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**CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER CONTINUES ITS EPIC 2018 SEASON WITH
THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS' *EVERYBODY*, JULY 18-AUGUST 5**

Everybody captures the unpredictability of life and death by letting fate decide the casting:
core actors will be assigned their roles nightly via a bingo-ball lottery.

Berkeley, CA, June 15, 2018 – **California Shakespeare Theater** continues its 44th Season with the West Coast Premiere of *Everybody*, a sparkling new riff on the 15th-century morality play *The Summoning of Everyman* by **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**, whom the *New York Times* calls “one of this country’s most original and illuminating writers.” A finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in Drama, *Everybody* is Cal Shakes’ second official offering under the New Classics Initiative (NCI), exploring what it means to be a classical theater in the 21st century, and to allow living writers to expand our classical canon. Directed by **Nataki Garrett** making her Cal Shakes debut, *Everybody* plays **July 18 – August 5** at the **Bruns Amphitheater** in Orinda. **Low-priced previews** take place July 18-20; **Opening Night** is July 21. Tickets (**ranging from \$20-\$92**) are available through the Cal Shakes Box Office at **510.548.9666** or by visiting www.calshakes.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

You can’t take it with you, but everybody tries. When *Everybody* faces imminent death, which companion—Beauty, Friendship, Stuff, or Love—will make it to the final destination? The core company of actors will be cast by lottery each night, letting fate decide the journey as they play out this new riff on an ancient morality tale with surprising grace, humor, and heart.

“In this day, in this country, in this moment, we need compassion, and that is what this play so beautifully makes the case for,” commented Cal Shakes Artistic Director Eric Ting. Added director Garrett,

“I have been working with Branden and his plays since 2010. I have a deep and profound respect for his words and his ways of expressing a desire for connection.”

“I was especially struck by the original *Everyman* because of the way it marries the experience of the commons—and theater is one of the few commons left to us in the modern world— with the most intimate questions of spirit and faith, and transience, and the questions of what ultimately matters in life,” adds Branden Jacobs-Jenkins. He continues, “And what I love about theater is that you have to be there or it’s gone— it doesn’t wait for anybody. It rewards people who care about the form and who show up. So how perfect a metaphor is that for life? And where better to practice feeling the fear of death and solitude than in a place where we are all together, breaking bread and sharing laughter?”

Returning to the Bruns with *Everybody* are: Lance Gardner (2016’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Fences*, *You Never Can Tell*, and *Othello*), Sarita Ocón (*Quixote Nuevo*, Cal Shakes’ All the Bay’s a Stage touring production of *Twelfth Night*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *To The Bone* at Ubuntu Theater Project), Stacy Ross (2016’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Lady Windemere’s Fan*, among many others), and Jomar Tagatac (2017’s *As You Like It*, *Life Is A Dream*). Joining them in their Cal Shakes debuts are: Britney Frazier (Campo Santo’s *Casa de Spirits*, *Ethos De Masquerade*, *H.O.M.E.*, and *Superheroes*; *Hedda Gabler* at Cutting Ball Theater), Jenny Nelson (*Sense and Sensibility* and *Cinderella* at Pacific Conservatory Theatre), Avi Roque (*The Crucible* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, *We’re Gonna Be Okay* and *Men On Boats* at American Theater Company), Victor Talmadge (Broadway’s *November*, National Tours of *The Lion King* and *The King and I*, and Weathervane Productions’ *A Lesson From Aloes*, among many other regional credits), and Alexandra Van De Poel (*The Prince of Egypt* at TheatreWorks, *A Christmas Carol* at A.C.T.).

Everybody’s creative team includes: Scenic Designer **Nina Ball** (whose previous designs for Cal Shakes include *As You Like It*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Comedy Of Errors*); Costume Designer **Naomi Arnst** (Cal Shakes’ All the Bay’s a Stage touring productions of *The Tempest* and *12th Night*; Santa Clara University’s *Legally Blonde*, *the Musical*); Lighting Designer **Xavier Pierce** (Cal Shakes’ *black odyssey*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and August Wilson’s *Fences*); and Sound Designer **Jake Rodriguez** (*Hamlet* and *Nicholas Nickleby* at Cal Shakes, Magic Theatre’s *Bruja*, A.C.T.’s *Rock and Roll*, plus the world premieres of *Passing Strange*, *The People’s Temple*, and *Fetes de la Nuit* at Berkeley Rep).

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’s plays include *Everybody* (Signature Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *War* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *Appropriate* (Signature Theatre; Obie Award), *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep; Obie Award) and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). A Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre, his most recent honors include the

Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright from the London Evening Standard, a London Critics Circle Award for Most Promising Playwriting, a MacArthur fellowship, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, the Benjamin Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award. He sits on the board of Soho Rep and, with Annie Baker, he is an associate co-director of the Hunter College MFA program in playwriting.

Nataki Garrett most recently served as Associate Artistic Director of Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company. Formerly the Associate Artistic Director of CalArts Center for New Performance (CNP), Nataki is a Company Member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors and a member of SDC. She is co-Artistic Director of BLANK THE DOG PRODUCTIONS (BTD) a LA/NYC based ensemble Theater Company, which is celebrating its 10th year and is dedicated to developing and fostering new work by emerging, adventurous and experimental artists. Her most recent BTD projects include *Carolyn Bryant*, which focuses on the decades-long silence of the woman for whom Emmett Till was brutally murdered in Mississippi in 1955. Additional BTD Productions include: *Strom Thurmond is Not a Racist* by Thomas Bradshaw; *Week #29 of 365 Plays/Days* by Suzan-Lori Parks; *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell; and *Ugly from the Front* written and performed by Amanda Gunderson at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2005. Garrett recently directed a staged reading of Aziza Barnes' *BLKS* at Ojai Playwrights Conference. Other directing projects include *Native Son* by Nambi Kelly at Antaeus Theatre Company, and *An Octaroon* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins at Woolly Mammoth Theater Company and Mixed Blood Theater. In 2008 Garrett received a NAACP Theatre Award nomination for Best Director for *Black Women State of the Union: An Evening of Plays by Black Women*. She directed the first professional production of *Neighbors* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, which received five Ovation nominations and was Winner of the Garland Award for Best Ensemble. She has directed in theaters across the country including Skylight Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Mixed-Blood Theater, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, Martin E. Segal Theater, UT Austin, Dartmouth College, NYU Tisch School of the Arts and many more. She has worked internationally in Bellagio, Italy; Edinburgh, Scotland; Paris, France; and in Rwanda and Uganda. Her work can be heard on the radio through L.A. Theatre Works audio theatre collection and for NPR, recorded live at the Skirball Cultural Arts Center.

Single tickets for *Everybody* range from **\$20 to \$92**, with discounts available for seniors, youth, students, military families, persons age 30 and under, and groups. Prices, dates, titles, and artists are subject to change. For information or to charge tickets by phone with VISA, MasterCard, or American Express, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org.

California Shakespeare Theater's 2018 season is supported in part by the generosity of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation. The New Classics Initiative receives support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, and the MCJ Amelie Foundation. Business partners include BART, Chevron, City National Bank, McRoskey Mattress Company, Meyer Sound, Peet's Coffee, and San Francisco Chronicle.

ABOUT CAL SHAKES

Founded in 1974, California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), under the leadership of Artistic Director Eric Ting and Managing Director Susie Falk, is a nationally-recognized leader in drawing on the power of authentic, inclusive storytelling to create more vibrant communities. Serving more than 40,000 people annually, Cal Shakes invites people from all walks of life to make deeply-felt connections with our shared humanity through its work onstage, in schools, and with people in non-traditional settings throughout the Bay Area who have little or no access to theater. For more information, visit www.calshakes.org.

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Fast Facts about *Quixote Nuevo*

WHAT California Shakespeare Theater's production of *Everybody*
by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
directed by Nataki Garrett
designed by Nina Ball (scenic designer), Naomi Arnst (costume designer), Xavier Pierce (lighting designer), and Jake Rodriguez (sound designer)
Featuring: Brit Frazier, Lance Gardner, Jenny Nelson, Sarita Ocón, Avi Roque, Stacy Ross, Jomar Tagatac, Victor Talmadge, and Alexandra Van De Poel

WHEN July 18-August 5, 2018

Previews July 18, 19, 20 at 8pm
Press Opening July 21 at 8pm
Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30pm
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm
Saturday Matinee August 4 at 2pm

Sunday Matinees at 4pm

Grounds open two hours prior to show time for picnicking. Café and full bar are available on site.

WHERE Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563
(just off Highway 24 at the California Shakespeare Theater Way/Wilder Rd. exit, one mile east of the Caldecott Tunnel.)

Complimentary shuttle from Orinda BART beginning 2 hours before curtain.

Complimentary parking onsite.

TICKETS Single tickets start at \$20, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. Cal Shakes makes twenty tickets available for \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis for every performance throughout the season. Call Cal Shakes' Box Office at 510.548.9666 between noon and 2pm to purchase. Prices subject to change.

All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley CA, 510.548.9666, online at www.calshakes.org, or at the Bruns box office on the day of the performance (pending availability).

GROUPS Groups of 10 or more save \$10 off the adult single ticket price; complimentary ticket available for groups of 15+. For more information, call 510.809.3290.

INFO www.calshakes.org

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Everybody Special Events

First Look, Saturday, July 14, 7-9pm, Bruns Amphitheater

Get a First Look at the production and hear from members of the artistic team days before performances begin. Artistic Director Eric Ting will moderate a Q&A with the director, followed by an opportunity to watch a portion of the technical rehearsal. Free and open to the public.

Pay-What-You-Can Preview, Wednesday July 18, 8pm

The first preview of each show is a special Pay-What-You-Can performance. Tickets are first-come, first-served, and available through the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 starting at 10am the day of the performance, or starting at 6pm at the Bruns Amphitheater Box Office.

Opening Night Post-Show Party, Saturday July 21, following the performance

Experience the excitement of the opening night performance and then mingle with the cast and creative team at a complimentary post-show party.

Meet the Artists, Sunday, July 22 following the 4pm performance

Audience members enjoy an opportunity to engage in a lively discussion about the production with cast. Free.

Open-captioned performance, Wednesday, July 25, 7:30pm

Special seating and opening-captioning for Deaf or Hard of Hearing patrons, who can read the text and dialogue on a digital screen. Purchase tickets for section A online www.calshakes.org or call the Box Office at 510.548.9666. For groups of 10 or more, email groups@calshakes.org or call 510.809.3290.

InSight Matinee, Sunday, July 29 following the 4pm matinee

Explore the world of the play through an informal dialogue with the production's dramaturg. Free.

Grove Talks, 45 minutes before each performance

Free, informal 20-minute talks are held on site 45 minutes before each and every performance in the ADA-accessible Grove Talk grove, offering invaluable insight into the play and the production.

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