WATER BY THE SPOONFUL
A PLAY BY QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES

11.5-11.14 / 2020
tickets at theatredance.sfsu.edu
Water by the Spoonful
By Quiara Alegría Hudes
Directed by Rhonnie Washington

Water by the Spoonful was originally commissioned by Hartford Stage
Michael Wilson, Artistic Director | Michael Stotts, Managing Director
through the AETNA New Voices Fellowship Program

World Premiere Production Presented by Hartford Stage, October 28, 2011
Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director | Michael Stotts, Managing Director

Carole Rothman, Artistic Director

Water by the Spoonful is presented by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York
When Quiara Alegría Hudes won the Pulitzer Prize for *Water by the Spoonful*, it did not come as much of a surprise to the theatrical world. Her first play in the trilogy, * Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue* was a finalist for the Pulitzer and she had already written the book for Lin Manuel Miranda’s musical *In the Heights* (which also was a Pulitzer finalist in 2009 and won the Tony for Best Musical in 2008), so it was very clear that Hudes was a dramatic force to be reckoned with. However, there is something special about WBTS that makes this her pièce de résistance. In this, her second installment to the trilogy, Hudes brilliantly weaves her prose and imagery into a tale that questions the boundaries of both family and romantic love. However, there is something more in this work that truly makes it resonate in today’s pandemic-stricken world.

In the play, Odessa was told the only way to keep her children alive was patience and water by the spoonful. Such a seemingly simple request but with such enormous consequences for both Elliot and Odessa. It seems right now we are all trapped in that place of vulnerability—we are facing a pandemic of proportions never seen before by our generation. We are all vulnerable and scared, looking for someone to feed us those spoons of water. Hoping that we and our loved ones get through this unscathed. What Hudes shows us in this brilliant work is that no one makes it out unscathed. That isn’t how life works. There are casualties, and there is horror, and there are survivors, and there is joy. There are all of these things woven into each of our lives. The tragedies of wars, famines, drought, natural disasters are getting too numerous to remember anymore. The tragedy is seemingly everywhere, but I’m not sure that is the message Hudes wants us to walk away with.

*Water by the Spoonful* is not a play about tragedy. It is a play about resilience. A play about hope in the face of tragedy. A play about family. Hudes spins a tale so universal that it will ring true for decades to come. It’s resonation just reaches a little deeper today.

– Justus Vierra, Dramaturg
CAST
Elliot Ortiz – Connor Diaz
Yazmin Ortiz – Grace Romeu
Haikumom AKA Odessa Ortiz – Nicole Starr
Orangutan – Amanda Nguyen (Guest Artist)
Chutes&Ladders – Zeondrae RoShawn (Guest Artist)
Fountainhead AKA John – Jimi Wheeler
Professor Aman/A Ghost/Policeman – Colby Camero
Train Station VO – Prof. Yukihiro Goto

CREATIVE TEAM
Set Designer – Alan Huang
Costume Designer – Sharon Robinson
Lighting Designer – Camille Rassweiler
Sound Designers – Charlie Mejia
Props Designer – Libby Martinez

PRODUCTION TEAM
Production Manager – Deirdre Mountain
Stage Manager – Jasmine Murray
Dramaturgs – Justus Vierra, Clint Sides
Front of House – Theatre Management Class
Stream Engineers – Ray Oppenheimer, Erin Gibb
Publicity Liaisons – Libby Martinez, Meghann Dubie, Michel Harris, Nicole Gluckstern, Samuel Ponder

TECHNICAL STAFF
Technical Director, Technologist – Erin Gibb
Lighting Supervisor, Technologist – Ray Oppenheimer
Sound Supervisor – Cliff Caruthers
Costume Supervisors – Miriam Lewis, Conchita Fayos
Costume Shop Supervisor – Joe Greene
Prop Supervisor – Devon LaBelle
Scene Shop Supervisor – Greg Dunham
Paint Supervisor – Isaac Fine
CONTENT WARNING
This production contains themes and discussion of self-harm, suicide, drug addiction, and drug overdose. If you are struggling with any of these issues, please know that the cast and crew of Water by the Spoonful wish you happiness and safety, and encourage you to find professional help if you need it.

RESOURCES
Crisis Text Line – Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a Crisis Counselor
National Suicide Prevention Hotline – 1-800-273-8255
USA, The Trevor Project – 1-866-488-7386
Trans Lifeline – 1-877-565-8860
AAC (American Addiction Centers)
https://americanaddictioncenters.org
https://drugabuse.com/addiction/drug-abuse-hotlines/

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
We would like to acknowledge that the campuses of San Francisco State University on the San Francisco peninsula and north bay are located within the occupied territories of the Ohlone peoples and the Coastal Miwok (who, along with the Southern Pomo, are organized as the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria). In this time of distance learning, the lands upon which students may sit as they think and learn may have additional Indigenous histories. We encourage students to learn these histories by beginning with the database https://native-land.ca/.

We would also like to acknowledge the many ways in which a historically White Western canon of dramatic literature has often been a potent tool of cultural oppression and erasure. Because theatre is carried out with and on live bodies, it is vital to understand this history, recognize its continued impact, and make space for artistic and scholarly work that counters this oppression.
SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE FACULTY
School Director – Kim Schwartz
Bruce R Avery, Cece Bechelli, Terry Amara Boero, Arvejon Jones, Cliff Caruthers, Sukanya Chakrabarti, Christy Crowley, Kara Davis, Kurt Daw, Wendy Diamond, Conchita Fayos, Sara Felder, Isaac Fine, dana e. fitchett, Erin Gibb, Yukihiro Goto, Elizabeth Hunter, Deirdre Mountain, Ray Oppenheimer, Bill Peters, Dee Spencer, Ray Tadio, Jo Tomalin, Rhonnie Washington, Laura Wayth, Yutian Wong

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE STAFF
Meghann Dubie, Greg Dunham, Victoria Giari, Joe Greene, Devon LaBelle

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE STUDENT ASSISTANTS
Front Office – Jazmine Logan
Social Media – Libby Martinez, Diego Cazares

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL & CREATIVE ARTS
Dean – Andrew Harris
Associate Deans – Christina Sabee, Gail Dawson, Susan Shimanoff

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THEATRE & DANCE
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
Water by the Spoonful by Quiara Alegria Hudes
November 5 - 14
Elliot has returned from Iraq and is struggling to find his place in the world. In a chat room, recovering addicts keep each other alive, hour by hour, day by day. The boundaries of family and community are stretched across continents and cyberspace as birth families splinter and online families collide.

Quake by Melanie Marnich
November 17 - 20
Lucy is on a cross-country mission, looking for the love of her life. When her quest becomes intertwined with that of a quirky female serial killer (an astrophysicist gone bad), the landscape changes once again, as they cross state lines and faultlines, exploring the geography of the human heart.

Three Week Challenge
September 29 - 30
This rapid fire production challenges the students enrolled in the New Play Development class to analyze, produce and perform staged readings of 6 plays in less than 3 weeks. Join us as we meet the Three Week Challenge.

Shelter in Shakespeare
October 1 - 2 | October 22 - 23 | December 17 - 18
Students from this semester’s Understanding and Performing Shakespeare course will perform the works of Shakespeare filtered through the lens of their own personal experiences while sheltering in place.
University Dance Theatre
December 3 - 6
University Dance Theatre (UDT) faculty choreographers Kara Davis, dana fitchett, ArVejon Jones, and Ray Tadio investigate human connectivity in a time of forced isolation through short dance films.

Learning Alone: College in the Time of Corona
December 8 - 11
A new devised radio drama drawn from our students’ personal experience during the current pandemic. These will be stories of people learning alone, while also learning to be alone.

New Plays New Days
December 15 - 16
It’s a new day and we need new plays! Plays written by the next generation of playwrights, plays that voice the days we wake up to and brave the nights when we close our eyes to dream. This Fall the New Play Development class presents their world.
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