



ACT To Close 2022 Season With the Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play

SWEAT

By Lynn Nottage
Directed by John Langs

Sweat runs April 29-May 22, 2022 at ACT - tickets on sale now.

SEATTLE, WA (April 18, 2022) — **ACT - A Contemporary Theatre** today announced complete casting for its production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play **Sweat** by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter **Lynn Nottage** (*MJ the Musical*, *The Secret Life of Bees*). **Sweat** will run April 29 - May 22, 2022 (media invite night is May 5) in ACT's Allen Theatre. Tickets are available online at acttheatre.org.

Originally slated to open ACT's 2020 season, this production of **Sweat** (Pulitzer Prize, Evening Standard Award, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Tony Nomination, Drama Desk Nomination) takes us to the forgotten heart of America, and tells the story of three women who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets, and laughs while working together on the factory floor. As this group faces the struggles of a fraying economy, layoffs pit them against one another and inequities of race and class fan the flames. MacArthur genius Lynn Nottage infuses this searing script with her trademark mix of compassion, humor, and suspense. It's explosive drama: made in America.

World Premiering at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2015, *Sweat* went on to enjoy a sold out run at The Public Theater in New York before landing on Broadway in 2017. Critics have raved about this play, describing it as "Utterly riveting! Leaves you breathless! A raw, prescient portrait of the American working class." (*Entertainment Weekly*)

ACT's production of **Sweat** will feature performances from **Anne Allgood** (Broadway: *Carousel*, *Beauty And The Beast*; 5th Avenue: *Beauty and the Beast*; ACT: *Mary Stuart*), **Shawn Belyea** (Seattle Rep: *Dry Powder*), **Miguel Castellano** (Strawberry Theatre Workshop: *Take Me Out*), **Anthony Leroy Fuller** (ACT: *Pilgrims Musa*, *Sheri in the New World*), **Tracy Michelle Hughes** (ACT: *In The Next Room*, *The Vibrator Play*), **Reginald Andre Jackson** (ACT: *Romeo and Juliet*; Seattle Rep: *Two Trains Running*), **Cap Peterson** (TV: *Shrill*, *NCIS LA*, *ER*; WET: *B*), **Tré Scott** (Wooden O: *Twelfth Night*), **Sara Waisanen** (Seattle Shakespeare: *Government Inspector*).



A Contemporary Theatre

"What we could not know in the waning days of March 2020 when we first felt the effects of what would be a long pandemic, was how the themes of loss, struggle and isolation caused by these world events and keenly reflected in this story were feelings we were all about to experience firsthand. We have all been forced to confront what we could not previously imagine. Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play is about what we cling to when the water around us begins to rise, what we reach for when our way of life is completely upended. It speaks to the fear, guilt, and anger that triggers our survival instincts. In desperate times these instincts can lead us far away from who we want to be as individuals and as a country. The true brilliance of this play and why we felt it was a necessary story to tell is that in the web of this story, there is an antidote for troubled times — humor, friendship, and the care we can offer to our families both inherited and chosen!

So, at the end of our first season back from the pandemic and as we climb out of these troubled waters, it is such a gift to return to this story and finally to share it with you."

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT ACT - A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

For the most up-to-date information about what to expect during your visit to ACT, please visit <https://acttheatre.org/covid-19/>.

ABOUT LYNN NOTTAGE (Playwright)

Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Ruined* has received an Obie, the Lucille Lortel Award, New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Play (Manhattan Theatre Club, Goodman Theatre). Other plays include *Intimate Apparel* (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play; Roundabout Theatre, CENTERSTAGE, South Coast Repertory); *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine* (Obie Award; Playwrights Horizons, London's Tricycle Theatre); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*, and *Poof!* Nottage is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2007 MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant," the National Black Theatre Festival's August Wilson Playwriting Award, the 2004 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Drama, and the 2005 Guggenheim Grant for Playwriting, as well as fellowships from the Lucille Lortel Foundation, Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists, and New York Foundation for the Arts. She is a member of The Dramatists Guild, an alumna of New Dramatists and a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, where she is a visiting lecturer.

ABOUT JOHN LANGS (Director)

John Langs has served as Artistic Director since 2016. He joined ACT in 2013 as Associate Artistic Director. Langs' 16-year freelance career afforded him the opportunity to work with many prestigious theatre companies across the country. He has directed productions at Playwrights Horizons NY, Ensemble Studio Theater NY, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



A Contemporary Theatre

Lookingglass Theater Company in Chicago, Circle X in Los Angeles, The Resident Ensemble, New Century Theatre Company, Washington Ensemble Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company. Langs received his directing degree from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Some of his favorite directing credits include *The Shaggs Philosophy of the World* (Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle Award for Best Original Musical), and *Brothers Karamazov* (seven LADCC Awards including Best Production of the year and Best Direction) and directing Kurt Beattie in *King Lear*. Langs received the first annual Seattle Gregory Award honoring excellence in direction for *The Adding Machine*. As a dedicated fan of original work, Langs has shepherded over a dozen projects to their premier production.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Lynn Nottage - Playwright

John Langs - Director

Claudine Mboligikpelani Nako - Associate Director

L.B. Morse - Scenic and Lighting Designer

Pete Rush - Costume Designer

Sharath Patel - Sound Designer

Geoffrey Alm - Fight Choreographer

Francesca Betancourt – Intimacy Director

Ruth Eitemiller - Stage Manager

COMING SOON TO ACT

***Choir Boy* is coming to ACT in partnership with The 5th Avenue Theatre.** ACT's 2022-2023 season will open in September with this buoyant portrait of a queer Black student finding his voice inside a prestigious prep school. From **Tarell Alvin McCraney**, the Academy Award®-winning writer of *Moonlight*, *Choir Boy* electrified Broadway with its soaring gospel, spiritual, and R&B performances. Keep up with ACT for more new season announcements in the coming weeks.

###

FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS:

WHAT:

Sweat

This powerful Pulitzer Prize-winning play takes us to the forgotten heart of America, where old friends struggle to survive a fraying economy. For decades, they've shared secrets and laughs on the factory floor. Now layoffs pit them against one another as inequities of race and class fan the flames. MacArthur genius Lynn Nottage infuses this searing script with her trademark mix of compassion, humor, and suspense.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



WHERE:

ACT Theatre
700 Union St, Seattle

WHEN:

April 29-May 22, 2022

Performance times: Tuesday–Sunday

Select Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Press Invite Night: May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Audio Described Performance: Sunday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m.

ASL Interpreted Performance: Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The performance runs appx. 2 hours and 20 minutes with one intermission

TICKETS:

Start at \$27 - ON SALE NOW

To purchase tickets, visit <https://acttheatre.org>

ACT is a member of TeenTix! All teenagers (13-19 years old) with a [TeenTix pass](#) are eligible for \$5 walk-up tickets to any available ACT performance, including *Sweat*.

PHOTOS/VIDEO:

For available photography and video, please visit the [online press room here >>](#)

CONNECT ON SOCIAL:

acttheatre.org

Facebook - /ACTtheatre

Instagram - @ACTtheatre

#ACTSweat

ABOUT ACT - A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre. Over the last 55 years, ACT has been a trusted Seattle arts destination for experiencing new voices, stories, and art, producing more than 300 plays and musicals, and dozens of world premieres. Now, led by Artistic Director John Langs and Managing Director Anita Shah, ACT is a theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite around the mission to nurture theatre-makers of the next generation. Steadfast in its dedication to producing world class work through its Mainstage play series as well as its community and artistic partnerships, is a community collective where artists and the

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



A Contemporary Theatre

public connect about today's issues and ideas and celebrate the shared experience of live theatre.

Thank you to our season partners: Katharyn Alvord Gerlich, ArtsFund, Shubert Foundation, 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, Nesholm Family Foundation.

###

For more information:

Michelle S. Leyva, Michelle Sanders Communications
(206) 595-1151
michelle@michellesanderspr.com