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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE ANNOUNCES
CAST & CREATIVE TEAMS FOR UPCOMING WORLD PREMIERES:

*ON THE FAR END &
JENNIFER WHO IS LEAVING*

Presented in repertory March 30 – May 7

As part of the annual **National Capital New Play Festival**

Also featuring

DEVELOPMENTAL READINGS OF WORKS BY
**ZAKIYYAH ALEXANDER, JENNIFER BARCLAY,
PRESTON CHOI, & SHARYN ROTHSTEIN**

Bethesda, Md. (February 23, 2023) – Round House Theatre announces full casting and creative teams for two world premieres, presented in rotating repertory as part of the second annual National Capital New Play Festival: Mary Kathryn Nagle’s *On the Far End*, directed by Margot Bordelon, and *Jennifer Who Is Leaving*, written and directed by Morgan Gould. The festival will also include presentations of developmental readings of works by **Zakiyyah Alexander, Jennifer Barclay, Preston Choi, and Sharyn Rothstein.**

“We were thrilled with the reception for last year’s inaugural NCNPF — from our audiences and also from the featured playwrights,” says **Festival Producer and Associate Artist for Literary and New Plays Naysan Mojjani**. “For this year’s Festival, we’ve assembled another stellar collection of plays and writers, including several making their DC debut. I can’t wait to share these plays with our audiences, and to share our audiences and our artists with these playwrights. We need new plays more than ever, and it’s tremendously exciting to have our theatre community help shape and launch a new wave of plays that speak to today and tomorrow like never before.”

Press night for ***On the Far End*** is Monday, April 10, 2023, and press night for ***Jennifer Who Is Leaving*** is Tuesday, April 11, 2023. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.** (For additional festival information, including details on the developmental readings that join these world premieres on the schedule, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Festival.)

On the Far End

Muscogee leader Ella Jean Hill traces her family’s history from the Trail of Tears to her grandfather’s allotment in central Oklahoma. In an astonishing one-woman play, she shares her story—the Native boarding school she fled on foot, her marriage to a young Bengali scholar, and the advocacy that became her life’s work. With *On the Far End*, a reference to the landmark 2020 Supreme Court opinion in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* that upheld the sovereignty of the Muscogee territories, one of America’s leading playwrights (*Sovereignty; Manahatta*) weaves a deeply personal account of one family—her own mother-in-law’s—and a legacy of broken promises between nations.

“It’s an honor to direct a solo show that explores and celebrates the life of Jean Chaudhuri, a relentless fighter and advocate for Muscogee and Native American rights,” says **Director Margot Bordelon**. “It is because of activists like Chaudhuri that the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Muscogee Nation in *McGirt vs. Oklahoma*. Jean’s journey teaches us how the past

can give our present purpose, and the spiritual necessity of fighting for social justice.”

Playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle will perform the role of Jean—her mother-in-law—in the world premiere run of her play *On the Far End*.

Nagle is joined by a dynamic creative team that includes Scenic Designer **Paige Hathaway**, Costume Designer **Raphael Regan**, Lighting Designer **Emma Deane**, Sound Designer **Emily Duncan Wilson**, Properties Coordinator **Andrea “Dre” Moore**, Cultural Consultant **Paskova Deere**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Dramaturg **Naysan Mojgani**, and Production Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**.

Jennifer Who Is Leaving

Nan is working the night shift, fielding periodic calls from her retired husband with questions about reheating dinner and where his car keys are. Jennifer is trying to tune out Joey, her elderly patient who is relishing getting on her last nerve. And Lili is stressing out about her upcoming SATs. Set in a Dunkin Donuts on the side of a Massachusetts highway, *Jennifer Who Is Leaving* is a familiar and hilarious exploration of the expectations placed on women; the physical, mental, and emotional labor of being a caregiver; and what happens when we reach our breaking point.

"Our comedy is a madcap celebration and rumination on invisible labor, swearing, donuts, Massachusetts, female friendship, and why men can't find a DAMN thing in the fridge, cupboard, or anywhere in the house," says **playwright and director Morgan Gould**. "I wrote it when I was sick of being the only one in my relationship who knew how to sort the laundry or how to change the vacuum bag, and I'm SO darn lucky to have Nancy Robinette, Floyd King, Kimberly Gilbert, Annie Fang, and the rest of the amazing Round House team to support this process. I can't wait!"

The cast includes **Annie Fang** (*Your Own Personal Exegesis* at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater; and *SHHHH* at Atlantic Theater Company), **Kim Gilbert** (*Oslo* at Round House Theatre; and *Trip to Bountiful* at Ford's Theatre), **Floyd King** (*Amadeus* at Round House Theatre; and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare Theatre Company), and **Nancy Robinette** (*Uncle Vanya* at Round House Theatre; and *Trip to Bountiful* at Ford's Theatre). Understudies for this production include **Mary Myers, Mara Rosenberg, Vince Rossano, and Sumié Yotsukura.**

The cast is joined by a brilliant creative team, some of whom are also designers for *On the Far End*: Scenic Designer **Paige Hathaway**, Costume Designer **Ivania Stack**, Lighting Designer **Emma Deane**, Sound Designer **Justin Schmitz**, Properties Coordinator **Andrea "Dre" Moore**, Dramaturg **Lauren Halvorsen**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Assistant Director **Shana Laski**, and Production Stage Manager **Rachael Albert.**

Developmental Readings:

Playwrights whose work will receive developmental readings during the festival include **Sharyn Rothstein** (*Right to Be Forgotten* at Arena Stage; *USA's Suits*); **Zakiyyah Alexander** (*10 Things to Do Before I Die* at Second Stage; *Hulu's Grown-ish*); **Jennifer Barclay** (*Ripe Frenzy*, Rolling World Premiere); and **Preston Choi** (Winner of Kennedy Center's Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award for *A Great Migration or The Migratory Patterns of the North American Monarch Butterfly and the Development of Fatherless Sons*).

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE & PLAY INFORMATION

APR 1 – MAY 7, 2023 | World Premiere on the Main Stage

On the Far End

By Mary Kathryn Nagle

Directed by Margot Bordelon

Muscogee leader Ella Jean Hill traces her family's history from the Trail of Tears to her grandfather's allotment in central Oklahoma. In an astonishing one-woman play, she shares her story—the Native boarding school she fled on foot, her marriage to a young Bengali scholar, and the advocacy that became her life's work. With *On the Far End*, a reference to the landmark 2020 Supreme Court opinion in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* that upheld the sovereignty of the Muscogee territories, one of America's leading playwrights (*Sovereignty; Manahatta*) weaves a

deeply personal account of one family—her own mother-in-law’s—and a legacy of broken promises between nations.

ARTIST INFORMATION (*On the Far End*)

Mary Kathryn Nagle (Jean/Playwright) is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She is an attorney whose work focuses on the restoration of tribal sovereignty and the inherent right of Indian Nations to protect their women and children from domestic violence and sexual assault. From 2015 to 2019, she served as the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program. Nagle is an alum of the 2013 Public Theater Emerging Writers Program. Productions include *Miss Lead* (Amerinda, 59E59); *Fairly Traceable* (Native Voices at the Autry); *Sovereignty* at Arena Stage; *Manahatta* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Return to Niobrara* at Rose Theater; *Crossing Mnisose* at Portland Center Stage; *Sovereignty* at Marin Theatre Company; and *Manahatta* at Yale Repertory Theatre. She has received commissions from Arena Stage, the Rose Theater (Omaha, Nebraska), Portland Center Stage, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Yale Repertory Theatre, Round House Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Kansas City Repertory Theatre. She also writes for TV and film, and her most recent credit is serving as an Associate Producer on PREY. She is most well known for her work on ending violence against Native women. Her play, *Sliver of a Full Moon*, has been performed in law schools from Stanford to Harvard, New York University, and Yale. She has worked extensively on Violence Against Women Act re-authorization, and she has filed numerous briefs in the United States Supreme Court as a part of the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center’s VAWA Sovereignty Initiative, including, most recently, *United States v. Cooley*, *Oklahoma v. McGirt*, and *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, and *Brackeen v. Haaland*. She represents numerous families of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, including Kaysera Stops Pretty Places’ family who have brought a public campaign demanding an investigation into her murder. More can be read here: JusticeForKaysera.org

Margot Bordelon (Director) is New York based theater director who specializes in new work. Off-Broadway credits include *peerless* at Primary Stages; *...what the end will be*, *Something Clean*, and *Too Heavy For Your Pocket* at Roundabout Theatre Company; *Wives* at Playwrights Horizons; *Do You Feel Anger?* at Vineyard; *Eddie and Dave* at Atlantic; *Plot Points in Our Sexual Development* at LCT3; *The Pen* at Premieres NYC; and *A Delicate Ship* at Playwrights Realm. Regional productions at ACT Seattle, Actors Theatre Louisville, Alliance, American Theater Company, Denver Center, Geffen Playhouse, Miami New Drama, Marin Theater Company, Steppenwolf, TheaterWorks Hartford, the Wilma, and Yale Rep. Upcoming: *Let’s Call Her Patty* at LCT3. BFA, Cornish College of the Arts; MFA, Yale School of Drama. MargotBordelon.com

MAR 30 – MAY 7, 2023 | World Premiere on the Main Stage

Jennifer Who Is Leaving

Written and directed by Morgan Gould

Nan is working the night shift, fielding periodic calls from her retired husband with questions about reheating dinner and where his car keys are. Jennifer is trying to tune out Joey, her elderly patient who is relishing getting on her last nerve. And Lili is stressing out about her upcoming SATs. Set in a Dunkin Donuts on the side of a Massachusetts highway, *Jennifer, Who Is Leaving* is a familiar and hilarious exploration of the expectations placed on women; the physical, mental, and emotional labor of being a caregiver; and what happens when we reach our breaking point.

ARTIST INFORMATION (*Jennifer Who Is Leaving*)

Morgan Gould (Playwright and Director) is a New York based playwright whose play Nicole Clark is Having a Baby was set to premiere as part of the 44th Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. The production was cancelled due to COVID-19 after only five performances. Her other plays include I Wanna Fucking Tear You Apart (world premiere at Studio Theatre in 5 Washington, DC; Helen Hayes Award Nomination for Outstanding New Play); All the Stupid Bitches, Three Fat Sisters, and I've Honestly Never Wanted to Bash Someone Over the Head with a Baseball Bat More Than I Do Right Now (commission from Cutting Ball Theatre in San Francisco, world premiere upcoming in Fall 2022). Gould is a Resident Playwright at New Dramatists, a Member Artist at Ensemble Studio Theatre, a Yaddo Colony Fellow, and a MacDowell Colony Fellow. She is a proud alumna of the Dramatist Guild Foundation Fellows Program, Interstate 173 at Page 73 Productions, the Ingram New Works fellow at Nashville Rep, The Women's Project Lab, the Civilians R+D Group, Target Margin Lab, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, SDC Observership Program, the BAX AIR Residency, Playwrights Horizons Directing Residency, and New Georges Writer/Director Lab. She has previously held staff positions at Playscripts, Inc., Lark Play Development Center, Cape Cod Theatre Project, and was the Associate Artistic Director of Young Jean Lee's Theater Company. She is also the Artistic Director of Morgan Gould & Friends, her theatre company with nine actors, three designers, and a filmmaker. MG&F's work has been featured in and at the New Ohio/Ice Factory Festival, Dixon Place, The Brooklyn Lyceum, HERE Arts Center, Ars Nova, CAP21, BAX, New Georges, and The Culture Project. As a director, Gould has directed world premieres and contemporary works by herself and other playwrights at Studio Theatre in DC, The Humana Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Primary Stages, WP Theater (Women's Project), Hangar Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Page 73, and many more. Gould is a graduate of the Brooklyn College M.F.A. Program

and the Lila Acheson Wallace Playwrights Program at Juilliard.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Annie Fang (Lili) is excited for her first full production with Round House Theatre. She previously read for Lili as part of the 2022 National Capital New Play Festival. Off-Broadway credits include *Your Own Personal Exegesis* at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater, and *SHHHH* at Atlantic Theater Company. Regional credits include *Thrive, Or What You Will* and *Twelfth Night* at American Shakespeare Center, *SHIP* at Azuka Theatre, and *Man of God* at InterAct Theatre. Instagram: @thefatpecan.

Kim Gilbert (Jennifer) last appeared at Round House in *Oslo*. Other RHT credits include *The Book of Will*, *Angels in America*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Lyons*, and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Recent credits include *The Trip to Bountiful* at Ford's Theatre and *Red Velvet* at Shakespeare Theatre Company. Kimberly has been in the DC Theatreverse since the year two thousand, where she has been fortunate enough to play on the stage of Round House as well as Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Kennedy Center, Folger Theatre, Studio Theatre, Theater J, Mosaic, and, most often, Woolly Mammoth and Taffety Punk Theatres, both of which she is a proud Company Member. Kimberly is a graduate of Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting. She dedicates this show to the memory of her incredible Mother, Catherine Winifred Gilbert.

Floyd King (Joey) has appeared at many theatres throughout the United States, but primarily at the Shakespeare Theatre in D.C. At Round House Theatre, he was seen as "Emperor Joseph" in *Amadeus*. Other roles include over 100 productions at the Shakespeare Theatre, including "Feste" in *Twelfth Night*; "Parolles" in *All's Well*; "Bottom" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and "The Fool" in *King Lear*. Other favorite credits are "Pseudolus" in *A Funny Thing* at Signature Theatre Company; *Quills* at Woolly Mammoth; *The History Boys* and *Tale of Two Cities* at Studio Theatre. Teaching credits include the Juilliard School, BADA at Oxford England, and ACA at the George Washington University. Floyd is a Fulbright Scholar and Fox Fellowship recipient.

Nancy Robinette (Nan) is happy to be reunited with the Round House Theatre, having performed in *Uncle Vanya*, *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Escape from Happiness*, *Better Living, Love and Anger*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Recent favorite performances elsewhere include roles in *Steel Magnolias* at Gulfshore Playhouse and Everyman Theatre; *Trip to Bountiful* at Ford's Theatre; *Nicole Clark is Having A Baby* at the Humana Festival; *The Heiress* at Arena Stage; and *Prayer for the French Republic* at Manhattan Theatre Club, for which she received an Outer Critic's Circle nomination. For her 40+ years in the D.C. area theatre, she received a Helen Hayes Tribute.

DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY READINGS

APR 20 & 22, 2023 | Developmental Reading

Bad Books

By Sharyn Rothstein

Directed by Ryan Rilette

A poignant and hilarious exploration of what it truly means to care for our children.

APR 21 & 23, 2023 | Developmental Reading

How to Raise a Freeman

Written and directed by Zakiyyah Alexander

A dark comedy about the drama of living—while Black—in America.

APR 27 & 29, 2023 | Developmental Reading

Hot Little Slice

By Jennifer Barclay

Directed by Ryan Rilette

An empathetic, dark comedy about a pair of estranged sisters reconnecting after their celebrity dad is accused of sexual assault.

APR 27 & 29, 2023 | Developmental Reading

limp wrist on the lever

By Preston Choi

Directed by Ethan Heard

A queer trio's escape plan from a conversion camp takes a topsy-turvy turn when they face off with a straight-laced counselor.

MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION INFORMATION

On the Far End

By Mary Kathryn Nagle

Directed by Margot Bordelon

CAST LIST:

Mary Kathryn Nagle as Jean*

* - *Round House Theatre debut*

MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Jennifer Who Is Leaving

Written and directed by Morgan Gould

CAST LIST:

Annie Fang as Lili*

Kim Gilbert as Jennifer

Floyd King as Joey

Nancy Robinette as Nan

* - *Round House Theatre debut*

PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES:

On the Far End runs from April 1 to May 7, 2023; and ***Jennifer Who Is Leaving*** runs from March 30 to May 7, 2023. Visit RoundHouseTheatre.org for full performance schedule.

WHERE:

Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave. and Metro's Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/.

FESTIVAL TICKETS & PACKAGES:

Full festival information, including the event schedule and additional programming, may be

found at RoundHouseTheatre.org/Festival. Tickets for the world premiere productions of *On the Far End* and *Jennifer, Who Is Leaving* are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office. Tickets for the developmental play readings are free and are currently available as part of Festival Packages. Tickets will open for general reservations in the coming weeks, subject to availability.

- **Festival Packages** include savings on purchases of both world premiere productions— *On the Far End* and *Jennifer, Who Is Leaving*—performed in repertory, as well as access to tickets for free developmental play readings in advance of reservations opening to the general public. Visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Festival to book.
- **Industry Weekends (April 21-23 and 28-30, 2023)**: Our professional colleagues from around the country are invited to join us for Industry Weekends in celebration of these exciting new plays. Each weekend has been planned to allow guests to attend both main stage world premieres, as well as two readings, while leaving plenty of time to catch up with other guests and artists. Contact literary@roundhousetheatre.org for more information.

Available ticket discounts include:

- **Free Play** – free tickets for students ages 13 through college: Round House Theatre’s Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay or email Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- **On the House** – community ticket access program: Round House’s next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is On the House, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/On-The-House or email Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- **Pay-What-You-Can performances**: PWYC tickets go on sale online or by phone only (no walk-up sales) beginning one week before the first performance of each show. The

patron decides the admission price. Limit of two tickets per order. PWYC tickets are subject to availability. PWYC dates:

- *On the Far End*: Tuesday, March 28 at 7:30pm; Saturday, April 2 at 2:00pm
 - *Jennifer Who is Leaving*: Thursday, March 30 at 7:30pm; Saturday, April 1 at 2:00pm
- **Blue Star Theatre Program**: Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets.
 - **2-For-1 Tuesday**: For all Tuesday performances of *On the Far End* and *Jennifer, Who Is Leaving*, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (9240.644.1100) with promo code TWOFORONE beginning one week before the first performance of each show. Discounts may not be combined. Not valid on previously purchased tickets.
 - **Group Sales**: Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

ROUND HOUSE THEATRE HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

As of February 2023, Round House Theatre no longer requires that audience members wear masks for most performances in our theatre. However, masks are required for certain performances and for events in other Round House spaces, including our Event Room.

We continue to strongly recommend masks as the best way for individuals to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other seasonal viruses, and we ask our audience members to respect the choices of others.

Round House will offer a limited number of mask-required performances of *On the Far End* and *Jennifer Who Is Leaving* for audience members who may prefer a fully masked environment.

- *On the Far End*: Masks are required for performances on Apr 2, 7, 15, 22, 29, May 3.
- *Jennifer Who Is Leaving*: Masks are required for performances on Apr 1, 8, 12, 22, 29, May 6.
- Masks are required for ALL patrons attending the free developmental play readings, which are held in our smaller Event Room.

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, DC area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals for more than 40,000 patrons each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 213 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 37, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students ages 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth.

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