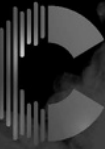


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**OKLAHOMA CITY
REPERTORY THEATER**

KELLY KERWIN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

PRESENTS

THE GREAT LEAP

BY LAUREN YEE
DIRECTED BY JESSICA HOLT

November 10-20, 2022
Te Ata Theater

Featuring

JENELLE CHU | WILLIAM LANGAN | BRIAN KIM MCCORMICK | JAMES AARON OH

Movement Director
HUI CHA POOS

Scenic & Projection Design
EDWARD T. MORRIS

Costume Design
NOËL HUNTZINGER

Lighting Design
CHRISTINA WATANABE

Sound Design
MICHAEL COSTAGLIOLA

Cultural Consultant
YUE ZHENG

Stage Manager
DAVID PILCHMAN

Production Manager
JENNY BRAND

THE GREAT LEAP is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

The Great Leap was originally developed and produced by Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company, Chris Coleman, Artistic Director. New York Premiere Presented By Atlantic Theater Company New York City, 2018. The Great Leap was developed with the support of The Playwright's Center. Developed in the New Strands Residency, a program of the American Conservatory Theater, Carey Perloff, Artistic Director-Peter Pastreich, Executive Director. A workshop production of The Great Leap was presented by New York Stage and Film & Vassar at the Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2017.

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The Great Leap is a vigorous and vibrant story centered entirely on the world of basketball—but amid the smack talk and free throws, brilliant playwright Lauren Yee highlights and gives voice to the Asian-American experience.

This play is inspired by Yee's father—a first-generation Chinese immigrant who grew up on the basketball courts of San Francisco's Chinatown. His experience breathes life into the character of Manford, who we watch jump, shoot, dribble, and struggle to find his place in the world. He is relentless and always reaching for more—the kind of person so many of us can see ourselves in.

I am grateful to Jessica Holt, a brave and generous director, who has led this process with open arms. We met ten years ago this fall, and it's been an honor to collaborate with her again. She's helped me assemble an out-of-this-world amazing cast, as well as an enormously talented team of designers. It has been a joy to get this show on its feet—OKC Rep's first full-scale production under my tenure.

I'll end this note by saying my absolute favorite aspect of *The Great Leap* is how it revolves around a group of people trying to do the impossible, even if it means standing alone. I hope it inspires you as much as it continuously inspires me.

Kelly Kerwin
Artistic Director

NEXT AT OKC REP

OTTO FRANK

UNDER THE RADAR: ON THE ROAD | January 26-29, 2023

Presented in association with The Public Theater

Created and Performed by Roger Guenveur Smith

Obie Award-winning collaborators Roger Guenveur Smith and Marc Anthony Thompson's new work is inspired by Otto Frank, the father of diarist Anne Frank. Smith's intimate meditation, scored live by Thompson, illuminates our present moment through a rigorous interrogation of our not-so-distant past. Smith's Frank addresses his daughter beyond her time and his own, navigating his loss as the only survivor of his immediate family, and negotiating his subsequent service to the living and the dead as the steward of her work.

SUPERSTITIONS | February 23 - March 5, 2023

REGIONAL PREMIERE

Written by Emily Zemba
Directed by Kelly Kerwin

A foreigner finds a penny on the ground. When he tries to offer it to a stranger it sparks an absurd and frightening conversation about "bad luck." *Superstitions* is an unconventional comedy about navigating personal and national terrors. Who knew the ridiculous could be so terrifying?

THE BROTHERS SIZE | April 27 - May 7, 2023

OKLAHOMA PREMIERE

Written by Tarell Alvin McCraney

In the Louisiana bayou, big brother Ogun Size is hardworking and steady. Younger brother Oshoosi is just out of prison and aimless. Elegba, Oshoosi's old prison-mate, is a mysterious complication. Flights of poetry, music, dance and West African mythology combine in a contemporary tale that explores the tenuousness of freedom and the need to belong somewhere, to something, to someone.

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 Tootsie Nov 15-20, 2022	 MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER Christmas BY CHIP DAVIS Nov 22, 2022	 MAGICAL CIRQUE Christmas A Dazzling Christmas Spectacular Dec 22 & 23, 2022
 CATS SEASON SPECIAL Dec 30, 2022-Jan 1, 2023	 THE BOOK OF MORMON SEASON SPECIAL Jan 13-15, 2023	 JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR 30th ANNIVERSARY TOUR Feb 14-19, 2023
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The Great Leap was supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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OKC Rep's mission is to bring meaningful, high-quality theater to OKC while keeping ticket prices accessible to all. There are many ways to be a supporter of OKC Rep. To learn more, contact Development Director Emily Comisar at Emily@OKCRep.org.

JOIN THE CLUB! (and the party!)

Supporters Club Members keep our theater inventive, exciting, and accessible. Visit OKCRep.org/JoinUs to learn more and join a club!



COLLABORATING ARTISTS + STAFF

CAST

in alphabetical order

Jenelle Chu*.....Connie
William Langan*.....Saul
Brian Kim McCormick*.....Wen Chang
James Aaron Oh.....Manford

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless an announcement is made at the beginning of the performance

Kaye Lau (Connie), Alex Ngo (Manford/Wen Chang), David Patterson (Saul)

The Great Leap will be presented with one 10-minute intermission.

SETTING

San Francisco, California | May 1989
Beijing, China | Summer/Fall 1971 & June 1989

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....Jessica Holt+
Movement Director.....Hui Cha Poos
Scenic & Projection Design.....Edward T. Morris^
Costume Design.....Noël Huntzinger
Lighting Design.....Christina Watanabe^
Sound Design.....Michael Costagliola
Cultural Consultant.....Yue Zheng
Stage Manager.....David Pilchman*
Production Manager.....Jenny Brand

PRODUCTION STAFF

Carpenter.....Adam Brand
Projection Engineer.....James Lanian III
Props Master.....Morgan J. Simon
Assistant Director.....Alleese Eldridge
Assistant Stage Manager.....Jenna Rowell
Assistant Costume Designer.....Dayna Brown
Asst Lighting Designer/Light Board Op.....Sam Cox
Wardrobe Supervisor.....Erica Herrera
Charge Artist.....Kalani Lewis
Scenic Artist.....Laura Sullivan
Crew.....Shae Chakraborty, Graham Darnell,
Dalen Enevoldsen, Ashley Mandanas,
Courtney A. Smith, Tyler Swim

+The Director is a Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

*Appearing through an Agreement between OKC Rep and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Learn more at actorequity.org/aboutequity.

^United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound and Projection Designers in Live Performance.



WARNING: The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theatre, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violators may be punished by ejection and violations may render the offender liable for money damages.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Asian District Cultural Association of Oklahoma City, Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce, Mike Hoang, Jeran McGill, Jenny Nguyen, Thuan Nguyen, Will Rucker.

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ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Jenelle Chu (Connie)

is so excited to make her Oklahoma Rep debut. Broadway: *Junk* (Lincoln Center Theater) and *Bernhardt/Hamlet* (Roundabout). Regional: *Grand Horizons* (People's Light) *Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare & Co), *Vietgone* (American Conservatory Theater), *Beauty and the Beast* (Papermill Playhouse), and *Ebenezer Scrooge's Big Playhouse Christmas Show* (Bucks County Playhouse). Other credits in NYC include shows at The Flea Theater and 52nd Street Project. Film/Television includes: *Elementary*, *Instinct*, *Madam Secretary*, *New Amsterdam*, *Prodigal Son*, and short film *White Flags* with AC Productions. Training: BM in Vocal Performance (University of Missouri - Kansas City); MFA in Acting (Yale School of Drama). Website: jenellechu.com, IG: @Jenelle.c

William Langan (Saul)

THEATRE: Oregon Shakespeare Festival (8 years), The Shakespeare Theatre (D.C.), Studio Arena, Huntington Theatre, Cleveland PlayHouse, Pioneer Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, McCarter Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Rubicon Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Guthrie Theatre (3 years). NEW YORK: The Public Theatre, Vineyard Theatre, Abingdon Theatre, Soho Rep. FILM: *Reagan* (2021), *A Thousand Little Cuts* (2019), *Ghosts* (2022), *Faculty Lounging* (2021). TV: *Criminal Minds*(CBS), *CSI: CYBER* (CBS), *NCIS* (CBS), *Numb3rs* (CBS), *Law & Order: CI* (NBC), *The Prosecutor* (NBC), *Sweet Nothing In My Ear* (CBS). Yale School of Drama. Professor, Oklahoma City University.

Brian Kim McCormick (Wen Chang)

THEATER: Ammunition Theatre, Theater Latté Da, TheatreSquared, Quantum Theatre, South Coast Repertory, San Diego Repertory, Olney Theatre Center, New York Theatre Workshop, Pan Asian Repertory, Full Circle Theater, Theater Mu, Mixed Blood, Orday Center, Children's Theatre Company, The Old Log, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres; VOICEOVER: *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, *Squid Game*, *The King's Affection*, *Pokémon: Sun and Moon*, *Yu-Gi-Oh! SEVENS*, *Naughty Nuts*, *Last Man, Kingdom*, *Regal Academy*, *Parcast* on Spotify, *Earth Defense Force: Iron Rain*, *Modern Combat: Versus*. "for Yuna".

James Aaron Oh (Manford)

is excited to be in his first outside-of-California production! Regional credits include Berkeley Repertory Theatre and San Jose Stage Company. When not on stage, he enjoys drawing and playing Dungeons and Dragons. Much love and thanks to his family and partner for their love and support. BA Theater and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley.

Lauren Yee (Playwright)

was the second most produced playwright in America for the 2019/20 theatrical season (as per American Theatre Magazine). Her plays include *Cambodian Rock Band* (South Coast Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep) and *The Great Leap* (Denver Center, Seattle Repertory, Atlantic Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Arts Club, InterAct Theatre, Steppenwolf). Honors: DorisDuke Artists Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Whiting Award, Steinberg/ATCA Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters literature award, Horton Foote Prize, Kesselring Prize, Primus Prize, Hodder Fellowship, #1 and #2 plays on 2017 Kilroys List. New Dramatists, Ma-Yi Writers' Lab, Playwrights Realm alum. TV: *Pachinko* (Apple), *Soundtrack* (Netflix). BA: Yale. MFA: UCSD. www.laurenyee.com

Jessica Holt (Director)

is thrilled to direct *The Great Leap* by Lauren Yee here at OKC Rep! She has directed and developed work at the Alliance Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, Berkeley Rep, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, Magic Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Virginia Stage Company & Rivendell Theatre, among others. Most recently, she co-wrote and directed a site-specific immersive fictional walking tour for En Garde Arts in lower Manhattan and directed the first production of the rock musical *The Code* by The Kilbanes at A.C.T. MFA, Directing: Yale School of Drama. Proud member: SDC, Ring of Keys, and Wingspace. www.jessicaholt.org

Hui Cha Poo (Movement Director)

has been teaching at the University of Central Oklahoma for 20 years. She is head of the Jazz Department and Dance Education Director. She co-founded Oklahoma Dance Alliance, OKLA Dance Connection, Groove Street Productions (Vancouver, BC) and is the founder and Academy Director of RACE Dance Collective, the first professional Jazz/Contemporary/Hip Hop Dance Company in Oklahoma. She has choreographed numerous projects and productions. Her original choreographic works have been featured in dance concerts in LA (Commonality Dance concert), New York (The Gibney), Seoul, Korea (Tune Dance) and she has had short films (Swirl, Homecoming Trilogy, and The Guard) featured in several festivals from SXSW to Hamburg, Germany. Recent film credits include *Full Out 2* (Netflix)- choreographer and *Finding Carlos* (Apple TV)- producer, choreographer.

Edward T. Morris (Scenic & Projection Design)

has designed for Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center, Yale Repertory Theatre, Martha Graham Dance Company, LaMama, The Barrow Group, Goodspeed Opera House, Cherry Lane Theater, TheatreSquared, Parallel 45 Theatre, Magic Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Interlochen Shakespeare Festival, Weston Playhouse, and Westport Country Playhouse among many others. Edward designed Halloween decorations for President Obama's White House in 2015. He's a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, Wingspace Theatrical Design, and the Sustainable Production Toolkit. He graduated from the University of Michigan and Yale School of Drama.

Noël Huntzinger (Costume Design)

originally hails from Tulsa, OK and is a proud Sooner Alum. Noël now lives in Chicago and is a resident artist at Filament Theatre. She has designed many dance pieces and for film, but her heart is in the theatre. Favorites places she's designed: Goodman Theatre, Chicago Lyric Opera, Writer's Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Raven Theatre, Boise Contemporary Theatre, About Face Theatre, Sideshow Theatre, Interrobang Theatre, Parallel 45, Silk Road Rising, and A-Squared. Learn more at noelhuntzingerdesigns.com. Love to Bee.

Christina Watanabe (Lighting Design)

is an award-winning designer and educator for theatre, dance, music, and events. Her designs have been seen in many venues in NYC and internationally. Other design work includes cabaret, events, academia, and retail windows. Christina was the Lighting Design professor at the University of Central Oklahoma in 2020-2021 and currently teaches at the Sargent Conservatory at Webster University in St. Louis. MFA: NYU Tisch. Member USA 829. www.StarryEyedLighting.com

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Michael Costagliola (Sound Design)

is a New York-based sound designer and composer. His work has been heard in New York in productions by The Public, New York Theatre Workshop, La MaMa, Rattlestick, Ars Nova, and Page 73 among others, as well as regionally at Two River Theater, Yale Rep, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, St. Louis Rep, and at various other theaters across the U.S. and abroad. AB in Music from Brown University, MFA in Sound Design from Yale School of Drama. michaeltcostagliola.com

Yue Zheng (Cultural Consultant)

is a native of China and a PhD Candidate in Philosophy of Education at the University of Oklahoma. She is also a teacher, an on-camera actor, and a thespian.

ABOUT OKC REP

Oklahoma City Repertory Theater (OKC Rep) is dedicated to championing new ways of making theater, supporting innovative artists, and growing the cultural ecology of Oklahoma City.

OKC Rep's mission and values are intrinsic to our programming, staffing, and the culture we establish with our audiences, staff, and artists. It is our commitment that OKC Rep is not only responsible for producing and presenting impactful theater in Oklahoma City, but will perpetuate crucial values of equity, inclusion, diversity, sustainability, authenticity, and acceptance in our city.

Learn more at okcrep.org, on Instagram (@okcreptheater), and Facebook (@okcrep).

Kelly Kerwin (Artistic Director)

began her tenure as OKC Rep's Artistic Director in July 2021. She comes to OKC Rep after over four years at The Public Theater in New York, where she was the Associate Producer for the Under the Radar Festival and The Public's Devised Theater Working Group, as well as a producer for new plays and musicals including *Girl from The North Country*; *Soft Power*; *We're Only Alive for A Short Amount of Time*; *The Line*; *M'lina's Tale*; and *Tony Kushner's revised A Bright Room Called Day*. Kelly served on the artistic staff at Yale Repertory Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Atlantic Theater Company, The House Theatre of Chicago, Chicago's Collaboraction, and she was the Co-Artistic Director for the Yale Cabaret's 46th Season. She also worked to establish Chicago's Salonathon, a weekly series specializing in underground performance. She's currently a Lecturer in Dramaturgy/Dramatic Criticism at David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University (formerly Yale School of Drama). Kelly holds a BFA from the Theatre School at DePaul University and an MFA in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from the Yale School of Drama.

Jericha Bickell (General Manager)

has worked over a decade in performing arts and events management in Oklahoma. Her previous experience includes working as Event Coordinator with ASM Global – OKC (Paycom Center/Cox Convention Center) and Account & Budget Representative for the University of Oklahoma's Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts. Jericha holds a BA in Communication from the University of Oklahoma. Jericha is a proud Oklahomie and resides in OKC with her husband, Kevin, and their 3 (and possibly by the time you are reading this, 4) kids.

David Pilchman (Stage Manager)

is a Stage Manager and Production Manager based in OKC. For the last two years, he was the Technical and Production Manager for Oklahoma Contemporary, working with local organizations such as Oklahoma Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, OKC Ballet, Painted Sky Opera, RACE Dance, SPARK! Creative Lab, and OKC Rep. Prior to moving back to OKC in 2020, David worked on new productions in NYC such as *The View Upstairs*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Mike Birbiglia's Thank God For Jokes*, and *Clinton the Musical*. Thanks to everyone creating theater in his hometown.

Emily Comisar (Director of Development)

has been a fundraiser for the arts since 2015, working with organizations including MCC Theater, The Little Orchestra Society, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. Outside of her fundraising life, Emily has spent many years as a playwright and independent producer. She served as the General & Company Manager for the world premiere of *The View Upstairs*, the General Manager for Lone Star Theatre Company, and has produced in festivals including FringeNYC, SheNYC, and the Game Play Festival. Emily holds an MFA in Theatre Management & Producing from Columbia University and a BA from Northwestern University in Performance Studies.

Jenny Brand (Associate Producer/ The Great Leap Production Manager)

has been organizing theater since the age of 16 when she lived in the Netherlands. Since graduating from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Jenny has worked extensively in both the UK and US, including National Youth Music Theatre (UK), European Union Youth Orchestra (UK), Children's Theatre Company (MN), Twin Cities Horror Festival (MN), Revolutions International Theatre Festival (NM), and California International Theatre Festival as their executive producer. Locally, she currently works with OKC Rep, Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma, and Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, and is the Executive Director of Theatre Crude.