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For Immediate Release

## **SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PRODUCTION OF SWEAT**

**SAN DIEGO, CA – March 5, 2019 - San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) announced today the cast and creative team for **Lynn Nottage's** *Sweat*, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Best Play. Directed by REP artistic director **Sam Woodhouse**, *Sweat* will be the final show in The REP's 43<sup>rd</sup> season. *Sweat* will run **April 18 – May 12, 2019**, at San Diego REP's Lyceum Stage Theatre, with previews April 18 - 23, and press opening on **Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

With humor and tremendous heart, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama speaks directly to the unsettling changes in America. The setting is the steel town of Reading, Pennsylvania, one of the poorest communities in America. A group of close friends share everything: drinks, secrets and laughs. When rumors of layoffs shake up the factory where they work, the fragile bonds of their community begin to splinter and a horrific crime sends shockwaves across two generations. The neighborhood bar turns into a battleground where race, class, family and friendship clash.

Nottage went to Reading during the Great Recession to understand first-hand the impact of our country's economic decline. She perfectly captures the true stories of what happened to the American working-class who feel betrayed by the false promises of the American dream. Their struggle to reclaim what's lost, find redemption and redefine themselves in the 21st century are at the heart of Time Magazine's #1 Play of 2017.

Hailed by The New York Times as "Extraordinarily moving and surprisingly funny," and "Masterful, passionate and necessary" by Time Out New York, *Sweat* is a compelling portrait of pride and survival in the rust belt. *Sweat* marks the second Nottage play to be produced at The REP, following *Intimate Apparel* in 2006. An acclaimed writer, Nottage is the first and only female in history to win two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama; the first for *Ruined* in 2009, and *Sweat* in 2017.

"*Sweat* is one of my favorite kinds of theatre – a hyper, authentic story based on interviews with real people telling the intimate truths about their real tragedies and dreams," shared REP artistic director Sam Woodhouse. "The 'American dream' is one that I grew up with, believing that if I worked hard my future was without limits. To encounter a true story about the loss of that dream is a profound emotional experience."

The REP has assembled a powerhouse group of actors for *Sweat* including **Monique Gaffney** (Cynthia), **Judy Bauerlein** (Tracey), **Jeffrey Jones** (Stan), **Antonio T.J. Johnson** (Evan), **Cortez Johnson** (Chris), **Steve Froelich** (Jason), **Markuz Rodriguez** (Oscar), **Hannah Logan** (Jessie), and **Matt Orduña** (Brucie).

The creative team includes **John Iacovelli** (Scenic Design), **Elisa Benzoni** (Costume Design), **Matthew Lescault-Wood** (Sound Design/Audio Supervisor), **Anne E. McMills** (Lighting Design), **Heather M. Brose** (Stage Manager), **Patrice Amon** (Assistant Director), **Shelley Orr** (Dramaturg), **Kimberly King** (Assistant Dramaturg), **Chelsea Smith** (Production Manager) and **Kim Heil** (Casting Director).

Performances for *Sweat* run **April 18 – May 12, 2019**, in the Lyceum Stage Theatre in Horton Plaza. Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$69.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling the

box office at 619-544-1000, or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org).

**LYNN NOTTAGE (PLAYWRIGHT):** Lynn is a playwright and a screenwriter, and the first woman in history to win two Pulitzer Prizes for drama. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. *Sweat* (Pulitzer Prize, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Tony Nomination, Drama Desk Nomination) moved to Broadway after a sold out run at The Public Theater. It premiered and was commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival American Revolutions History Cycle/Arena Stage, *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Las Meninas*, *Mud, River, Stone*, *Por'knockers* and *POOF!*. In addition, she is working with composer Ricky Ian Gordon on adapting her play *Intimate Apparel* into an opera (commissioned by The Met/LCT). She is also developing *This is Reading*, a performance installation based on two years of interviews set to open at the Franklin Street, Reading Railroad Station in Reading, PA in July. She is currently an artist-in-residence at the Park Avenue Armory. She is the co-founder of the production company, Market Road Films, whose most recent projects include *The Notorious Mr. Bout* directed by Tony Gerber and Maxim Pozdorovkin (Premiere/Sundance 2014), *First to Fall* directed by Rachel Beth Anderson (Premiere/ IDFA, 2013) and *Remote Control* (Premiere/Busan 2013- New Currents Award) Over the years, she has developed original projects for HBO, Sidney Kimmel Entertainment, Showtime, This is That and Harpo. She is writer/producer on the Netflix series *She's Gotta Have It* directed by Spike Lee. Nottage is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award, Merit and Literature Award from The Academy of Arts and Letters, Columbia University Provost Grant, Doris Duke Artist Award, The Joyce Foundation Commission Project & Grant, Madge Evans-Sidney Kingsley Award, Nelson A. Rockefeller Award for Creativity, The Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, Helen Hayes Award, the Lee Reynolds Award, and the Jewish World Watch iWitness Award. Her other honors include the National Black Theatre Fest's August Wilson Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, Lucille Lortel Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship at Princeton University. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama. She is also an Associate Professor in the Theatre Department at Columbia School of the Arts. Nottage is a board member for BRIC Arts Media Bklyn, Donor Direct Action, Dramatist Play Service, Second Stage and the Dramatists Guild. She recently completed a three-year term as an Artist Trustee on the Board of the Sundance Institute. She is member of The Dramatists Guild and WGAE.

**SAM WOODHOUSE (Director):** Co-founded San Diego REP with D.W. Jacobs in 1976, and has since worked as a director, producer or actor on more than 280 productions. As an actor, he has performed on The REP stages in *The Seafarer*, in the title role of *King Lear*, *Proof*, *Hamlet*, and with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in the title role of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*. His recent directorial work with The REP includes: *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Fun Home*, *Beachtown*, *Hand to God*, *EVITA*, *Into the Beautiful North*, *Manifest Destinitis*, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*, *The Oldest Boy*, *Violet*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Honky*, *El Henry* (with La Jolla Playhouse), *Detroit*, *Venus in Fur*, *In the Heights*, *Federal Jazz Project*, *Clybourne Park*, and *The Who's TOMMY*. In 2011, he directed *American Night: The Ballad of Juan José* for the Denver Center Theatre Company. In 2003, he was awarded the Patté Shiley Award for Lifetime Achievement by KPBS and the prestigious Alonzo Award by the Downtown San Diego Partnership. In 2006, he and Jacobs were honored with the Craig Noel Award by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle for 30 years of artistic dedication to downtown and diversity.

### **About San Diego Repertory Theatre**

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 45 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 40 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San

Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org). Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

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## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Monique Gaffney (Cynthia):** Monique was last seen as Ronda in *The Wind and The Breeze* at Cygnet Theatre. San Diego credits: *Disgraced*, *Clybourne Park*, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*, *Doubt* (San Diego REP), *Red Velvet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Globe For All- Old Globe Theatre), *The Tragedy of the Commons*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Man from Nebraska*, *Yellowman* (Cygnet), *Cell*, *Hoodoo Love* (Mo'olelo), *Heddatron*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Raisin in the Sun* (ion theatre), *Medea* and *I Have Before Me a Remarkable*

*Document Given to Me By a Young Lady from Rwanda* (6th @ Penn Theatre), *Trouble in Mind*, *Blue Bonnet Court* (Moxie), and *Gee's Bend*, *The African Company Presents Richard III* (North Coast Rep). New York credits: *Mamba's Daughters* and *American Silents*. UCSD (BA), Columbia University (MFA). AEA, SAG-AFTRA.



**Judy Bauerlein (Tracey):** Judy has worked extensively as a performer in both regional and New York theaters including The Kitchen NYC, La Jolla Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Wilma Theatre, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, the Public Theatre, and Bread and Puppet Theatre. Most recently she appeared in Naomi Iizuka's *What Happens Next* (La Jolla Playhouse and Cornerstone Theatre), *The Whale* (Cygnet Theatre), and the world premier of Jay Scheib's adaption of Anton Chekhov's *Platonov* a (La Jolla Playhouse and the Kitchen NYC). Film credits include *Final Statement*, *Jesus' Son*, *Deconstructing Harry* (dir. by Woody Allen and opposite Robin Williams), *Diary of a City Priest* (opposite David Morse), *Drunks* and *Free Land*. She is the Program Director of Theatre at CSU San Marcos and a

member of SAG and AFTRA.



**Jeffrey Jones (Stan):** This is Jeffrey's second show with San Diego REP and the second time directed by Sam Woodhouse. His first show at San Diego REP was *Detroit* in 2014 with Robert Benedetti. Others shows: *The Quality of Life*, *End of the Rainbow*; Intrepid Theatre. *See How They Run*, *The Time of your Life*; Lambs Players Theatre. *Burn This*, *Atwater fixin to Die*, *A Behanding in Spokane*; Cygnet Theatre. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*; North Coast Rep. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; New Village Arts. Check out The Carvington Case on YouTube!



**Cortez L. Johnson (Chris):** Cortez is the grateful recipient of the 2017 Craig Noel: Actor of the Year Award. Johnson was raised in Chicago, Illinois and studied Theatre Performance at Southern Illinois University of Carbondale and Columbia College of Chicago. Johnson's theatre credits stretch from the Caribbean, Europe, to various parts of Africa and Asia. Johnson's favorite theatre productions include: *The Ballad of Emmett Till*, *Blue Door*, *Honky* (PBS), *Brownsville Song* (B-Side for Tray) *A Raisin in The Sun*, *Antigone*, *Seven*, *Preemptive* and *The Bomb-itty of Errors*. Johnson's very grateful to share an American slice of life with you tonight.



**Antonio T.J. Johnson (Evan):** T.J. is very excited about returning to The REP Stage and doing this very important story where the common bond of the diverse characters in the story is poverty and disconnection. T.J. feels at home on these stages, having recently done *Beachtown* and numerous productions of *A Christmas Carol*, including *The Homeless Carol*, *The Gospel According to Scrooge* and the infamous *Sledgehammer Xmas*. TJ also appeared in *Ruby's Bucket of Blood*, *Hamlet* and *King Lear*. Awards include the 1991 Dramalouge Award, the 2008 Craig Noel Award for Best Actor, a Playbill Award, and the 2016 Craig Noel Ensemble Award. This production will be familiar and heartbreaking as real life often is.



**Steve Froehlich (Jason):** (Jason) Steve is an award-winning producer and actor. Local Theatre includes: *Marjorie Prime* (North Coast Rep); *Bliss...or Emily Post is Dead!* (world premiere), *Our Lady of Kibeho* and *Orange Julius* (world premiere) at Moxie Theatre; *The Taming of the Shrew* (Petruccio) and *Disappearing Act* (world premiere) by InnerMission Productions at Diversionary Theatre; *Disappearing Act* (remount) at San Diego International Fringe Festival; *The Nutcracker* (adaptation) at New Village Arts Theatre; *Reasons to Be Pretty* and *Bug* at Ion Theatre. He trains with world-renowned acting coach Larry Moss in LA. Partial film credits: "Voices of Midway" (playing at USS Midway Museum), *Revelation Road* and *Beverly Hills Bandits*. He has appeared in over 75 short films/industrials and many commercials, including nationally: *Rosetta Stone*, *Life Lock* and *National University*. He is the Co-Executive Producer for the multiple award-winning Web series *Blood Brothers*. Steve recently directed and produced a 7-part docuseries on medical cannabis, interviewing experts and patients all over the country. A huge thank you to Kim Heil and Sam Woodhouse for this amazing opportunity!



**Markuz Rodriguez (Oscar):** A San Diego native, Markuz is thrilled to be back at The REP where he began his career in 2004. Some of his favorite local credits include: *The Madres* (Moxie Theatre); *Bedrooms and Boyfriends* (Compulsion Dance & Theatre); *Under Construction* (Sledgehammer Theatre); *Dia de los Muertos Festival* (The Old Globe); *Good People* (Onstage Playhouse); *Ojo* (La Jolla Playhouse Without Walls Festival); *Speech and Debate* (Diversionary Theatre); *Corridos Remix* (San Diego REP). Most recently Mr. Rodriguez has been focusing on writing and directing, currently in production behind the camera for the second season of the web series *Twenty Teens*.



**Hannah Logan (Jessie):** Hannah Logan received a San Diego Critic's Circle Award for her portrayal of Agnes in Ion Theatre's *Bug* and a nomination for her turn as Virginia in New Village Art's *The Clean House*. She appeared with Judy Bauerlein (Tracey) in La Jolla Playhouse's and Cornerstone Theatre's co-production of *What Happens Next*. Other favorite roles include Huldey in *The Moors* at Diversionary Theatre and Helena in *Kin* at Ion Theatre. Hannah is thrilled and humbled to be making her debut on the San Diego REP stage with this talented cast, in this powerful piece. [www.hannahlogan.com](http://www.hannahlogan.com) [www.thetruthfulactor.com](http://www.thetruthfulactor.com).



**Matt Orduña (Brucie):** Theatrical roles: *Othello - Othello at Kingsmen Shakespeare*, *Jailer - 2 Noble Kinsmen at Kingsmen Shakespeare*, *John Dashwood/Sir John/Dr - Sense & Sensibility at SCR*, *Vincenzio/ Wedding Singer - Shrew at SCR*, *Eli - Gem of the Ocean at SCR*, *Abioseh - Les Blancs at the Rogue Machine*, *Bilal - Bars & Measures* (Stage Raw Nominee, LADCC Nominee - lead Performance in a play) at the theatre at Boston Court, *Gabriel - Fences at ICT* (Ovation Nominee- Featured Performance), *Teresias - Oedipus El Rey at San Diego Repertory Theatre*, *Duncan - Macbeth at A Noise Within*, *Albert/Kevin - Clybourne Park at San Diego Repertory Theatre*, and *Flip - Stick Fly at Mo 'oelo Theatre*, FILM/Television : *How to Get Away With Murder*, *Chance*, *I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore* ( SUNDANCE GRAND JURY AWARD WINNER) *Grace of Jake*, *Baby Steps*, *TONY & LEO*, *NCIS-LA*, *NCIS*, *Ironside*, *Pretty Little Liars*, *The Fosters*, *Switched at Birth*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Sons of*

*Anarchy, Mob City, Family Tools and Legit.* EDUCATION: MFA 2001 – University of Washington Professional Actor Training Program.

## FACT SHEET

### SWEAT

By Lynn Nottage  
Directed by Sam Woodhouse  
On the Lyceum Stage

**Performance Dates:** April 18 – May 12, 2019

**Previews:** April 18 - 23, 2019

**Press Opening:** Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

**Closing:** Sunday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m.



*This production is made possible in part with support from **The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation.***

**Synopsis:** With humor and tremendous heart, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is a story of a group of close friends who share everything. When layoffs shake up the factory where they work, the fragile bonds begin to splinter and the neighborhood bar turns into a battleground.

### **Cast (in order of appearance):**

*Evan:* Antonio T.J. Johnson\*

*Jason:* Steve Froelich\*

*Chris:* Cortez Johnson\*

*Stan:* Jeffrey Jones\*

*Oscar:* Markuz Rodriguez

*Tracey:* Judy Bauerlein\*

*Cynthia:* Monique Gaffney\*

*Jessie:* Hannah Logan\*

*Brucie:* Matt Orduña\*

\*Denotes Member of Actors' Equity Association

### **Creative Team:**

Director: Sam Woodhouse

Scenic Design: John Iacovelli

Costume Design: Elisa Benzoni

Lighting Design: Anne E. McMills

Sound Design/Audio Supervisor: Matthew Lescault-Wood

Projection Design: Sam Rojas

Stage Manager: Heather M. Brose

Dramaturg: Shelley Orr

Assistant Dramaturg: Kimberly King

Assistant Director: Patrice Amon

Production Manager: Chelsea Smith

Assistant Production Manager & Company Manager: Sarah Zimmerman

Casting Director: Kim Heil

## Performance Schedule:

### Previews:

- Thursday, April 18 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 19 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 20 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m.

### Opening Night

- Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

### Regular Performances

- Thursday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 2 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 9 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 10 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 11 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m.

## Engagement Event Calendar

- **Breakfast Sneak Peek: A Play in the Making:** Sunday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. @ The REP Creative Space
- **Talkin' Theatre with Todd:** Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Worker's Rights: The Art of Union Organizing & Negotiating:** Saturday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Opening Night Party:** Wednesday, April 24, after the 7:00 p.m. show
- **Sam's Salon:** Thursday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Meet the Artists:** Friday, April 26, after the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Working in Theatre:** Sunday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. before the 7:00 p.m. show
- **Free Beer Friday:** Friday, May 3 after the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Playwrights Project:** Saturday, May 4, at 1:00 p.m. before the 2:00 p.m. show

For more information about our Engagement Events for *Sweat* visit [www.sdrep.org/engage](http://www.sdrep.org/engage).

**Ticket Prices:** \$25.00-\$69.00

### Ticket Information:

Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$69.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Active-duty military, teachers, group and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances at ½ off regularly priced seats. Prices subject to change.

**Location:**

San Diego Repertory Theatre  
79 Horton Plaza  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Box Office:**

Phone: 619.544.1000  
Website: [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org)

**Parking:**

Parking is available in the Horton Plaza parking garage for \$8 with validation. Enter the garage from Fourth Avenue just south of the Balboa Theatre. Follow entrance lanes, then turn right and continue to the third level to park. Horton Plaza parking tickets (issued from machines at entry) may be validated in the Lyceum Theatres lobby during your show. Validation will allow patrons to pay a flat \$8 rate.

**Please note:** If you do not validate your ticket at the theatre, the current rate charged at exit is \$2.00 for every 15 minutes (daily maximum charge = \$48.00). Westfield Horton Plaza parking garage rates are subject to change at any time. For any additional ABM Parking information, contact ABM Parking at 619.233.1491.

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