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

[PRESS ROOM](#)

## **NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES SPECIAL REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE OF COLMAN DOMINGO'S DOT**

San Francisco, CA (March 24, 2022) – In light of the continued attacks in Ukraine, NCTC has dedicated the **March 31st performance** of their critically acclaimed production of *Dot* to global refugee aid. Ticket proceeds from this performance will be donated to **Refugees International** to help refugees in not only Ukraine, but also Myanmar, the Horn of Africa, Syria, and other areas where those have been forced to flee their homes. A select group of discounted \$30 tickets have been made available for this performance.

Started in 1979 as a citizens' movement to protect people fleeing Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, Refugees International is an independent humanitarian organization that advocates for better support for displaced people and stateless people. Traveling to some of the world's most severe displacement crises, Refugees International investigates first-hand the challenges displaced people face, creates policy solutions, and demands action to ensure that resources are going to those who need it most.

Colman Domingo's *Dot* is moving and hilarious play offers a look at a woman losing herself in the past and the family trying to keep her in the present. The Shealys are barely holding it together. Matriarch Dotty is struggling to hold onto her memory, eldest daughter Shelly is looking for an escape route, golden child Donnie and his husband are constantly bickering, and the baby of the family, Averie, has gone from viral sensation to a discount store cashier. Back in their West Philly home for the holidays, one thing's for sure: the only way they're getting through this is together. Now being adapted for television as *West Philly, Baby* on AMC Networks, *Dot* is a loving look at the ties that bind - and drive us crazy.

This special performance will take place on **March 31st at 8pm**. Tickets are \$30–65 and are available at [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org), by emailing [boxoffice@nctcsf.org](mailto:boxoffice@nctcsf.org) or by calling (415) 861-8972.

For this production, NCTC is proud to partner with the **Institute on Aging** and **OpenHouse**. Since 1983, the Institute on Aging has worked to enhance the quality of life for aging adults and adults living with disabilities from different cultural backgrounds, including the LGBT community, enabling them to maintain their health, well-being, and independence. Dedicated to supporting patients with dementia and their caretakers, the Institute provides our community with personalized care plans, on-demand care coaching, trained home care aides, and an Enrichment Center for physical and mental stimulation. OpenHouse has worked to center the voices and experiences of LGBTQ+ older adults by providing opportunities to make social connections and build community since 1998. Through housing assistance, wellness services, and community engagement, Openhouse enables San Francisco Bay Area LGBTQ+ seniors to overcome the unique challenges they face as they age. At every performance, audience

members will have the opportunity to donate directly to these organizations through NCTC's Share the Love donation bucket in the lobby.

In our continued dedication to keeping our audiences and artists safe, this is a performance with limited seat capacity. **All guests will be required to present proof of vaccination and wear masks while at the theatre.** NCTC also requires all actors, staff, and volunteers to be fully vaccinated, and all front-of-house staff will be masked during performances. There are limited exemptions to vaccination requirements (such as religious beliefs and qualifying medical reasons, and those under 12 years old) and those guests must present a negative COVID-19 test that was taken no more than 72 hours prior to the performance date.

Critics are celebrating *Dot*:

**"Uproariously funny"** proclaims *The New York Times*.

**"Vibrant and outrageous"** declares *The Huffington Post*.

**"Fearless mix of bone-dry humor and warp-speed emotional shifts"** praises *Entertainment Weekly*.

**Playwright Colman Domingo** is a Tony, Olivier, Drama Desk, and Drama League Award-nominated actor, director, writer, and producer. As a writer, his plays and musicals include *Wild with Happy, A Boy and His Soul* (2010 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show, GLAAD Media Award), the Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, and Geffen Playhouse's groundbreaking musical *Light's Out: Nat King Cole*. His plays have been produced by The Public Theater, Vineyard, La Jolla Playhouse, Humana Festival of New American Plays, New York Stage and Film, A.C.T, The Tricycle Theater in London, Brisbane Powerhouse in Australia, among others.

**Director Shawn J 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.

The cast of *Dot* includes **Greg Ayers** (Adam), **Kim Donovan** (Jackie), **Lore Gonzales** (Fidel), **Juanita Harris** (Dotty), **Marcus J. Paige** (Donnie), **Kimberly Ridgeway** (Shelly), and **Brittany Nicole Sims** (Averie). The creative team includes technical direction by **Carlos Aceves**, costume design by **Marisely Cortes**, wig design by **Jessica Carter**, lighting design by **William Campbell**, production management & casting coordination by **Stephanie Desnoyers**, sound design by **James Goode**, set design by **Kuo-Hao Lo**, props design by **Tom O'Brien**, dialect coaching by **Patricia Reynoso**, and stage management by **Elspeth Sweatman**.

**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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## **Dot**

### FACT SHEET

#### **WHO:**

Written by **Colman Domingo** (*pronouns: he/him*)

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

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

Wig Design by **Jessica Carter** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Lighting Design by **William Campbell** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Costume Design by **Marisely Cortes** (*pronouns: she/her*)

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

Sound Design by **James Goode** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Set Design by **Kuo-Hao Lo** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Dialect Coaching (Philadelphia) by **Melinda Marks** (*pronouns: they/them*)

Props Design by **Tom O'Brien** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Dialect Coaching (Russian) by **Patricia Reynoso** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Stage Management by **Elsbeth Sweatman** (*pronouns: she/her*)

#### **CAST:**

Adam ... **Greg Ayers** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Jackie ... **Kim Donovan** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Fidel ... **Lore Gonzales** (*pronouns: they/them*)

Dotty ... **Juanita Harris** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Donnie ... **Marcus J. Paige** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Shelly ... **Kimberly Ridgeway** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Averie ... **Brittany Nicole Sims** (*pronouns: she/her*)

**WHAT:** Special Refugees International Benefit Performance of *Dot*

**WHERE:** New Conservatory Theatre Center

Walker Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave @ Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 8pm,

**COST:** \$30-65

**LEARN MORE:** [www.nctcsf.org/21-22-Season/Dot](http://www.nctcsf.org/21-22-Season/Dot)

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