

LA CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S *HUNDRED DAYS*

"Luminous Musical Memoir" Written and Performed by Married Duo The Bengsons

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast and creative team for *Hundred Days*, book by **The Bengsons** and **Sarah Gancher**, music and lyrics by **The Bengsons**, directed by **Anne Kauffman**, with movement direction by **Sonya Tayeh**. Nominated for a 2018 Lucille Lortel Award, *Hundred Days* runs **September 22 – October 21** in the Mandell Weiss Forum.

In addition to **Abigail Bengson** (vocals/guitar/floor tom) and **Shaun Bengson** (vocals/guitar/keys), the cast features **Ashley Baier** (drums/percussion), **El Beh** (cello), **Barrie Lobo McLain** (vocals/accordion/guitar) and **Reggie D. White** (vocals/keys), last seen at the Playhouse in *The Last Tiger in Haiti*.

The creative team includes **Abigail and Shaun Bengson**, Co-Music Directors; **Kris Stone** (Playhouse's *Blood and Gifts*), Co-Scenic Designer/Props Designer; **Sydney Gallas**, Costume Designer; **Andrew Hungerford**, Co-Scenic Designer/Lighting Designer; **Nicholas Pope**, Sound Designer; and **Jamie Lynne Simons**, Stage Manager.

Dubbed "a luminous musical memoir" and a Critic's Pick by *The New York Times*, *Hundred Days* is an exhilarating and heartrending autobiographical piece, written and performed by husband-and-wife team Abigail and Shaun Bengson, about embracing uncertainty, taking a leap, and loving as if you only had a hundred days to live. With their magnetic chemistry and unique musical style, the Bengsons explore the fundamental question of how to make the most of the time you have.

"We're always looking for vibrant and distinct new voices – as well as unique ways of storytelling – and the Bengsons' *Hundred Days* speaks to both these aims, culminating in a deeply honest, life-affirming and genre-defying piece of theatre," said **Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley**.

The Bengsons have appeared at such venues as Joe's Pub (NYC), MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA) and the Market Theater (Johannesburg, South Africa). Their music has been featured on *So You Think You Can Dance* (FOX) and in *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), *Anything That Gives Off Light* (National Theatre of Scotland/The Team), *Sundown*, *Yellow Moon* (Ars Nova/WP), *Hurricane Diane* (Two River Theatre), *you'll still call me by name* (New York Live Arts, Jacob's Pillow) and *Iphigenia in Aulis* (Classic Stage Company). They have been nominated for the Drama Desk, Drama League, and Lucille Lortel awards. Abigail Nessen Bengson has also toured as a member of tUnE-yArDs, including an appearance on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*.

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Sarah Gancher's writing has been seen on such stages as London's National Theatre, Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre, The Public Theatre, Steppenwolf, Seattle Rep, Hartford Stage, RoundHouse, Ars Nova and The Flea. Honors include New York Stage and Film Founder's Award, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, AR Gurney Prize, Lortel and Drama League nominations. With The Bengsons, she also wrote *The Lucky Ones*. Co-writer of The TEAM's *Mission Drift* (Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Prize, Scotsman Fringe First, Herald Angel; International tour to Europe, Asia and Australia). Alumna: P73, Playwrights Realm Writing Fellows, Women's Project Lab and Ars Nova Play Group. M.F.A. from NYU.

Anne Kauffman has worked with Ars Nova, New York Theatre Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, The Public, MCC, Roundabout, WP, P73, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Yale Rep, Williamstown Theater Festival, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, The Wilma and ZSpace. She is Artistic Director of Encores! Off-Center, Resident Director at Roundabout Theater, Artistic Associate and Founding Member of The Civilians, a Sundance Program Associate, Clubbed Thumb Associate Artist and co-creator of the CT Directing Fellowship, New Georges Associate Artist, Artistic Council of Soho Rep and an SDC Executive Board Member. Awards: Lortel, Three OBIEs, Two Barrymore Awards, the Joan and Joseph Cullman Award for Exceptional Creativity from Lincoln Center, the Alan Schneider Director Award and a Lilly Award.

Sonya Tayeh's selected credits include: *Moulin Rouge!* (Emerson Colonial Theatre/dir. Alex Timbers); *you'll still call me by name* (commissioned by New York Live Arts and Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival); *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova/dir. Anne Kauffman); Martha Graham Dance Company/Lamentation Variation Series; Malpaso Dance Company (commissioned by The Music Center, LA); *Hundred Days* (New York Theatre Workshop/dir. Anne Kauffman); *The Skin of Our Teeth* (TFANA/dir. Arin Arbus); Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party* (City Center Encores!/dir. Leigh Silverman); *Iphigenia in Aulis* (Classic Stage Company/dir. Rachel Chavkin); *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre/dir. Leigh Silverman); *The Last Goodbye* (The Old Globe/dir. Alex Timbers).

Hundred Days is presented by special arrangement with Erica Rotstein, Seaview Productions, Z Space and New York Theatre Workshop. The show was originally developed and produced by Z Space, Lisa Steindler, Artistic Director, and piece by piece productions/Wendy vanden Heuvel, and further developed and produced Off-Broadway by New York Theatre Workshop on December 4, 2017, Jim Nicola, Artistic Director, Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director.

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 95 world premieres, commissioning 50 new works, and sending 32 productions to Broadway, among them the currently-running hit musicals *Come From Away* and *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, including the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT:	<i>Hundred Days</i> Book by The Bengsons and Sarah Gancher Music and Lyrics by The Bengsons Directed by Anne Kauffman Movement Direction by Sonya Tayeh	
WHEN:	September 22 – October 21 (Press Opening: September 30 at 7pm) 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:	Ashley Baier	Performer (Drums/Percussion)
	El Beh	Performer (Cello)
	Abigail Bengson	Performer (Vocals, Guitar, Floor Tom)
	Shaun Bengson	Performer (Vocals, Guitar, Keys)
	Barrie Lobo McLain	Performer (Vocals, Accordion, Guitar)
	Reggie D. White	Performer (Vocals, Keys)
	Understudies:	Lindsey Mercer, Luke Wygodny
	Abigail and Shaun Bengson	Co-Music Directors
	Kris Stone	Co-Scenic Designer/Props Designer
	Sydney Gallas	Costume Designer
	Andrew Hungerford	Co-Scenic Designer/Lighting Designer
	Nicholas Pope	Sound Designer
	Jamie Lynne Simons	Stage Manager

BACKGROUND:

Dubbed “a luminous musical memoir” and a Critic’s Pick by *The New York Times*, *Hundred Days* is an exhilarating and heartrending autobiographical piece, written and performed by husband-and-wife team Abigail and Shaun Bengson, about embracing uncertainty, taking a leap, and loving as if you only had a hundred days to live. With their magnetic chemistry and unique musical style, the Bengsons explore the fundamental question of how to make the most of the time you have.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

- **Foodie Fridays:** Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19; pre-show food trucks starting at 6pm
- **Sonic Saturdays:** Sept 22; Oct 6, 13, 20; pre-show, live band entertainment
- **Talkback Tuesdays:** Oct 2 & Oct 9, following the 7:30pm performance
- **Insider Events:** Sat, Oct 13 at 1:15pm & Wed, Oct 17 at 6:45pm
- **Discovery Sunday:** Oct 21 following the 2pm performance
- **ACCESS Performance:** Saturday, Oct 6 at 2pm

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

SPONSORS: Gail & Ralph Bryan, Brian & Silvija Devine, Mintz Levin