



The University of Texas at Austin
Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

For immediate release:

Media Contact:

Cassie Gholston; 512.232.5301; gholston@austin.utexas.edu

Gene Bartholomew; 512.471.0632; gbartholomew@TexasPerformingArts.org

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS

THE REGIONAL PREMIERE OF
BUILDING THE WALL

BY AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT ROBERT SCHENKKAN

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

"A must-see show!"

- The New York Times

"Terrifyingly plausible dystopian fiction. It imagines the unimaginable and should be seen!"

- Los Angeles Times

From Pulitzer Prize and Tony® Award-winning playwright Robert Schenkkan (*All the Way, The Kentucky Cycle, Hacksaw Ridge*), comes the incendiary political thriller that is captivating audiences across the country. The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents ***Building the Wall***, August 30-September 10, 2017 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

Written in “a white heat” fury following the November 2016 election, Schenkkan’s *Building the Wall* imagines a dystopia impacted by President Trump’s border and immigration policies. It’s the near future and millions of undocumented immigrants have been detained in overflowing prisons. Now, a writer interrogates the director of a private prison as he awaits sentencing for carrying out the federal policy that has escalated into the unimaginable. This riveting and illuminating drama delivers a powerful warning and puts a human face on the inhuman, revealing how, when personal accountability is denied, what seems inconceivable becomes inevitable.

“A mesmerizing and shocking new play that simmers with of-the-moment urgency.”
– *The Hollywood Reporter*

The regional premiere, directed by Brant Pope, showcases a professional cast, including Franchelle Stewart Dorn as “Gloria” and David Sitler as “Rick.” “You will not believe what you see and hear in this play,” shares Pope, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. “Robert Schenkkan has created a bone-chilling drama that is frighteningly close to home.”

Building the Wall was first produced as a National New Play Network (NNPN) Rolling World Premiere by Fountain Theatre (CA), Curious Theatre Company (CO), Forum Theatre (DC), Borderlands Theater (AZ) and City Theatre (FL).

ABOUT ROBERT SCHENKKAN

In 2014, *All The Way*, part one of his “LBJ Plays,” won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics, Drama League, Kennedy Prize and the TCA/Steinberg Awards for Best Play and broke two Broadway box office records. Schenkkan has since adapted *All The Way* as a feature film for HBO, produced by Steven Spielberg and starring Bryan Cranston. Schenkkan’s other works on Broadway include the Pulitzer Prize-winning epic, *The Kentucky Cycle*, which also won the LA Drama Critics Award and was nominated for the Tony, Drama Desk and the Outer Critics’ Circle Awards. Other plays include *Hanussen* (2017 Denver Summit Theater Festival), *Shadowplay*, *Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates*, *By the Rivers of Babylon*, *Handler*, *The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune*, *Heaven on Earth*, *Tachinoki*, *Final Passages*, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, *The Dream Thief*, *A Single Shard* and *The Great Society*, part two of the LBJ Plays, anticipated in New York in 2018. His musical, *The Twelve*, received its world premiere in Denver in 2015 and won the Henry Award for Best New Play/Musical. Films: *Hacksaw Ridge* (2016, Nominated for six Academy Awards); *The Quiet American*. Television: *The Pacific* (Nominated for two Emmys and received a WGA Award). Other television work includes: *The Andromeda Strain*, *Crazy Horse* and *Spartacus*.

robertschenkkan.com

For more information on *Building the Wall*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

PRESS RESOURCES

For a sampling of feature articles and reviews on *Building The Wall*, please visit theatredance.utexas.edu/news-building-wall

CALENDAR LISTING

August 30-September 10, 2017 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Building the Wall* at Oscar G. Brockett Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking

Performance times are August 30 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview); August 31, September 1-3, 5-8 at 7:30 p.m. and September 2-3, 10 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for performances on August 31-September 8 (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale beginning June 19 at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the preview performance on August 30 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office. Box Office locations and hours: theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

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