

# CAL SHAKES



Eric Ting ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
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## CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER PRESENTS ITS PREMIERE STAGING OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS WITH *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*, JULY 5-30

*Acclaimed Chicago director Lisa Portes makes her Cal Shakes directing debut*

Berkeley, CA – California Shakespeare Theater continues its 43<sup>rd</sup> Season with the play that made Tennessee Williams famous and secured his place in the American Classic canon. *The Glass Menagerie* is told through the illusion of Tom Wingfield’s memory as he recounts an episode from his youth. Tom and his sister Laura live with their devoted mother, Amanda, a former Southern debutante. When Amanda arranges for a "Gentleman Caller" to come for dinner, her all-too-clear intentions force Laura and Tom to confront—in their own ways—the shattering weight of her overbearing expectations. *The Glass Menagerie* plays from **July 5 through July 30**; for tickets and information, contact the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**Lisa Portes** is a Cuban-American theater director from Chicago, where *The Glass Menagerie* first premiered and was championed in 1944. She says, “All of my work puts women or people of color or women of color at the center—it’s just part of my personal mission as a Latina director. When I started thinking of *The Glass Menagerie*, I began to imagine who Amanda might be. The tradition of African-American debutantes dates back to the turn of the last century, early 1900’s...Amanda as an African-American woman could exist, and that she ran off with the wrong guy (and that he left her) puts her under even greater pressure to try to set things right.”

“*The Glass Menagerie* is one of the great American dramas,” says Cal Shakes artistic director Eric Ting. “It is about a family trying to hold itself together under very intense circumstances, trying to hold onto the little community of mother, son, daughter, sister, brother... It’s about all the little ways that we hurt the ones we love, and all the little ways that we love the ones we hurt. As we explore the complexity of what ‘home’ is this season, it felt like the right time to produce this classic at Cal Shakes.”

The cast for *The Glass Menagerie* includes **Karen Aldridge as Amanda** in her Cal Shakes debut (Broadway’s *Matilda*, *Clybourne Park* at Steppenwolf, among others); **Sean San José as Tom** (Segismundo in *Life is a Dream*, Juan José in *The Ballad of Juan José*, among others; Co-founder of Campo Santo); **Rafael Jordan as Jim** (*King Lear* and *The Tempest* Tour at Cal Shakes, *A Christmas Carol* at A.C.T., *American Buffalo* at Aurora Theatre, among others); and New York City poet and activist **Phoebe Fico** making her professional stage debut as Laura.

The creative team for *The Glass Menagerie* includes scenic designer Annie Smart, whose previous designs for Cal Shakes include *Pygmalion*, *Lady Windermere’s Fan*, and *Blithe Spirit* and whose scenic designs have been seen regionally and on Broadway; costume designer Raquel Barreto, (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *Pericles* at Cal Shakes); lighting designer Xavier Pierce (*Fences* at Cal Shakes, *Shakespeare in Love* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival,

among others), and sound designer Brenden Aanes (*Othello* at Cal Shakes, winner of a TBA Award for his work on TheatreWorks *Triangle*, plus designs for A.C.T. and MTC, among others).

**Lisa Portes** (Director) Portes is a Chicago-based director whose work is regularly seen at Steppenwolf. She is the co-founder of the Latinx Theatre Commons, and also serves as the Head of Directing and the Artistic Director of Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences for The Theatre School at DePaul University. She is the 2016 recipient of the Zelda Fichandler Award, given to directors and choreographers who are in the center of their creative lives and; who demonstrate great accomplishment to-date and promise for the future. Recent projects include *This Is Modern Art* by Idris Goodwin & Kevin Coval (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Grounded* by George Brant (American Blues Theatre), *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West* (TimeLine Theatre), *Ghostwritten* (Goodman Theatre) and *After A Hundred Years* (Guthrie Theatre), all by Naomi Iizuka; *Night Over Erzinga* (By Adriana Sevahn-Nichols), *Ski Dubai* by Laura Jacqmin and *Spare Change* by Mia McCullough (First Look Repertory of New Plays, Steppenwolf Theatre); *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue* by Quiara Alegría Hudes (Teatro Vista and Rivendell Theatre at Steppenwolf); *Permanent Collection* by Thomas Gibbons (Northlight Theatre); *The Piano Teacher* by Julia Cho; *Far Away* by Caryl Churchill; *In the Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks (Next Theatre); *Slingshot* by Kia Korthron, *Undone* by Andrea Thome and *Seven Spots on the Sun* by Martín Zimmerman (Victory Gardens, Ignition Festival); *El Grito del Bronx* by Migdalia Cruz (Latino Theatre Festival, Goodman Theatre), *Offspring of the Cold War* by Carlos Murillo (Walkabout Theatre); and *Wilder: An Erotic Chamber Musical* by Erin Cressida Wilson, Jack Herrick and Make Craver (Playwrights Horizons, NYC).

Primarily a director of new plays and musicals, her work has been seen regionally at the Kennedy Center, South Coast Repertory Theatre's Hispanic Playwrights Project, McCarter Theatre Lab, A Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., the Sundance Theatre Lab, the Cape Cod Theatre Project, the Santa Barbara Theatre Lab and the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference; in New York her work has been seen at Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theatre, the Flea Theatre and the Cherry Lane Alternative Theatre. Lisa served as the Associate Director of the Tony Award-winning musical *The Who's Tommy*, and staged its international productions in Canada, Germany and the U.K., as well as its 20th anniversary remount at the Stratford Theatre Festival in 2013.

Single tickets for *The Glass Menagerie* range from **\$20 to \$72**, 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](http://www.calshakes.org).

California Shakespeare Theater's 2017 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. Corporate partners include BART, City National Bank, John Muir Health, Meyer Sound, Peet's Coffee, and *San Francisco* magazine.

#### **ABOUT CAL SHAKES**

California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), under the leadership of Artistic Director Eric Ting and Managing Director Susie Falk, is now in its 43rd season as a nationally-recognized leader in drawing on the power of authentic, inclusive storytelling to create more vibrant communities. Serving more than 43,000 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](http://www.calshakes.org).

## **FAST FACTS ABOUT *THE GLASS MENAGERIE***

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| WHAT    | California Shakespeare Theater's production of <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>  |
| WHO     | by Tennessee Williams<br>directed by Lisa Portes<br>Designed by Annie Smart (scenic designer), Raquel Barreto (costume designer), Xavier Pierce (lighting designer), and Brendan Aanes (sound designer/composer).<br>Featuring: Karen Aldridge, Phoebe Fica, Rafael Jordan, and Sean San José  |
| WHEN    | July 5-30, 2017<br><br>Previews July 5, 6, 7 at 8pm<br>Press Opening July 8 at 8pm<br>Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30pm<br>Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm<br>Saturday Matinee June 18 at 2pm<br>Sunday Matinees at 4pm<br>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<br>(just off Highway 24 at the California Shakespeare Theater Way/Wilder Rd. exit, one mile east of the Caldecott Tunnel.)<br><br>Complimentary shuttle from Orinda BART beginning 2 hours before curtain.<br>Complimentary parking onsite.   |
| TICKETS | Single tickets range from \$20 to \$72, 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.<br><br>All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley CA, 510.548.9666, online at <a href="http://www.calshakes.org">www.calshakes.org</a> , 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    | <a href="http://www.calshakes.org">www.calshakes.org</a>   |

## **THE GLASS MENAGERIE Special Events**

### **First Look, Saturday, July 1, 6:30-8pm, Bruns Amphitheater**

Get a First Look into process of creating the production the week before performances begin. Come together at the Bruns and enjoy the grounds on a Sunday evening, where Artistic Director Eric Ting will moderate a Q&A with our artists.

### **Pay-What-You-Can Preview, Wednesday, July 5, 8pm**

The first preview of each show is a special Pay-What-You-Can performance. Tickets are first-come, first-served, and available beginning at 6pm day of show only; to purchase, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit the Bruns Amphitheater Box Office.

### **Opening Night Post-Show Party, July 8, 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.

### **Post-Show Talkbacks, Tuesday July 11, Thursday July 13, and Wednesday, July 19**

Stay after the show for a discussion with a member of the artistic staff in the Plaza.

### **Open-captioned performance, Wednesday, July 12, 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](http://www.calshakes.org) or call the Box Office at 510.548.9666. For groups of 10 or more, email [groups@calshakes.org](mailto:groups@calshakes.org) or call 510.809.3290.

### **Meet the Artists, Sundays, July 9 and 23, following the 4pm performance**

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

### **InSight Matinee, Sunday, July 16, following the 4pm matinee**

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

### **Grove Talks, 45 minutes before each performance**

Led by resident Grove Talks speakers, these 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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