

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Patricia Blaufuss, Press Representative
Press Office: (203) 227-5137, ext. 197 pblaufuss@westportplayhouse.org

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2017

Obie Award-winning Play “Appropriate” at Westport Country Playhouse in August

“Appropriate,” the 2014 Obie Award winner for Best New American Play, will be staged at Westport Country Playhouse, from August 15 through September 2. The story of family secrets is written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, 2016 MacArthur Genius Grant Recipient, and directed by David Kennedy, Playhouse associate artistic director.

“Jacobs-Jenkins has written a truly great American family play that, like the verb form of the title suggests, borrows liberally, intelligently and playfully from the American theatrical canon,” said Kennedy. “Like all such plays in the genre, ‘Appropriate’ uses family as a metaphor for the nation, going right to the heart of important questions about who we are and where we come from. It’s a bit of theatrical bravura—funny, profound, shocking, moving. I think audiences will love it.”

When the Lafayette children gather at the crumbling Arkansas plantation of their recently deceased father to catalog his estate, they discover a shameful legacy. In the tradition of American family dramas, from “Long Day’s Journey Into Night” to “August: Osage County,” this funny, award-winning play unleashes a series of surprises.

The cast includes **Betsy Aidem** as Toni (Broadway’s “All the Way,” “Beautiful”; television’s “Madame Secretary,” “The Americans,” “Rescue Me,” “The Big C,” “Nurse Jackie,” “Law & Order”); **David Aaron Baker** as Bo (Westport Country Playhouse’s “All My Sons,” “Dinner with Friends”; Broadway’s “Once Upon a Mattress,” “Abe Lincoln In Illinois,” “The Rainmaker,” “The Merchant of Venice”; television’s “Homeland,” “Orange Is the New Black”); **Christian Michael Camporin** as Ainsley (Broadway’s “Finding Neverland,” “Matilda the Musical”; voiceovers for the Sprout series “Super Wings” and the Disney short film “Frozen Fever”); **Anna Crivelli** as River (recent graduate of the Yale School of Drama, MFA in Acting; Yale School of Drama’s “The Three Sisters,” “The Skin of Our Teeth”).

Also, **Diane Davis** as Rachael (Broadway’s “Golden Boy,” “Festen,” “Old Acquaintance”; NYC’s Primary Stages, Manhattan Theatre Club; television’s “Elementary,” “Person of Interest,” “Blue Bloods,” “Law & Order”); **Shawn Fagan** as Franz (Westport Country Playhouse’s “Nora”; NYC’s Pearl Theatre, Mint Theater Company, Soho Rep; regional theater’s Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Dallas Theater Center, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); **Nick Selting** as Rhys (Shakespeare in the Park’s “Julius Caesar”; recent graduate of New York University, MFA in Acting); and **Allison Winn** as

- more -

Westport Country Playhouse
25 powers court westport, connecticut 06880

administrative office t: 203.227.5137 f: 203.221.7482 • box office t: 203.227.4177 f: 203.454.3238
Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse) Twitter (@WCPlayhouse)

www.WestportPlayhouse.org

Cassie (regional theater's Williamstown Theatre Festival, Harbor Lights Theater Company; television's "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Daredevil").

Playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' credits include "Everybody" (Signature Theatre), "War" (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater), "Gloria" (Vineyard Theatre; Pulitzer Prize finalist), "Appropriate" (Signature Theatre; Obie Award), "An Octoroon" (Soho Rep; Obie Award) and "Neighbors" (The Public Theater). He is a Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre and under commissions from LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater, MTC/Sloan, and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. His recent honors include the MacArthur Fellowship, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, the Benjamin Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the Tennessee Williams Award.

Director David Kennedy is in his ninth season as Playhouse associate artistic director. He has directed Playhouse productions each season, including "Suddenly Last Summer," "Loot," and last year's "The Invisible Hand," which received the 2016 Connecticut Critics Circle (CCC) Award for Outstanding Production of a Play, and for which Kennedy won the CCC honor for Outstanding Director of a Play. He was previously with Dallas Theater Center, and was founding artistic director of The Lunar Society in Toronto and Milkman Theatre Group in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The design team includes Andrew Boyce, scenic design; Emily Rebholz, costume design; Matthew Richards, lighting design; and Fitz Patton, sound design.

"Appropriate" Production Sponsor is the Eunice and David Bigelow Foundation.

Performance schedule is Tuesday at 7 p.m., Wednesday at 2 and 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Special series feature Taste of Tuesday (Aug. 15), LGBT Night OUT (Aug. 17), Opening Night (Aug. 19), Sunday Symposium (Aug. 20), Together at the Table Family Dinner (Aug. 22), Open Captions (Aug. 27), Backstage Pass (Aug. 30), Playhouse Happy Hour (Aug. 31), and Thursday TalkBack (Aug. 31). Post-show conversations will follow most performances in the Smilow Lounge on the mezzanine level.

Single tickets start at \$30; buy early for best prices.

Westport Country Playhouse's 2017 Season continues with "Sex with Strangers," a look at a modern relationship in the digital age, written by Laura Eason and directed by Katherine M. Carter. When Ethan, a young sex blogger, turned bestselling author, meets Olivia, a reclusive, thirty-something novelist, dating turns dark as self-reinvention is just a click away. The play will be staged September 26 through October 14. The season culminates with one of the greatest love stories ever told, "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. The tale of two star-crossed teenagers, who fight to love each other in a violent world, will run October 31 through November 19, directed by Mark Lamos, who the *New York Post* said, "is among the finest Shakespearean directors in the world."

All play titles, artists, and dates are subject to change.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529, or visit Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

About Westport Country Playhouse

The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced *theater worth talking about* and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The Playhouse creates this relationship with the community and provides this experience in multiple ways by offering: Live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos, from May through November; educational and community engagement events and opportunities to further explore issues presented by the work on stage; special performances and programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; *Script in Hand* play readings throughout the year to deepen relationships with audiences and artists alike; the renowned Woodward Internship Program training program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations from December through April to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; and the beautiful and historic

Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round. The value of the Westport Country Playhouse to all it touches is immeasurable.

###