

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PRESS ROOM](#)

NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES ROLLING WORLD PREMIERE OF A CONTEMPORARY QUEER FANTASIA, *PREP PLAY, OR BLUE PARACHUTE* BY YILONG LIU

San Francisco, CA (February 17, 2022) – In April, NCTC welcomes the return of LAMBDA Literary Award-winning playwright Yilong Liu with the world premiere of *PrEP Play, or Blue Parachute*. This touching and quirky adventure through time explores the ever-changing face of gay identity and expression. The highly anticipated rolling world premiere of *PrEP Play, or Blue Parachute* will open first at NCTC, before moving on to Chicago and New York.

What if you had the chance to rewrite history? Erik's world is thrown into free-fall when he's pulled into a wondrously bizarre time-traveling journey by Agent 701 (aka his now-sentient PrEP pill). Landing into the AIDS epidemic of the 80s, Erik finds himself in a race against history to save a life lost decades ago. From award-winning playwright Yilong Liu comes a contemporary queer fantasia that examines the ghosts of our past and the hopes for our future.

For this production, NCTC is proud to partner with **GLBT+ Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), Positive Resource Center (PRC), and SF AIDS Foundation**. Established in 1988, GAPA was formed fundamentally to organize, integrate and nurture a growing gay & bisexual Asian and Pacific Islander (API) identity and to foster positive role models within these communities. PRC has been transforming the Bay Area for decades, helping those affected by HIV/AIDS, substance use, or mental health issues realize their best selves by providing the support and services they need to reclaim their lives through emergency financial assistance, legal representation, and residential treatment, supportive housing, and employment training for longer-term social rehabilitation. Finally, San Francisco AIDS Foundation promotes health, wellness, and social justice for communities most impacted by HIV, through sexual health and substance use services, advocacy, and community partnerships. 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 light of dropping COVID-19 cases and NCTC's new safety protocols, we're thrilled to announce the re-opening of Mason's Bar in the NCTC lobby. However, in our continued dedication to keeping our audiences and artists safe, performance will continue to have a limited seat capacity and **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 (including Booster shots), 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 April 1 – May 8, 2022, *PrEP Play*, or *Blue Parachute's* Opening Night is **Saturday, April 9** at 8pm. Tickets are \$25–65 and are available at nctcsf.org, by emailing boxoffice@nctcsf.org or by calling (415) 861-8972. Pay-what-you-wish tickets are available for preview performances, **April 1 - 8**, 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, Apr 1 - Friday, Apr. 8
- Meet the Playwright: A pre-show conversation between playwright Yilong Liu and Artistic Director Ed Decker on **Wednesday, Apr 6 at 7:30pm.**
- Behind the Curtain: A pre-show conversation between director Adin Walker and playwright Yilong Liu on **Friday, Apr 8 at 7:30pm.**
- Opening Night will take place on **Saturday, Apr 9 at 8pm.**
- Onstage Insight, Post-Show Discussion featuring the cast, and moderated by the director will take place after the performance on **Sunday, Apr. 17 at 2pm.**
- Additional special events to be announced!

Critics are thrilled by workshops of *PrEP Play*:

“A provocative exploration of queerness, and the dangers and joys of nostalgia in an increasing globalized world” proclaims *American Theatre Magazine*

Playwright Yilong Liu was named one of “10 Contemporary Asian and Pacific Islander American Playwrights You Should Know” by *ArtsBoston*

Playwright Yilong Liu is a New York-based bilingual playwright and screenwriter. He grew up in China and received his MFA from the University of Hawai'i. He is a Kennedy Center Paula Vogel Playwriting Award winner and a Lambda Literary Award winner. Currently, he is under commissions from Audible's Emerging Playwrights Fund and EST/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science & Technology Project. A proud member of Ensemble Studio Theatre's Obie Award-winning playwrights group Youngblood, a Core Writer at Playwrights Center, and a two-time resident of SPACE on Ryder Farm. His works include *The Book of Mountains and Seas* (Kennedy Center Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award, New Conservatory Theatre Center), *June is The First Fall* (Kumu Kahua Theatre, Yangtze Rep/New Ohio Theatre, Original Works Publishing), *Joker* (Po'okela Award, Kumu Kahua Theatre, FringeNYC, National Queer Theatre), and *Good Enemy* (Audible, Ojai Playwrights Festival). Recently, Liu received the LAMBDA Literary Award for LGBTQ Drama for *The Book of Mountains and Seas*, an NCTC world premiere that was forced to close after its first performance due to COVID-19 closures.

Director Adin Walker is movement director + associate director for dance, puppetry, and environmentalist company, Phantom Limb, whose production *Falling Out* about the 2011 radiation disaster in Fukushima (BAM Next Wave Premiere, 2018) was featured on the cover of *American Theatre's* March 2020 issue on theater and climate change. Adin recently choreographed *Indecent* (Artists Rep + Profile Theater, Portland OR) and directed Roger Q. Mason's *The White Dress* (NYC premiere), L M Feldman's *Grace, or the Art of Climbing*, and Allison Gregory's *Not Medea* (Art House, NJ), and a re-imagining of *Singin' in the Rain* (Princeton + McCarter, NJ). He collaborates regularly with his sister, director Mia Walker, most recently on the world premieres of *Storming Heaven* (WV Public Theater) and Jaime Jarrett's *Normativity* (NY Musical Festival). As a dancer, Adin performed principal roles in works by Maleek K. Washington, Christopher K.

Morgan, Alex Neoral, and Karole Armitage. Adin graduated from Princeton and is currently in residence at Stanford as a PhD student in Performance Studies.

The cast of *PrEP Play* includes **Akaina Ghosh** (Agent 701), **James Aaron Oh** (Erik), **Troy Rockett** (Jared), and **Matt Weimer** (Bryant). The creative team includes technical direction by **Carlos Aceves**, costume design by **Marisely Cortés**, production management & casting coordination by **Stephanie Desnoyers**, stage management by **Toni Lynn Guidry**, sound design by **Daniel Hall**, props design by **Tom O'Brien**, and lighting design by **Justin Partier**.

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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PrEP Play, or Blue Parachute

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Written by **Yilong Liu** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed by **Adin Walker** (*pronouns: he/they*)

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

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

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

Stage Management by **Toni Lynn Guidry** (*pronouns: she/her*)

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

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

Lighting Design by **Justin Partier** (*pronouns: he/him*)

CAST:

Agent 701 ... **Akaina Ghosh** (*pronouns: they/them*)

Erik ... **James Aaron Oh** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Jared ... **Troy Rockett** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Bryant ... **Matt Weimer** (*pronouns: he/him*)

WHAT: Rolling World Premiere of *PrEP Play, or Blue Parachute*

WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center

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

WHEN: Apr 1 - May 8, 2022

Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm

Opening Night: Saturday, April 9, 2022, 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/PrEP-Play

Ed Decker
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Barbara Hodgen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TICKETS AND BOX OFFICE: 415-861-8972, boxoffice@nctcsf.org