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**PRESS CONTACT:** April Culver, Marketing & Press Manager ~ 415.694.6156 ~ [april@nctcsf.org](mailto:april@nctcsf.org)

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## NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE OF HARRISON DAVID RIVERS' INTERLUDE

A CAPTIVATING AND PERSONAL NEW AUDIO EXPERIENCE FROM THE WRITER OF THIS BITTER EARTH

San Francisco, CA (January 13, 2021) – This March, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** proudly presents the world premiere of Harrison David Rivers' *Interlude*. Commissioned by NCTC, *Interlude* is a personal reflection of a gay Black man's experience during the transformative events of 2020.

Jesse Howard's life looks nothing like it used to. Forced by a national pandemic to return to his childhood home in Kansas with his Conservative parents, Jesse finds himself standing still for the first time. An audio drama that blends with a visual storyscape for a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience, *Interlude* is a personal and tender snapshot of one man's search for connection.

H. Adam Harris revisits his character of Jesse from NCTC's critically-acclaimed world premiere of Rivers' *This Bitter Earth* in the 2017-18 Season. A "work of uncommon depth, nuance, and emotional impact" (*Bay Area Reporter*), *This Bitter Earth* was a gripping activist love story rooted in the Black Lives Matter movement.

*Interlude* will be available for streaming **March 1 - 24**. Admission is pay-what-you-wish, \$0 - \$40. Tickets are available at [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org).

**Playwright Harrison David Rivers** is the winner of the 2018 Relentless Award for *The Bandaged Place*. His other plays include *When Last We Flew* (GLAAD Media Award); *Sweet* (AUDELCO nomination); *Where Storms Are Born* (Berkshire Theatre Award nomination, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award); *This Bitter Earth* (NCTC World Premiere, MN Theatre Award for Exceptional New Work, Lavender Magazine citation for Outstanding New Playwriting); *Five Points* (MN Theatre Award for Exceptional New Work, BroadwayWorld Minneapolis Award for Best New Work, Lavender Magazine citation for Outstanding New Playwriting); *Broadbend, Arkansas* (Broadway Black's Antonyo Award nomination for Best Book of a Musical, Times Square Chronicles citation for Best New Off-Broadway Musical and Outstanding Book of a Musical); *And She Would Stand Like This*; *Look Upon Our Lowliness*; *To Let Go And Fall*; and *A Crack In The Sky*. Harrison was named a Runner-up for the 2018 Artist of the Year by the *Star Tribune* and a 2017 Artist of the Year by *City Pages*. He is the recipient of McKnight, Jerome, and Van Lier Fellowships and residencies with the Bogliasco Foundation, the Siena Art Institute, the Hermitage, Duke University, New York Theatre Workshop, New York Stage & Film and the Williamstown Theater Festival. Harrison is a member of the Playwrights' Center's Board of Directors.

**Director ShawnJ West** is a California-based director and actor. West relocated to the Bay Area almost nine years ago after 16 years in Seattle, WA where he directed productions of the Seattle cult hit *Sex In Seattle: Episodes 15, 16, 17 & 18* with SIS Productions; ReAct's production of *WELL*; and the 2009 West Coast premiere of *Illyria* and *The Seven Year Itch* with Redwood Theatre. His Bay Area directing credits include the Playwright Center San Francisco's shorts and showcase, the African American Shakespeare Company's production of *Cinderella, A Soulful Christmas* with Lorraine Hansberry Theatre as well as assistant director on *Macbeth* also with the African American Shakespeare Company.

**H. Adam Harris** is an actor, director, teaching artist, and cultural equity consultant. He works at the intersection of theatre, education, social justice, and community engagement. Recent theatrical credits include puppeteering and voicing the title role of Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* in the U.S premiere at the Children's Theatre Company (CTC) and The Old Globe Theatre. He's a frequent performer with CTC: *The Hobbit, The Snowy Day, The Jungle Book* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. He has worked with the Guthrie Theater, Seattle Children's Theater, New Conservatory Theatre Center, Park Square Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, and the Minnesota Orchestra. He is a proud Penumbra Theatre Company member, credits with Penumbra include *The Owl Answers, The Dutchman, The Ballad of Emmett Till, and The Amen Corner*. Along with serving on the Ten Thousand Things board, he is also a member of Artist Core, credits with the company include *The Unsinkable Molly Brown, Dirt Sticks, The Seven, and Park & Lake*. H. Adam is the Education Coordinator at the Playwrights' Center; a resident teaching artist with the Guthrie Theater and CTC, and a freelance equity, diversity, and inclusion consultant for various organizations. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program.

The *Interlude* creative team includes technical direction by **Carlos Aceves**, sound design by **Elton Bradman**, and production management & casting coordination by **Stephanie Desnoyers**.

**New Conservatory Theatre Center** has been San Francisco's premier LGBTQ+ and Allied performing arts institution and **progressive arts education conservatory** since 1981. NCTC is renowned for its diverse range of **innovative, high-quality productions**, touring productions and **shows for young audiences**; its foundational anti-bullying work with youth and educators through **YouthAware**; and its commitment to developing **new plays** to continue expanding the canon of queer and allied dramatic work.

Supported in part by **The Bernard Osher Foundation, Horizons Foundation, Grants for the Arts** and the generosity of NCTC's individual donors

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## ***Interlude***

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **WHO:**

Written by **Harrison David Rivers** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed by **ShawnJ West** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Starring **H. Adam Harris\*** (*pronouns: he/him*) as Jesse Howard

Technical Direction by **Carlos Aceves** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Sound Design by **Elton Bradman** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Production Management & Casting Coordination by **Stephanie Desnoyers** (*pronouns: she/her*)

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**Ed Decker**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**Barbara Hodgen**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\*Appears courtesy of SAG-AFTRA

**WHAT:** NCTC-commissioned virtual world premiere of *Interlude*

**WHEN:** Mar. 1 - 24, 2021

**COST:** Pay-what-you-wish, \$0 - \$40

**LEARN MORE:** [www.nctcsf.org/events/Interlude](http://www.nctcsf.org/events/Interlude)

**LISTENER SUPPORT AND BOX OFFICE:** [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972), [boxoffice@nctcsf.org](mailto:boxoffice@nctcsf.org)