

For Immediate Release

February 9, 2018

San Diego Repertory Theatre presents:

The World Premiere of ‘Beachtown’

Where Democracy Shines As Bright As the Sun

By Herbert Siguenza with Rachel Grossman

Directed by Sam Woodhouse

March 22 - April 15, 2018

(Press Opening: Wednesday, March 28, 2018)

San Diego Repertory Theatre announces the world premiere of ***Beachtown***, the sixth production of its 42nd season. *Beachtown*, based on *Beertown* by dog & pony dc, is the most immersive, interactive production in the history of San Diego Rep. Written by the Rep’s playwright-in-residence, **Herbert Siguenza**, with the play’s associate director, **Rachel Grossman**, who is also the co-founder of dog & pony dc. Siguenza, a founding member of Culture Clash, is also known for writing and performing in *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* and *Manifest Destinitis*.

Beachtown Begins: Preview performances of this unique theatrical event begin on Thursday, March 22. Opening night is Wednesday, March 28; the show runs through Sunday, April 15. *Beachtown* will be performed at San Diego Rep’s Lyceum Space Theatre at Horton Plaza.

Before Each Performance: Don’t miss the special ***Beachtown Pre-Show Party*** that begins 30 minutes before showtime. Bring a dessert to the potluck: Buy or bake it, as long as you share it with your neighbors. Meet the mayor and other notable Beachtonians, snap a selfie to share on social media, pin yourself on *Beachtown’s* “Where Are You From?” map of the world, color on the *Beachtown* city logo, write about an artifact you love and cherish. *Beachtown invites you to the party!*

“As the interactive, immersive plot unfolds, the audience is invited to *Beachtown’s* 100th anniversary celebration and experience democracy in action,” stated Siguenza. “As a Beachtonian, you are invited to share your voice and your vote and choose—alongside your neighbor—what will go inside *Beachtown’s* time capsule to best represent the values of this beautiful place we call home. *Beachtown* is unlike any other play I have ever worked on. Each

night the audience will determine the result of the celebration. Beachtown will never be the same twice!”

Sam Woodhouse, *Beachtown* director, who is also co-founder of the Rep and its artistic director, offered his own perspective as to what the audience can expect: “Imagine you live in a small, local community of Beachtown. Given this is Beachtown, you can count on a celebration aimed at breaking down the barriers and discovering our shared dreams for the future of our town. Come ready to voice your opinion, debate vigorously and vote proudly.”

Beachtown also features several Rep favorites including **Jason Heil** (*Hand to God*, *Clybourne Park*); **Salomon Maya** (*Manifest Destinitis*); and **Sandra Ruiz** (*In the Time of Butterflies*, *Earthquake Sun*). San Diego Rep newcomers include **Antonio T.J. Johnson**, KPBS *Spectrum* host, **William ‘BJ’ Robinson**, former KGTV 10 News anchor, **Lee Ann Kim**, and **Marci Anne Wuebben**.

The creative team includes **Sean Fanning** (Set Design), **Anne McMills** (Lighting Design), **Anastasia Pautova** (Costume Design), **Matt Lescault-Wood** (Sound Design), **Danielle Ward** (Associate Producer/Co-Dramaturg), **Patrice Amon** (Producer-in-Residence/Co-Dramaturg), and **Chandra Anthenill** (Stage Manager).

Herbert Siguenza (Playwright) is Playwright-In-Residence at the Rep through a generous grant from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**. He is also a founding member of Culture Clash, the most popular and produced Latino ensemble in the nation. For the last thirty years, he has co-written or adapted and performed over fifteen original critically acclaimed award winning plays at prestigious regional theatres around the country. Theatre Communications Group Books has published three compilations of their collective works which includes *Radio Mambo*, *Zorro in Hell!* and *Chavez Ravine*. Siguenza has also written and performed solo works outside the group including *Cantinflas!* (2003); and *A Weekend With Pablo Picasso* (2010). (2010) *El Henry* (2014) *Steal Heaven* (2015) and *Manifest Destinitis* (2016). Additionally, Mr. Siguenza recently directed Jose Rivera's *Cloud Tectonics* for New Village Arts, and his voice is featured in the Oscar nominated animated film *Coco*.

Sam Woodhouse (Director) co-founded San Diego Rep with D.W. Jacobs in 1976 and has since worked as a director, producer and/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* and *Hamlet* and with the San Diego Symphony in the title role of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*. His recent directorial work with the Rep includes *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*, *The Who's TOMMY*, *In the Next Room or the vibrator play*, *Threepenny Opera* and *Water & Power*. 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, Woodhouse 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.

Rachel Grossman (Associate Director) likes beets, brussels sprouts, bourbon, infographics, action movies, and well-facilitated discussions. As a theatre-maker, she creates work that entwines the audience's experience with the play's narrative, creating plays that feel interactive even when an audience "watches" rather than "does." Rachel is the Ensemble Director and a co-founder of dog & pony dc. With dog & pony dc, Rachel has co-created nearly 20 new plays and interactive experiences, including COURAGE, Beertown, Toast, and Peepshow. Currently Rachel is a lead artist with Gallaudet University's DeafBlind Theatre project, an Executive Producer for the JUBILEE, and a mentor through Arts Marketers Association UK's Audience Diversity Academy. Rachel is responsible for launching Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company's "connectivity" initiative and served as the first Connectivity Director. Rachel was one of eight selected to participate in WESTAF's second annual Dinner-vention, hosted by Barry's Blog in 2014. Rachel is a three-time recipient of a DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities' Artist Fellowship grant and received DCCAH support for her newest project: Nice & Lily, a performance for 4-6yos and their parents about openly discussing race. When she's not trying to save the world through theatre, Rachel's practicing yoga, reading non-fiction, or streaming crap television about supernatural phenomenon in the Petworth neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

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San Diego Repertory Theatre presents:

Beachtown

**By Herbert Siguenza with Rachel Grossman
based on the play *Beertown* by dog & pony dc
Directed by Sam Woodhouse**

Previews: Thursday, March 22 – Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Opening Night: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Closes: Sunday, April 15, 2018

Cast

Jason Heil as Steve Novak

Lee Ann Kim as Susan Suhiro

Salomon Maya as Benny Ramos-Leibowitz

Antonio T.J. Johnson as Damon Haynes

William 'BJ' Robinson as Bob Ruby
Sandra Ruiz as Gloria Ramirez
Marci Anne Wuebben as Donna French

Production Team

Sam Woodhouse, Director
Rachel Grossman, Associate Director
Danielle Ward, Associate Producer/Co-Dramaturg
Patrice Amon, Producer in Residence/Co-Dramaturg
Sean Fanning, Set Design
Anne McMills, Lighting Design
Anastasia Pautova, Costume Design
Matt Lescault-Wood, Sound Design
Chandra Anthenill, Stage Manager

Performance Schedule

Previews

- Thursday, March 22 at 8 p.m.
- Friday, March 23 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 24 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Night

- Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Performances

- Thursday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 1 at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 5 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 6 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 7 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 8 at 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.

- Thursday, April 12 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Closing

- Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket Information

Tickets range from \$20 to \$65 and are available in-person at the San Diego Rep box office, by phone at **619.544.1000** or online at www.sdrep.org. Active military, teacher and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances for \$20 each. Prices and dates subject to change.

Location:

Lyceum Space
San Diego Repertory Theatre
79 Horton Plaza
San Diego, CA 92101-6144

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 the show. Validation will allow patrons to pay flat \$8.00 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 is \$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.

About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, exotic, provocative theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Rep is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting a more inclusive community through work that nourishes progressive, political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts more than 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, purchase tickets or make a donation, visit www.sdrep.org. Join us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/sandiegorep>) and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

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