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“A bracingly topical portrait of American dreams deferred” —*The New York Times*

“Intensely felt. . . moral, passionate and richly articulated.” — *Chicago Tribune*

## AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR LYNN NOTTAGE’S PULITZER PRIZE–WINNING DRAMA, *SWEAT*

Directed by Loretta Greco, *Sweat* is a timely tale that delves into the grit, drive, and resilience of our conflicted American dreams

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater  
September 26–October 21, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO (August 9, 2018)— **American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** announced today casting for Lynn Nottage’s 2017 Pulitzer Prize–winning drama, *Sweat*, performing at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco) **September 26–October 21, 2018**. In Reading, Pennsylvania—the blue-collar heart of America’s steel industry—a tight-knit group of factory workers has gathered in the local bar for generations to share laughs, hopes, and cold beers. But as the country heads into a new millennium, recession looms, and a union lock-out turns assembly line into picket line, one event will send shockwaves through these lifelong friends, pitting them against each other in the struggle to survive. Inspired by the stories of Rust Belt workers, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage (*Ruined*) unites heart and humor and “goes where few playwrights have dared to go” (*Variety*) to forge a searing drama of the grit, drive, and resilience of our conflicted American dreams. Press night for *Sweat* will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. Single tickets (ranging from \$15–\$110) are now available at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415-749-2228** or online at [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org). *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“Told through the lens of a tight-knit group of family and friends in an embattled union town, *Sweat* is a deeply personal look at what happens when the American Dream leaves people behind,” says **MacKinnon**. “Like *Death of a Salesman*, this timely, Pulitzer Prize–winning drama is destined to become a classic. I look forward to starting my first season as artistic director with this bold, complicated, full-of-empathy story of our difficult times.”

Under the direction of **Loretta Greco** (artistic director at San Francisco's Magic Theatre), *Sweat* features (in alphabetical order): **Lise Bruneau** (*Angels in America* at A.C.T.; *The Cherry Orchard* at Roundabout Theatre Company); as Tracey, **David Darrow** (*The Royal Family* at the Guthrie Theater; *Ragtime* at Asolo Repertory Theater) as Jason, **Rod Gnapp** (*The Realistic Joneses* at A.C.T.; *Seared* at SF Playhouse) as Stan, **Kadeem Ali Harris** (A.C.T. M.F.A. graduate; *A Christmas Carol* at A.C.T.); as Chris, **Sarah Nina Hayon** (*Water by the Spoonful* at the Old Globe Theatre; *Life is a Dream* at California Shakespeare Theater) as Jessie, **Chike Johnson** (*A Time To Kill* on Broadway; *Wit* at Manhattan Theatre Club) as Brucie, **Jed Parsario** (*Dogeaters* at Magic Theatre; *The Oldest Boy* at Marin Theatre Company) as Oscar, **Tonye Patano** (*Skeleton Crew* at the Old Globe Theatre; *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* at the Public Theater) as Cynthia, and **Adrian Roberts** (*Ruined* at La Jolla Playhouse; *Clybourne Park* at Center REpertory Company) as Evan.

The creative team for *Sweat* includes **Andrew Boyce** (Scenic Designer), **Ulises Alcalá** (Costume Designer), **Allen Lee Hughes** (Lighting Designer), **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer), and **Hana Kim** (Video Designer).

In connection with *Sweat*, A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while having an entire night out at the theater. Visit [act-sf.org/interact](http://act-sf.org/interact) to learn more about subscribing to these events throughout the season:

- **Bike to the Theater Night:**  
*Wednesday, September 26, 7 p.m.*  
Providing a greener alternative for theater transportation, A.C.T. and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition offer free valet bike parking, as well as a special discount on tickets, for this select performance.
- **Prologue:**  
*Tuesday, October 2, 5:30 p.m.*  
Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the director and artistic staff.
- **Theater on the Couch:**  
*Friday, October 5, following the 8 p.m. performance*  
This exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.
- **Audience Exchanges:**  
*Tuesday, October 9, 7 p.m. | Sunday, October 14, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, October 17, 2 p.m.*  
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.
- **OUT with A.C.T.:**  
*Wednesday, October 10, following the 8 p.m. performance*  
The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after-party.

- **Wente Vineyards Wine Series:**  
*Tuesday, October 16, 7 p.m.*  
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area’s hottest local winery.
- **PlayTime:**  
*Saturday, October 20, 12:45 p.m.*  
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with the artists who make it happen at this interactive theater workshop.

A.C.T.’s production of *Sweat* is made possible by executive producers **Priscilla and Keith Geeslin**; producers **Marcia and Jim Levy**; **The Marymor Family Fund**; and associate producers **Gayle and Steve Brugler**; **Daniel E. Cohn and Lynn Brinton**; and **Betty Hoener**.

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its 2018–19 season presenters **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson**; **Priscilla and Keith Geeslin**; **James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen**; **Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston**, **The Shenson Foundation**; **Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock**; **Robina Riccitiello**; **Jeff and Laurie Ubben**; and **Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2018–19 company sponsors **Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund**; **Frannie Fleishhacker**; **Kevin and Celeste Ford**; **Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty**; **Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson**; **Burt and Deedee McMurtry**; **Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis**; **Patti and Rusty Rueff**; **Mary and Steven Swig**; **Aaron Vermut and Adriana López Vermut**; **Jack and Susy Wadsworth**; and **Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy**.

A.C.T.’s 2018–19 season continues with **Jaclyn Backhaus’s** ingenious and provocative telling of 19th-century American explorers, ***Men on Boats (October 17–December 16, 2018)***, followed by the return of the Bay Area’s favorite holiday tradition, ***A Christmas Carol (December 6–29, 2018)***. Ringing in 2019, A.C.T. will present **Edward Albee’s** wildly imaginative and satirical Pulitzer Prize–winning comedy, ***Seascape (January 23–February 17, 2019)***. Next, A.C.T. will present **Mfoniso Udofia’s** aching poignant drama ***Her Portmanteau (February 13–April 14, 2019)***. In spring 2019, A.C.T. will present **Lauren Yee’s** exploration of cultural identity, global politics, and basketball, ***The Great Leap (March 6–31, 2019)***, followed by **Kate Hamill’s** rollicking new stage adaptation of **William Thackeray’s** classic novel, ***Vanity Fair (April 17–May 12, 2019)***. Closing out the 2018–19 season, A.C.T. will present **Eugène Ionesco’s** “seminal absurdist satire” (*Los Angeles Times*) ***Rhinoceros (May 29–June 23, 2019)***—translated by **Derek Prouse** and directed by two-time Tony Award winner **Frank Galati**.

## **FACT SHEET FOR SWEAT**

### **WHAT:**

In Reading, Pennsylvania—the blue-collar heart of America’s steel industry—a tight-knit group of factory workers has gathered in the local bar for generations to share laughs, hopes, and cold beers. But as the country heads into a new millennium, recession looms, and a union lock-out turns assembly line into picket line, one event will send shockwaves through lifelong friends, pitting them against each other in the struggle to survive. Inspired by the stories of Rust Belt workers, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage (*Ruined*) unites heart and humor and “goes where few playwrights have dared to go” (*Variety*) to forge a searing drama of the grit, drive, and resilience of our conflicted American dreams.

### **WHO:**

by **Lynn Nottage**  
Directed by **Loretta Greco**

### **CAST:**

**Lise Bruneau** as Tracey, **David Darrow** as Jason, **Rod Gnapp** as Stan, **Kadeem Ali Harris** as Chris, **Sarah Nina Hayon** as Jessie, **Chike Johnson** as Brucie, **Jed Parsario** as Oscar, **Tonye Patano** as Cynthia, and **Adrian Roberts** as Evan

### **CREATIVE TEAM:**

**Andrew Boyce** (Scenic Designer), **Ulises Alcala** (Costume Designer), **Allen Lee Hughes** (Lighting Designer), **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer), and **Hana Kim** (Video Designer)

### **WHERE:**

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)

### **WHEN:**

**September 26–October 21, 2018**  
Press Night: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

Tuesdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.  
Sundays at 2 p.m.

### **INTERACT EVENTS:**

Bike to the Theater Night: **Wednesday, September 26, 7 p.m.**  
Prologue: **Tuesday, October 2, 5:30 p.m.**  
Theater on the Couch: **Friday, October 5, following the 8 p.m. performance**  
Audience Exchanges: **Tuesday, October 9, 7 p.m. | Sunday, October 14, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, October 17, 2 p.m.**  
OUT with A.C.T.: **Wednesday, October 10, following the 8 p.m. performance**  
Wine Series: **Tuesday, October 16, 7 p.m.**  
PlayTime: **Saturday, October 20, 12:45 p.m.**

### **TICKETS:**

\$15–\$110  
*Ticket prices are subject to change without notice*

### **TIX & INFO:**

415.749.2228 | [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

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