



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

For immediate release:

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS
ANON(YMOUS)
A PLAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES
BY NAOMI IIZUKA
OCTOBER 4-15, 2017
AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents Naomi Iizuka's *Anon(ymous)* directed by Sam Provenzano, October 4-15, 2017 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

Based on Homer's *The Odyssey*, a young refugee called Anon journeys through the United States, encountering a wide variety of people - some kind, some dangerous and cruel - as he searches for his family. From a sinister, one-eyed butcher to beguiling barflies, to a sweatshop, Anon must navigate through a chaotic, ever-changing landscape to find "home."

"*Anon(ymous)* is a uniquely American play. It centers on immigrants searching for a home and a better life: the promise that America offers to the rest of the world, yet denies to the

most vulnerable,” Alaina Monts, the production’s co-dramaturg, shares. “In our current political climate, we only hear about refugees as victims of circumstances. *Anon(ymous)* asks us, what if immigrants took control of their own stories? It offers them the opportunity to be heroes and gives names to the nameless.”

Director Sam Provenzano spent the last 10 years in Colorado, where she earned her bachelor degree in acting. She was an actor, director and teaching artist in Denver. She is an M.F.A. candidate in Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities at UT Austin, where she is focusing on Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) and Museum Theatre. Her past credits at UT include directing a workshop production of *al-halqa: is that how it’s pronounced?* by M.F.A. playwright Drew Paryzer, assistant directing the Theatre for Dialogue piece *Get Sexy. Get Consent.*, and assistant directing the touring show *Luna*.

“Naomi Iizuka has built characters that bring silenced journeys to the stage in authentic, human ways. By using *The Odyssey* as inspiration, the world of the play can look very similar to the world we live in, while still living in the realm of magic,” Provenzano explains. “These magic spaces allow us to view this play not as didactic, but as a modern myth that may reveal truths about ourselves.”

Anon(ymous) features an all-star cast of University of Texas at Austin students, including Teddy Santiesteban (Anon), Tiffany Thomas (Nemasani), Jade Jackson (Naja/Chorus), William Kachi (Pascal/Chorus), Jose Figueroa (Ali/Ignacio/Chorus), Ximena Alvarez (Nasreen/Belen/Sewing Lady/Chorus), Annemarie Alaniz (Ritu/Sewing Lady/Chorus), Ariane Stier (Sereza/Sewing Lady/Chorus), Austin Hille (Senator Laius/Mr. Zyclo/Nice American Father/Chorus), Caroline Beagles (Mrs. Laius/Bird/Nice American Mother/Chorus), Jesse Wormington (Mr. Mackus/Strygal/Barfly/Chorus) and Elise Martin (Calista/Nice American Daughter/Chorus).

The creative team includes Sam Provenzano (Director), Iman Corbani (Scenic Designer), Alex Gendel (Projection Designer), Alex Hanna (Lighting Designer), Jason Huerta (Technical Director), Khristián Méndez Aguirre (Dramaturg), Adam Miller-Batteau (Fight Choreographer), Alaina Monts (Dramaturg), Lirit Pendell (Costume Designer), Kate Proietti (Community Engagement Coordinator), Joshua Secor (Stage Manager) and Peter Stopschinski (Sound Designer).

For more information on *Anon(ymous)*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

CALENDAR LISTING

October 4-15, 2017 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Anon(ymous)* 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 October 4 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview); October 5-6, 10-14 at 7:30 p.m. and October 8, 15 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for performances on October 5-14 (\$26 adult, \$21 UT

faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office 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 October 4 (\$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.

ALSO THIS SEASON

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
Fall For Dance
November 7-12, 2017

The Crucible
By Arthur Miller
November 8-19, 2017

The Drowsy Chaperone
Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison
Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar
December 6-10, 2017

ENRON
By Lucy Prebble
February 21-March 4, 2018

Fall for Dance presents
Transcendence
March 28-April 8, 2018

UTNT (UT New Theatre)
April 12-22, 2018

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