

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PRESS ROOM \(PHOTOS AVAILABLE 2/25\)](#)

## **NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF LOVE IN THE FACE OF BRUTALITY IN *SUGAR IN OUR WOUNDS* BY DONJA R. LOVE**

**AN UNTOLD LOVE STORY AT A CROSSROADS IN BLACK HISTORY**

San Francisco, CA (Feb 6, 2020) – In April, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is proud to present the **West Coast premiere of *Sugar in Our Wounds***, written by **Donja R. Love** and directed by **ShawnJ West**, in partnership with **Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD)**. With roots that have outlived generations and branches extending past the heavens, the mystical tree has borne witness to heartbreak, slavery, and death. But underneath this same tree, the gentle and expressive James finds a love that feels like freedom with the passionate and rebellious Henry. Powerful and deeply poetic, *Sugar in Our Wounds* explores the untold story of queer love at a crossroads in Black history.

*Sugar in Our Wounds* runs **Apr 3 – May 10, 2020**. Opening Night is **Saturday, Apr 11, 2020 at 8pm**. Tickets are \$25–55 and available at [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org), emailing [boxoffice@nctcsf.org](mailto:boxoffice@nctcsf.org) or by calling (415) 861-8972.

Critics and audiences are sweet on *Sugar in Our Wounds*:

**“...fantastically moving...written in lush, poetic dialect” proclaims *The New York Times*.**

“A sense of history, complexity, and profound love” declares *Theatremania*.

“It is an artistic, literary and conceptual triumph” praises *The Fordham Observer*.

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

- *Low-cost Previews*: Friday, Apr 3 – May 10, 2020
- *Opening Night* will take place on **Saturday, Apr 11, 2020** at 8pm. The performance will be followed by a reception **catered by 19-20 Season Restaurant Sponsor, Hazel Southern Bar & Kitchen**.
- *Onstage Insight, Post-Show Discussion* featuring the cast, and moderated by the director will take place after the performance on **Sunday, Apr 19 at 2pm**.
- Additional special events to be announced!

**Playwright Donja R. Love** is an AfroQueer playwright, poet and filmmaker from Philadelphia. He's the recipient of the 2018 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award, the 2017 Princess Grace Playwriting Fellow, and The Lark's 2016 Van Lier New Voices Playwriting Fellow. His work has been developed at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Lark and The Playwrights Realm.

**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.

The cast of *Sugar in Our Wounds* includes **April Deutschle** (Mattie), **Nicole Odell** (Isabel), **Charles Peoples III\*** (James), **Beli Sullivan** (Aunt Mama) and **RaMond Thomas** (Henry).

The creative team includes intimacy direction by **Arturo Catricala**, costume design by **Corrida Carr**, dramaturgy by **Jewelle Gomez**, assistant sound design by **Daniel Hall**, scenic design by **Devin Kasper**, sound design by **Brittany Mellerson**, props design by **Sharon Peng**, and lighting design by **Claudio Silva**.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been San Francisco's premier LGBTQ+ 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.

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# ***Sugar in our Wounds***

## **FACT SHEET**

### **WHO:**

Written by **Donja R. Love** (*pronouns: he/his*)  
Directed by **ShawnJ West** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Scenic design by **Carlos Aceves** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Intimacy direction by **Arturo Catricala** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Costume design by **Corrida Carr** (*pronouns: she/her*)  
Dramaturgy by **Jewelle Gomez** (*pronouns: she/her*)  
Assistant sound design by **Daniel Hall** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Scenic design by **Devin Kasper** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Sound design by **Brittany Mellerson** (*pronouns: she/her*)  
Props design by **Sharon Peng** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Lighting design by **Claudio Silva** (*pronouns: he/him*)

### **CAST:**

Mattie ... **April Deutsche** (*pronouns: she/her*)  
Isabel ... **Nicole Odell** (*pronouns: she/her*)  
James ... **Charles Peoples III\*** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
Aunt Mama ... **Beli Sullivan** (*pronouns: she/her*)  
Henry ... **RaMond Thomas** (*pronouns: he/him*)  
\* Appears courtesy of the Actors Equity Association.

**WHAT:** West Coast premiere of *Sugar in Our Wounds*  
**WHERE:** New Conservatory Theatre Center  
Decker Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave @ Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102

**WHEN: Apr 3 – May 10, 2020**  
Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm  
**Opening Night: Saturday, Apr 11, 2020 at 8pm**

### **Special Engagements:**

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

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- Additional special events to be announced!

**COST:** \$25-55

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

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