

## Intrepid Announces Its Eighth Season of Mainstage Production and the Inaugural Year of San Diego's August Wilson Monologue Competition

**December 10, 2018 - San Diego, CA** - Commencing in March 2019 at the Lyceum Theatre in downtown San Diego, Intrepid Theatre Company will present a season of mainstage productions designed to delight, to challenge and to inspire, while supporting community building by inviting audiences to lean in and listen to one another. Season 8 will open in March with *Admissions* by Joshua Harmon, followed in the fall of 2019 by *Eclipsed* by Danai Gurira. *Eclipsed* will run in repertory with *Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare. *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson will conclude the season in the spring of 2020.

Intrepid Theatre Company also announces that San Diego will be a Regional City for the August Wilson Monologue Competition, a national competition for high school students surrounding August Wilson's Century Cycle. Intrepid will facilitate the competition in San Diego and the top two finalists will travel to New York City for the finals. The competition will be held in conjunction with the mainstage production of *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*.

"I couldn't be more excited about the stories we are bringing to the stage, the conversations we will be creating in San Diego, and the launch of this incredible opportunity to engage the city's high school students in the works of August Wilson," says Producing Artistic Director and Co-Founder Christy Yael-Cox.

After securing a fourth Craig Noel nomination for Outstanding Dramatic Production (after an unprecedented three consecutive wins from 2015-2017) and a third consecutive Craig Noel win for Outstanding Direction of a Play (2016-2018), Intrepid Theatre Company stepped away from producing in 2018 to focus on another branch of programming that had recently become a clear priority: community outreach and engagement.

With the immense success of 2017's *Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience*, the increasing demand for continued community arts engagement became too overwhelming to ignore.

After presenting at the 2017 California Refugee Summit on the impact of arts in supporting the refugee resettlement process, SAY San Diego invited Intrepid Theatre Company back to the campus of Crawford High School to continue their work with the new arrivals. The result was an original play and spoken word piece titled "We're Here to Light Up the World," co-created by the new arrival students and Gill Sotu, who was one of the featured artists in *Exiled Voices*. This piece chronicled the awkward and sometimes humorous experiences of the new arrival students, and was performed at Crawford High School for the student body and faculty.

“Exiled Voices opened up the world of performance and storytelling for these students,” says Associate Director Tiffany Tang. “It was amazing to see how empowered they felt after that experience to create their own art, and how courageous they were in sharing it with their peers.”

Additionally, the Exiled Voices School Tour launched in the fall of 2017 and has performed in front of more than 3000 students. The tour was also invited to perform at SAY San Diego’s refugee resettlement resource trainings and in a community performance organized by the San Diego Unified School District.

Intrepid Theatre’s education programming also doubled in size over the course of 2018, with the expansion of the summertime Camp Intrepid, which now offers 10 weeks of musical theatre camps for ages 6-15, in addition to both spring and fall after-school classes.

Prioritizing community engagement and education not only bolstered those branches of Intrepid’s programming over the past year, but that work also helped crystallize the season that would return the company to the mainstage

“It was incredible to have the time to embed ourselves in our community outreach and education programming this year so that we could really deepen our understanding of the stories we want to tell as a theatre company - the ones that will best serve our community,” says Artistic Director and Co-Founder Sean Yael-Cox.

---

## **SEASON 8 MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS**

### **ADMISSIONS**

By Joshua Harmon

Directed by Christy Yael-Cox and Antonio TJ Johnson

Press Opening Night: Saturday, March 9 at 8pm

Runs: March 7 to March 31, 2019

Thursday 8pm, Friday 8pm, Saturday 4pm and 8pm, Sunday 2pm

This show will be produced at the Lyceum Space Theatre in downtown San Diego’s Horton Plaza located at 79 Horton Plaza, San Diego CA 92101

### **SYNOPSIS**

A no-holds-barred look at privilege, power, and the perils of whiteness from the author of *Bad Jews* and *Significant Other*.

Bill and Sherri are the white, progressive-and-proud headmaster and dean of admissions at Hillcrest, a mid-tier New Hampshire boarding school. Over the last fifteen years, they’ve worked tirelessly to diversify the school’s mostly white population. But when their high-achieving son’s Ivy League dreams are deferred, his reaction blasts open a deep rift between the family’s public values and private actions.

## **PRESS**

WINNER of the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Play

“Astonishing and daring.” – *The New York Times*

“The nuanced and competing truths in this 90-minute play are like a first act that dares its spectators to create a second out of post-show conversations.”— *Time Out New York*

“A smart, hilarious and provocative drama.”— *The Hollywood Reporter*

---

## **ECLIPSED**

By Danai Gurira

Directed by Christy Yael-Cox and Yolanda Franklin

Press Opening Night: Saturday, October 19 at 8pm

Runs: October 17 to November 9, 2019

Tuesday 7:30pm, Thursday 8pm, Saturday 4pm and 8pm [running in rep with *Titus Andronicus*]

## **SYNOPSIS**

2003, civil war is raging in Liberia. At a rebel army base four young women are doing their best to survive the conditions of the war. Yet sometimes, the greatest threat comes not from the enemy’s guns, but from the brutality of those on your own side. With the arrival of a new girl, who can read, and an old one, who can kill, how might this transform the future of this hard-bitten sisterhood? *Eclipsed* offers a chilling, humanizing and surprisingly funny portrait of transformation and renewal. With wit, compassion, and defiance, this gripping play unearths the wreckage of war and celebrates the women who navigate and survive the most hostile of circumstances.

## **PRESS**

Nominated for 6 Tony Awards

“Mesmerizing and Unmissable” – *New York Magazine*

“Riveting” – *Variety*

“Stirring and sobering, and funnier than you’d expect...a deeply felt portrait of women in extremis, finding and testing their own strength.” – *Washington City Paper*

---

## **TITUS ANDRONICUS**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Sean Yael-Cox

Press Opening Night: Sunday, October 20 at 7pm

Runs: October 16 to November 10, 2019

Wednesday 7:30pm, Friday 8pm, Sunday 2pm and 7pm [running in rep with *Eclipsed*]

## **SYNOPSIS**

In a world of chaos and disorder, *Titus Andronicus* feels chillingly contemporary. When a society is oppressed, it becomes violent. How do we govern ourselves? Titus has returned from a brutal 10-year

war having lost 21 sons in battle. Betrayed by his nation, and with his family in pieces, a series of bloody events follows as he and Tamora, Queen of the Goths, begin a violent cycle of revenge.

## **PRESS**

“A thoughtful treatise on the excesses of revenge” – *Toronto Sun*

“The play is wonderfully gripping and seems to speak across the centuries to the horrors of our own troubled times, with its catalogue of dreadful violence and burning hatreds...but amazingly the play also makes you laugh.” – *The Telegraph*

---

## **JOE TURNER’S COME AND GONE**

By August Wilson

Directed by Antonio TJ Johnson and Christy Yael-Cox

Press Opening Night: Saturday, February 29 at 8pm

Runs: February 20 to March 22, 2020

Thursday 8pm, Friday 8pm, Saturday 2pm and 8pm, Sunday 2pm

## **SYNOPSIS**

It’s August 1911, as the Great Migration brings a revolving band of strangers to the door of Seth and Bertha Holly’s Pittsburgh boarding house. Lost souls migrating to the industrial North in search of work, a new life, somewhere to belong in this historic drama, part of ten celebrated works chronicling the African-American experience of the 20th Century. Two-time Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner August Wilson says, “They arrive carrying Bibles and guitars, their pockets lined with dust and fresh hope.”

With so many forces at work — mystical, emotional, financial — and the looming fear that Joe Turner will spirit them away back to the oppressive South — this unlikely family of strangers must forge new identities together or alone in this extraordinary drama.

## **PRESS**

“Great works of art often tote heavy baggage...August Wilson’s “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone,” a drama of indisputable greatness, feels positively airborne.” – *The New York Times*

“Joe Turner is one of Wilson’s finest, rich in character and a poetry that suggests the world-weariness of the blues” – *Associated Press*

“August Wilson’s gift for storytelling has rarely been more beguiling than in this lyrical drama” – *Variety*

“A drama of indisputable greatness” – *The New York Times*

---

Season Subscription Package Available from \$80 - \$224.

To learn more about season subscriptions, please visit: [www.intrepidtheatre.org/the-season](http://www.intrepidtheatre.org/the-season)

Email: [boxoffice@intrepidtheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@intrepidtheatre.org)

Phone: (760) 295-7541

---

## **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **The National August Wilson Monologue Competition**

The National August Wilson Monologue Competition was founded in 2007 by Kenny Leon and Todd Kreidler at Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company in Atlanta. The national program is produced in collaboration between Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company and Jujamcyn Theaters. The program is now in 12 cities nationwide, including Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Haven, New York, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Dallas, Greensboro and now, in partnership with Intrepid Theatre Company, in San Diego.

The National August Wilson Monologue Competition is a free arts education program, a celebration of the words of the playwright August Wilson, inspiring high school students to find and express themselves through theatre.

August Wilson was an American playwright. His literary legacy is a series of ten plays, The American Century Cycle, for which he received two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama. Each is set in a different decade, depicting the comic and tragic aspects of the African-American experience in the 20th century.

Participating students are eligible to receive the following:

- Free Workshops with theatre professionals
- The opportunity to perform on Broadway
- An all expenses paid trip to New York
- The opportunity to attend a Broadway show
- Cash scholarships for college

### **In-School Residency**

This unique semester-long program engages high school students in an in-depth, personal and artistic study of the great American playwright August Wilson and his theatrical contribution to society.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Intrepid will be offering this in-school curriculum residency to San Diego County high schools in partnership with theatre, English or social studies classes. Intrepid will also be offering August Wilson workshops for high school students to prepare for the monologue competition.

For more information, visit [www.intrepidtheatre.org/august-wilson-monologue-competition](http://www.intrepidtheatre.org/august-wilson-monologue-competition) | email: [education@intrepidtheatre.org](mailto:education@intrepidtheatre.org)

### **Shakespeare School Tour**

For the 9th year, Intrepid is touring its acclaimed In-School Professional Shakespeare Tour. The tour is expanding this year to include two additional productions for a total of seven touring shows. Middle and high school selections include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* and *Hamlet*. For small children and elementary school students, Intrepid offers *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Alice in Wonderland*, as well as the classic fable *Androcles and the Lion*.

Since 2010, Intrepid has brought accessible and exciting live professional theatre to over 100,000 students across all of Southern California. Engagement in live theatre makes literacy exciting for students of all ages and learning abilities, and early exposure can dramatically increase enthusiasm for language and the arts. Teachers continually report increased enthusiasm for literature in their classrooms after their students experience Intrepid's School Tour and workshops, especially in students with special needs or second language learners who find traditional classroom structures challenging.

"All the world's a stage,' but for some who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, their 'stage' is very small...Intrepid brought the play to us. Shakespeare was alive again - he was 'cool' now, too. Getting up on stage during the workshops and seeing the play acted out in front of them really helped them understand the language and actions of the characters, especially since English is not the first language for many of them. They sat on the edge of their seats for the entire performance: they laughed, gasped and cried." -- Lindsey Sparks, San Ysidro High School

"I highly recommend Intrepid Theatre for all students. Being able to experience theater can be a life-changing event and I believe that every student should have access to this type of experience." -- Donna Mirzaian, La Costa Heights Elementary

#### Programs Offered:

- The Tour: A 50-minute condensed version of a play
- Day Of Shakespeare/Day of Drama: Morning of workshops+50-minute condensed version of play
- Playshops: An interactive hour-long workshop that integrates theatre into the classroom. Any play is available to study in Playshops.
- Days & Knights Of Shakespeare: Explore a day in the life of Elizabethan England as well as the role that knights play during this period of history. Students get the opportunity to handle arms and armor and try the authentic skills of sword combat.
- Post-show talkback and Shakespeare Toolkit included with live performances.

For more information, visit [www.intrepidtheatre.org/education](http://www.intrepidtheatre.org/education) | email: [education@intrepidtheatre.org](mailto:education@intrepidtheatre.org)

#### **Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience School Tour**

In the fall of 2016, in the wake of rising hate crimes and school bullying, Intrepid launched a community outreach and education program dedicated to cultivating empathy and understanding for vulnerable populations in our community through the power of visual and performing arts. The result was a stunning performance at the Horton Grand Theatre in March 2017, created by the most talented artists in our community and the amazing refugee students at Crawford High School, in partnership with SAY San Diego.

Now, Exiled Voices comes to schools throughout Southern California, to give students the opportunity to learn about their refugee neighbors. With both live and projected performances of dance, spoken word poetry, original music, visual art and theatre, Exiled Voices engages students to open their hearts and minds to their peers, to protect the most vulnerable and to strengthen the school community.

Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience School Tour includes:

- Two live performances

- Filmed interviews with the refugee students whose stories inspired each performance
- Documentary short highlighting development of project
- Q and A with the performing artists, project facilitators and originating refugee students (as available)
- Classroom materials to support experience

The Exiled Voices School Tour launched in February of 2018 and has performed in front of more than 3000 students. The tour has also performed at the 2017 California Refugee Summit, SAY San Diego's refugee resettlement resource trainings and in a community performance organized by the San Diego Unified School District.

For more information, visit [www.intrepidtheatre.org/exiled-voices-school-tour](http://www.intrepidtheatre.org/exiled-voices-school-tour) | email: [education@intrepidtheatre.org](mailto:education@intrepidtheatre.org)

### **Camp Intrepid: Summer Camp and After-School Classes**

In partnership with the City of Encinitas, Intrepid offers week-long musical theatre drama camps for ages 6-15 throughout the summer. Each week of camp culminates in a final performance for friends and family at the beautiful Encinitas Community Center. Summer of 2019 will include a Teen Conservatory Camp, taking more experienced actors to the next level of their theatre training.

During the school year, professional teaching artists take young actors through the development and rehearsal of a play or musical of their choice, meeting once a week and performing for family and friends during the final class.

Intrepid is passionate about educating the next generation of theatre makers and inspiring a passion for the arts in San Diego's youth in a fun and creative environment that promotes teamwork, imagination, responsibility and academic achievement. Each year, enrollment for camps and classes increases exponentially, and Intrepid is thrilled to continue to expand its youth arts education programs to meet this need in the community.

For more information, visit <http://www.intrepidtheatre.org/education/summer-camp/> | email: [education@intrepidtheatre.org](mailto:education@intrepidtheatre.org)

### **ABOUT INTREPID THEATRE COMPANY:**

Intrepid Theatre, an award-winning theatre and education company in San Diego, creates programs that provoke conversation, expand perspectives and elevate thinking within our city, our schools and the greater artistic community. Intrepid is the winner of the Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Dramatic Production for three consecutive years (2015-17) and Christy Yael-Cox has received the Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play for three consecutive years (2016-2018), both unprecedented achievements in San Diego Theatre Critics Circle history. Intrepid has taken home a total of 13 Craig Noel Awards since 2013, including the Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work by a Small Theatre Company. Founded by Christy Yael-Cox and Sean Yael-Cox, Intrepid is one of the fastest growing theatre companies in San Diego, contributing to the cultural and artistic merit of San Diego through its mainstage, education and community outreach programming. [www.intrepidtheatre.org](http://www.intrepidtheatre.org)