



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2016

Antony and Cleopatra

Just added to the ORIGINKC NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Co-production with UMKC Theatre

May 5 through May 14, 2017 at Spencer Theatre

Kansas City, MO (Nov. 28, 2016) – Kansas City Repertory Theatre continues its 2016-17 season with an exciting addition to the ORIGINKC NEW WORKS FESTIVAL in the spring of 2017. Playwright Christopher Chen breathes new life into the classic tragedy by William Shakespeare as commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s Play On! program in which playwrights translate the bard into contemporary English. KC Rep and UMKC’s department of theatre team up to support a developmental production of this new play.

Chen, known for his incisive look at global politics and his deeply imaginative theatrical approach to the complex interior lives of his characters, will render a powerful new look at the infamous star-crossed lovers who once ruled Rome and Ancient Egypt. Through Chen’s nuanced, muscular language, this translation of *Antony and Cleopatra* will interpret the idea of empire-building through a contemporary lens, and reframe the tale to feature Cleopatra as the powerhouse heroine who drives the play. Although this harrowing love affair has been told for centuries, Christopher Chen's translation will bring us a production that is chillingly resonant and alive.

Winner of the Barrymore Award for Outstanding Play and the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award at the Vineyard Theatre, Chen’s work has been hailed as “slyly metatheatrical, blissfully funny, [and] whiplash-smart,” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

“I’m overjoyed to feature Christopher Chen’s searing voice in our OriginKC festival alongside Christina Anderson and Larissa FastHorse,” says Director of New Works Marissa Wolf. “Delving into the breathtaking landscape of this new translation of *Antony and Cleopatra* with the talented group of UMKC MFA students will be an exciting collaborative opportunity.”

Special thanks to our sponsor, Copaken Family Fund.

Performances begin Friday, May 5, 2017 and run through Sunday, May 14 at Spencer Theatre. *Appropriate for ages 12+*. Tickets may be purchased at <http://kcrep.org/show/antony-cleopatra> or by calling 816-235-2700. For group ticket sales, please call 816-235-6122. Press Night: Opening night is Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 pm.

Social and Digital Media: Receive daily updates by 'Liking' KCRep's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KCREP and follow KC Rep on Twitter at @KCRep or on YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/kansascityrep>.

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Please direct all media inquiries to: Tammy Cunningham tc@tlcmarketingconsultants.com
For further information, please visit our website at www.kcrep.org.
For Tickets: 816.235.2700 or www.kcrep.org.

2016-2017 Season Continues:

A Christmas Carol

Written by Charles Dickens
Adapted for the stage by Barbara Field
Directed by Jerry Genochio
Spencer Theatre
November 18-December 24, 2016

The Santaland Diaries

Written by David Sedaris
Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello
Directed by Eric Rosen
Copaken Stage
December 8-24, 2016

Side by Side by Sondheim

Featuring the lyrics and music of Stephen Sondheim
Directed by Eric Rosen
Spencer Theatre
January 27-February 19, 2017

Constellations

Kansas City premiere
Written by Nick Payne
Directed by Eric Rosen
Copaken Stage
March 3-April 2, 2017

A Raisin in the Sun

Written by Lorraine Hansberry
Co-directed by Chip Miller and Marissa Wolf
Spencer Theatre
March 24-April 16, 2017

OriginKC New Works Festival

KC Rep's 2017 OriginKC New Works Festival features two world premieres produced in rotating repertory – two unique shows performed on one stage – and a developmental co-production with UMKC Theatre.

What Would Crazy Horse Do?

Written by Larissa FastHorse
Director TBD
rotating repertory on Copaken Stage
April 28-May 28, 2017

Man in Love

Written by Christina Anderson
Directed by Marissa Wolf
rotating repertory on Copaken Stage
April 28-May 28, 2017

Antony and Cleopatra

A developmental co-production with UMKC Theatre
Written by William Shakespeare
Translated by Christopher Chen
Commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Play On! program
Spencer Theatre
May 5-14, 2017