

**LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES
CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF
*PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER***

***PLAYHOUSE KICKS OFF 2019/2020 SEASON WITH NEW WORK BY
ACCLAIMED CHICAGO PLAYWRIGHT IKE HOLTER***

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast and creative team for its world-premiere production of *Put Your House in Order*, by acclaimed Chicago playwright **Ike Holter** (*Lottery Day*), directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**. The show kicks off the Playhouse's 2019/2020 season, running in the Playhouse's Mandell Weiss Forum **June 2 – 30** (press opening: Saturday, June 8 at 8:00pm).

The cast features **Behzad Dabu** (TV's *How to Get Away with Murder*) as "Rolan," local actress **Linda Libby** as "Josephine" and **Shannon Matesky** as "Caroline."

The creative team includes **Arnel Sancianco**, Scenic Designer; **David Israel Reynoso** (Playhouse's *Queens*, *Waking La Llorona*, and many others), Costume Designer; **Amanda Zieve**, Lighting Designer; **Victoria Deiorio**, Sound Designer; **Steve Rankin** (Playhouse's *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical*, *Jersey Boys*, and many others), Fight Director; **Gabriel Greene**, Dramaturg; **Phyllis Schuringa**, Casting; and **Marie Jahelka**, Stage Manager.

"Rising Chicago playwright Ike Holter has created a funny yet suspenseful, genre-bending piece that I've never seen on stage – a play that had me laughing out loud and made the hair stand up on the back of my neck. I can't think of a better way to launch our new season," said **Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley**.

In *Put Your House in Order*, Caroline and Rolan's first date begins as a pretty average night that ends at her house in an upscale Chicago suburb. But when the city around them exhibits signs that something is terribly wrong, they must quickly learn to trust each other to stand a chance against the horrors outside the gate. Equal parts romantic comedy and old-school thriller, this new play from one of Chicago's hottest playwrights explores new beginnings at the end of the world.

Ike Holter is a Chicago playwright and winner of The Windham-Campbell prize, one of the highest awards for writing in the world. He's the writer of several award-winning plays, including *Exit Strategy*, *Hit the Wall* and *Lottery Day*, which have been seen all across the country. This year he wrote for *Fosse/Verdon* on FX and had world premieres at the Goodman Theater and Steep Theater in Chicago. Member of Victory Gardens theater and represented by WME.

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A native Chicagoan, **Lili-Anne Brown** works as a director, actor and educator. She is the former artistic director of Bailiwick Chicago, where she directed *Dessa Rose* (Jeff Award), *Passing Strange* (Black Theatre Alliance Award and Jeff Award nomination for Best Director of a Musical), *See What I Wanna See* (Steppenwolf Theatre Garage Rep) and the world premiere of *Princess Mary Demands Your Attention*, by Aaron Holland. Other directing credits include Ike Holter's *Lottery Day* (Goodman Theatre), *The Wolf at the End of the Block* (16th Street Theatre), *The Wiz* (Kokandy Productions), *Xanadu* (American Theatre Company), *Jabari Dreams of Freedom* by Nambi E. Kelley (Chicago Children's Theatre), *American Idiot* (Northwestern University), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hairspray*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Timber Lake Playhouse) and the national tour of *Jesus Snatched My Edges*. Brown is a member of SDC, SAG-AFTRA and a graduate of Northwestern University.

Behzad Dabu's theatre credits include The Goodman Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, Victory Gardens and Arizona Theatre Company. He is a company member at TimeLine Theatre and a founding member of The Chicago Inclusion Project. He originated the roles of Abe in *Disgraced*, and Amit in *Samsara*. On screen, you can see him as Simon Drake in *How to Get Away with Murder*, Amir in *The Chi*, *The Lion Guard*, *The Good Place* and *Drive Share*. Dabu is an experienced audience engagement facilitator and post-show discussion leader. He received his B.F.A. from Columbia College Chicago.

Linda Libby last appeared at La Jolla Playhouse in *Ether Dome*. Recent San Diego credits include: *A Doll's House Part 2* (San Diego Rep), *Guys & Dolls* (The Old Globe) and *Hedwig & the Angry Inch* (Diversions). Ms. Libby is a Resident Artist at Cygnet Theatre: *Gypsy*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Company*, *Man from Nebraska*. She is an Associate Artist at Lambs Players: *Persuasion*, *Pump Boys & Dinettes*, *South Pacific*; and a founding member of Ion Theater: *Gypsy*, *Grey Gardens*, *Request Program*, *Body Awareness*, and composer for *Sea of Souls*. Regional credits include Clarence Brown, Barter, Stage West (Ontario, Canada), Arizona Theatre Company. Tours: Edinburgh Fringe, Far East Russia w/ Beth Henley.

Shannon Matesky's regional credits include: *Macbeth* (Backroom Shakespeare); *Chasing Mehserle* (The Kennedy Center); *Kid Prince and Pablo* (New York Stage and Film); *BARS Vol. II* (The Public Theater); *How Long Will I Cry?*, *The March* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *Hit the Wall* (Steppenwolf Garage). Matesky's poetry has been featured on stages nationally and seen on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, BET and Nylon. Author of four solo performances, including *She Think She Grown* and *Heartbreak Hotel: Whitney*. She was a member of the 2019 Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Education: B.F.A. DePaul Theatre School.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Currently led by 2017 Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Debby Buchholz, the Playhouse was founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer. Playhouse artists and audiences have taken part in the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 101 world premieres, commissioning 50 new works, and sending 32 productions to Broadway, among them the currently-running hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, including the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. For more information, visit LaJollaPlayhouse.org.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Put Your House in Order*
By Ike Holter; Directed by Lili-Anne Brown

WHEN: **June 2 – 30** (Press Opening: Saturday, June 8 at 8:00pm)
Tue/Wed at 7:30pm; Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm; Sun at 7pm; Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHERE: **Mandell Weiss Forum, La Jolla Playhouse**
2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

WHO: Scenic Design: Arnel Sancianco Costume Design: David Israel Reynoso
Lighting Design: Amanda Zieve Sound Design: Victoria Deiorio
Dramaturg: Gabriel Greene Fight Director: Steve Rankin
Casting: Phyllis Schuringa Stage Manager: Marie Jahelka

Cast: *Rolan* Behzad Dabu
Josephine Linda Libby
Caroline Shannon Matesky

BACKGROUND:

Caroline and Rolan's first date begins as a pretty average night that ends at her house in an upscale Chicago suburb. But when the city around them starts to exhibit signs that something is terribly wrong, they must quickly learn to trust each other to stand a chance against the horrors outside the gate. Equal parts romantic comedy and old-school thriller, this new play from one of Chicago's hottest playwrights explores new beginnings at the end of the world.

TICKETS: (858) 550-1010; LaJollaPlayhouse.org

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