



Media Contact: Kevin Lohmann
klohmann@sdrep.org | 619.231.3586 x 613
For Immediate Release

San Diego REP to Film Aaron Posner's *JQA*

San Diego, CA – October 1, 2020 - San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) announced today the details of a filmed version of **Aaron Posner's** play *JQA*, the second production of the theatre's revised 2020/21 online and onstage season that begins with the release of the feature film of *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso*, written by and starring Herbert Siguenza. Directed by REP Artistic Director **Sam Woodhouse**, the film of Posner's play about President John Quincy Adams will be available for viewing beginning **October 16 through November 5** for **\$35 per household**. Subscribers to San Diego REP's 2020/21 season will receive access to view *JQA* for free. Tickets and more information are available now at sdrep.org.

"The recent Democratic and Republican conventions made it clear how differently the two political parties look at the role of government in the lives of the American people. Playwright Aaron Posner asks us to consider what the Founding Fathers and their successors thought about what a government should do for its people," says Woodhouse. "I cannot think of a more important conversation to be had in the weeks leading up to one of the most significant races for President in my lifetime."

Similar to the record-breaking Broadway musical *Hamilton*, the cast of *JQA* at San Diego REP looks like America today. The cast of four includes an African American woman, an African American man, a Latinx man and a white woman. The four actors all play President John Quincy Adams at different points in the play. The two women play historical figures, both men and women, who were white. The two African American actors play characters who were white people in history. This purposeful casting invites the viewer to embrace the diversity of America's contemporary culture while meeting historic characters from the past.

Comprising the diverse four-person ensemble is **Crystal Lucas-Perry** (2019 Lucille Lortel Award Winner for *Ain't No Mo'* at The Public Theatre, *Bull in a China Shop* at Lincoln Center Theatre), **Larry Bates** (*The Mountaintop* at San Diego REP, HBO's *Big Little Lies*), **Jesse Perez** (*Seize the King* at La Jolla Playhouse, Director of The Old Globe/USD MFA Program) and **Rosina Reynolds** (*The Humans*, *Uncanny Valley*).

John Quincy Adams, child of the American Revolution, son of a Founding Father, President and Congressman, had an incredible political career that spanned 54 years and was one of the greatest diplomats in American history. In *JQA* we are taken through a series imagined conversations from the brilliant minds of extraordinary Americans like George Washington, Frederick Douglas, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and others. In this funny, moving, inspiring piece Award-winning playwright Aaron Posner (*Stupid F**ing Bird*) challenges us to reexamine ourselves, our definition of government and our future in light of our past. This is just the show to elevate the conversation during the election season about what government should do for the people of America. In the spirit of *Hamilton*, *JQA* is presented by a cast of actors that look like what America looks like today.

JQA is written by Posner and directed by Woodhouse. The production team is rounded out by: **Justin Humphres** (Set Design); **Anastasia Pautova** (Costume Design); **Chris Rynne** (Lighting Design); **Matt Lescault-Wood** (Sound Design); **Joel Castellaw** (Dramaturgy); **Rebecca Myers** (Assistant Director); and **Kim Heil** (Casting Director & Associate Producer).

To ensure the safety of those participating in the production of *JQA*, San Diego REP will follow strict public health guidelines and protocol related to filmmaking during the COVID-19 pandemic. This protocol includes the wearing of masks, social distancing, multiple testing of all participants, repeated sanitation of all materials and more. For the production, **Sarah Zimmerman** will serve as the Health Safety Manager.

For tickets and more information on how to view *JQA*, visit sdrep.org.

AARON POSNER (PLAYWRIGHT) is a nationally recognized playwright, director, teacher and former Artistic Director. He has won an Outer Circle Critics Award, an Elliot Norton Award, a Joseph Jefferson Award, a Bay Area Critics Award, two Barrymore Awards and six Helen Hayes Awards as a playwright and director. His plays and adaptations include *The Heal*, *JQA*, *Stupid F*cking Bird*, *Life Sucks.*, *No Sisters*, *District Merchants*, *Who Am I This Time (And Other Conundrums Of Love)*, *The Chosen*, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, *Sometimes A Great Notion*, *Cyrano*, *A Christmas Carol*, and more. His musicals include *A Murder*, *A Mystery & A Marriage* and *What Ho, Jeeves!* His plays for young people include *The Gift Of Nothing* and *Me...Jane: The Dreams & Adventures Of Young Jane Goodall*. He has directed more than 150 productions at major regional theatres across the country and was the founder and Artistic Director of the Arden Theatre Company and a former Artistic Director of Two River Theatre.

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: *Bad Hombres/Good Wives*, *Sweat*, *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 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 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 sdrep.org. Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

XXX