

## LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE RETURNS TO LIVE THEATRE WITH ENTICING IN-PERSON PROJECTS

***WITHOUT WALLS PRODUCTION A THOUSAND WAYS (PART 2): AN ENCOUNTER  
TO RUN JUNE 3 – 20***

***DNA NEW WORKS SERIES TO BE HELD OVER TWO WEEKENDS:  
JULY 22 – 25 AND JULY 29 – AUGUST 1***

***“POP-UP” WOW EVENT TO TAKE PLACE AUGUST 14 AND 15  
AT ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION***

***THREE WORLD PREMIERES CONFIRMED FOR 2021/2022 SEASON  
TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER***

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces its return to live, in-person theatre with several exciting upcoming projects. This summer, the Playhouse will offer two on-site events: the Without Walls (WOW) production of ***A Thousand Ways (Part 2): An Encounter***, by 600 Highwaymen, running **June 3 – 20**; and the **2021 DNA New Works Series**, featuring readings of four new plays over the weekends of **July 22 – 25** and **July 29 – August 1**. The Playhouse will also present a special **Pop-Up WOW** event featuring five short, Playhouse-commissioned Without Walls works, taking place **August 14 – 15** at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station.

Beginning in September, the Playhouse will mount a three-play **2021/2022 subscription season** featuring three world premieres: ***The Garden***, by Tony Award nominee **Charlayne Woodard** (Playhouse's *The Night Watcher*, *Pretty Fire*), directed by **Patricia McGregor** (Roundabout Theatre's *Ugly Lies the Bone*), running **September 21 – October 17** in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre; ***to the yellow house***, by **Kimber Lee** (*tokyo fish story*), directed by former Playhouse Associate Artistic Director **Neel Keller** (Playhouse's *Light Up the Sky*), running **November 16 – December 12** in the Mandell Weiss Theatre; and the new musical ***Bhagin' It***, book by **Mike Lew** (*Teenage Dick*; Playhouse's *Tiger Style!*) and **Rehana Lew Mirza** (*Hatefuck*; Playhouse's DNA Series reading of *Child of Colonialism*), music and lyrics by **Sam Willmott** (*Yo, Vikings!*), with additional music by Grammy Award nominee **Deep Singh**, choreographed by **Rujuta Vaidya** (*Slumdog Millionaire*) and directed by **Amy Anders Corcoran** (off-Broadway's *Unexpected Joy*), running **March 8 – April 17, 2022** in the Mandell Weiss Theatre. Subscriptions will be available for purchase beginning June 21.

“After more than a year of dark stages, we are all aching for that one-of-a-kind communal experience of sitting together in an audience again, heartbeats aligned; and now we're coming back with an amazing slate of projects, both at the Playhouse and in the community,” said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse. “This pause has also caused all of us to reflect deeply – not just about how essential it is to gather together to hear stories, but about how we make those gatherings, those communities and those stories more welcoming and equitable.”

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Managing Director **Debby Buchholz** added, "As we start to see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we're feeling a tremendous sense of joy and anticipation. We are also extremely grateful to all our patrons for their incredible support and patience this past year. We couldn't have made it through the last 15 months without their unwavering commitment to the Playhouse and the work we do. As we navigate our plans for in-person productions, the safety of our audiences, staff and artists remains of utmost importance, and we are putting together comprehensive plans to ensure that everyone feels comfortable returning to the Playhouse."

The health and safety of all La Jolla Playhouse patrons, staff and artists is the top priority as live events resume. For all in-person activities, the Playhouse will follow COVID-19 guidelines and strategies provided by UC San Diego, San Diego County, California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Playhouse will also offer flexible ticket return policies, as well as virtual viewing options for subscribers to *The Garden* and to *the yellow house*. The Theatre will continue to monitor government and university guidelines for COVID-19 and will keep patrons updated on all safety protocols. For up-to-date information on the Playhouse's COVID-19 safety plans, visit [lajollaplayhouse.org/plan-your-visit](http://lajollaplayhouse.org/plan-your-visit).

The Playhouse also plans to continue its [Digital Without Walls \(WOW\)](#) series, offering imaginative Playhouse-commissioned productions as part of its acclaimed WOW program. From intimate, one-on-one experiences to collective events, these brand-new virtual WOW offerings bring world-class artists directly into patrons' homes, which helped to create social contact during this isolating time.

Also available virtually will be the Playhouse's Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour for young audiences: [Pick Me Last](#), by Idris Goodwin, directed by Jacole Kitchen, Playhouse Director of Arts Engagement and In-House Casting. The piece is free to all San Diego schools, community organizations and families, as well as to those around the country.

La Jolla Playhouse's previously-announced 2020/2021 productions of *Mother Russia*, by Lauren Yee (*Cambodian Rock Band*), directed by Tyne Rafaeli (*The Coast Starlight*); and the Broadway-bound musical *Lempicka*, featuring book and lyrics by Carson Kreitzer, music by Matt Gould, choreography by Raja Feather Kelly, and direction by 2019 Tony Award winner Rachel Chavkin (*Hadestown*), will move to 2022/2023 season.

For more information on La Jolla Playhouse's in-person and digital productions, please visit [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org).

#### Summer Projects

##### ***A Thousand Ways (Part 2): An Encounter***

By 600 Highwaymen

June 3 – 20 at La Jolla Playhouse

Tickets: \$25

*A Thousand Ways (Part 2): An Encounter* is a continuation of last February's *A Thousand Ways, Part 1*, which began with a sculpted, structured phone call between two strangers, and now continues with a series of one-on-one in-person encounters across a panel of glass. This stirring reintroduction into a world where people bear witness to, and hold space for, one another both accentuates and transcends the collective isolation of our moment and asks how to rebuild our vocabulary for communing with strangers in all their complexity—something that had become endangered well before COVID-19.

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## DNA New Work Series

July 22 – 25; July 29 – August 1 at La Jolla Playhouse

Tickets: free; reservations required

The DNA New Work Series offers playwrights and directors the opportunity to develop a script by providing rehearsal time, space and resources, culminating in a public reading. This process gives audiences a closer look at the play development process, while allowing the Playhouse to develop work and foster relationships with established and up-and-coming playwrights. The DNA New Work Series has been a launching pad for numerous shows that have gone on to full productions in future Playhouse seasons, including *Chasing the Song*, by the Tony Award-winning team of Joe DiPietro and David Bryan (*Memphis, Diana*); Pulitzer Prize winner Ayad Akhtar's *The Who & The What*; Michael Benjamin Washington's *Blueprints to Freedom*; UC San Diego MFA graduate Jeff Augustin's *The Last Tiger in Haiti*; *Miss You Like Hell*, by Pulitzer Prize winner Quiara Alegria Hudes and Erin McKeown; *Kill Local*, by UC San Diego MFA graduate Mat Smart; *What Happens Next*, by UC San Diego MFA graduate and current playwriting faculty member Naomi Iizuka; Melissa Ross' *The Luckiest* and Keith Bunin's *The Coast Starlight*. Projects and a full schedule for the 2021 DNA New Work Series will be announced shortly.

## Pop-Up WOW

August 14 – 15 at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station – North Promenade

Tickets: Free

This special Pop-Up WOW event will take place at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty station, home of the Playhouse's 2019 WOW Festival, and will feature five short, Playhouse-commissioned projects by WOW artists **David Israel Reynoso/Optika Moderna** (Playhouse's 2020/21 and 2021/22 Resident Artist; WOW Festival's *Las Quinceañeras* in 2019 and *Waking La Llorona* in 2017); **Blindspot Collective** (Playhouse's 2020/21 and 2021/22 Resident Theatre Company; 2019 WOW Festival's *Hall Pass*); and UC San Diego MFA graduate **Jesca Prudencio** (2019 WOW Festival's *PDA*); along with **Kenny Ramos** (Playhouse 2021/22 Resident Artist) and the **San Diego Black Artist Collective**. All productions for the Pop-Up WOW event will be free and have multiple performance times throughout the weekend. Full programming and schedules will be announced at a later date.

Since its inception in 2009, the Playhouse's signature **Without Walls (WOW)** series has become one of San Diego's most popular and acclaimed performance programs. Over the last ten years, the Playhouse has been commissioning and presenting this series of immersive and site-inspired productions throughout the San Diego community, including *Susurrus* (2011), *The Car Plays: San Diego* (2012), *Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir* (2012), *Accomplice: San Diego* (2013), *El Henry* (2014), *The Grift at the Lafayette Hotel* (2015), *The Bitter Game* (2016) and *What Happens Next* (2018), as well as WOW Festivals in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019.

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Season 2021/2022 Productions

***The Garden***

By Charlayne Woodard

Directed by Patricia McGregor

Co-Produced with Baltimore Center Stage

September 21 – October 17 in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre

Tickets: available with subscription purchase at [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org)

Written by the Tony Award-nominated artist Charlayne Woodard, this moving world premiere play explores the complex relationship between two “alpha” women: Claire Rose, an elderly Black woman and her middle-aged daughter, Cassandra. After not speaking to each other for the past three years, Cassandra shows up unexpectedly at her mother’s garden gate, attempting to reconcile old wounds. Both women give as good as they get, taking us on a rollercoaster ride unearthing conflicts and secrets of the past, and creating magic in the process.

***to the yellow house***

By Kimber Lee

Directed by Neel Keller

November 16 – December 12 in the Mandell Weiss Theatre

Tickets: available with subscription purchase at [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org)

February 1886. Vincent Van Gogh is broke again. Trailing past-due notices and annoyed innkeepers, he arrives unexpectedly at his brother’s doorstep in Montmartre determined to make another fresh start. Caught in the colorful whirl of the Parisian art scene, he drinks too much, falls in love with the wrong woman, argues with everyone – and paints. Night and day he works to translate what he feels onto the canvas, relentlessly chasing a new form of expression that seems to be always around the next corner. But at what point in an endless cycle of failures do faith and persistence become delusion and foolishness? A meditation on love, art and not being popular.

***Bhangin’ It***

Book by Mike Lew and Rehana Lew Mirza

Music and lyrics by Sam Willmott

Additional music by Deep Singh

Choreographed by Rujuta Vaidya

Directed by Amy Anders Corcoran

March 8 – April 17, 2022 in the Mandell Weiss Theatre

Tickets: available with subscription purchase at [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org)

Winner of the Richard Rodgers Award, *Bhangin’ It* is an exhilarating new musical that celebrates the traditions we inherit from yesterday and those we create for tomorrow. When a young woman finds her identity cannot be defined by checking a box, she sets off on a quest to dance to her own beat. Drawing from competitive Bhangra and mixing it with other Indian and Western dance forms alike, *Bhangin’ It* is a brash, intoxicating and joyous musical for America today.

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## Digital Projects

### Digital Without Walls (WOW) Series

Tickets: free; available to stream now

The Digital Without Walls (WOW) series offers imaginative, Playhouse-commissioned productions in a digital format, as part of its acclaimed WOW program of non-traditional theatre. From intimate, one-on-one experiences to collective events, these virtual WOW offerings bring world-class artists directly into patrons' homes. Current Digital WOW projects include *Ancient*, by Mike Sears and Lisa Berger (2019 WOW Festival's *How High the Moon*); *The Society of Wonder*, by Animal Cracker Conspiracy (2015 WOW Festival's *Gnomesense*); *Spittin' Truth to Power While Light Leaping for the People*, a spoken word piece set to music by poet and Playhouse Leadership Council member Alyce Smith-Cooper and musician/DJ Shammy Dee; *The Totally Fake Latino News with Culture Clash*, by Culture Clash (*American Night, Zorro in Hell*); *Towards Belonging*, by Anjanette Maraya-Ramey/Maraya Performing Arts; *Walks of Life*, by Playhouse Resident Theatre Blindspot Collective (2019 WOW Festival's *Hall Pass*); and *You Are Here*, by Marike Splint (2017 WOW Festival's *Among Us*).

### ***Pick Me Last***

2021 Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour

By Idris Goodwin

Directed by Jacole Kitchen

Tickets: free; available to stream now

A playground. 2 teams. 2 captains. It's the same thing every day at Chavonne's elementary school – her best friend Wes is always picked last. She hatches a plan to end the schoolyard cycle, but after a few imaginary visits from visionaries Sigmund Freud and Elon Musk, plus a little help from the new kid, Chavonne learns that the problem she's trying to fix may not be the one that needs solving. The Playhouse's 2021 Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour *Pick Me Last* is a funny and touching story – infused with music and poetry – about standing up for your friends, and learning to let them stand up for themselves.

## About the Artists

**600 Highwaymen's** (*A Thousand Ways*) Abigail Browde and Michael Silverstone are a theatermaking duo who are aiming at a radical approach to making live art by creating intimacy amongst strangers and illuminating the inherent poignancy of people coming together. Their work, which they've been making since 2009, exists at the intersection of theater, dance, contemporary performance, and civic encounter.

**Amy Anders Corcoran** (Director, *Bhangin' It*) is currently attached to three new musicals, and will have a new show debut on the Disney Wish in 2022. She was the associate/resident director of *Escape to Margaritaville* for Christopher Ashley on the pre-Broadway tour and on Broadway, and directed the national tour. She also served as Mr. Ashley's Associate Director on Disney's *Freaky Friday*. Corcoran directs mostly new musicals, including the NYC off-Broadway and London premieres of *Unexpected Joy*. Her work has also been seen at Asolo Rep, Guthrie Theatre, Goodspeed, NAMT and American Conservatory Theater. Favorite directing credits include *21 Chump Street* (European premiere), *I Am My Own Wife* (NYC site-specific production), *Little Women*, *Smokey Joe's Café* and *CULT! (London)*. Corcoran received the SDC Noël Coward Fellowship for Comedic Direction, mentored by Mark Rucker. A proud member of SDC, she holds a B.A. in Psychology with Honors from the University of Kansas and an M.F.A. in Directing from Penn State.

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**Blindspot Collective** (Pop-Up WOW) develops radically inclusive programming that cultivates new work, emerging artists, and diverse audiences. The company develops transformative theatre that amplifies marginalized voices, illuminates untold stories, and energizes vulnerable communities in San Diego County. Since its founding in 2017, Blindspot Collective has collaborated with La Jolla Playhouse; The Old Globe; California Center for the Arts, Escondido; Diversionary Theatre; ARTS (A Reason to Survive); UC San Diego and other community partners to develop projects that meaningfully engage audiences and artists in the blindspot of society. The organization centers equity, inclusion, and pressing social issues in its work on and off stage with collaborators that include San Diego Unified School District, Juvenile Court and Community Schools, Cajon Valley Union School District, and Live Well San Diego. Most recently, Blindspot Collective was the first theatre company to be awarded a performing arts residency at the San Diego International Airport, where the organization developed and presented site-specific performances in 2019. The company has received acclaim for its original work, including *Hall Pass*, an immersive musical featured in the 2019 Without Walls Festival; *Qulili*, a documentary play based on the stories of local refugees developed with support from the Critical Refugee Studies Collective; *The Magic in this Soul*, a verbatim play about discrimination and resilience that won the Audience Favorite Award at the 2018 San Diego International Fringe Festival; and *Untold*, another verbatim play about mental illness that won the Dunn-Rankin Award for New Work at the 2017 San Diego Fringe. The company also develops interactive Forum Theatre for youth audiences, including *Safa's Story* and *Danny's Story*, which allow young people to consider the complexities of difference and prejudice. Those two productions have been seen by over 12,000 students in the past two years.

**Neel Keller** (Director, *to the yellow house*) is thrilled to be returning to the Playhouse, where, during the years of the second Clinton administration, he was Associate Artistic Director. His previous Playhouse productions include *The School for Wives*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Loot*, *Diva* and *The Cosmonaut's Last Message To the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union*. His more recent productions include the world premieres of Eliza Clark's *Quack*, Julia Cho's *Office Hour*, Jennifer Haley's *The Nether*, Kimber Lee's *different words for the same thing*, Dael Orlandersmith's *Until the Flood* and *Forever* and Lucy Alibar's *Throw Me on the Burnpile* and *Light Me Up!*. His productions have been mounted at theatres across the country, including The Public Theater, New York Theater Workshop, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Mark Taper Forum, Kirk Douglas Theater, South Coast Rep, Goodman Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Long Wharf Theater, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, ACT, Portland Center Stage and several hospitable theaters in Ireland, Scotland and England. He is currently the Associate Artistic Director/Literary Manager at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles.

**Kimber Lee's** (Playwright, *to the yellow house*) plays include *untitled f\*ck m\*ss s\*\*gon play* (2019 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference), *tokyo fish story* (South Coast Rep, TheatreWorks/SV, The Old Globe), *brownsville song (b-side for tray)* (Humana Festival, LCT3, Long Wharf Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Seattle Rep, Moxie Theatre, Shotgun Players) and *different words for the same thing*, directed by Neel Keller (Center Theatre Group). She has developed work with Lark Play Development Center, The Ground Floor/Berkeley Rep, Page 73, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Hedgebrook, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Great Plains Theatre Conference, ACT Theatre/Seattle, Premiere Stages, MTC and Magic Theatre/Virgin Series. Lark Playwrights Workshop Fellow, Dramatists Guild Fellow, member of Ma-Yi Writers Lab; recipient of the Ruby Prize, PoNY Fellowship, Hartford Stage New Voices Fellowship, BAU Institute Arts Residency Award, Kilroys List, 2020-2021 Hodder Fellowship and inaugural winner of the Bruntwood Prize International Award (2019). MFA: University of Texas, Austin.

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**Mike Lew** (Co-Librettist, *Bhangin' It*) is beyond thrilled to return to La Jolla Playhouse, his hometown theatre. Previous collaborations with the Playhouse include serving as the 2018/19 Artist-in-Residence and a commission for *The Colonialism Project* (both with Rehana Lew Mirza), and the west coast premiere of his play *Tiger Style!* (also at Olney, Huntington and Alliance). His other plays include *Teenage Dick* (Ma-Yi at the Public, Donmar Warehouse, Woolly Mammoth, Artists Rep); *Bike America* (Ma-Yi, Alliance) and *microcrisis* (Ma-Yi, InterAct, Next Act). He and Ms. Lew Mirza are joint Mellon Foundation Playwrights-in-Residence at Ma-Yi Theater. Mike is a Dramatists Guild Council member, Tony voter and New Dramatists resident. Honors: Guggenheim, Lark Venturous and NYFA fellowships; Kleban, PEN, Lanford Wilson, Helen Merrill, Heideman and Kendeda Awards. Education: Juilliard, Yale.

Born in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, **Patricia McGregor** (Director, *The Garden*) is a director and writer working in theater, film, and music. She has twice been profiled by *The New York Times* for her direction of world premieres. Productions include *Lights Out: Nat "King" Cole* (co-writer and director, Geffen Playhouse, People's Light); *Sisters In Law* (Wallis Annenberg) *What You Are*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe); *Skeleton Crew* (Geffen Playhouse); *Good Grief* (Center Theater Group); *Hamlet* (Public Theater); *The Parchman Hour* (The Guthrie Theater); *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre); *brownsville song...* (Lincoln Center); *Indomitable: James Brown* (The Apollo); *Holding It Down* (Metropolitan Museum); *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Spunk* (California Shakespeare Theater); *Adoration of the Old Woman* (INTAR); *Blood Dazzler* (Harlem Stage); *Four Electric Ghosts* (The Kitchen) and the world premiere of *Hurt Village* (Signature Theatre Company). She served as Associate Director of *Fela!* on Broadway. For many years she has directed *The 24-Hour Plays* on Broadway. She served as director for HBO emerging writer's showcase and tour consultant to Raphael Saadiq and J Cole. Her short film *Good Grief* will premiere this year. She co-founded Angela's Pulse with her sister, choreographer, and organizer Paloma McGregor, and sits on the advisory board of Adam Driver's Arts in the Armed Forces and the Parent Artist Advocacy League. McGregor attended the Yale School of Drama, where she was a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow and Artistic Director of the Yale Cabaret.

**Rehana Lew Mirza's** (Co-Librettist, *Bhangin' It*) previous collaborations with La Jolla Playhouse include serving as the 2018/19 Artist-in-Residence and a commission for *The Colonialism Project* (both with Mike Lew). Her plays include: *Hatefuck* (2019 production at Colt Coeur and WP Theater); *A People's Guide to History in the Time of Here and Now* (Primary Stages commission; workshop production: AMDA); *Soldier X* (productions: Ma-Yi, Brooklyn College; 2015 Kilroys List; NYSCA/Lark commission); *Tomorrow Inshallah* (Storyworks/HuffPost commission; production: Living Room Theater, Kansas City); *Neighborhood Watch* (NNPN/ InterAct commission); and *Barriers* (productions: Desipina, Asian American Theater Company). Honors include: Kleban Award, NYFA Fellow, Colt Coeur Company member, HBO Access Fellow, Lilly Award (Stacey Mindich "Go Write A Play") and a TCG/New Georges Fellowship. She and Mike also share a Mellon Foundation National Playwright residency administered in partnership with Howlround at Ma-Yi Theater. M.F.A.: Columbia University; B.F.A.: NYU Tisch.

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**Jesca Prudencio** (Pop-Up WOW) is a director, choreographer and community-based artist. She is dedicated to developing new theatrical works that humanize issues and explore the tension between cultures. She focuses on new plays, musicals, film and dance theater in New York, regionally, and internationally. Jesca has developed new work at The Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, East West Players, The Lark, NAMT, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Space on Ryder Farm, La MaMa, Clubbed Thumb, Joe's Pub and The Movement Theatre Company. She is the recipient of the TS Eliot US/UK Exchange at the Old Vic, The Drama League Fall Fellowship, and the 2018 Artist-In-Residency at the Performance Project at University Settlement in Manhattan. Jesca is the inaugural recipient of The Julie Taymor World Theater Fellowship which supported her travels through Thailand, Japan and The Philippines throughout 2017 as she researched and trained in traditional and contemporary forms of theater in each country. She was recently named a *2021 Woman To Watch on Broadway* by the Broadway Women's Fund. She founded her company [People Of Interest](#) in 2014 to focus on new theatrical events that address community specific issues. Most recently, they presented *PDA* as part of the 2019 La Jolla Playhouse WOW Festival, exploring the relationships of three real couples and how they love out loud. As an educator, Jesca has taught workshops at numerous institutions across the U.S. and Asia. She was the former Education Director at [Ping Chong + Company](#), where she worked as a writer, director, and associate on a dozen interdisciplinary and documentary theater projects across the U.S., including Oregon Shakespeare Festival, BAM and The Smithsonian. Currently the Head of Directing at San Diego State University, she holds a BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch, and an MFA in Directing from UC San Diego.

**Kenny Ramos** (Pop-Up WOW) is a theatre artist from the Barona Band of Mission Indians/ Kumeyaay Nation. He grew up on the Barona Indian Reservation and started his theater career locally at the Starlight Bowl and Moonlight Amphitheatre before moving to Los Angeles to attend UCLA, where he earned a degree in American Indian Studies. Kenny is an ensemble member at Cornerstone Theater Company where he is collaborating on a series of community-engaged theater productions that center various tribal nations and communities across the United States. He is a recipient of First Peoples Fund's Cultural Capital Fellowship, TCG's Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship, and Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity & Transnational Migration's 2021 Mellon Arts Practitioner Fellowship. Kenny's favorite acting credits include the world-premiere productions of Larissa FastHorse's *Urban Rez* and *Native Nation* (Cornerstone), Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Return to Niobrara* (Rose Theater Omaha), Vera Starbard's *Devilfish* (Perseverance Theatre) and Dillon Chitto's *Bingo Hall* (Native Voices at the Autry). He has also performed at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center and The Kennedy Center, and he recently received his first play commission from Diversionary Theatre's Rising Tide Commissioning Program. Kenny is passionate about creating theater that centers Native perspectives, asserts tribal sovereignty, and challenges settler colonial realities of American society.

**David Israel Reynoso** (Pop-Up WOW) is a scenic/costume designer and the creator, with Optika Moderna, of La Jolla Playhouse's acclaimed Without Walls Festival productions of *Las Quinceañeras* (2019) and *Waking La Llorona* (2017), as well as the 2020 Digital WOW production of *Portoleza*. Other Playhouse designs include: *Queens*, *At the Old Place*, *Tiger Style!*, *Healing Wars*, *The Darrell Hammond Project* and *Kingdom City*. He is also recognized locally for his designs of The Old Globe's *Ebenezer Scrooge's Big San Diego Christmas Show*, *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, *The Wanderers*, *tokyo fish story*, *Twelfth Night*, *Arms and the Man*, *Water by the Spoonful* and *Time and the Conways*, among others. The Obie Award-winning costume designer of *Sleep No More* (New York and Shanghai), Mr. Reynoso's other selected work includes: *Hamlet* at ACT and *Futurity*, *Cabaret*, *The Snow Queen*, *Alice vs. Wonderland* at ART. He is the recipient of the Creative Catalyst Grant of The San Diego Foundation, an Elliot Norton Award, a Craig Noel Award nomination and multiple IRNE and BroadwayWorld Award nominations.

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In February, 2020, at the invitation of The Old Globe, a group of Black artists gathered to break bread and discuss common interests. In June of that same year, the group formally became **The San Diego Black Artist Collective** (Pop-Up WOW). Although the collective was integral in the formation of local EDI and Anti-Racist policies, the mission of the SDBAC is to act as a resource for the accomplishment of local Black Works. The San Diego Black Artist Collective is a multidisciplinary collective of Artists advocating for Black stories to be seen and heard.

**Deep Singh** (Additional Music, *Bhangin' It*) is a Grammy-nominated musician who has toured the world performing Indian Classical concerts. Singh's versatility as a performer, composer and producer has given him a unique place in the music industry resulting in some very innovative collaborations with leading artists from the East and West.

**Rujuta Vaidya** (Choreographer, *Bhangin' It*) is a highly-accredited and globally-recognized Bollywood-style choreographer, who has been responsible for some of the biggest Bollywood musical extravaganzas in the entertainment industry. With choreography credits that include the Academy Awards 2009 – John Legend and AR Rahman's *Slumdog Millionaire* performance, Britney Spears' The Circus tour, Black Eyed Peas' The End Tour, AR Rahman World Tour, Priyanka Chopra's "In My City", Sridevi's English Vinglish and the Disney-released Cheetah Girls 3 – One World, Ruj has emerged as a leading influence in the world of contemporary Bollywood dance. She has also released a hip-hop – Bollywood dance workout video called BYOU2 ([www.byou.com](http://www.byou.com)) that has her collaborating with Sabrina Bryan of the Cheetah Girls on a dance instructional video for young girls that blends both styles from the East and the West.

**Sam Willmott's** (Composer/Lyricist, *Bhangin' It*) projects include *Yo, Vikings!* and the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre's *Wake Up, Daisy!* (both with Marcus Stevens); the Emmy-nominated HBO documentary *Song of Parkland, Standardized Testing – The Musical!!!!* and the mini-musical *Scarlet Takes a Tumble*. His written work has received the Kleban Prize, the Fred Ebb Award, a Jonathan Larson Grant, the ASCAP Foundation's Cole Porter and Harold Adamson Awards, MAC's John Wallowitch Award, and the Kennedy Center ACTF Musical Theater Award. He has written over 150 songs for the Korean English-language children's program, English Egg, and taught at Harvard University and Lincoln Center's Songwriting in Schools Program. [SamWillmott.com](http://SamWillmott.com)

**Charlayne Woodard** (Playwright, *The Garden*) is a playwright and actor. She has written and performed four acclaimed solo plays: *Pretty Fire* (LA Drama Critics and NAACP Awards – best play and best playwright); *Neat* (Irving and Blanche Laurie Theatre Vision Award and Outer Critics Circle Award nomination); *In Real Life* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations, Audelco, Backstage West Garland and NAACP Awards); and *The Night Watcher* (LA Drama Critics Award). Her multi-character plays are *Flight* and *Phenom*. Her new play, *The Garden*, was commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse. Ms. Woodard has also received commissions from Seattle Repertory Theatre and The Center Theater Group. Her plays are published by Dramatists Play Service. Recent acting credits include: *Daddy* by Jeremy O. Harris; *Hamlet* (Gertrude) dir. by Sam Gold; *The Substance of Fire* (2ST revival) by Jon Robin Bates; *The Witch of Edmonton* (Obie Award); *In The Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks (Obie Award); *Fabulation* by Lynn Nottage and, *Stunning* by David Adjmi. On Broadway, she was in the original company of *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Tony Award and Drama Desk Award nominations). Regional credits include: *Taming of the Shrew* (Katherine) at Shakespeare Theatre Company and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The La Jolla Playhouse. Charlayne is a regular on the FX series *Pose* and reoccurs on both *Prodigal Son* and *Sneaky Pete*. For additional film and TV credits visit [CharlayneWoodard.com](http://CharlayneWoodard.com). Ms. Woodard trained at the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago, received an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from DePaul University, and is a member of The Actor's Studio.

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**ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station** (Pop-Up WOW) is San Diego's largest Arts & Cultural District, located in historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center in the Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 100 park-like acres, the ARTS DISTRICT is home to nearly 145 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, fine dining, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego's creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public.

Designated the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, **Baltimore Center Stage** (Co-Producer, *The Garden*) provides the highest quality theater and programming for all members of their communities, including youth and families, under the leadership of Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra and Managing Director Michael Ross. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages and an intimate 99-seat theater, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything they do at Center Stage is led by their core values—chief among them being Access For All. Their mission is heavily rooted in providing active and open accessibility for everyone, regardless of any and all barriers, to their Mainstage performances, education initiatives, and community programming.

**La Jolla Playhouse** is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 105 world premieres, commissioning 60 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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