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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CSULB THEATRE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2016 – 2017 SEASON

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
BY ARTHUR MILLER
DIRECTED BY JEFF PAUL

ALEXANDRA BILLINGS IN...
STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF
BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY LESLIE BRICUSSE AND ANTHONY NEWLEY
DIRECTED BY JOANNE GORDON

WORLD PREMIERE
ELEMENTS
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
EZRA LEBANK AND REBECCA NAKANO

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI
BY JOHN WEBSTER
DIRECTED BY ROB CLARE

SHE KILLS MONSTERS
BY QUI NGUYEN
DIRECTED BY EDGAR LANDA

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE
THE BUBBLY BLACK GIRL SHEDS HER CHAMELEON SKIN
BY KIRSTEN CHILDS
DIRECTED BY JAYE AUSTIN WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE
MAD GRAVITY
BY WILLIAM MISSOURI DOWNS
DIRECTED BY CRAIG ANTON

GOOD BOYS AND TRUE
BY ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA
DIRECTED BY HUGH O'GORMAN

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CSULB THEATRE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2016 – 2017 SEASON
*EXPLORE CULTURE AND HISTORY IN ARTISTICALLY DRIVEN THEATRE SEASON AT THE
BEACH*

LONG BEACH, CA, July 2016— The **CSULB Theatre Arts Department** has selected and announced the productions for the 2016–2017 season. The season was selected with aims to make an immediate and meaningful connection to contemporary audiences through the work of budding and veteran artists, according to Olivia Sather of the Season Selection Committee. “By including a variety of theatrical productions we allow something for everyone in a community that reaches beyond the students on campus into the culturally diverse city of Long Beach,” said Sather. Audiences this season can expect a variety of classic plays, contemporary comedies, and compelling dramas, including two rarely produced musicals and an original movement piece.

Alumnus **Jeff Paul**, Director of Music and Theatre at OCSA, returns to CSULB to direct ***A View from the Bridge***, in a centennial celebration of playwright **Arthur Miller**. **Alexandra Billings** from the Golden Globe award-winning series, *Transparent*, in ***Stop the World, I Want to Get Off***, book, music, and lyrics by **Leslie Bricusse** and **Anthony Newley**, will be directed by Joanne Gordon. A regular on the CSULB stage, **Alexandra Billings** was named by the LA Times as one of the “100 people in Hollywood who could help fix the academy’s diversity problem.” The world-premiere production of ***Elements***, created by **Ezra LeBank** and alumna **Rebecca Nakano**, will examine climate change through acrobatics and contemporary dance. **Rob Clare**, from the Royal Shakespeare Company, will direct ***The Duchess of Malfi*** by **John Webster**.

Edgar Landa, a renowned director of stage combat and stage violence, whose work has been seen at LA’s Son of Semele Ensemble and the Mark Taper Forum will direct **Qui Nguyen’s** fantasy-filled and action-packed comedy ***She Kills Monsters***. ***The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*** by **Kirsten Childs**, which first premiered at Playwrights Horizon, will be directed by **Jaye Austin Williams**. Veteran stand-up comedian **Craig Anton**, as seen on *Mad TV*, Comedy Central, and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* will direct ***Mad Gravity*** by **William Missouri Downs**. ***Good Boys and True***, by **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa**, will close the 2016–2017 season, directed by **Hugh O’Gorman**.

Tickets on Sale August 1st

General Admission tickets are \$17 - \$25, while tickets for students, military, and seniors (55 and older) are \$14 - \$20 with a valid ID; go to www.calrep.org, for prices for each production. The University Theatre is attached to the north side of the Theatre Arts Building while the Studio Theatre and Players Theatre are inside the Theatre Arts Building on the CSULB South Campus, accessible via 7th Street and West Campus Drive.

About the 2016 – 2017 Season Schedule***A View from the Bridge***By **Arthur Miller**Directed by **Jeff Paul**

September 23 – October 8

University Theatre

Celebrating the 100th birthday of prolific American playwright, Arthur Miller (*Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible*), CSULB presents the intensely absorbing drama *A View from the Bridge*. When a longshoreman agrees to help his wife's family, the consequences have ripple effects revealing jealousies and affairs—leading to his destruction.

Stop the World, I Want to Get OffBook, Music, and Lyrics by **Leslie Bricusse** and **Anthony Newley**Directed by **Joanne Gordon**

October 7 – October 16

Studio Theatre

This quirky, British musical follows the performer Littlechap in his pursuit of worldly success where he often attempts to stop the world (and the show!) before it spins out of control. This tale of rags to riches will take the audience on a journey of one man's search for hope during his rise to fame. The CSULB production will feature Alexandra Billings (ABC's *How to Get Away with Murder*, Amazon's *Transparent*) in multiple roles as the many women in Littlechap's life.

Elements

Written and Directed by

Ezra LeBank and**Rebecca Nakano**

November 12 – November 19

University Theatre

An enchanting physical theatre performance that reflects on Earth's natural resources brings the elements of earth, wind, fire, and air to life using acrobatics, ensemble movement, mime, and contemporary dance. Sally and Avi are stuck in their cookie-cutter lives never noticing one another, but when the four elements intervene to wake them from their daily existence, they are brought together.

The Duchess of MalfiBy **John Webster**Directed by **Rob Clare**

December 2 – December 11

Studio Theatre

Considered one of the greatest English renaissance dramas, a Duchess marries beneath her class only to meet a nightmarish fate when her brothers seek revenge in this tale of greed, ambition, love, and lost innocence. CSULB continues a tradition of reimagining classic works with this bloody Jacobean tragedy.

She Kills Monsters

By **Qui Nguyen**

Directed by **Edgar Landa**

February 17 – February 26

Studio Theatre

Fairies, ogres, and 90s pop culture references create the world fantasy role-play games in Qui Nguyen's dramatic comedy. After the death of her sister, a young woman stumbles into a journey of self-discovery and action-packed adventure in this heart-pounding homage to the nerd (and warrior!) inside us all.

The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin

By **Kirsten Childs**

Directed by **Jaye Austin Williams**

March 10 – March 25

University Theatre

Sunny Southern California sets the stage for this coming-of-age musical about a bubbly black girl, Viveca, with a bright smile and a sunny disposition. Spanning the 1960s through the 1990s, Viveca sings and dances her way through the confusing worlds of racism, sexism, and Broadway showbiz until she is forced to face her reflection and decide if the most important thing she needs accept, is herself.

Mad Gravity

By **William Missouri Downs**

Directed by **Craig Anton**

April 14 – April 23

Studio Theatre

Absurdity ensues when a pair of high school sweethearts convince their polar opposite parents to meet. Joe and Mary, a conservative, middle-class couple unwittingly become stars in the latest performance piece by eccentric artists Archie and Eudora, but when they discover a comet is barreling toward Earth, the fourth wall comes down.

Good Boys and True

By **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa**

Directed by **Hugh O'Gorman**

April 28 – May 13

Players Theatre

The privileged life of a high school senior at St. Joe's School for Boys threatens to collapse when a disturbing video circulates around campus. Social class, abuse, and sexuality simmer beneath the surface of the resulting scandal; taking an unexpected turn when the boy's family is confronted with unsettling truths about their son.

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About CSULB Theatre Arts Department

The Theatre Arts Department at CSULB educates, nurtures, and inspires students to successfully embark as integrated, thoughtful, and culturally aware artists into the local and global professional arenas. Since 1954, the Theatre Arts Department has offered an atmosphere where students are encouraged to explore theatre arts and related fields; and it is also a place where community members can gather to enjoy the art of theatre. The Department holds Division II membership in the National Association of Schools of Theatre and is also a member in good standing with the Theatre Communications Group, the United States Institute of Theatre Technology, the University/Resident Theatre Association, and the International Theatre Institute of the United States.