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**AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER TO PRESENT THE WORLD  
PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF OBIE AWARD–WINNING BAY AREA  
PLAYWRIGHT CHRISTOPHER CHEN’S VIRTUAL PLAY,  
*COMMUNION***

**Commissioned by A.C.T. and directed by Tony Award winner and A.C.T. Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon, this live, interactive theatrical event will feature Bay Area favorite Stacy Ross**

**May 28–June 27, 2021**

**\*\*\* Tickets On Sale Beginning Tuesday, May 4 \*\*\***

SAN FRANCISCO (May 4, 2021)— **Tony Award winner and American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** and **Executive Director Jennifer Bielstein** announced today the world premiere production of Obie Award–winning Bay Area playwright **Christopher Chen**’s virtual play, *Communion*. This thrilling interactive theatrical event will feature Bay Area favorite **Stacy Ross** in her return to A.C.T. *Communion* will perform live **May 28–June 27, 2021** to a limited number of attendees at each performance. Tickets (\$41–\$55) will be available beginning Tuesday, May 4 by calling 415-749-2228 or visiting [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org).

Playwright Christopher Chen is a master of psychological intrigue. His plays invite an audience to experience a world of unknown. Actor Stacy Ross has been on stages throughout the Bay Area, appearing as everyone from Hedda Gabler to Leni Riefenstahl. You’ve most likely spent many hours watching Stacy, experiencing her emotions, and reveling in her talent; you may think you know her—but do you? A.C.T. invites you to connect through Zoom with a celebrated actor looking to commune with a private audience. Christopher, Stacy, and A.C.T. Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon have come together to create a live, world-premiere experience written just for A.C.T. that is part docudrama, part mystery, part confessional, and totally theatrical. By performance’s end you may still be unsure who Stacy Ross *really* is—but through the process of communing, she’ll most definitely know more about you.

“A.C.T. is thrilled to commission San Francisco playwright Chris Chen and fast track this live virtual event, starring Stacy Ross, into people’s homes,” said **MacKinnon**. “We’re hopefully coming through COVID times a little vulnerable and shy, but also eager to engage with each other. Here’s a platform—theatrical, twisty, and open-hearted. Let’s commune!”

Adds **Chen**: “I’m incredibly grateful to be able to collaborate with Stacy Ross, Pam MacKinnon, and A.C.T.’s Director of Dramaturgy and New Works Joy Meads on this real-time reaction to this singular moment in time marked by continued hardship and isolation, but also tentative hope.”

Under the direction of Pam MacKinnon, the creative team for *Communion* includes **Hana S. Kim** (Production Designer), **Steve Cuiffo** (Creative Consultant), and **Joy Meads** (Dramaturg).

*Communion* is made possible in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its Season Presenters **Mrs. Barbara Bakar; Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Bill Draper; Linda Jo Fitz; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Kirke and Nancy Hasson; James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen-Hormel; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Mary and Steven Swig; Jay Yamada; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck;** and Company Sponsors **Mr. Rodney Ferguson and Ms. Kathleen Egan; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Fred M. Levin in honor of Nancy Livingston Levin, The Shenson Foundation; John Little and Heather Stallings Little; The Marymor Family Fund; Burt\*\* and Deedee McMurtry; Gerine Ongkeko; David and Carla Riemer; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Abby and Gene Schnair; Aaron Vermut and Adriana Lopez Vermut; Nola Yee.** Additional support provided by **The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and San Francisco Grants for the Arts.**

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