

## LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF *HERE THERE ARE BLUEBERRIES*

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast and creative team for its world-premiere production of *Here There Are Blueberries*, by Tony Award nominee **Moisés Kaufman** (Playhouse's *33 Variations*) and **Amanda Gronich**, conceived and directed by **Moisés Kaufman**. Co-produced with **Tectonic Theater Project**, the play runs **July 26 – August 21** (press opening: July 31). For tickets and more information, please visit [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org).

The cast features **Scott Barrow**, **Charles Browning**, **Rosina Reynolds**, **Jeanne Sakata**, **Elizabeth Stahlmann**, **Charlie Thurston**, **Grant James Varjas** and **Frances Uku**, along with UC San Diego MFA students **Noah Keyishian** and **Sabrina Liu**.

The creative team includes: **Derek McLane**, Scenic Designer; **Dede Ayite**, Costume Designer; **David Lander**, Lighting Designer; UC San Diego Theatre & Dance Faculty Member **Bobby McElver**, Sound Designer; **David Bengali**, Projection Designer; **Amy Marie Seidel**, Dramaturg and Associate Director; **Ann James**, Intimacy and Sensitivity Specialist; **tbd casting co.**; **Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA** and **Jacole Kitchen**, Casting; UC San Diego Theatre & Dance Faculty Member **Lora K. Powell**, Stage Manager.

An album of never before seen World War II-era photographs arrives at the desk of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist Rebecca Erbelding. As Rebecca and her team of historians begin to unravel the shocking story behind the images, the album soon makes headlines around the world. In Germany, a businessman sees the album online and recognizes his own grandfather in the photos. He begins a journey of discovery that will take him into the lives of other Nazi descendants – in a reckoning of his family's past and his country's history. *Here There Are Blueberries* tells the story of these photographs, and what they reveal about the Holocaust and our own humanity.

"We are honored to welcome back Moisés, Amanda and Tectonic Theater Project for this searing new devised work that centers on a recently-discovered photo album from Auschwitz. As the characters investigate the album and the shocking aspects of the human psyche it exposes, the play asks us to explore how can that kind of evil co-exist with the mundane," said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse.

In partnership with Tectonic Theater Project and the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics ([FASPE](http://FASPE.org)), the Playhouse will present a series of free audience talkbacks on the themes and issues in *Here There Are Blueberries*: **August 2**: Doctors at Auschwitz: Joseph Mengele and the Role of Medicine in Nazi Germany; **August 3**: The Next Generation: How do we deal with the sins of our fathers, both literally and metaphorically?; **August 16**: Ethics in Nazi Germany: Himmler's Posen Speech; **August 17**: There were Blueberries: the Transformation of Norms and Complicity as the New Normal; **August 18**: Nazi Crimes and the Complicity of Business Leaders and Professionals. For more information, please visit [LaJollaPlayhouse.org/show/here-there-are-blueberries/](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org/show/here-there-are-blueberries/).

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**Amanda Gronich** has devoted her career to bringing real-life stories to the stage and screen. An Emmy-nominated non-fiction scriptwriter, Amanda created dozens of hours of top-rated programming for diverse broadcast networks. Over a ten-year career in television, she became the Supervising Senior Writer at Hoff Productions and worked as a series writer at National Geographic Television. Prior to this, Amanda was a charter member of Tectonic Theater Project, where she directed the company's Toronto production of Moisés Kaufman's *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* and was one of the group of artists who traveled to Wyoming and co-created *The Laramie Project*, later made into an HBO film. Currently, Amanda works as a playwright and a script development consultant in theatre and documentary television. She also teaches interview-based storytelling as a Master Instructor at the Moment Work Institute, using techniques she developed as an Adjunct Lecturer at the Graduate Program in Educational Theatre, City College New York. She is at work on a book about her original play-devising methods, to be released by SIU Press.

**Moisés Kaufman's** Broadway credits include *Paradise Square*, the recent revival of Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song*, Rajiv Joseph's *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, as well as the Playhouse-developed productions of *33 Variations* (writer/director; Tony Award nomination for Best Play) and Doug Wright's *I Am My Own Wife* (Obie Award, Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel Award nominations). West End: *Gross Indecency* (writer/director, Gielgud Theatre); *I Am My Own Wife* (Duke of York Theater); *This Is How It Goes* by Neil LaBute (Donmar Warehouse). Off-Broadway/Regional: *The Common Pursuit* by Simon Gray (Roundabout Theatre); *One Arm* by Tennessee Williams (Tectonic Theater Project/The New Group); *The Laramie Project* (writer/director; Theater in the Square, Drama Desk nomination); *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* (writer/director; Alice Tully Hall); *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (writer/director; Lucille Lortel Award for Best Play, Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Play and the Joe A. Callaway Award for Direction); *Macbeth* with Liev Schreiber (Delacorte Theater); *Master Class* with Rita Moreno (Berkeley Repertory Theater). Opera: *El Gato Con Botas* (New Victory Theater). Film/TV: *The Laramie Project* (HBO, two Emmy nominations for writing and directing, Opening Night Selection at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, National Board of Review Award, the Humanitas Prize, Special Mention the Berlin Film Festival); *The L Word*. Mr. Kaufman is the Artistic Director of Tectonic Theater Project and a Guggenheim Fellow in Playwriting.

Based in New York City and guided by founder and artistic director Moisés Kaufman, **Tectonic Theater Project** develops new plays using the company's trademarked theater-making method, Moment Work, and through a rigorous process of research and collaboration in a laboratory environment. Since its founding in 1991, the company has created and staged over 20 plays and musicals, including *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *The Laramie Project*, Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize-winning *I Am My Own Wife* and the Tony Award-winning *33 Variations*.

**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. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new works, including mounting 108 world premieres, commissioning 60 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – among them the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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## FACT SHEET

**WHAT:** *Here There Are Blueberries*  
By Amanda Gronich and Moisés Kaufmann  
Conceived and Directed by Moisés Kaufman  
Co-Production with Tectonic Theater Project

**WHEN:** **July 26 – August 21** (Press Opening: July 31)  
Tue/Wed at 7:30pm; Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm; Sun at 7pm; Sat/Sun at 2pm

**WHERE:** **Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse**  
2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

**WHO:** Scenic Designer: Derek McLane  
Costume Designer: Dede Ayite  
Lighting Designer: David Lander  
Sound Designer: Bobby McElver  
Projection Designer: David Bengali  
Dramaturg/Associate Director: Amy Marie Seidel  
Intimacy and Sensitivity Specialist: Ann James  
Casting: tbd casting co. Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA; Jacole Kitchen  
Stage Manager: Lora K. Powell

Cast: Scott Barrow, Charles Browning, Noah Keyishian, Sabrina Liu,  
Rosina Reynolds, Jeanne Sakata, Elizabeth Stahlmann,  
Charlie Thurston, Grant James Varjas, Frances Uku

### **BACKGROUND:**

An album of never before seen World War II-era photographs arrives at the desk of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist Rebecca Erbelding. As Rebecca and her team of historians begin to unravel the shocking story behind the images, the album soon makes headlines around the world. In Germany, a businessman sees the album online and recognizes his own grandfather in the photos. He begins a journey of discovery that will take him into the lives of other Nazi descendants – in a reckoning of his family's past and his country's history. *Here There Are Blueberries* tells the story of these photographs, and what they reveal about the Holocaust and our own humanity.

**SPONSORS:** Vivien and Jeffrey Ressler  
The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation  
Recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award

**TICKETS:** [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org); (858) 550-1010

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