

Crowded Fire Theater

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Press Page: www.crowdedfire.org/press/

**Crowded Fire Theater presents the West Coast Premiere of
Alice Birch's
REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN.
*An explosive #feminism manifesto***

**March 1 - 24, 2018
at the POTRERO STAGE
1695 18th St, San Francisco
(press opening Monday, March 5)**

San Francisco - Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) The west coast premiere of Alice Birch's REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN. will be the first revolutionary production in Crowded Fire's 20th Anniversary Season of new and contemporary plays. Praised by *The Daily Telegraph* as "Dazzling in its provocative daring" and "a cluster bomb of subversion," this new production of REVOLT will feature an audacious cast directed by the theater company's founding artistic director, Rebecca Novick.

REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN. could be an anthem for this moment in history; a moment when every field is facing the rage of once-silenced women, when #MeToo is shining a light in all the dark places. Exhilaratingly wild, fearless and playful - and yet still without any clear answers - REVOLT is feminism at its messy edge. Alice Birch morphs language and explodes boundaries in this darkly comic manifesto exploring the myriad ways women are styled, shaped, and confined to fit society's expectations, asking us: What happens when we rebel?

Inspired the slogan "Well-behaved women seldom make history," informed by the SCUM Manifesto and other feminist texts, the script builds with vignettes that attack language itself, exploring the way that words place strictures on women. REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN. confronts the idea that "language uses us as much as we use language," weaving rich poetry, sharp humor, and a fair bit of activist exhaustion into a powerful and explosive production.

Crowded Fire's Artistic Director Mina Morita chose REVOLT for both its humor and its incendiary nature and experimental tone, a perfect match for the innovative theater's 20th Anniversary season. At the season's opening, she stated "It is a remarkable act to celebrate two decades of making revolutionary theater; of inspiring interrogation and revolt against the artistic and cultural norms which placate us, with our arms raised high."

Director Novick, returning to the theater that she helped build for the first time in 10 years, will lead a cast that includes Karla Acosta, Gabriel Christian, Cat Luedtke, Leigh Rondon-Davis, Soren Santos, Elissa Beth Stebbins. Designers include Justine Law (scenic), Dylan Feldman (lighting), Keiko Shimosato Carreiro (costume), Cliff Caruthers (sound), and Adeline N Smith (props).

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REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN runs at the Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street in San Francisco March 1 through March 24 (press opening Monday, March 5). Cast photos available at <http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/>

BIOS:

Alice Birch (playwright) is a London-based playwright. Her play *Anatomy Of A Suicide* recently premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in June. In May of 2016, her play *Revolt. She said. Revolt again.* ran at Soho Rep. Alice was the winner of the George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright 2014 and the Arts Foundation Award for Playwriting 2014. Her writing also includes *Little On The Inside* (Edinburgh 2014/ Almeida / Clean Break), *So Much Once* (24 Hour Celebrity Gala Old Vic), *Open Court Soap Opera* (Royal Court), *Salt* (Comedie de Valence), *Many Moons* (Theatre503), *Flying The Nest* (BBC Radio 4), and *Little Light* (Orange Tree Theatre). Alice's screenplay *Lady Macbeth* was produced by the BFI/BBC under the iFeatures initiative and premiered at last year's Toronto International Film Festival. It was also named one of Variety's 10 Best Films of the Festival and was directed by William Oldroyd and stars Florence Pugh. Roadside Attractions will distribute domestically in 2017.

Rebecca Novick (director) is a theater-maker based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Recent projects have included *Electra* at Ten Thousand Things in Minneapolis, *Ghost Town*, a world premiere by Juliette Carillo for Cornerstone Theater in Los Angeles, a production of Shakespeare's *Tempest* for Cal Shakes that toured homeless shelters, prisons, and community centers, and a production of Erik Ehn's *Dogsbody* was presented at La Mama in New York. She has also worked with the Magic Theatre, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, the Aurora Theatre, the EXIT Theatre, Shotgun Players, Berkeley Opera, Playground, and Woman's Will, among others. Her directing has been recognized with the SF Bay Guardian's Goldie Award for Outstanding Local Artists. Rebecca was the founding artistic director of Crowded Fire Theater Company and led the company for ten years. She also developed and led the Triangle Lab, a collaboration between California Shakespeare Theater and Intersection for the Arts that explored how art can be more deeply integrated into community life, and then went on to serve as Cal Shakes' associate artistic director.

CAST:

Karla Acosta (Ensemble) is delighted to be working on her first Crowded Fire production. She has worked with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Shotgun Players, and Altertheater Ensemble. This marks her return to the stage after spending a number of years focusing on programming for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs (KPET). Her journey at KPET has taken her from a performer-educator role to her current role as the director of the middle school program. She holds a BA in Drama with honors from San Francisco State University.

Gabriel Christian (Ensemble) (t(he)y/(t)him) is a multidisciplinary artist and teacher. After receiving a BA in Theatre Studies from Yale in 2013, they shifted coasts and work away from their native New York to the Bay Area. Here, they pivoted from stage performance to reifying queer desire, genderfluidity (or "juicyness") and black resilience through a broader spectrum of movement arts. They've held residencies at Destiny Arts Center, Finnish Brotherhood Hall, and This Will Take Time, performed with director Robert Woodruff and choreographers Debby Kajiyama and Jose Navarrete, Jess Curtis, and Anne Bluethenthal, and mounted independent work at Counterpulse, SOMArts, Brava Theater, amongst other venues. Ongoing projects include BLACK PRESENCE (www.blackpresence.xyz), a bricolage exploration of black presence with twenty-nine black and brown artists, and Lxs Desaparecidxs with choreographer Randy Reyes.

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Cat Luedtke (Ensemble) is a British native who splits her time between performing in Europe and the US. Regional credits include: *The Lion in Winter*, *Middletown*, *Braggart Soldier & Top Girls*-CMTC (company member), *Pygmalion*-Cal Shakes, *Hay Fever*-Stanford Rep, *Sordid Lives & My Beautiful Laundrette*-NCTC, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore & Blood Wedding*-The Breadbox, *Paradise Street*-Exit, *Dernier Cri*-Third Cloud From The Left, *Emile*-RVP and *Rabbit Hole* at Artists Rep. National/International: With Than Hussein Clark/VDG/The Director's Theatre in Paris, Prague, London and at M.I.T. Boston. Cat studied acting at Studio A.C.T. and Shakespeare at RADA. She has been twice nominated as a finalist for 'Best Actress, Featured Role'-TBA Awards, and the TBA ATLAS Actor Titan Award 2013. www.catluedtke.com

Leigh Rondon-Davis (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Crowded Fire mainstage debut in *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* after participating in the 2017 Matchbox Reading Series. Leigh's previous acting credits include: *Hidden: A Gender* (Variance Festival), *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* (Curran), *The Niceties* and *Caught* (Shotgun Players), and *Dance of the Holy Ghosts* (Ubuntu Theater Project). When not performing, Leigh is proud to work for Shotgun Players, Magic Theatre, TheatreFirst, and Ubuntu Theater Project; she is currently a company member with Shotgun Players and Ubuntu Theater Project. Leigh attended Wellesley College and was a member of the Laney College Fusion Theatre Project.

Soren Santos (Ensemble) is an actor, mover, teacher, and Bay Area native. Soren has worked with several local companies including Idiot String, EmSpace Dance, Shotgun Players, TheatreFIRST, TheatreWorks, Berkeley Rep, and others. He is also a proud company member of Mugwumpin, a live art and performance ensemble, where he co-creates original work with his nearest and dearest collaborators. When he isn't acting, Soren can be found climbing, spending time with his two cats, volunteering with the non-profit Bull Valley Agricultural Center, and admiring his wife, Marlene.

Elissa Beth Stebbins (Ensemble) is so pleased to join Crowded Fire once again! She was seen most recently as the titular *Mineola Twins* at Cutting Ball, and before that as all the Liz's in *You For Me For You* with Crowded Fire (for which she won the TBA Award for Best Featured Actress). Other recent credits include: *The Village Bike* and *Caught* (Shotgun Players), *The Little Prince* (Marin Theater Company), and *Antigone* (Cutting Ball), among others. Elissa has a B.A. from Santa Clara University in Theatre and English, and has continued her training with Shakespeare & Company. www.elissabethstebbins.com

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For Calendar Editors:

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An explosive #feminism manifesto

directed by Rebecca Novick

March 1-24 (Press Opening March 5)

Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco

PERFORMANCES:

Wed-Saturdays 8 PM with Special Opening Night Performance on Monday, March 5, 8PM

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

We offer Pay-What-You-Can Preview performances and student/senior/group rates.

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

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

www.crowdedfire.org or (415) 523-0034 ext 0

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