

canadianstage studio 180 theatre

CAST ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE TORONTO PRODUCTION OF THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY SWEAT January 14-February 2 at the Berkeley Street Theatre

Toronto, ON -- Canadian Stage and Studio 180 Theatre are pleased to announce the cast for the Toronto premiere production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage. A Canadian Stage and Studio 180 co-production, performances begin on January 14, 2020 at the Berkeley Street Theatre.

Directed by award-winning actor, director and educator David Storch, the stellar cast includes veteran Shaw and Stratford award-winning actor **Kelli Fox** (*Penelopiad*, Nightwood Theatre) as Tracey, award-winning stage and screen actor **Allegra Fulton** (CTV's *Cardinal*, CBC's *Schitt's Creek*, Oscar winning film *The Shape of Water*) will play Jessie, major theatre and TV actor **Ordena Stephens-Thompson** (*Fences* at Grand Theatre, Bravo's *The Handmaid's Tale*, CTV's *Designated Survivor*) will play Cynthia and Dora Award-winning, Gemini Award-nominated actor **Maurice Dean Wint** will play Evan. The cast also includes Christopher Allen, Jhonattan Ardila, Peter N. Bailey, Timothy Dowler-Coltman and Ron Lea, with Sabryn Rock as Assistant Director.

Written by Time 100 Most Influential People 2019 recipient Lynn Nottage, *Sweat* is a searing examination of industrial decline, race, politics, and friendship. Declared by The New York Times as "A must-see," *Sweat* was the winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was nominated for an Olivier Award and three Tony Awards including Best Play.

Sweat chronicles the lives of a group of friends working in a steel mill. When rumours surface that the company is considering layoffs and flyers are hung to recruit non-union workers for less money, the war between community and capitalism begins and tensions start to destroy not only jobs, but friendships.

CAST BIOS

JHONATTAN ARDILA

Born in Colombia and raised in the United States, Jhonattan is an actor who has worked in the film industry for close to a decade. After initially responding to an advertisement for extra work online, he fully realized his passion and commitment to the arts when he played Flaco in the theatrical production

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of *Den of Thieves*. Noticing the lack of diversity in roles for minorities and the need for more roles of prominence, he took it upon himself to create content. His most recent production, *Dreams*, which he wrote and directed, premiered at the NY Shorts Film Fest. Jhonattan has also appeared in CTV's drama, *In The Dark*, CW's *iZombie*, and *Jett*.

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN

A Dora Award-winning actor, Christopher's recent theatre credits include: *The Birds and the Bees* (Arts Club); *Antigone: Fong* (Young People's Theatre), *Selfie* (Young People's Theatre), *The Birds and the Bees* (Western Canada Theatre), *The Birds and the Bees* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), *The Amorous Servant* (Odyssey Theatre), *The Whipping Man* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre), *The Birds and the Bees* (Blyth Festival), *Julius Caesar*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Canadian Stage), *Still* (Binocular Theatre), *The Adonis Project* (The Piece of Mine Festival), *Tyson's Song* (Piece of Mine Arts), *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in Action).

PETER N. BAILEY

A graduate of The Humber Theatre Performance Program, Peter's theatre credits include: *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots Theatre Co./Obsidian Theatre), *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *An Ideal Husband* (Stratford Shakespeare Festival), *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Come Good Rain* (Black Theatre Workshop), *Romeo & Juliet* (Canadian Stage), *The Wilberforce Hotel*, *A World Without Shadows*, *Jumbo* (The Blyth Festival), *Gas Girls* (New Harlem Productions), *A Man A Fish* (Persephone Theatre) and *Fences* (The Grand Theatre). Peter has also appeared on CTV's *Saving Hope*, Space Channel's *Killjoys*, and CTV's, *The Detail*.

TIMOTHY DOWLER-COLTMAN

Timothy Dowler-Coltman was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta where he performed as a child actor in *Macbeth*, *Sister Mary Ignatius*, *The Pillowman*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver!* (The Citadel Theatre). Tim studied at The National Theatre School of Canada, playing *Hamlet* in his final year and has performed in *Skylight* (Berkeley St Theatre/Larry Moss), *Vimy* (Soulpepper), *Punk Rock* (Crow's Theatre), *Towards Youth: a play on radical hope* (Crow's Theatre/Project Humanity) and *Orphans* (Coal Mine Theatre). Tim is a graduate of The Canadian Film Centre. His film and TV credits include CBC's *Frankie Drake*, *The Depths 3D* (Skyward Motion Pictures), *Ashram 69* (Triple 7 Films), *Boys vs Girls* (Windsor College) and *Hector* (CFC closeup).

KELLI FOX

Kelli Fox is a Toronto's Critic's Circle Award and Dora Award-winning actor and director with more than 30 years of experience on stages across Canada and the United States, including 13 seasons with the Shaw Festival and three seasons with the Stratford Festival. From fall of 2017 to the spring of 2018, she

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served as Artistic Associate at the Globe Theatre in Regina. Her directing credits include: *Cakewalk* (Blyth Festival), *The Penelopiad* (University of Windsor), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), *The Lonely Diner* (Vertigo), *The Drowning Girls*, *Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *A Christmas Carol*, *I and You* (Globe Theatre, Regina), *Kitchen Radio* (Blyth Festival), *The Nerd* (Victoria Playhouse, Petrolia), *Boston Marriage and Man to Man* (Headstrong Collective) and *This Wide Night* (Summerworks 2013). Kelli has been recognized with a Jessie Award (*Keely & Du*, Arts Club/Canadian Stage), a Dora nomination (*Top Girls*, Soulpepper), a Capitol Critics Circle Award (*A Room of One's Own*, Shaw tour), a Toronto Critic's Circle Award (*Penelopiad*, Nightwood Theatre), as well as sharing a Dora with the *Penelopiad* ensemble. She was the 2016 recipient of the Gina Wilkinson Prize recognizing emerging directors transitioning mid-career.

ALLEGRA FULTON

Allegra Fulton is an award-winning actress who's distinguished career on stage and screen has taken her across Canada, the United States and Europe, where she is also known as a director. Allegra has appeared in leading roles in theatres from Stratford to Soulpepper and is especially known for her haunting portrayal of Frida Kahlo in her solo tour de force performance of Montero's *Frida K*, which toured internationally. Recent theatre work includes: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Sex* (Shaw Festival) and *Dinner with the Duchess* (Next Stage Festival). On screen, Allegra has appeared in the Oscar winner for Best Picture *The Shape of Water*, Cronenberg's *Maps to the Stars*, Bravo's *Suits*, FX's *Fargo*, CTV's *Cardinal*, CBC's *Schitt's Creek*, YouTube's *Wayne*, CBC's *Workin' Mom's*, CBC's *Kim's Convenience* and a recurring role in the International Emmy Award-winning series *19-2*.

RON LEA

Ron has worked in many theatres across the country over the last 40 years. Recent credits include: *Kill the Poor* (Assembly Theatre), *My Name Is Asher Lev* (Studio 180/Harold Green Jewish Theatre) and *First Dates* (Toronto Fringe). Ron has also appeared in: *Death of a Salesman*, *Betrayal* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre), *August* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *December Man* (Green Thumb Theatre/Prairie Theatre Exchange), *Motel Plays* (Factory Theatre), *One Eyed Kings* (Tarragon Theatre) and many shows at Centaur Theatre. Ron is an ACTRA Award-winner and a two-time My Entertainment Awards nominee.

ORDENA STEPHENS-THOMPSON

Ordena's most recent theatre credits include: *Fences* (Grand Theatre), *Harlem Duet* (Tarragon Theatre), *Risky Phil* (YPT), *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots/Obsidian Theatre), *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf* (Soulpepper Theatre), and *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Factory Theatre). Selected television and film credits include: *Umbrella Academy* on Netflix, Bravo's

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The Handmaid's Tale, CTV's *Designated Survivor* and *Committed*, Global's *da kink in my hair* and *Rookie Blue* and Lifetime's *The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe*.

MAURICE DEAN WINT

Maurice is a Dora Award-winning actor. His credits include: *A&R Angels*, *Serpent Kills* (Crow's), *The Postman* (Panamania Toronto, Appledore Prods.), *Yankee Tavern* (Grand Theatre), *Life of Jude* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *Courageous* (Dora Recipient), *Capture Me*, *The Radiance of the King*, *Fortune and Men's Eyes* (Tarragon/Citadel), *The Real McCoy*, *Where is Kabuki* (Factory Theatre/GCTC); *Donut City* (Canadian Stage); *Titus Andronicus* (Theatre WUM – Dora nomination). Maurice's television credits include: CBC's *Diggstown* and *Shoot the Messenger*, *Showcase's Haven*, The Movie Network's *Regenesis*, *PSI Factor*, *Tekwar* and *Blue Murder* (Gemini Nomination). He has also appeared in the following films: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Cube*, *Curtis's Charm*, *Rude*, *Tangled*, *The Sweetest Gift* (Gemini nomination), *Robocop: Prime Directives*. Guest appearances include: *Suits*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Transporter: The Series*, *Flashpoint*, *Heartland*, *The Listener*, *The Border*, *Bloodletting*, *A Taste of Shakespeare* and the *Outer Limits*.

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**To receive further information, please contact
CATHY PAINE at 416-367-8243 ext. 250 cpaine@canadianstage.com**

ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. Led by Artistic Director, Brendan Healy, and Executive Director, Monica Esteves, the company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts; the Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre.

ABOUT STUDIO 180 THEATRE

Studio 180 Theatre is a Toronto-based company with a mission to produce socially relevant theatre that provokes public discourse and promotes community engagement. Since launching in 2003 with the

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acclaimed Canadian premiere of *The Laramie Project*, a string of popular and critical successes has helped Studio 180 evolve from an informal artistic collective into a not-for-profit charitable organization with significant producing partnerships, a growing base of financial support, and a clear and distinctive mission to stage compelling, unique and socially significant drama. Studio 180 Theatre produces two MAINSTAGE shows per season as well as a STUDIO series of productions, including a new play initiative called Studio 180 IN DEVELOPMENT and 180 READS, which invites audiences to attend readings of plays that we are contemplating for production. Other programming includes our innovative education program called Studio 180 IN CLASS that brings our work into high school classrooms around the Greater Toronto Area, an audience enrichment program called BEYOND THE STAGE with activities that enhance each production.

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