

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PRESS ROOM](#)

## **NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES MARTIN SHERMAN'S SWEEPING TALE OF A MAY-DECEMBER ROMANCE, *GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM***

San Francisco, CA (October 18, 2021) – In December, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** closes out 2021 with a bang with the premiere of iconic playwright Martin Sherman's *Gently Down the Stream*. Touchingly earnest and deeply witty, this epic play is a surprising and constantly evolving love story that crosses generations.

Beau has spent decades of his life trying to blend into a world that told him to be invisible. Enter Rufus, who lives his life openly and becomes fascinated with the much older Beau. When these two very different men fall into a whirlwind romance, they're left to navigate a relationship neither expect, but both depend on. Spanning over a decade, *Gently Down the Stream* is a bittersweet, brilliantly funny tale about being a gay man in the 21st century and finding love along the way.

In our continued dedication to keeping our audiences and artists safe, this is a performance with a small cast of three people and 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.

Playing December 3, 2021 – January 9, 2022, *Gently Down the Stream's* Opening Night is **Saturday, December 11** at 8pm. Tickets are \$25–65 and are available at [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org), by emailing [boxoffice@nctcsf.org](mailto:boxoffice@nctcsf.org) or by calling (415) 861-8972. Pay-what-you-wish tickets are available for preview performances, **December 3 - 10**, and can be reserved starting one week before the first performance through the box office.

Audiences can enjoy these special events during the run of the show:

- Low-cost Previews: Friday, Dec 3- Friday, Dec. 10
- Opening Night will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 at 8pm.**
- Onstage Insight, Post-Show Discussion featuring the cast, and moderated by the director will take place after the performance on **Sunday, Dec. 19 at 2pm.**
- Additional special events to be announced!

Praise is streaming in from critics and audiences for *Gently Down the Stream*:

**“Tender, funny and unconventional romance”** praises *Variety*.

“Rich in moments of pathos and humor” declares *Hollywood Reporter*.

“It’s a triumph” raves *Stage Review UK*.

**Playwright Martin Sherman** is an acclaimed dramatist and screenwriter best known for his 20 stage plays which have been produced in over 55 countries. He rose to fame in 1979 with the Pulitzer Prize-nominated play *Bent* (Tony nominee for Best Play and Dramatists Guild's Hull-Warriner Award in 1980), which explores the persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust. *Bent* has been produced in 35 countries, been adapted into a major motion picture in 1997, and was voted one of the NT2000 One Hundred Plays of the Century. His other plays include *Messiah*, *When She Danced*, *A Madhouse in Gthe oa*, *Some Sunny Day* and *Rose* (Laurence Olivier Award nominee for Best New Play in 2000) and book for *The Boy From Oz*, a musical based on Peter Allen’s life and career, earning him a second Tony nomination. Sherman’s screenplays include *The Summer House*, *Alive and Kicking*, *Bent*, *Callas Forever* and *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*.

**Director Arturo Catricala** has directed numerous shows at New Conservatory Theatre Center over the last several years. His most recent productions include *The Gentleman Caller*, *Rights of Passage* and *Leaving the Blues*. He has also directed *The Homosexuals*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Master Class*, *A Perfect Ganesh* and *It’s Only a Play*. Mr. Catricala subscribes to, and is an advocate of the safe practices and policies set forth by the Intimacy Directors International (IDI), a non-profit organization setting standards and protocols concerning intimacy on the stage and screen. He has completed current intensive training in this method from founder Tonia Sina and associate Intimacy Director Claire Warden. More information about this organization can be found at [teamIDI.org](http://teamIDI.org). Mr. Catricala is a member of SDC, the national union of stage directors and choreographers.

The cast of *Gently Down the Stream* includes **Donald Currie** (Beau), **Sal Mattos** (Harry), and **Daniel Redmond** (Rufus). The creative team includes technical direction by **Carlos Aceves**, production management & casting coordination by **Stephanie Desnoyers**, sound design by **Daniel Hall**, costume design by **Jorge R. Hernández**, stage Management by **Kit Lanthier**, set design by **Kuo-Hao Lo**, props design by **Tom O'Brien**, and dialect coaching by **Patricia Reynoso**.

**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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## ***Gently Down the Stream***

### FACT SHEET

#### **WHO:**

Written by **Martin Sherman** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed by **Arturo Catricala** (*pronouns: he/him*)

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

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

Sound Design by **Daniel Hall** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Costume Design by **Jorge R. Hernández** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Stage Management by **Kit Lanthier** (*pronouns: she/her*)

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

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

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

#### **CAST:**

Beau ... **Donald Currie** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Harry ... **Sal Mattos** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Rufus ... **Daniel Redmond** (*pronouns: he/him*)

**WHAT:** West Coast Premiere of *Gently Down the Stream*

**WHERE:** New Conservatory Theatre Center

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

**WHEN:** Dec 3, 2021 - Jan 9, 2022

Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm

**Opening Night: Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 8pm**

#### **Special Engagements:**

Audiences can enjoy these special events during the run of the show:

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**COST:** \$25-65

**LEARN MORE:** [www.nctcsf.org/21-22-Season/Gently-down-the-stream](http://www.nctcsf.org/21-22-Season/Gently-down-the-stream)

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