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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
ESPERANZA RISING
A STORY OF HOPE FOR ALL AUDIENCES
OCTOBER 3-12, 2014
AT THE B. IDEN PAYNE THEATRE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents the beloved children's story *Esperanza Rising*, October 3-12 at the B. Iden Payne Theatre.

Tragedy strikes and Esperanza, a young, privileged girl living in Mexico, is forced to flee to California. Working in a migrant labor camp during the Great Depression, Esperanza must overcome adversity and find unexpected inner strength. Adapted from Pam Muñoz Ryan's award-winning book, this coming-of-age story shares an inspiring message of hope for all audiences.

"Esperanza's journey reminds me of the old adage 'home is where the heart is.' Even though she is distanced from the physical home where she grew up and from her family, she carries home with her; in her memories, in her heart, and in her stories," shares director Natalie Novacek. "Like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Esperanza has an important and terrifying decision ahead of her; can she return to the home she remembers or make a new home in her new place?"

A master of fine arts candidate at The University of Texas at Austin, Novacek tells raw and daring stories with effortless staging through contemporary, language-driven scripts. She is the artistic director of Loudmouth Collective, known in her hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota for tackling challenging solo performance and engaging small-ensemble theatrical events. She was a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Selection Team Directing fellow and is an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Esperanza Rising features an all-star cast including: Dana Arismendez, Julian Arizola, Izabella Arnold, Erica Ayala, Hugo Ayala, David Barrera, Ross Bechtold, Sarah Cantu, Robert Casillas, Rachel Crowell, Jenny De La Fuente, Martinique Duchene-Phillips, Oscar Franco, Nicolas Garza, Estrella Gonzales, Matthew Hernandez, Lisa Martinez, Madison Palomo, Joseph Quintana, Wesley Sadek, Genevieve Schroeder-Arce, Max Torrez, Arnoldo Treviño Jr., Shanon Weaver and Sean Woods.

Direction by Natalie Novacek • Music Direction by Spencer Blank • Costume Design by Andie Day • Scenic Design by Yongmin Lee • Projection Design by Patrick Lord • Technical Direction by Travis Perrin • Lighting Design by Samantha Zuckerman • Stage Management by Victoria Solorio

For more information on *Esperanza Rising*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

February 14-23, 2014 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Esperanza Rising* at B. Iden Payne Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus:

utexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking

Performance times are October 3, 9-11, 7:30 p.m. and October 5, 11-12 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets (\$25 adult, \$20 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are now on sale 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.

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

The Method Gun

Created and Performed by Rude Mechs
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre
September 10-14, 2014

A Streetcar Named Desire

By Tennessee Williams
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre
October 10-19, 2014

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
Fall For Dance
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre
November 14-16, 2014

Fame The Musical
Conceived and Developed by David De Silva
Book by Jose Fernandez
Lyrics by Jacques Levy
Music by Steve Margoshes
B. Iden Payne theatre
November 21-December 6, 2014

UTNT (UT New Theatre)
Curated by Steven Dietz
Lab Theatre
December 3-7, 2014

The Blue Angel
An original idea developed by The Moving Company
B. Iden Payne Theatre
February 12-15, 2015

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
MOVE!
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre
March 6-14, 2015

Enter a Woman, Pretty Enough
Premiere of a new play by Diana Lynn Small
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre
March 27-April 3, 2015

The Cohen New Works Festival
Presented by Broadway Bank
April 13-17, 2015

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