

Crowded Fire Theater

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Bethany Herron (415) 523-0034

bethanyh@crowdedfire.org

Press Page: www.crowdedfire.org/press/

**Crowded Fire Theater presents the West Coast Premiere of
Lucy Thurber's
TRANSFERS**

February 28 - March 23, 2019

at the POTRERO STAGE

1695 18th St, San Francisco

(press opening Monday, March 4)

San Francisco - Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) Lucy Thurber's TRANSFERS will open Crowded Fire's 21st home season of new and contemporary plays. A brilliantly written, gut-punch of a play that strips the veneer off of meritocracy and asks us if we are willing to sacrifice ourselves to embrace a way out, this new production of TRANSFERS will feature an impressive cast directed by Ken Savage.

Miles away from the South Bronx where they grew up, two students unexpectedly rediscover each other on the eve of an interview that will determine their entire future. Each are looking to transfer to a prestigious northeast college, on the scholastic and athletic merits that the school has placed on them and deemed worthy. As they prepare to bare their souls and show the faculty what they think they want, Cristofer and Clarence have to decide whether to stick to their personal integrity or choose what they are willing to fake in order to call this beautiful brick-and-ivy bastion of privilege home.

TRANSFERS is the first production that Ken Savage, Associate Producer at American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), will direct for Crowded Fire. At the same time, in a synchronous transfer of our own, Crowded Fire's artistic director Mina Morita will herself direct at A.C.T.'s Conservatory, with Susan Soon He Stanton's BOTH YOUR HOUSES, a production of A.C.T.'s Master of Fine Arts Program. This co-commission from A.C.T. and Crowded Fire that shines a spotlight on life in a regional theater and the #MeToo movement will run February 21–March 2, 2019 at The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater. More information at

http://www.act-sf.org/home/box_office/conservatory_performances.html

Director Savage will lead a cast that includes Caleb Cabrera, David Everett Moore, Victor D. Ragsdale, Michael Wayne Rice, and Alison Whismore. Designers and the creative team include Kate Boyd (scenic), Chris Lundahl (lights), Mary Naughton (props), Madeleine Oldham (sound), Ely Sonny Orquiza (assistant director), Jackquelin Pedota (costumes), and Leigh Rondon-Davis (dramaturg).

TRANSFERS runs at the Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street in San Francisco February 28 through March 23 (press opening Monday, March 4). Cast photos available at

<http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/>

-more-

BIOS:

Lucy Thurber (playwright) is the author of seven plays: *Where We're Born*, *Ashville*, *Scarcity*, *Killers and Other Family*, *Stay*, *Bottom of the World*, and *Monstrosity*. Her work has been produced at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, The Atlantic Theater Company, and the Tribeca Theater Festival. She was the recipient of the 2000/2001 Manhattan Theatre Club playwriting fellowship, and was a guest artist at The Perseverance Theater twice. She has had readings and workshops at The Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, The New Group, Primary Stages, WET at The Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Center, MCC, Encore Theatre in San Francisco, PlayPenn, Williamstown, New River Dramatists, and SOHO Rep. Lucy is a member of MCC Playwrights' Coalition, Primary Stages writing group, 13P, and New Dramatists.

Ken Savage (director) is a San Francisco theater director and the Associate Producer at American Conservatory Theater, where he is the line producer for the mainstage, M.F.A. program, Young Conservatory, and A.C.T.'s annual New Strands Festival. As a new works producer, he has shepherded new works by Lucy Thurber/Casey Lee Hurt, Susan Soon He Stanton/Mina Morita, Dipika Guha/Jeremy Cohen, Christopher Chen/Byron Au Yong, Marisela Treviño Orta, Lucas Kavner, Lauren Yee, Don Nguyen, and Dustin Chinn. Ken has worked at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Public Theater, Arena Stage, CalShakes, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Select directing credits: *Tinderella: A Modern Musical* (Custom Made Theatre Co. and Faultline Theater Company), *The Mechanics of Love*, *The Aliens*, *The River Bride* (A.C.T. M.F.A program), *Spring Awakening* (Stanford University director-in-residence), *Sweeney Todd* (SFBATCO), *My Fair Lady* (Broadway By the Bay). In development: *Red Waters* (an EDM musical about Qing Dynasty pirate queen Ching Shih) co-conceived with Kyle Ewalt and *Gravity: A New(tonian) Musical* (2017 O'Neill Finalist, 2016 TheatreWorks New Works Festival). He is a Stanford graduate (M.A. Communication with a focus on virtual reality and performance, B.A. Drama) and the recipient of the Silicon Valley Creates Artist Laureate Emerging Artist Award (2015). kensavageproductions.com

CAST:

Caleb Cabrera (Christofer Rodriguez) is an actor whose past credits include: *Women Laughing Alone with Salad*, *The Events*, *Grand Concourse*, *Hamlet* (Shotgun Players), *The Eva Trilogy* (Magic Theatre), *My Mañana Comes* (Marin Theatre Company), *Into the Beautiful North*, *Totem & Taboo* (Central Works), *A Maze* (Theatre Battery), *Year of the Rooster* (Impact Theatre), *The Tempest* (Do It Live! Productions). He graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in Drama - Performance. He is also a pedicabber.

David Everett Moore (David DeSantos) is thrilled to return to Crowded Fire Theater, where he was seen in Christina Anderson's *Good Goods* in 2012. David was most recently seen in the world premiere of *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* at Marin Theatre Company. He has performed with many Bay Area theaters, including San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Aurora Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare Festival, African-American Shakespeare Company, AlterTheater, Arabian Shakespeare Festival, Word For Word, and Livermore Shakespeare Festival. Regional credits include work with Capital Stage Company and Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Favorite roles include Addison in *Safe House* for Aurora Theatre Company, BJJ in *An Octoroon* for Capital Stage Company, and Black Man in *We Are Proud To Present* for Just Theater. David is a Resident Artist of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival and a proud graduate of UC Berkeley, where he earned his BA in Theater and Performance Studies.

Victor D. Ragsdale (Clarence Matthews) is excited to be making his Crowded Fire Theater debut. Some of his favorite roles include Benny in *RENT* (Stanford Theater), Booker T

Washington in *Ragtime: The Musical* (Stanford BLACKstage), Scarecrow in *The Wiz: A Super Soul Musical* (Stanford BLACKstage), and a member of the ensemble for *Rock of Ages* (Palo Alto Players). Victor is pursuing a BA in Theater and Performance Studies from Stanford University. When not doing theater, he enjoys working in film, playing video games, comic books and superheroes, and dabbling in martial arts and volleyball. Special thanks to Cainan, Khaled, Marc, Zakaria, and Río.

Michael Wayne Rice (Geoffrey Dean) is a graduate of the University of Missouri @ Kansas City with an M.F.A. in Acting and Directing. He has taught acting at 3 universities (University of Missouri, University of the Pacific and currently at the University of San Francisco). Michael has acted in over 30 productions on stages in Missouri, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. He has received numerous small theatre awards. His show, *The Mountaintop*, was a Theatre Bay Area Editor's pick, Theatre Bay Area Recommended Production, a SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle "Go See" Pick 2016, as well as Best Production by the SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle for their awards series. You can find out more about Michael at www.MichaelWayneRice.com

Alison Whismore (Rosie McNulty) is deeply grateful to work with Crowded Fire Theater again following Young Jean Lee's *Church* in 2018. Before immigrating to the U.S. in 2010, Alison toured extensively in France, specializing in interactive theatre. Some Bay Area credits include *Measure for Measure* with Theatre Lunatico, *The Tempest* and *Persuasion* at Livermore Shakespeare Festival, *Cinderella* with African American Shakespeare Company, *Boeing, Boeing* at Ross Valley Players, *Pear Slices* at The Pear Theater, and *Romeo & Juliet* and *Hamlet*, both with SF Shakespeare Festival's tours. Her work as a Teaching Artist includes SF Shakespeare Festival, CalShakes, B Street Theatre, and Sacramento Parks and Recreation. Alison holds a BA Honours in Drama from Manchester University, UK, and trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London. www.alisonwhismore.com

###

For Calendar Editors:

The West Coast Premiere of TRANSFERS by Lucy Thurber

directed by Ken Savage

February 28-March 23 (Press Opening March 4)

Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco

PERFORMANCES:

Generally Thurs-Saturdays 8 PM, Sunday 2 PM, with Special Opening Night Performances on Mondays, 8 PM.

Tickets: Visit www.crowdedfire.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Prices range from \$10-35 progressively during the course of the run.

We offer Pay-What-You-Can Preview performances and Flex Passes, as well as student/senior/group rates.

Box Office by phone (415) 523-0034 ext 1

Cast photos available at <http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/>