

50
YEARS

A.C.T.
AMERICAN
CONSERVATORY
THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak, Charles Zukow Associates | 415.296.0677 | kevink@charleszukow.com

Press photos and kits: act-sf.org/press

“Terrific . . . hilarious . . . outlandish! Beautifully written and leavened with humor”
The Hollywood Reporter

“Hip, high-wire theatricality . . . sultry sexiness . . . quirky playfulness”
The Seattle Times

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER TO PRESENT QUI NGUYEN’S IRREVERENT ROAD-TRIP COMEDY, *VIETGONE*

A hit off Broadway and at Oregon Shakespeare Festival,
Vietgone is a modern twist on the classic story of boy meets girl

A.C.T.’s Strand Theater
February 21–April 22, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO (December 18, 2017)—**American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) continues its 2017–18 season with **Qui Nguyen’s** critically acclaimed play, ***Vietgone* (February 21–April 22, 2018)**. Hailed as a “raucous, immensely moving comedy” by the *New York Times*, *Vietgone* is a modern twist on the classic story of boy meets girl. In this irreverent new comedy, three young Vietnamese immigrants leave a war-torn country for an eye-opening road trip across the bewildering and foreign landscape of 1970s America. A vibrant mash-up of audacious language, pop-culture references, and kick-ass romance, *Vietgone* is an action-packed road trip that shifts gears instantaneously from hilarity to heart-wrenching drama. Following sold-out houses at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and New York’s Manhattan Theatre Club, this sexy, sassy, freewheeling ride, backed by original hip-hop and Motown rhythms, will roll into The Strand in an all-new production this February. [Press nights for *Vietgone* will be held on Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9, 2018.](#) **Single tickets** (ranging from \$25–\$90) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at act-sf.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“*Vietgone* is a humorous and heartwarming play that reexamines the Vietnam War and tracks the refugee experience in an entirely new way through a mash-up of uniquely unconventional styles—from hip-hop and comedy to martial arts and video,” says A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff**. “We are delighted to introduce San Francisco Bay Area audiences to playwright Qui Nguyen and director Jaime Castañeda and look forward to partnering with the Vietnamese community on a number of cultural events throughout the engagement.”

Under the direction of **Jaime Castañeda** (Associate Artistic Director at La Jolla Playhouse), *Vietgone* features (in alphabetical order) **Jenelle Chu, Stephen Hu, Cindy Im, James Seol, and Jomar Tagatac**.

The creative team for *Vietgone* includes **Brian Sidney Bembridge** (Scenic Designer), **Jessie Amoroso** (Costume Designer), **Wen-Ling Liao** (Lighting Designer), **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer), **Chris Lundahl** (Projection Designer), **Shammy Dee** (Original Music), and **Natalia Duong** (Assistant Director).

In connection with *Vietgone*, 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 to learn more about subscribing to these events throughout the season.

- **Bike to the Theater Night:**
Wednesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.
Providing a greener alternative to 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 these select performances.
- **Tech Night:**
Thursday, February 22, 5:30 p.m.
Join us at a neighborhood bar for a happy hour with hors d’oeuvres, drinks, and mingling with industry contacts and theatergoers before walking over to A.C.T.’s Geary Theater for the 8 p.m. performance.
- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, March 6, 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.
- **Community Day:**
Saturday, March 11, 4 p.m.
Join us for a celebration of Vietnamese food, music, and culture.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m. | Wednesday, March 28, 2 p.m. | Sunday, April 1, 2 p.m.
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.
- **OUT with A.C.T.:**
Wednesday, March 14, following the 7:30 p.m. performance
The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after-party.

- **Theater on the Couch:**
Friday, March 16, following the 7:30 p.m. performance
This exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.
- **Wente Vineyards Wine Series:**
Tuesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area's hottest local winery.
- **PlayTime:**
Saturday, April 14, 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 *Vietgone* is made possible by executive producers **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson** and **Nola Yee**; producers **Carlotta and Robert Dathe** and **Anne and Michelle Shonk**; and associate producers **Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Geist, Helen M. Marcus, and Rick and Anne Riley**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2017–18 season presenters **Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe; Mary and Steven L. Swig; Jeffrey W. and Laurie Ubben**; season partner **PG&E**; lead education partner **Wells Fargo**; Season Airline Sponsor **United Airlines**; and Official Hotel Sponsor **Hotel G**.

Up next, A.C.T. will present Simon Stephens's hit play *Heisenberg (March 14–April 8, 2018)*. This will be followed by *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3) (April 25–May 20, 2018)*, Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks's explosively powerful and lyrical new play set against the backdrop of the Civil War. Closing out the 2017–18 season, A.C.T. will present the world-premiere musical *A Walk on the Moon (June 5–July 1, 2018)*, based on the 1999 movie of the same name.

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FACT SHEET FOR VIETGONE

WHAT:

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WHO:

Written by Qui Nguyen

Directed by Jaime Castañeda

CAST (in alphabetical order):

Jenelle Chu, Stephen Hu, Cindy Im, James Seol, and Jomar Tagatac

CREATIVE TEAM:

Brian Bembridge (Scenic Designer), **Jessie Amoroso** (Costume Designer), **Wen-Ling Liao** (Lighting Designer), **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer), **Chris Lundahl** (Projection Designer), **Shammy Dee** (Original Music), and **Natalia Duong** (Assistant Director).

WHERE:

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco)

WHEN:

February 21–April 22, 2018

Press Nights: Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9, 2018

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

InterACT Events

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Tech Night: February 22 (5:30 p.m.)

KDFC Prologue: March 6 (5:30 p.m.)

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Community Day: March 17 (4 p.m.)

Wente Vineyards Wine Series: March 27 (6:30 p.m.)

PlayTime: April 14 (12:45 p.m.)

TICKETS:

\$25–\$90

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PHOTOS:

www.act-sf.org/press

TIX & INFO:

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