

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF *INDIAN PRINCESSES*

Heartwarming New Play by Eliana Theologides Rodriguez Lights Up Forum Theatre This Summer

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast and creative team for its world-premiere production of *Indian Princesses*, by **Eliana Theologides Rodriguez**, directed by **Miranda Cornell**, running in the Mandell Weiss Forum **June 10 – July 6**. For tickets and information, please visit lajollaplayhouse.org.

The cast features **Anissa Marie Griego** as “Lily,” **Rebecca Jimenez** as “Andi,” **Greg Keller** as “Chris,” **Patrick Kerr** (Playhouse’s *Hollywood, His Girl Friday*) as “Glen,” **Jason Maddy** as “Wayne,” **Serenity Mariana** as “Hazel,” **Mike Sears** (Playhouse’s *Sideways*) as “Mac,” **Clarissa Vickerie** as “Maisey,” and **Haley Wong** as “Samantha,” along with understudies: **America Covarrubias**, **Jason Heil** (Playhouse’s *Bhangin’ It, Zhivago*), **Mikaela Macias** (Playhouse’s POP Tour *The Weather Busters of Beachcastle*), **Mai Lan Nguyen** and **Kennedy Tolson**.

The creative team includes **Emmie Finckel**, Scenic Designer; **Samantha C. Jones**, Costume Designer; **Mextly Couzin**, Lighting Designer; **Salvador Zamora**, Sound Designer; **Sierra Rosetta**, Cultural Consultant; **tbd Casting**, **Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA**, Casting; **Alexa Burn**, Stage Manager; and **Jack Ganguly**, Assistant Stage Manager.

In the summer of 2008, five young girls of color and their white fathers show up at a community center. With emotions ranging from excited to downright suspicious, some are more ready than others to embark on this adventurous – albeit misguided – father-daughter bonding program. Over their time together, the fathers and daughters navigate the joy and confusion of childhood amidst myriad challenges: burgeoning friendships, unfulfilled crushes, intergenerational struggles, grief, financial insecurity and the frustration of not being seen for who you truly are. *Indian Princesses* is based on a real-life father-daughter YMCA program the playwright participated in as a child – which still exists today under different names. Laugh-out-loud funny and delicately tender, this delightful new play illuminates the quirky, messy, and magical moments of growing up. As this patchwork group struggles to push through difficult conversations, they eventually discover the power, connection, and love that is gained when they do.

“Eliana Theologides Rodriguez possesses a thrilling new voice in the theatre. Her piece captures the true joys and agonies of adolescence through a fresh, insightful lens, and I can’t wait for Playhouse audiences to experience this funny, heartwarming work this season,” said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse.

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Eliana Theologides Rodriguez is a writer and dancer whose plays include *Indian Princesses* (2024 Terrence McNally Fellowship, 2023/2024 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship), *Marble Rooftop*, *Emma Has Church* (2024 O'Neill NPC Finalist, 2020 John Golden Award for Excellence in Playwriting), *Poor Queenie* (2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship Finalist, 2021 Goldberg Play Prize Finalist, 2020 Kennedy Center MFA Playwrights Workshop), and *Juniperfect* (2021 commission with Adventure Theatre MTC). She is currently under commission at South Coast Repertory and is a proud member of EST Youngblood and the Clubbed Thumb Early Career Writers Group 24/25. An upcoming production of *Poor Queenie* is scheduled for 2025 at Subtext Studio in Chicago. B.F.A. from NYU Tisch, Dramatic Writing.

Miranda Cornell is a Jewpanese director with a passion for the dialectic, the sincere, and the strange. She has directed and developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Clubbed Thumb, Cleveland Play House, Stages Houston, Playwrights Realm, Ma-Yi and the Asian American Arts Alliance, among others. Associate and assistant directing credits with directors such as Danya Taymor, Robert Icke, Chay Yew, Michael Greif and Rachel Chavkin. Miranda is a former Van Lier Fellow in Theater at A4, a member of the Roundabout Directors Group Cohort 2, a 2022/23 2050 Artistic Fellow at NYTW, and a 2023/24 Clubbed Thumb New Play Directing Fellow. Miranda is thrilled to return to La Jolla Playhouse after serving as the associate director on *Kristina Wong*, *Sweatshop Overlord* and *The Outsiders* in the 2022/23 season, and is currently the Associate and Resident Director of *The Outsiders* on Broadway and upcoming North American tour. BA from Vassar College. mirandacornell.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: *Indian Princesses*
By Eliana Theologides Rodriguez
Directed by Miranda Cornell

WHEN: **June 10 – July 6** (Press Opening: June 15 at 7pm)
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 Designer: Emmie Finckel
Costume Designer: Samantha C. Jones
Lighting Designer: Mextly Couzin
Sound Designer: Salvador Zamora
Indigenous Consultant: Sierra Rosetta
Casting: tbd Casting, Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA
Stage Manager: Alexa Burn
Assistant Stage Manager: Jack Ganguly

Cast:

<i>Lily</i>	Anissa Marie Griego
<i>Andi</i>	Rebecca Jimenez
<i>Chris</i>	Greg Keller
<i>Glen</i>	Patrick Kerr
<i>Wayne</i>	Jason Maddy
<i>Hazel</i>	Serenity Mariana
<i>Mac</i>	Mike Sears
<i>Maisey</i>	Clarissa Vickerie
<i>Samantha</i>	Haley Wong

Understudies: America Covarrubias, Mikaela Macias, Jason Heil
Mai Lan Nguyen and Kennedy Tolson

BACKGROUND:

In the summer of 2008, five young girls of color and their white fathers show up at a community center. With emotions ranging from excited to downright suspicious, some are more ready than others to embark on this adventurous – albeit misguided – father-daughter bonding program. Over their time together, the fathers and daughters navigate the joy and confusion of childhood amidst myriad challenges: burgeoning friendships, unfulfilled crushes, intergenerational struggles, grief, financial insecurity and the frustration of not being seen for who you truly are. *Indian Princesses* is based on a real-life father-daughter YMCA program the playwright participated in as a child – which still exists today under different names. Laugh-out-loud funny and delicately tender, this delightful new play illuminates the quirky, messy, and magical moments of growing up. As this patchwork group struggles to push through difficult conversations, they eventually discover the power, connection, and love that is gained when they do.

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

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