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NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS REGIONAL PREMIERE OF *THE MYSTERY OF LOVE AND SEX*

ACCLAIMED PLAY BY BATHSHEBA DORAN TO BE DIRECTED BY REBECCA LONGWORTH

San Francisco, CA (December 4, 2017) – In April, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** presents the regional premiere of a deeply insightful and very funny new play from one of the writers of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* and Showtime's *Masters of Sex*, *The Mystery of Love and Sex* by **Bathsheba Doran**. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "tender, funny, packed with humanity and brimming with surprising revelations," Doran's play examines intimacy, identity and, of course, the many mysteries of love and sex. Charlotte and Jonny have been best friends since they were nine. She's Jewish, he's Christian, she's white, and he's black. They love each other, but not in that way. Or maybe that way. As they tumble into their twenties and confront the mysteries of their sexuality, they eventually find that the path forward is not always the one right in front of you.

The Mystery of Love and Sex runs **April 13 – May 20, 2018. Opening Night is Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8pm.** Tickets are \$25–50 and available at nctcsf.org, by emailing boxoffice@nctcsf.org or by calling 415-861-8972.

The regional premiere at NCTC will be directed by **Rebecca Longworth**, who returns to NCTC after her celebrated work on *Buyer & Cellar* in the 2015-16 Season.

The Mystery of Sex and Love intrigued and charmed in its world premiere at Lincoln Center Theatre in 2015:

"Wise and exquisitely crafted," lauds *Time Out New York*.

"Perfectly wonderful," declares *The New York Times*. "Doran has written a play with such compassion and wry wisdom."

Playwright Bathsheba Doran's *The Mystery of Love and Sex* received its world premiere at Lincoln Center this spring under the direction of Sam Gold, starring Diane Lane and Tony Shalhoub. Her critically acclaimed play *Kin* received its world premiere in spring 2011 at Playwrights Horizons, directed by Sam Gold. Her play

Parents' Evening premiered at The Flea Theater, directed by Jim Simpson; and her play *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* premiered in spring 2010 at South Coast Repertory Theater. She is a 2009 recipient of the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award and three Lecomte du Nouy Lincoln Center playwriting awards. She is also a Cherry Lane Mentor Project Fellow and a Susan Smith Blackburn Award finalist. Doran served as a writer/producer for the second season of Showtime's hit series *Masters of Sex*. She also wrote on season two of the acclaimed Martin Scorsese/HBO series *Boardwalk Empire* (for which her episode received a WGA nomination). Doran's first play *Feminine Wash* was produced at the Edinburgh Fringe festival while she was a student at Cambridge University, from which she holds a BA and an MA. She then went on to Oxford University, where she received an MA before working as a television comedy writer with the BBC. Doran then moved to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2000, received her M.F.A from Columbia University and went on to become a playwriting fellow of The Juilliard School.

In addition to Longworth, the creative team of *The Mystery of Love and Sex* includes scenic design by **Ting na Wang**, costume design by **Nikki-Anderson Joy**, lighting design by **Maxx Kurzunski**, sound design by **Ryan Short**, and stage management by **Emma Gifford**.

Casting to be announced.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been San Francisco's premier LGBTQIA 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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The Mystery of Love and Sex

FACT SHEET

WHO:

By **Bathsheba Doran**

Directed by **Rebecca Longworth**

Scenic design by **Ting na Wang**

Costume design by **Nikki-Anderson Joy**

Lighting design by **Maxx Kurzunski**

Sound design by **Ryan Short**

Stage management by **Emma Gifford**

Casting to be announced.

WHAT: Regional premiere of *The Mystery of Love and Sex*

WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center

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

WHEN: April 13 - May 20, 2018

Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm

Opening Night: Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8pm

Special Engagements:

During the run of the show, audiences can enjoy many special events:

- *Onstage Insight, Post-Show Discussion after the following performances:*
 - Sunday, April 29 at 2pm– Panel discussion featuring the cast, moderated by the play’s director
- *Low-cost Previews:* Friday, April 13 – April 20
- *Opening Night* will take place on Saturday, April 21 at 8pm. The performance will be followed by a reception catered by 17-18 Season Restaurant Sponsor, Mina’s Brazilian

COST: \$25-50

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