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NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES SEASON 2 OF *IN GOOD COMPANY*, EPISODIC PODCAST SERIES BASED ON REAL ARTIST EXPERIENCES

San Francisco, CA (June 8, 2021) – By popular demand, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is delighted to announce the renewal of their innovative hit podcast, *In Good Company*, for a second season. Available for streaming and download in its entirety starting **July 15**, this new season will see the return of *In Good Company*'s diverse group of talented playwrights including **Eric Reyes Loo, Laurel Ollstein, Tim Pinckney, Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder**, and story consultant **Jewelle Gomez**. Directed by Founder and Artistic Director **Ed Decker**, NCTC's kind-of-semi-true, behind-the-scenes podcast tells the story of a Bay Area theatre grappling with its new place in society as the world begins to return to something resembling normal.

All five episodes of *In Good Company* Season 2 are available on iTunes, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, and all major podcast platforms on **July 15**. Learn more at nctcsf.org.

The theatre no one thought would make it is back with a bang. Artistic Director Lola Grant and the rest of the Bay City Theatre family have learned to roll with the punches in the year since a pandemic closed the doors of their home away from home. But with the reopening of the city rapidly approaching, her team falling apart and marriage on the brink, Lola is running out of time to make a stand for her theatre and for herself.

Critics are gave Season 1 of *In Good Company* a standing ovation:

"Promises an earnest, engaging answer that testifies to the art form's inextinguishable power" praised *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"Relevant dramatic podcast that speaks to the resilience of artists" applauded 7x7.

Story Consultant Jewelle Gomez is a novelist, poet and cultural worker. She's the author of eight books including the first Black Lesbian vampyre novel, *The Gilda Stories*, which has been in print more than 25 years. New Conservatory Theatre Center commissioned and produced two of her plays - *Waiting for Giovanni* and *Leaving the Blues*. Her new work, *Unpacking in Ptown* will receive its world premiere with NCTC as part of their 2021 Season.

Eric Reyes Loo is a television writer and playwright, having most recently written for Netflix's *A.J. and the Queen*. His plays have been produced across the country and his play *This is Only a Test* will premiere in May

2021 at the Broken Nose Theatre in Chicago. He's also the Artistic Producing Director of Chalk Repertory Theatre in Los Angeles.

Laurel Ollstein is an award winning playwright/director based in Los Angeles. Most recent production *They Promised Her the Moon* - its critically acclaimed west coast premier at the Old Globe theatre in San Diego, directed by Giovanna Sardelli. The Northern California premiere opened March 6 of this year at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and unfortunately had to close due to the virus on March 10. Laurel directs playwriting programs, writing and arts education in schools, and creates plays on social justice themes. She is an adjunct faculty member at Cal Arts, UCLA, USC, Loyola Marymount, and Otis College of Art and Design.

Tim Pinckney's plays include *Message to Michael* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre), *Still at Risk* (world premiere at the New Conservatory Theatre, NYC premiere at Theater for the New City) and *Ever So Humble* (world premiere Hangar Theatre, recently featured in the Plays in the House series as a benefit for The Actors Fund starring Michael Urie and Andréa Burns). Other plays include *A Prehistoric Ritual*, *Stir Until Smooth*, *A Perfect Blendship* and *First Refusal*, as well as the stage adaptation for the world premiere of *Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol*. He was a staff writer on *Halston*, an upcoming Netflix limited series, starring Ewan McGregor. Tim is represented by Charles Kopelman at Abrams Artists. www.timpinckney.com

Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's plays include *Gee's Bend*, *Fresh Kills*, *The Flagmaker of Market Street*, *The Furniture of Home*, *White Lightning*, *Provenance*, *Everything That's Beautiful* (NCTC World Premiere), and *Looks Like Pretty*. Her plays have been produced at the Royal Court (London), Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center, Cleveland Playhouse, KC Rep, Northlight, the Arden, B Street Theatre, and Hartford Stage, among others. She is the recipient of the Osborn Award given by the American Theatre Critics Association, a Sloan Commission, and has been featured on The Kilroy's. Elyzabeth is the current Tennessee Williams Playwright-in-Residence at Sewanee: The University of the South. www.wilderwriting.net

The cast of *In Good Company* includes **Toni Lynn Guidry** (Narrator), **James Arthur M.** (Andre, Dugie, Amil), **Chris Morrell** (Skip, Brick, Brandon, Warren), **James Aaron Oh** (Kaiser the Playwright), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Javier), **Desiree Rogers** (Lola), **Elena Ruggiero** (Gaby, Bridget, HSN Host), and **Chris Steele** (Constance, CJ). Sound design by **Kalon Thibodeaux**.

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.

In Good Company is 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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In Good Company

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Written by **Eric Reyes Loo** (*pronouns: he/him*), **Laurel Ollstein** (*pronouns: she/her*), **Tim Pinckney** (*pronouns: he/him*), **Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Story consulting by **Jewelle Gomez** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Directed by **Ed Decker** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Sound design by **Kalon Thibodeaux** (*pronouns: he/him*)

CAST:

Narrator... **Toni Lynn Guidry** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Andre / Dugie / Amil... **James Arthur M.** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Skip / Brick / Brandon / Warren... **Chris Morrell** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Kaiser the Playwright... **James Aaron Oh** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Javier... **Francisco Rodriguez** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Lola... **Desiree Rogers** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Gaby / Bridget / HSN Host... **Elena Ruggiero** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Constance / CJ... **Chris Steele** (*pronouns: they/them*)

WHAT: New episodic series podcast, *In Good Company*

WHEN: All episodes available **July 15**

COST: Free

LEARN MORE: www.nctcsf.org/In-Good-Company-Podcast-Season-2

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