Directing Fellow Kat Yen, *All the Men Who've Frightened Me* is the 12th play to make the jump from the DNA New Work Series to the main stage. Noah Diaz's rich, multi-layered and magical world premiere examines what it means to feel "at home" – in our families, in our houses, and in our own bodies.

"This production is a home-grown La Jolla Playhouse show in every sense. We commissioned Noah Diaz to write it for us, developed it as part of our DNA New Work Series in 2021, and its director, Kat Yen, is celebrating the culmination of her time as our inaugural Directing Fellow with this fascinating world premiere," said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse. "*All the Men Who've Frightened Me* is a wildly imaginative and engaging work that explores the meanings of home and family in the most unexpected ways."

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Noah Diaz is a writer from the Iowa/Nebraska border. His plays have been produced by Roundabout Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Baltimore Center Stage, The Sol Project, and The Playwrights Realm, where he was a Page One Resident Playwright. Commissions from Studio Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Studio Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Roundabout Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan, Baltimore Center Stage, Audible/ Amazon Studios, and Arena Stage. Noah is a recipient of the ASCAP Cole Porter Prize, a six-time recipient of playwriting awards from The Kennedy Center, and a nominee for an Outer Critics Circle Award. In television, he has written on *Nine Perfect Strangers* (Hulu), *Up Here* (Hulu), and *Joe vs. Carole* (Peacock), among others, and has developed projects for ABC, Hulu, 20th Television, The Walk-Up Company, Nyle DiMarco, and Eva Longoria. His debut picture book *Inky Iggy* will be published by Little Bee Books in 2027. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

Kat Yen is a Taiwanese-American theater director, born and raised in NYC. Recent productions include *The Heart Sellers* by Lloyd Suh at North Coast Rep, *The Weather Busters of Beachcastle* by Christin Eve Cato at La Jolla Playhouse (POP Tour), *Pipe Dream* by Rodgers and Hammerstein at Berkshire Theatre Group, *Heart Strings* by Lee Cataluna at Atlantic Theater for Kids, and *Happy Life* by Kathy Ng at Walker Space/The Hearth. Recent associate directing credits include *Redwood*, written and directed by Tina Landau, with music by Kate Diaz and conceived with Idina Menzel, *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*, by Joe Iconis and Gregory S. Moss, directed by Christopher Ashley, and *The Comeuppance* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, directed by Eric Ting. Kat is the inaugural Directing Fellow at La Jolla Playhouse, a former Resident Director at The Flea Theater, a Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theater and the co-founder and former Artistic Director of Spookfish Theatre Company. MFA in Directing: Yale School of Drama. katyen.com

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. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 37 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 42 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*

By Noah Diaz

Directed by Kat Yen

WHEN: September 16 – October 12 (Press Dates: September 21, 24, 25)

Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri at 7:30pm; Sat at 2pm & 8pm; Sun at 1pm & 7pm

WHERE: Mandell Weiss Forum, La Jolla Playhouse

2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

WHO:

Scenic Design: Adam Rigg

Costume Design: Jennifer Brawn Gittings

Lighting Design: Carolina Ortiz Herrera

Sound Design and Composition: UptownWorks: Daniela Hart, Noel Nichol, Bailey Trierweiler

Dramaturg: Madeline Charne

Movement Consultant: Michael Raine

Casting: TBD Casting, Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA, and Hannah Reinert

Stage Manager: Heather M. Brose

Assistant Stage Manager: Katie Davis

Cast:

Nora Kineta Kunutu

Carrie Keren Lugo

Third John Padilla

Second Armando Riesco

First Leonardo Romero

Dale Dale Soules

Ty Hennessy Winkler

Understudies: Maya Sofia Enciso, Petey Gibson, Linda Libby

Ricardo Lozano, Jr., Richard Rivera

BACKGROUND:

Young married couple Ty and Nora are preparing to move into Ty's childhood home to start a family. While they are busy choosing paint colors, lamps and throw pillows, they learn that Nora is unable to carry the child they so desperately want. So Ty, a trans man, makes the decision to carry the baby himself. Ty and Nora's preparations for parenthood begin to crumble when three mysterious men from Ty's past inexplicably begin appearing in their new home. Who are they? Are they here to help with renovations like they say...or something else? Noah Diaz's rich, multi-layered, magical drama is full of shrewd insights, humor and emotional depth. This rewarding world premiere examines what it means to feel "at home" – in our families, in our marriages, in our houses, and in our own bodies. Helmed by the Playhouse's recent Directing Fellow Kat Yen, *All the Men Who've Frightened Me* is the 12th play to make the jump from the DNA New Work Series to the main stage.

TICKETS: lajollaplayhouse.org; (858) 550-1010

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