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NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER RELEASES FILMED DRESS REHEARSAL OF POIGNANT AND POWERFUL, *WARPLAY*

RADICAL REIMAGINING OF *THE ILIAD*'S ACHILLES AND PATROCLUS RETURNS TO NCTC'S VIRTUAL STAGE

San Francisco, CA (January 21, 2021) – **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is thrilled to announce the release of the filmed dress rehearsal of 2017's critically acclaimed production *warplay*, written by **JC Lee** and directed by former NCTC Artistic Associate **Ben Randle**. Commissioned as part of NCTC's New Voices/New Work program, this world premiere performance will be streaming free of charge in keeping with NCTC's mission of accessible theatre for all.

Inspired by Homer's *The Iliad* and the epic tale of Achilles and Patroclus, *warplay* is a shockingly funny, poetic and radical reimagining of one of the oldest love stories in all of Western literature. Two young men. A battle rages in the distance. Game on.

warplay will be available for streaming at www.nctcsf.org/warplay from **Jan. 26 - Feb. 23**. Admission is free.

Playwright JC Lee's play *Luce* received its world premiere in 2013 at Lincoln Center Theater and his next play, *Relevance*, will premiere in winter 2018 Off-Broadway at MCC, directed by Liesl Tommy. Lee's plays have been developed and staged at The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Center Theatre Group, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, Azuka Theatre Company, and other theatres across the country. A graduate of The Julliard School and Bloomsburg University, he was a writer and co-producer for *Looking* on HBO, where he previously wrote for the hit series *Girls*. Lee is currently a writer for ABC's *How to Get Away with Murder* and screenwriter for the Weinstein Company's movie adaptation of the musical *Pippin*.

Director Ben Randle was NCTC's first Artistic Associate. He has directed the world premieres of *Into the Clear Blue Sky* by JC Lee for Sleepwalkers Theater (Bay Area Critics Circle Award nomination, Best Director); *Sagittarius Ponderosa* by MJ Kaufman, at NCTC; *The Fisherman's Wife* by Steve Yockey, for Impact Theatre; *Salome, Dance for Me*, an original glam rock musical he conceived and directed by trixie carr, with Robert Mollicone, at NCTC; *Hold Me Closer, Tiny Dionysus*, at CounterPULSE; and Evan Johnson's acclaimed solo play, *Pansy*, at NCTC and on tour. West Coast and regional premieres include *Sons of the Prophet*, *The Submission*, *Treefall*, at NCTC; *The Chalk Boy*, Joshua Conkel at Impact Theatre. Other credits include *Sweeney Todd*, for Ray of Light Theatre; *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* at Douglas Morrison Theatre. Randle has also worked at California Shakespeare Theater, Aurora Theatre, ZSpace,

JustTheater, Thrillpeddlers and West Edge Opera. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University and a member of Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab 2010.

Ed Gonzalez Moreno (A) is a Bay Area based Actor in the Film, Theater, and Commercial Industry as well as a Teaching Artist. He has understudied for Berkeley Rep in *Metamorphoses* and Cal Shakes in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Recent credits include: Pilgrim in *Visible From Four States* at Magic Theatre, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at SF Shakespeare Festival, Pompey in *Measure for Measure* at Marin Shakespeare Company, and Alcibiades in *Timon of Athens* at The Cutting Ball Theater.

JD Scalzo (P) is a two-time San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle nominee for this performance and for *Maggie's Riff* with Faultline Theater. While living in San Francisco he worked with theater companies all over the city and was a starring cast member in *Gay Husbands of San Francisco*. After *warplay* closed, JD moved to Los Angeles where he further developed his film career with such features as *The Broken Rose* and *Devil's Path*, for which he earned Best Supporting Actor when it premiered at FilmOut San Diego. Both films are available to stream on Amazon Prime. While there he also created, wrote and starred in his own web series, *jaded* based on some experiences he had while living in San Francisco and now available to stream on Revry. JD currently resides in New York City, spending much of the last year focusing on writing with several productions slated to premiere in 2021, including his first full length play with the New York Theatre Festival.

The *warplay* creative team includes scenic design by **Devin Kasper**, costume design by **Miriam Lewis**, lighting design by **Christian V. Mejia**, sound and projection design by **Theodore J.H. Hulsker**, prop design by **Adeline Smith**, fight direction by **Will Springhorn, Jr.** and stage management by **Kaitlin Rosen**.

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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warplay

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Written by **JC Lee** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed by **Ben Randle** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Starring **Ed Gonzalez Moreno*** (*pronouns: he/him*) as "A" and **JD Scalzo** (*pronouns: he/him*) as "P"

Scenic design by **Devin Kasper** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Costume Design by **Miriam Lewis** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Lighting Design by **Christian V. Mejia** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Sound and Projection Design by **Theodore J.H. Hulsker** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Prop Design by **Adeline Smith** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Ed Decker
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Barbara Hodgen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fight Choreography by **Will Springhorn, Jr.** (*pronouns: he/him*)
Stage Management by **Kaitlin Rosen** (*pronouns: she/her*)

*Appears courtesy of the Actor's Equity Association

WHAT: Filmed dress rehearsal of *warplay*

WHEN: Jan. 26 - Feb. 23, 2021

COST: Free

LEARN MORE: <https://www.nctcsf.org/warplay>

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