

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly presents

Skylight**David Hare's Tony & Olivier Award-winning tumultuous romance
is the second show in Chance Theater's 21st Anniversary Season**

April 4, 2019 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is delighted to present David Hare's celebrated drama, ***Skylight***. Written by David Hare and directed by Chance Theater's Artistic Director, Oanh Nguyen, ***Skylight* will preview from April 19th through April 26th; with regular performances beginning April 27th and continuing through May 19th on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center.**

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant, a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires. Can they find their way back to each other, or has the time for their tumultuous romance reached its end?

Recommended for ages 13 and up. Contains adult language.

"Theatregoing doesn't get much better than this" – *New York Post*

"Absolutely splendid" – *New York Times*

** Olivier Award Winner - Best Play

** Tony Award Winner - Best Revival

Skylight premiered in May 1995 at the Cottesloe Theatre, National Theatre, directed by Richard Eyre and starring Michael Gambon and Lia Williams. This is the production that won the Olivier for Best Play. In 2015, there was a highly lauded Broadway revival with Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan that won the Tony Award for Best Revival.

This production will star **Jessica Erin Martin** (as Kyra Hollis), **Steve Marvel** (as Tom Sergeant), and **Sam Bullington** (as Edward Sergeant). Jessica has appeared onstage at ACT Theatre and San Jose Rep, as well as television in shows such as CBS' *Criminal Minds* and NBC's *Grimm*. She won the Indie Series Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy for the

web series, *Wrecked*. Steve has appeared at theaters throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, such as Aurora Theatre (San Francisco, CA) and the renowned Reduced Shakespeare Company. Sam is a film and theater actor from Texas, who has worked most recently with Granbury Theatre Company in Fort Worth. All three cast members are making their Chance debuts with this production.

Founding Artistic Director, **Oanh Nguyen**, is excited to be taking to the director's chair for such a rich drama from one of the world's greatest living playwrights. Although recent credits have been mainly musicals (last season's *Big Fish*, as well as *A Chorus Line* and *In The Heights*), Oanh is no stranger to dramas. At the Chance alone, he has directed the So Cal premieres of Amy Herzog's *After The Revolution*, Zayd Dohrn's *Reborn*, and Julie Marie Myatt's *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter*. Oanh has received directing nominations from LA Stage Alliance's Ovation Awards and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and has directed at South Coast Repertory, East West Players, among others.

Oanh wanted *Skylight* to be his first non-musical at the Chance since 2015 because of the timelessness of the story, and also the *timeliness* of the story. "This is a story of true love that is fighting to overcome grief, shame, regret and the need to be forgiven," Nguyen said. "I am so excited to direct this play. David Hare has drawn each of his characters so fully that we are taken away on this journey that is deeply intimate, emotional, and funny, while also being a study of politics, economics, and society. The audience never loses touch with what's personally at stake for these characters even as they are debating the world's problems. And although the play takes place in London in the early 1990's, it has proven to have a universal resonance."

challenged

MEET THE TEAM

David Hare (Playwright) is an English playwright, screenwriter and theatre and film director. Best known for his stage work, Hare has also enjoyed great success with films, receiving two Academy Award nominations for Best Adapted Screenplay for writing *The Hours* in 2002, based on the novel written by Michael Cunningham, and *The Reader* in 2008, based on the novel of the same name written by Bernhard Schlink. In the West End, he had his greatest success with the plays *Plenty*, which he adapted into a film starring Meryl Streep in 1985, *Racing Demon* (1990), *Skylight* (1997), and *Amy's View* (1998). The four plays ran on Broadway in 1982–83, 1996, 1998 and 1999 respectively, earning Hare three Tony Award nominations for Best Play for the first three and two Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play. Other notable projects on stage include *A Map of the World*, *Pravda*, *Murmuring Judges*, *The Absence of War* and *The Vertical Hour*.

Joining Nguyen on the production team for ***Skylight*** is scenic designer Bruce Goodrich (*Middletown*), lighting designer Matthew Schleicher (*Hairspray*), sound designer Ryan Brodtkin (*Lizzie*, *The Musical*), costume designer Adriana Lambarri (*Elevada*), prop designer Megan Hill (*James and The Giant Peach*), stage manager Bebe Herrera (*The Other Place*), dialect coach Glenda Morgan Brown (*Big Fish*), and dramaturg Jocelyn L. Buckner (*Elevada*).

The Executive Producers for this production are Linda & Tod White. Bette & Wylie Aitken are the Season Producers and for the entire 2019 Season.

To schedule press interviews, request photos, schedule press comps or for any additional information, please contact Casey Long at (714) 900-3284 or by e-mail at casey@chancetheater.com.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for “nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre.” The Chance has won six Ovation Awards, including two for Best Production of a Musical – Intimate Theater for its West Coast premiere of *Triassic Park – The Musical* and Southern California premiere of *Jerry Springer – The Opera*, as well as four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, Orange County Theatre Guild, and LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: **SKYLIGHT**

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant, a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

Recommendation: Ages 13 and up. Contains adult language.

WHEN:

Preview Performances:

April 19-26, 2019

Fridays at 8pm; Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 7pm

Regular Performances

April 27-May 19, 2019

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 3pm

Special Thursday performance on May 2 at 7:30pm

Special Saturday matinee performances on May 11th and 18th at 3pm

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend:

Opening Performance on Saturday, April 27 at 8pm

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center on the Cripe Stage
5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

TICKETS: \$20.00 - \$39.00. Call (888) 455-4212 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

Discounts available for children (ages 4-12), seniors, students, and military.

###