

For immediate release

**JON ROBIN BAITZ'S "I'LL BE SEEIN' YA"
GETS WORLD PREMIERE ON CTG'S DIGITAL STAGE
MARCH 31 THROUGH MAY 1**

**The Cast Features Sussan Deyhim,
Justin Kirk, Christine Lahti and Christopher Larkin**

Tony nominee and two-time Pulitzer finalist Jon Robin Baitz's "**I'll Be Seein' Ya**" will have its world premiere March 31 on CTG's Digital Stage. Directed by the Artistic Director/Producer of the acclaimed Ojai Playwrights Conference (OPC), Robert Egan, "**I'll Be Seein' Ya**" will be available on demand through May 1 at CTGLA.org/IIIBeSeeinYa. The streaming production is presented as part of Center Theatre Group's 53rd season at the Mark Taper Forum and is available to purchase for \$25 for the general public.

"**I'll Be Seein' Ya**" was co-commissioned by Center Theatre Group and Second Stage Theatre and developed in OPC's Foundry Project. A virtual opening night is set for Thursday, March 31 at 6 pm (Pacific) and, following the premiere at 7:30 pm (Pacific) a creative conversation will take place featuring **Robert Egan** and **Jon Robin Baitz**, moderated by **Thomas Schlamme**. The cast of "**I'll Be Seein' Ya**" features **Sussan Deyhim, Justin Kirk, Christine Lahti** and **Christopher Larkin**.

In "**I'll Be Seein' Ya**," Allie Murchow (**Christine Lahti**) dreams of a better yesterday and bearable tomorrow in a rapidly changing urban America. It's the summer of 2020 in Los Angeles, and this anxious, aging recluse is holed up in her meager apartment with little more than a million stories of her life in Hollywood's yesteryear. But even the best makeup can't cover up what's really going on the outside and the inside of this mercurial woman. Her neighbor Dorsa Urshulami (**Sussan Deyhim**) is worried about her well-being along with the pharmacist Spencer Still (**Christopher Larkin**). Her brother, Japhy Murchow (**Justin Kirk**), just desires peace and quiet. Fantasies quickly crash into reality in this deeply human exploration of empathy, guilt, responsibility and the kindness of strangers and the impossibility of hiding from our ever-changing world.

"**I'll Be Seein' Ya**" is the eighth play by Jon Robin Baitz to be presented by Center Theatre Group and the fourth to receive its world premiere with CTG. Past productions at the Taper include "Dutch Landscape" (world premiere), "The Substance of Fire," "Three Hotels," "Ten Unknowns" and "Other Desert Cities." "The Paris Letter" and "Vicuña" received their world premieres at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

The creative team for "**I'll Be Seein' Ya**" includes **Myung Hee Cho** and **Yuki Izumihara** (scenic designers), **Ruoxuan Li** (costume designer), **Pablo Santiago** (lighting designer), **Adam Phalen** (sound designer), **Rick Baitz** (composer), **Pothmolita Duo** (make-

up designer), **Robert Egan** (editing), **Erik Johnson** (editing), **Avy Kaufman**, CSA (casting), **Scotty Anderson** (casting), **Thomas Schlamme** (consulting producer) and **Cinevative** (filming). The associate artistic director on “I’ll Be Seein’ Ya” is **Kelley Kirkpatrick**, the stage manager is **Maggie Swing** and assistant stage manager is **Julia Zayas- Meléndez**.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

Bank of America is Center Theatre Group’s 2021 – 2022 Ahmanson and Digital Stage Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For more than 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as world-class productions. Bank of America is also an instrumental supporter in accelerating Center Theatre Group’s commitment to becoming an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization.

American Express is the official credit card for Center Theatre Group and the presenting sponsor of the Digital Stage.

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March 22, 2022

BIOS:

Sussan Deyhim (*Dorsa Urshulami*) is a composer, vocalist and performance artist. In 1980 she moved to New York embarking on a multifaceted career encompassing music, theatre, dance, media and film. Her work has been presented at The Carnegie Hall, BAM, Royce Hall, Albert Hall, The Wallis and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Sussan’s wide-ranging collaborations include Peter Gabriel, U2, Bobby McFerrin, Richard Horowitz, Eve Ensler and Deepak Chopra. She can be heard on the soundtracks of the Oscar-winning “Argo,” “The Kite Runner” and “Last Temptation of Christ.” Her acclaimed stage production “The House is Black Media Project”, directed by Robert Egan was presented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Royce Hall and The Wallis. She is currently starring in “NOW,” a film by Godfrey Reggio (*Koyaanisqatsi*), as Mother Muse and is composing a vocal score in collaboration with Philip Glass in NYC.

Justin Kirk (*Japhy Murchow*) is making his Center Theatre Group debut. Also with Jon Robin Baitz: “Other Desert Cities” (Broadway), “Ten Unknowns” (Lincoln Center). Theatre: “Evanston Salt Costs Climbing” (New Neighborhood), “These Paper Bullets” (Geffen,

Atlantic), “The Invisible Hand” (NYTW), “The Understudy” (Roundabout), “Love! Valour! Compassion!” (MTC, Broadway), “Old Wicked Songs” (Geffen, Promenade) and “Any Given Day” (Broadway). TV/Film: “Perry Mason,” “Succession,” “Kidding,” “Vice,” “Molly’s Game,” “Hollywood Fringe,” “Ghostbusters,” “Weeds,” “APB,” “Manhattan,” “Vamps,” “You’re The Worst,” “Animal Practice,” “Angels in America” and “Jack & Jill.”

Christine Lahti (*Allie Murchow*) stars as Sheryl on “Evil” on Paramount+. She has enjoyed an enviable career for more than 40 years. She earned her first Oscar nomination for 1985’s “Swing Shift,” then took the statue home 10 years later as a first-time director for her short film “Lieberman in Love.” After multiple nominations, Lahti won both an Emmy Award and her second Golden Globe Award in 1998 for her lead role in the series “Chicago Hope,” on CBS. Her additional television credits include a starring role in the critically acclaimed series “Jack & Bobby,” for which she received both SAG and Golden Globe Award nominations, recurring roles on “The Good Fight,” “The Good Wife,” “Hawaii Five-0,” “The Blacklist” and “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.” She starred in numerous television movies, including “Amerika” (Emmy and Golden Globe nomination), “Out of the Ashes,” “The Pilot’s Wife,” “Open House” and “The Book of Ruth,” among others. Lahti’s film credits include the independent films “Becks,” “The Steps” and “Hateship Loveship,” “Running on Empty,” “And Justice for All,” “Leaving Normal,” “The Doctor,” “Housekeeping” and “Whose Life Is It Anyway?” On Broadway, she starred alongside Morgan Freeman in “8.” Additional stage credits include “God of Carnage,” “The Heidi Chronicles” and “Present Laughter.” Off-Broadway she appeared as Gloria Steinem in “Gloria: A Life,” and PBS’ Great Performances presented the television and streaming premiere in June 2020 including “Fucking A” and “Little Murders,” for which she won the Obie Award. Her theatrical endeavors have been equally successful in Los Angeles, including a Drama Desk-nominated role for “Three Hotels,” as well as “Love, Loss, and What I Wore” and “Third.” Also, she appeared in “City of Conversation” and “Summer and Smoke. Lahti is the author of a book published by Harper Collins titled “True Stories from an Unreliable Eyewitness - A Feminist Coming of Age,” a collection of personal essays and is working on adapting it into a one-woman show.

Christopher Larkin (*Spencer Still*) would like to thank Robbie for creating this journey and then inviting him to take part. Bob for captaining the ship and guiding it home. Christine, Justin and Sussan for the daily MasterClass. Maggie and Julia for holding the line. The entire crew for making this play / film hybrid a reality. The staff at CTG for an incredible debut. His family and friends for keeping him sane. And Carla for keeping him inspired.

Jon Robin Baitz (*Playwright*) is an American playwright born in Los Angeles in 1961, raised there, in Brazil and South Africa. Plays include “The Film Society,” “Mizlansky Zilinsky,” “The Substance of Fire,” “A Fair Country,” “Three Hotels,” “Ten Unknowns,” “The Paris Letter,” “Other Desert Cities” and “Vicuña.” For TV he created the ABC drama “Brothers & Sisters,” and for NBC, the limited series, “The Slap.” Other television includes episodes of “West Wing” and “Alias,” and Showtime’s “Fallen Angels.” Screenplays include “The Substance of Fire,” “People I Know” and “Stonewall.” He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist (“A Fair Country” and “Other Desert Cities”), as well as a Guggenheim and NEA

Fellow. He divides his time between the California desert and New York.

Robert Egan (*Director*) is an award-winning Producer, Director and Dramaturg. He was the Producing Artistic Director of the Mark Taper Forum for 20 seasons and the Founding Artistic Director of its internationally acclaimed New Work Festival where Pulitzer Prize winning plays “Angels in America” and “Kentucky Cycle” were developed. Egan is also the former Associate Artistic Director of the Seattle Repertory Theatre and the creator of its highly acclaimed new play development program, The Other Season. Presently, Egan is the Artistic Director/Producer of the prestigious Ojai Playwrights Conference (OPC) which develops new plays that speak to the burning social, political, cultural and ethical issues of our day. Plays developed at OPC have been produced on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in major regional theatres nationally and throughout the world. Egan has directed, developed and produced more than 1,000 new plays with writers such as Jon Robin Baitz, Sandra Tsing Loh, Stephen Adley Guirgis, Charlayne Woodard, Tony Kushner, Sussan Deyhim, David Hare, Bathsheba Doran, Tom Stoppard, Meow Meow, Anthony Minghella, Patrick Marber, Luis Alfaro, Sam Hunter and Christopher Hampton. His directing credits include Mark Taper Forum: “Arcadia,” “Aristocrats,” “Closer,” “Dealer’s Choice,” “Death and the Maiden,” “Hedda Gabler” (at the Doolittle), “Made in Bangkok,” “Measure for Measure,” “The Mystery of Love and Sex,” “Other Desert Cities,” “The Poison Tree,” “Richard II,” “Sansei,” “Skylight,” “Ten Unknowns” and “Widows;” Kirk Douglas Theatre: “Flight,” “Distant Shores,” “Uncle Ho to Uncle Sam,” “St. Jude,” “Vicuña;” Taper, Too: “Aunt Dan and Lemon,” “The Dream Coast,” “The Thrill” and “Weights.” He created and developed the first African New Play Festival in Zimbabwe with Danai Gurira. Robert is also the President and CEO of RHEgan Productions and EYE Street Media which conceives and produces live multimedia events for non-profit organizations and corporations. For television he has directed multiple episodes of “Frasier” and “Stark Raving Mad” among others. He has written, directed and edited numerous documentary films about social, political and educational issues.