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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR MARÍA IRENE FORNÉS'S *FEFU AND HER FRIENDS*

Hailed as game-changing, provocative, and genius,
Fefu and Her Friends will feature an all-local cast of actors

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater
March 24–May 1, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO (February 9, 2022)—Today, **American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** and **Executive Director Jennifer Bielstein** announced the full cast and creative team for nine-time Obie Award-winning Cuban American playwright **María Irene Fornés's *Fefu and Her Friends***. Hailed as game-changing, provocative, and genius, *Fefu and Her Friends* is one of the most influential—and invisible—plays of the 20th century. An innovation of immersive theater, Fornés's rapturous comedy-drama allows the audience to be a fly on many walls in this unconventional tale of eight women gathering at a New England country home in 1935.

Fefu and Her Friends performs at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco) **March 24–May 1, 2022**. Press nights will be held on Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7. Single tickets (ranging from \$25–\$110) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at 415-749-2228 or online at act-sf.org/fefu. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

Utilizing the multi-storied, multi-roomed Strand Theater as non-traditional theater space, audiences will be broken up into four groups that independently tour Fefu's home. Stories and histories come into play as you happen across conversations as Fefu's bohemian and raucous cohorts gossip, question, flirt, provoke, and ultimately reveal (or hide?) the universal understandings between women. As muscular and searing in its deliberate use of language as Albee and Miller at their best; as acidic as Clare Boothe Luce's iconic play *The*

Women; and patron saint to blockbuster hits like *Sleep No More*—Fornés's *Fefu and Her Friends* is A.C.T.'s fifth women-led production in three seasons, and an invitation to a theatrical experience like none other.

Says **MacKinnon**: “Two years after the pre-mature closing of Branden Jacob Jenkins’s *Gloria*, I am thrilled to be working with this all-star acting company of eight Bay Area women, as we throw open the doors and repurpose the entire Strand Theater into Fefu’s home, all toward a deep and fun exploration of this modern classic play by *La Maestra* Maria Irene Fornés.”

Directed by **MacKinnon**, *Fefu and Her Friends* features an all-local cast of actors, including **Catherine Castellanos, Cindy Goldfield, Marga Gomez, Jennifer Ikeda, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong, Sarita Ocón, Lisa Anne Porter, and Stacy Ross.**

The creative team for *Fefu and Her Friends* includes **Tanya Orellana** (Scenic Designer), **Sarita Fellows** (Costume Designer), **Russell Champa** (Lighting Designer), and **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer).

In connection with *Fefu and Her Friends*, 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:

- **Drinks & Drama Friday:**
Friday, March 25, 6 p.m.
Join us for a party before the show with a local DJ, drink specials, and more!
- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, April 5, 5 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.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m. | Sunday, April 24, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, April 27, 2 p.m.
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.
- **Pride Night:**
Wednesday, April 13, before and following the 7:30 p.m. performance
A revamped pre- and postshow party celebrating LGBTQ+ pride within the theater community
- **Wine Night:**
Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area’s hottest local wineries.
- **Open Captions:**
Saturday, April 23, 2 p.m.
A.C.T. will present an open-captioned performance. Seats are available at a variety of price points.
- **PlayTime:**
Saturday, April 30, 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 *Fefu and Her Friends* is made possible by Executive Producers: **Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson; Donald and Toni Ratner Miller; Aaron Vermut and Adriana López Vermut; Jay Yamada;** Producers: **Anonymous; Anne and Michelle Shonk; Beverly and Loring Wyllie;** With Additional Support provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

A.C.T.'s Production of *Fefu and Her Friends* is dedicated in memory of former A.C.T. Trustee **Olympia Dukakis.**

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its Season Presenters **Barbara Bass Bakar; Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Kathleen Donohue and David Sze; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Michael P. N. A. Hormel** in loving memory of **James C. Hormel; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck;** and Company Sponsors **Linda Jo Fitz; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Fred M. Levin in honor of Nancy Livingston Levin, The Shenson Foundation; The Marymor Family Fund; Deedee McMurtry; Gerine Ongkeko; David and Carla Riemer; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Abby and Gene Schnair.** Additional support provided by **San Francisco Grants for the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, and Theatre Forward.**

A.C.T. has adopted a set of safety protocols to protect audiences, performers, staff members, and volunteers during live, indoor performances in accordance with applicable health orders and guidelines. These protocols will be continually updated to reflect local and state guidelines.

- All ticket holders entering the theater will be required to show proof of full vaccination—including booster shots for all that are eligible—along with a valid photo ID. A physical vaccination card, picture of your vaccination card, or digital vaccination record will suffice. California residents may obtain a digital vaccination card at [cdph.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov). A.C.T. will not store this data; the patron is only required to present the documentation for inspection.
- Proof of vaccination must indicate that it has been at least 14 days since the patron's last vaccination dose (two doses are required for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, one for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine). Proof of booster shot must indicate that it has been at least 7 days since the patron received a booster shot.
- All ticket holders are required to wear face masks inside the venue at all times except when eating and drinking in designated areas.

For more information about A.C.T.'s audience safety policies, visit act-sf.org/covid19.

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