



Media Contact: Lauren King Thompson  
[lthompson@sdrep.org](mailto:lthompson@sdrep.org) | 619.231.3586 x613  
For Immediate Release

## SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS 2019/2020 SEASON

*A world premiere musical, a riveting drama, an action-adventure romance, a Tony Award-winning play, an uproarious new comedy by Herbert Siguenza, and the return of Hershey Felder*

**San Diego, CA (March 11, 2019)** – San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) announced today the line-up for its 2019/2020 season at the Lyceum Theatre. For its 44<sup>th</sup> season, San Diego REP invites audiences to sing along to the top-40 hits made at Gold Star Recording Studios in the 1950s and 60s in the world premiere musical **33 1/3 - House of Dreams** by **Jonathan Rosenberg** and **Brad Ross**. Enjoy the om pa pa of Banda music from Mexico in Playwright-in-Residence **Herbert Siguenza's** new comedy **Bad Hombres/Good Wives**. Delve into powerful dramas with the tour-de-force solo performance of **Hold These Truths** by **Jeanne Sakata** and the 2016 Tony Award-winner for Best Play, **The Humans** by **Stephan Karam**. Get swept away in a mash-up of classical Indian music and contemporary hip-hop from India in the action-packed **House of Joy** by **Madhuri Shekar**; and relish in the genius of **Hershey Felder**, with **A Paris Love Story**, featuring the music of Claude Debussy. Season 44 tickets are currently available by subscription only and can be purchased by calling the box office at (619) 544-1000.

"We set our sights high for our current Season 43, which has been lauded as one of our best. Season 44 promises a new set of theatrical adventures in virtuosity, comedy, romance and history," said REP artistic director **Sam Woodhouse**. "Steeped in diversity, Season 44 will travel ambitiously through history. Three of our playwrights of color—Herbert Siguenza, Jeanne Sakata, and Madhuri Shekar—share stories of everyday heroes who are striving, reaching, even leaping towards freedom and justice. This is perhaps most emblematic of what makes a REP play unique."

Opening Season 44 is the debut production of **33 1/3 - House of Dreams** (August 1-25, 2019), which chronicles the success of Gold Star Recording Studios through the history of rock 'n' roll. Written by local San Diegans **Jonathan Rosenberg** and **Brad Ross** with contributions by **Javier Velasco** and **Steve Gunderson**, the production will also feature direction and choreography by **Javier Velasco** with musical direction and arrangements by **Steve Gunderson**. This production marks the sixth *Xchange Xperience* collaboration between San Diego REP and the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA). **33 1/3 - House of Dreams** shares songs and stories from the recording studio with a young Phil Spector and his Wall of Sound, The Beach Boys, Sonny and Cher, Tina Turner, The Righteous Brothers, Ritchie Valens and many, many more.

What happens when you mix *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The School for Wives*, and a Narco Telenovela? You get **Bad Hombres/Good Wives** (October 3-27, 2019), a hilarious new comedy from Culture Clash co-founder and REP Playwright-in-Residence **Herbert Siguenza**. Set in the heart of Sinaloa, Mexico, **Sam Woodhouse** directs this irreverent comedy where lust, love and war are in the air, with Banda band songs to sing along to.

The riveting drama **Hold These Truths** (November 14 – December 8, 2019) by **Jeanne Sakata** tells the inspiring true story of American hero Gordon Hirabayashi resisting Japanese internment during WWII. Directed by **Jessica Kubzansky**, The REP production will feature the tour-de-force solo performance by stage and screen actor Ryun Yu, who plays Gordon and 37 other characters.

In 2020, REP associate artistic director **Todd Salovey** will direct the 2016 Tony Award-winner for Best Play,

**The Humans** (January 9 – February 2, 2020). In this intimate and homegrown production, playwright **Stephen Karam** (*Sons of the Prophet, Speech & Debate*) takes a fresh look at the hilarity and heart of the modern American family.

Inspired by the epic legends of Indian history, **House of Joy** (March 5 – 29, 2020) by **Madhuri Shekar** is a swashbuckling action-adventure romance centering on strong women who battle each other as well as a world threatening to enter their sacred space. Directed by **Sam Woodhouse** and **Arpita Mukherjee**, this wildly entertaining story of palace intrigue and betrayal features sword fights, narrow escapes, and sparks of revolution that culminates in a breathtaking conclusion.

After his record-breaking performance of *Beethoven* in Season 43, **Hershey Felder** will return to San Diego REP in **Hershey Felder: A Paris Love Story** (May 7 – May 31, 2020). Directed by **Trevor Hay**, piano virtuoso Hershey Felder shares his personal journey while also exploring the life and music of Impressionist composer Claude Debussy.

Season 44 Calendar: **33 1/3 - HOUSE OF DREAMS** (Aug 1-25, 2019); **BAD HOMBRES/GOOD WIVES** (Oct 3-27, 2019); **HOLD THESE TRUTHS** (Nov 14 – Dec 8, 2019); **THE HUMANS** (Jan 9 – Feb 2, 2020); **HOUSE OF JOY** (March 5 – 29, 2020); **HERSHEY FELDER: A PARIS LOVE STORY** (May 7 – May 31, 2020).

Tickets to Season 44 are currently available by subscription only. For more information or to purchase a subscription, please call the box office at (619) 544-1000. Single tickets will be available May 15 at [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org).

## **ABOUT SAN DIEGO REP'S 2019/2020 SEASON**

### **33 1/3 - HOUSE OF DREAMS**

WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

**August 1-25, 2019 | On the Lyceum Stage**

Press opening: Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m.

By Jonathan Rosenberg and Brad Ross

With contributions by Javier Velasco and Steve Gunderson

Directed and Choreographed by Javier Velasco

Musical Direction and Arrangements by Steve Gunderson

*Produced in association with San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, and 33 1/3 HOD SD, LLC*

*33 1/3 - House of Dreams* tells the story of the legendary Gold Star Recording Studios in Hollywood, which for 33 1/3 years was the home of some of the greatest pop and rock hits of all time. Imagine a story featuring a young Phil Spector and his Wall of Sound, The Beach Boys, Sonny and Cher, Tina Turner, The Righteous Brothers, Ritchie Valens and many, many more. You won't believe the 32-song playlist, which includes rock n' roll classics such as "Summertime Blues," "La Bamba," "Good Vibrations," "Be My Baby," "Unchained Melody," "Wouldn't It Be Nice" and, yes, even "In A Gadda Da Vida." Thirty actors, dancers and a live band will raise the roof of the Lyceum this summer!

### **BAD HOMBRES/GOOD WIVES**

WORLD PREMIERE

**October 3-27, 2019 | In the Lyceum Space**

Press Opening: Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00 PM

By Herbert Siguenza

Directed by Sam Woodhouse

What happens when you mix *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The School for Wives*, and a Narco Telenovela? You get *Bad Hombres/Good Wives*, a hilarious new comedy, from Culture Clash co-founder Herbert Siguenza. Meet Don Ernesto, a muy macho cartel lord of Sinaloa who is used to getting exactly what

he wants. In this case, what he wants is Eva—the young woman he sent to a convent to be trained to become his perfect submissive wife. En route to meet her future husband, Eva bumps into Mario, the dreamboat son of a rival Narco capitan, and her heart leaps. Lust, love and war are in the air. Leave it to Armida, the smartest maid in Mexico, to dream up the scheme to inspire a double wedding that ends the war! Featuring lots of Banda band songs to sing along to.

*“The man is a gift to the cause of thoughtful, provocative and typically very funny theater, and San Diego can be grateful for grabbing him back after he had drifted away to Los Angeles.” –San Diego Union-Tribune*

### **HOLD THESE TRUTHS**

November 14 – December 8, 2019 | In the Lyceum Space  
Press Opening: Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 PM  
By Jeanne Sakata  
Directed by Jessica Kubzansky

Shocked by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and driven by fear and prejudice, America shipped its own citizens of Japanese ancestry off to internment camps for forced detention. *Hold These Truths* tells the inspiring true story of American hero Gordon Hirabayashi, a young man who defied an unjust order. Join Gordon on a 50-year quest to avenge an injustice to his community, restore his faith in the U.S. Constitution and reconcile America’s greatness with its shortcomings. *Hold These Truths* has played to sold-out audiences all over the country and features a tour-de-force performance by stage and screen actor Ryun Yu, who plays Gordon and 37 other characters.

*“Surprisingly humorous and openhearted.” - The Seattle Times*

### **THE HUMANS**

2016 TONY AWARD WINNER FOR BEST PLAY  
January 9 – February 2, 2020 | In the Lyceum Space  
Press Opening: Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 PM  
By Stephen Karam  
Directed by Todd Salovey

Erik Blake has brought his family from Pennsylvania to celebrate Thanksgiving at his daughter’s new apartment in lower Manhattan. As darkness falls outside the ramshackle pre-war duplex, eerie things start to go bump in the night. Soon, family tensions reach a boiling point. Winner of the 2016 Tony Award for Best Play, Playwright Stephen Karam (*Sons of the Prophet, Speech & Debate*) takes a fresh look at the hilarity, heart and horrors of the modern American family.

*CRITICS' PICK "A haunting, beautifully realized play, quite possibly the finest we will see all season... Blisteringly funny and altogether wonderful." - Charles Isherwood, The New York Times*

*"Absolutely, relentlessly gripping... Rackingly funny even as it pummels the heart and scares the bejesus out of you." - Jesse Green, New York Magazine*

### **HOUSE OF JOY**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE  
March 5 – 29, 2020 | In the Lyceum Space  
Press Opening: Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM  
By Madhuri Shekar  
Directed by Sam Woodhouse & Arpita Mukherjee

Set in the 17th century, in a place like Delhi, India, *House of Joy* spins the tale of Hamida, one of the elite female bodyguards in the Emperor’s Imperial Harem. When faced with an impossible ethical quandary, Hamida goes against everything she believes and risks her life to help abused Queen Mariyam escape the

heavily guarded harem. Inspired by the epic legends of Indian history, Shekar has crafted a swashbuckling action-adventure romance centering on strong women who battle each other as well as a world threatening to enter their sacred space. This wildly entertaining story of palace intrigue and betrayal features sword fights, narrow escapes, and sparks of revolution that culminates in a breathtaking conclusion!

***HERSHEY FELDER: A PARIS LOVE STORY***

May 7 – May 31, 2020 | On the Lyceum Stage

Press Opening: Friday, May 8 at 8:00 PM

Featuring the Music of Claude Debussy

Written and performed by Hershey Felder

Directed by Trevor Hay

For decades, Felder’s “Great Composer Series” has celebrated the brilliance of Beethoven, Berlin, Tchaikovsky, and more. Next Spring, San Diego REP invites audiences on piano virtuoso Hershey Felder’s personal journey, while also exploring the life and music of Impressionist composer Claude Debussy. *Hershey Felder: A Paris Love Story* brings to life a visionary who proclaimed nature his religion, creating music of ravishing beauty, color, and compassion, from the sweeping “La mer” to the evocative “L’apres-midi d’un faune” and the mystical “Clair de lune.”

*“Felder is a dynamo” – San Diego Union-Tribune*

**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 50 main stage productions by Latinx 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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