



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 30, 2020

OFF-BROADWAY CAST OF “THE WHITE CHIP”, SEAN DANIELS’ CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PLAY ABOUT HIS UNUSUAL PATH TO SOBRIETY, WILL DO A LIVE ONLINE READING AS A BENEFIT

Performance Will Benefit The Voices Project and Arizona Theatre Company and is dedicated to Terrence McNally.

In line with Arizona Theatre Company’s (ATC) ongoing commitment to bringing diverse creative content to audiences online, the original Off-Broadway cast of ***The White Chip*** will perform a live reading of Artistic Director Sean Daniels’ play about his unusual path to sobriety as a fundraiser for The Voices Project, a grassroots recovery advocacy organization, and Arizona Theatre Company.

The benefit performance will be broadcast live at 5 p.m. (Pacific Time) / 8 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday, May 11 simultaneously on Arizona Theatre Company’s Facebook page (@ArizonaTheatreCompany) and [YouTube](#) channel.

The performance is free, but viewers are welcome to [donate](#) what they can. The performance will then be available for four days afterwards through ATC’s [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel. All donations will be divided equally between the two organizations.

A *New York Times* Critics’ Pick, ***The White Chip*** was last staged Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters in New York City, from Oct. 4 - 26, 2019. Tony Award-nominated director Sheryl Kaller, Tony Award-winning sound designer Leon Rothenberg and the original Off-Broadway cast (Joe Tapper, Genesis Oliver, Finnerty Steeves) will return for the reading.

The Off-Broadway production was co-produced with Tony Award-winning producers Tom Kirdahy (*Little Shop of Horrors, Hadestown*) and Hunter Arnold (*Little Shop of Horrors, Hadestown*).

The reading will be dedicated to five-time Tony Award-winning recipient, playwright and librettist Terrence McNally (*Ragtime, Kiss of the Spiderwoman, Love! Valour! Compassion!, Master Class*).

“It’s a challenging time for people in recovery, who used the same tools as theatre – gathering in a space with strangers to feel less alone – to stay healthy and connected,” said ATC Artistic Director and playwright Sean Daniels. “Now they simply can’t do the thing that has been a cornerstone to staying healthy, and in many cases, staying alive. So, as a theater that is a civic leader, and a cast that was blown away by the response of the theater community and the recovery community, we wanted to figure out how we can help.”

The New York Times wrote that *The White Chip* achieves “a delicate equilibrium between laugh-out-loud comedy and gasp-inducing, self-inflicted tragedy.” Reviewer Laura Collins-Hughes went on to say: “Plays save lives in all kinds of ways. I would bet that Sean Daniels’s addiction-and-recovery comedy “The White Chip” ... has, and will.”

A dry comedy about drying out, *The White Chip* follows Steven (Joe Tapper) on a wild theatrical journey to recovery. Steps away from his dream job running one of the hottest theaters in the country, Steven quickly spirals out of control from his place on top of the world to rock bottom. From first sip to first love, critical hit to critical care, he carves an unusual path to sobriety.

Genesis Oliver and Finnerty Steeves will both read multiple roles including Steven’s father and Steven’s mother.

Daniels said: “The Voices Project is helping change the way America thinks about recovery through the experiences of those who know its challenges and benefits better than anyone. I’m inspired by Ryan Hampton, who created this project, every day, and it’s an honor to play a small part in his mission to destigmatize addiction.”

For more information about the Arizona Theatre Company, visit www.arizonatheatre.org. For more information about The Voices Project, visit www.voicesriseup.org.

The White Chip Live Reading

The White Chip

- **Written** by Sean Daniels
- **Director:** Sheryl Kaller
- **Sound Design:** Leon Rothenberg
- **Technical Direction:** Ido Levran
- **Stage Manager:** Kristi Hess

- **Associate Director:** James Blaszkó
- **Featuring:** Joe Tapper, Genesis Oliver, and Finnerty Steeves
- **Performance:** Monday, May 11, 5 p.m. (Pacific Time) / 8 p.m. (Eastern Time)
- **Online Platforms:** Facebook (@ArizonaTheatreCompany); [YouTube](#)
- **To Make a Donation:** <https://donate.arizonatheatre.org/thewhitechip>

BIOGRAPHIES

Sean Daniels (Playwright):

Sean Daniels is a Director, Playwright and Artistic Director living in long term recovery. As a theatre artist, Sean has directed at theaters such as the Manhattan Theatre Club Off-Broadway, The Kennedy Center in Washington DC, to the West End in London. Sean has been named “one of the top fifteen up & coming artists in the U.S., whose work will be transforming America’s stages for decades to come” & “One Of 7 People Reshaping And Revitalizing The American Musical” by *American Theatre* magazine. His direction and shows have won “Best Play” and “Best Director” in New York (winning a Drama Desk Award), London (winning Best New Musical on the West End), Bay Area, Boston, Portland, Rochester and Atlanta. His play *The White Chip*, which is an autobiographical tale of his own recovery, was a *New York Times* Critics’ Pick. He is the Artistic Director of Arizona Theatre Company, the theatre where he fell in love with theatre when he was a young Arizonan.

His last drink was October 12, 2011.

Sheryl Kaller (Director) most recently directed *Bliss* the musical by Tyler Beattie and Emma Lively at Seattle 5th Avenue Theater, *The White Chip* by Sean Daniels at 59 E. 59 and *A Walk on the Moon* by Paul Scott Goodman and Pamela Grey at A.C.T. She directed Terrence McNally’s Tony Award-nominated play on Broadway, *Mothers and Sons* with Tyne Daly. Sheryl received a Tony Award nomination for Best Director for the Broadway production of *Next Fall* by Geoffrey Nauffts. Other projects include *Frozen* for Disney Cruise Lines, *Our Town* with Deaf West Theater and Pasadena Playhouse, *Sacred Valley* by Josh Radnor at NYSAF, *The White Chip* by Sean Daniels and *Choice* by Winnie Holzman. She also recently directed the world premieres of Billy Porter’s play *While I Yet Live* at Primary Stages, Nick Blaemire’s *A Little More Alive* (Barrington Stage and Kansas City Rep), Roundabout Theater Company’s Underground production of *Too Much Too Much Too Many*, by Meghan Kennedy, and the LCT3 production of *Mr. Joy*, by Daniel Beaty. She is currently in development on a new Josh Radnor project, and *Switched* by Jonatha Brooke and Geoffrey Nauffts, among others.

Genesis Oliver: Broadway: *Angels In America* (2018 Tony Award for Best Revival). Off-Broadway: *Empathitrax*, *How To Live On Earth* (Colt Coeur); *Primal Play* (New Georges). Regional: *One Night In Miami...* (Baltimore CS), *We Are Proud To Present...* (Playmaker’s Rep) & various others. TV: *LITTLE AMERICA*, *NOS4A2* Commercials: *KIA*, *AT&T*, *CITI BANK* & various others. National Theatre Conservatory (MFA) Insta: @go.genesis.go

Finnerty Steeves: Broadway: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*; Off-Broadway: *The White Chip*, *Dot* (Vineyard Theater), *Lost in Yonkers* (TACT, Drama Desk nominated production); *Marion Bridge* and *Almost, Maine*. Regional: *The Shape She Makes* (A.R.T., Elliot Norton Award for Best Actress), *Absurd Person Singular & Wonder of the World* (Barrington Stage), *Enchanted April* (Arizona Theatre Company), *Hedda Gabler* (A.C.T.), *The Norman Conquests* (Milwaukee Rep), *Lost in Yonkers* (Guthrie). TV: “Orange Is The New Black,” “The Blacklist,” “Person of Interest,” “Sneaky Pete,” “Bored to Death,” “The Big C,” “Louie,” and “House of Cards,”. Film: *Francis Ha*, *Morning Glory*, *Away We Go*, and *Bad Education*. Finnerty is also a screenwriter and has just completed her first feature film “before/during/after”.

Joe Tapper: *The White Chip* at 59E59. Broadway: *You Can’t Take It With You*. The Public Theater: *Socrates*, *Henry V*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Off-Broadway/regional: *Gym at Judson*, Esperance Theater Company, Cherry Lane Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., Berkshire Playwrights Lab, 59E59 Theaters, Mabou Mines/LaMama, Studio 42, Huntington Theatre Company, Pioneer Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. TV: “Chicago Med,” “Blue Bloods,”

“Masters of Sex,” “Odyssey,” “Brooklyn Taxi,” “Law & Order: SVU.” Training: Ithaca College BFA, Yale School of Drama MFA.

About Arizona Theatre Company:

Under new leadership, and now celebrating its 53rd Season, Arizona Theatre Company is truly “The State Theatre.” Our company boasts the largest subscriber base of any performing arts organization in Arizona, with more than 130,000 people each year attending performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix.

Each season of high-quality productions reflects the rich variety of world theatre – from classic to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works – audiences enjoy the rich emotional experience and joy that can only be captured through live theatre. ATC is the preeminent professional theatre in the state of Arizona. Under the direction of Artistic Director Sean Daniels, Managing Director Billy Russo, and Managing Director Designee, Geri Wright, ATC operates in two cities – unlike any other League of Resident Theaters (LORT) company in the country.

ATC shares the passion of the theatre through a wide array of outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives, and community events. With more than 800 Education & Engagement activities through the schools and summer programs, ATC focuses on teaching Arizona’s youth about the creative power of dramatic literature and how it can enrich their own lives in multiple ways.

ATC reaches far beyond the metropolitan areas of Tucson and Phoenix, enriching the theatre learning experience for current and future audiences.

About The Voices Project:

The Voices Project is a grassroots recovery advocacy organization that is changing the way America thinks about recovery, one voice at a time. End the silence, end addiction. Learn more and get involved.

Work Together. Recover Together. Better Together.

<https://voicesriseup.org/>

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