

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2022

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Arena Stage Explores the Lives of DREAMers in Poignant and Poetic Drama
In association with Berkeley Repertory Theatre

SANCTUARY CITY

By MARTYNA MAJOK
Original Direction by DAVID MENDIZÁBAL

*** Pulitzer Prize winner Martyna Majok's timely look at U.S. immigration comes to the nation's capital, Playing at the Mead Center for American Theater ***

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announced today the cast of the D.C. premiere of Martyna Majok's *Sanctuary City*, a 2021 *New York Times* Critic's Pick hailed for its "unsparing, un sentimental" take on immigration in the United States. The Arena Stage production is in association with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, where it received an "allusive, poetic staging" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) by director **David Mendizábal** this past summer. Many members of the Berkeley Rep cast and creative team will reprise their roles in Arena's mounting. *Sanctuary City* will run from **October 21 through November 27, 2022**, in the **Kreeger Theater**, and Press Night will be held on **Tuesday, October 25 at 8 p.m.**

Written by Pulitzer Prize winner **Martyna Majok** (*Cost of Living*, *Ironbound*), *Sanctuary City* is the powerful story of two young DREAMers who fight to establish a place for themselves in America, the only country they know as home. Seen through the eyes of these teenage immigrants, it follows their friendship, their struggles, and their heartbreak. Poignant, timely, and highly theatrical, this "one-of-a-kind love story" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) illuminates the triumphs and challenges these lifelong friends face, and how much they are willing to risk for each other when they have everything to lose.

Arena Stage Artistic Director **Molly Smith** is eager to host this "gritty and authentic" (BroadwayWorld) play about one of the country's most important issues in our nation's capital. "We read about immigration all the time in the newspaper," said **Smith**, "and many of us have friends or family who have immigrated to this country."

"The brilliant Martyna Majok has created a contemporary and compelling story of the complexities of moving to the United States and trying to become an American citizen. You will not want to miss it."

Making their Arena Stage debuts and reprising their roles from the Berkeley Repertory Theatre production are **Hernán Angulo** (A.C.T.'s *Cymbeline*), **María Victoria Martínez** (Repertorio Español's *In the Time of the Butterflies*), and **Kim Fischer** (Second Stage's *Make Believe*). Also making their Arena Stage debuts are **Johnny Anthony** (Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*) and **Bekah Zornosa** (Woolly Mammoth's *There's Always the Hudson*).

The creative team includes Associate Director/Transfer Director **Cara Hinh**, Set and Costume Designer **David Israel Reynoso**, Lighting Designer **Cha See**, Sound Designer **Fan Zhang**, Casting Director **Erica Jensen, C.S.A.**, **Calleri Jensen Davis**, Stage Manager **Elisa Guthertz**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Becky Reed**.

Martyna Majok (*Playwright*) was born in Bytom, Poland and raised in Jersey and Chicago. She was awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play, *Cost of Living*, which will debut this fall on Broadway. Other plays include *Sanctuary City*, *Queens*, and *Ironbound*, which have been produced across American and international stages. Awards include the Academy of Arts and Letters' Benjamin Hadley Danks Award for Exceptional Playwriting; the Hull-Warriner Award; the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding New Play; the Greenfield Prize, as the first female recipient in drama; the Champions of Change Award from the NYC Mayor's Office; the Francesca Primus Prize; two Jane Chambers Playwriting Awards; the Lanford Wilson Prize; the Lilly Award's Stacey Mindich Prize; Helen Merrill Emerging Playwright Award; Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play from the Helen Hayes Awards; Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award; ANPF Women's Invitational Prize; David Calicchio Prize; Global Age Project Prize; NYTW 2050 Fellowship; NNPN Smith Prize for Political Playwriting; and Merage Foundation Fellowship for *The American Dream*. Martyna studied at Yale School of Drama, Juilliard, University of Chicago, and Jersey public schools. She was a 2012-2013 NNPN playwright-in-residence, the 2015-2016 PoNY Fellow at the Lark Play Development Center, and a 2018-2019 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University. Martyna is currently writing a musical adaptation of *The Great Gatsby*, with music by Florence Welch and Thomas Bartlett, and developing TV and film for HBO, Plan B, and Pastel. (she/her)

David Mendizábal (*Original Direction*) is a director, designer, one of the Producing Artistic Leaders of the OBIE Award-winning The Movement Theatre Company, and Associate Artistic Director of The Sol Project. New York credits include: *Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members* (Soho Rep/Sol Project), *Then They Forgot About the Rest* (INTAR), and *Tell Hector I Miss Him* (Atlantic). Regional credits include: *Mushroom* (People's Light), *Sanctuary City* (Berkeley Rep), *This Bitter Earth* (TheaterWorks Hartford), *Don't Eat the Mangos* (Magic Theatre), and *On The Grounds of Belonging* (Long Wharf). David is a 2021 Princess Grace Award Honoraria Recipient in Theater. They are an alumnus of Soho Rep Project Number One, Ars Nova Vision Residency, Drama League Directors Project, artEquity, and TCG Leadership U. Instagram: @its_daveed www.davidmendizabal.com (they/he)

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Hernán Angulo (*B*) is thrilled to be making his Arena Stage and East Coast debut! His most recent theater credits include *Sanctuary City* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre) and *Cymbeline* (American Conservatory Theater). Hernán is a recent graduate from American Conservatory Theater's MFA program. Instagram: @hernanc.a hernanangulo.com

María Victoria Martínez (*G*) is an actor, theater maker, and audiobook narrator based in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and New York City. Her work includes the West Coast premiere of *Sanctuary City* (Berkeley Repertory Theater), *James and the Giant Peach* (American Repertory Theater), *Christmas at the Ivanovs'* (Moscow Art Theater, Russia), *After Burn* (FRINGE Festival), *In the Time of the Butterflies* (Spanish Theatre Repertory /Repertorio Español), and *Agua, Vida y Tierra* (What Will The Neighbors Say?). Her film credits include the TV romcom *Harmony in Paradise* and the indie film *Here Comes the Blackout*, alongside Alice Kremelberg. María loves wearing many hats in the theater and has also worked as Assistant Director in the Soho Repertory Theatre production *Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members*. She obtained her BA at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus, and her master's degree from the American Repertory Theater Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University, where she spent a semester training at the Moscow Art Theater in Russia. Born and raised in Santurce, Puerto Rico, María infuses her work with her love and passion for the Island. She is beyond excited to be making her DC debut. Instagram: @mashainthetropics (she/her/ella)

Kim Fischer (*Henry*) is an actor from Oakland, California based in Brooklyn, NY. His NY theatre credits include: *Make Believe* (Second Stage, dir. Michael Greif), *Then She Fell* (Third Rail Projects), and *Fuerza Bruta* (Daryl Roth Theatre). Regional theater: *Sanctuary City* (Berkeley Rep), *Frankenstein* (Dallas Theater Center), *Chill*

(Merrimack Rep), *Macbeth* (Denver Center), *How We Got On* (Cleveland Playhouse). TV: *WeCrashed* (Apple), *The Good Fight* (Paramount), *Mrs. Fletcher* (HBO), *Jessica Jones* (Netflix), *The Get Down* (Netflix), *Royal Pains* (USA). Film includes *Misprint*, *The Club*, and *I Can I Will I Did*. He is an alumnus of the Actors Theatre of Louisville Acting Apprenticeship program and the ABC Diversity Showcase. BFA: NYU Instagram: @mrkimfischer (he/him)

Johnny Anthony (*u/s B/Henry*) is so excited to be making his Arena Stage debut! Regional theater credits include Kyle in *Tom*, Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*, and Aaron Kreifels in *The Laramie Project*. Johnny recently graduated from Pace University, as well as completed the Uta Hagen Institute's Core Summer Intensive at the prestigious HB Studio in NYC. Johnny can also be seen in *West Side Story* (dir. Steven Spielberg) and the upcoming Apple TV+ series *The Crowded Room*. Instagram: @thejohnnyanthony www.johnnyanthony.com

Bekah Zornosa (*u/s G*) is so excited to be working at Arena Stage. Recent credits include: *There's Always the Hudson* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), "We declare you a terrorist..." (Round House Theatre), *The Eulogy* (Rorschach Theatre), *ALIEN/NATION* (Williamstown Theatre Festival/The Forest of Arden), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (North Shore Music Theatre), *Pipeline* (Everyman Theatre). Bekah is currently a senior at American University studying Musical Theatre, and Public Relations and Strategic Communications. Instagram: @bekahzornosa bekahzornosa.com

For full company biographies, please visit arenastage.org/sanctuary.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Arena Stage in association with

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents

Sanctuary City

By Martyna Majok

Original Direction by David Mendizábal

Associate Direction/Transfer Direction by Cara Hinh

In the Kreeger Theater | October 21 – November 27, 2022

ABOUT: Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Martyna Majok brings us the powerful story of two young DREAMers who fight to establish a place for themselves in America, the only country they know as home. Poignant, timely, and highly theatrical, *Sanctuary City* illuminates the triumphs and challenges these lifelong friends face, and how much they are willing to risk for each other when they have everything to lose.

CAST:

B: Hernán Angulo*

G: María Victoria Martínez*

Henry: Kim Fischer*

u/s B/Henry: Johnny Anthony

u/s G: Bekah Zornosa

CREATIVE TEAM:

Playwright: Martyna Majok

Director: David Mendizábal

Associate Director/Transfer Director: Cara Hinh

Set and Costume Designer: David Israel Reynoso

Lighting Designer: Cha See

Sound Designer: Fan Zhang

Casting Director: Erica Jenson, C.S.A., Calleri Jensen Davis

Stage Manager: Elisa Guthertz*

Assistant Stage Manager: Becky Reed*

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

Sanctuary City is sponsored by **Decker Anstrom and Sherry Hiemstra** and **Catherine and Chris Guttman-McCabe** with additional support by **Steven and Susan Bralove** and **Kristen Donoghue and Jonathan Hacker**.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

TICKETS: Tickets for *Sanctuary City* are \$56-\$95, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs, such as pay-your-age tickets, student discounts, Southwest Nights, and heroes discounts, visit arenastage.org/savings-programs.

Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 (Tuesday – Sunday, 12:00-8:00 p.m.), or in person at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C. (only on performance days, and only in the 90 minutes leading up to performance time).

Sales Office/Subscriptions: 202-488-3300
Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Weekday matinees at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2; Thursday, November 10; Wednesday, November 16; and Tuesday, November 22

No performance on Thursday, November 24

Early Curtain: Sunday, November 13 at 6 p.m.

Southwest Nights: Thursday, November 17 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 27 at 7 p.m.

Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, November 5 at 2 p.m.

Closed Captioning: GalaPro begins Wednesday, October 26

Post-Show Conversations

Connect with the show beyond the performance at a post-show conversation with artists and staff on November 2, 10, 16, and 22 following the 12 p.m. performance and on November 17 following the 8 p.m. performance.

Full Calendar: arenastage.org/tickets/calendar

SAFETY: Arena Stage requires that patrons, staff, and volunteers wear facial masks inside the Mead Center, unless actively eating or drinking, regardless of vaccination status. These conditions are subject to change, and Arena continues to consult with medical professionals, monitor government best practice recommendations, and engage in industry trainings to ensure the health and safety of our patrons, artists, and staff. For up-to-date information, visit arenastage.org/safety.

TRAVEL: Limited parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage and the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, SW, one block from the Mead Center for American Theater, and ranges from \$18-27. Please visit arenastage.org/transportation for information on transportation to and parking around the Mead Center, and call 202-488-3300 to purchase parking in advance.

For complete 2022/23 Season details, visit arenastage.org/season.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacting the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its eighth decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

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