

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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arenastage.org/press-room/press-kits/2122-press-kits/change-agent

ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF CRAIG LUCAS' *CHANGE AGENT* JANUARY 21 – MARCH 6, 2022

***** Lucas directs this compelling, provocative Power Play centered around 1960s America and the influences that shaped defining moments in history*****

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces the full company for the world premiere of Craig Lucas' *Change Agent*, recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Inspired by the tumultuous events of the 1960s, *Change Agent* is a political thrill ride that explores how one woman fought to bring humanity to policy and expand the consciousness of a nation through her friendships and proximity to power. Written and directed by Lucas, *Change Agent* runs **January 21 through March 6, 2022 in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle**. Press night for *Change Agent* will be held on **Thursday, February 3, 2022**.

"A woman (and an artist) who played a pivotal role in Cold War history has been deliberately erased," explains Lucas. "What can be said publicly in our country versus what is privately whispered – and, in fact, accepted as truth by those in power — is at the heart of *Change Agent*."

The cast of *Change Agent* — all making their Arena Stage debuts — includes **Andrea Abello** (Soho Rep's *Passage*), **Regan Linton** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival's *Much Ado About Nothing*), **Jeffrey Omura** (The Public Theatre's *Hamlet*), **Kathryn Tkel** (Theatre J's *The Wanderers*) and **Luis Vega** (Second Stage Theater's *The Underlying Chris*).

"Craig Lucas' *Change Agent* is a story about America and Washington, D.C. in the volatile 1960s. The 1960s were similar to today — social and racial reckonings for a society on the cusp of real change," shares Artistic Director **Molly Smith**. "This story takes a different look at some of the major players of that time and the controversies that surrounded them. Washingtonians will love it because it embodies the heart of this city — the intrigue, the mind games, the high stakes. This is not a docudrama; it's a journey through the soul and minds of extraordinary people wrestling with giant ideas."

Change Agent is the eighth production to debut as part of Arena Stage's **Power Plays**, an ambitious initiative commissioning and developing 25 new plays and musicals from 25 writers over the course of 10 years. With Power Plays, Arena Stage focuses Washington, D.C.'s unique theatrical voice on politics, power and ideas of America, amplifying the theater's role as a national center dedicated to American voices and artists, located in the heart of the nation's capital. The massive undertaking features one story per decade, beginning with 1776 through the present day, and builds on the tremendous success of previous Arena Stage commissions and Power Plays, including Eduardo Machado's *Celia and Fidel*, Aaron Posner's *JQA*, Lawrence Wright's *Camp David*, John Strand's *The Originalist* and Mary Kathryn Nagle's *Sovereignty*.

In addition to Lucas, the creative team includes Set Designer **Wilson Chin**; Costume Designer **Alejo Vietti**; Lighting Designer **Cha See**; Original Music and Sound Design by **Broken Chord**; Projection Designer **Caite Hevner**; Fight and Intimacy Consultant **Jenny Male**; Dialect and Vocal Coach **Lisa Nathans**; Dramaturgs **Jocelyn Clarke** and **Otis Ramsey-Zöe**; Casting by **JZ Casting/Geoff Josselson, C.S.A.**; Stage Manager **Rachael Danielle Albert** and Assistant Stage Manager **Leigh Robinette**.

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Craig Lucas' (Playwright/Director) plays include *Missing Persons*, *Reckless*, *Blue Window*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *God's Heart*, *This Thing of Darkness* (co-authored with David Schulner), *The Dying Gaul*, *Stranger*, *Small Tragedy*, *Prayer for My Enemy*, *The Singing Forest*, *Ode to Joy*, *The Lying Lesson*, *I Was Most Alive with You* and *Change Agent*. Screenplays include *Longtime Companion* (Sundance Audience Award), *The Secret Lives of Dentists* (NY Film Critics Best Screenplay Award), *Reckless*, *Blue Window*, *The Dying Gaul*. Libretti include *The Light in the Piazza* (music and lyrics by Adam Guettel), *Two Boys* (composer Nico Muhly, world premiere at the English National Opera, American premiere at the Metropolitan Opera), *Orpheus in Love* (with composer Gerald Busby), *3 Postcards* (with composer/lyricist Craig Carnelia), *An American in Paris* (music by George Gershwin, lyrics by Ira Gershwin), *Amélie* (music by Dan Messe, lyrics by Nathan Tysen and Dan Messe), *Sousatzka* (music by David Shire, lyrics by Richard Maltby), *Prelude to a Kiss* (music by Dan Messe, lyrics by Sean Hartley and Dan Messe), *Days of Wine and Roses* (music and lyrics by Adam Guettel) and *Marry Me A Little*, *Songs by Stephen by Sondheim* (co-conceived with Norman René and Suzanne Henry). His new English-language adaptations include *Three Sisters*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Galileo* and *Miss Julie*. He directed the world premiere of *The Light in the Piazza*, Harry Kondoleon's plays *Saved Or Destroyed* and *Play Yourself* and the films *The Dying Gaul* and *Birds of America*. Lucas has worked with a host of remarkable directors including Mark Wing-Davey, Norman René, Pam MacKinnon, Lisa Petersen, Daniel Sullivan, Tyne Rafaeli, Christopher Wheeldon, Alan Rudolph, Mark Brokaw, Bartlett Sher and Joe Mantello. He received the Excellence in Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, the Laura Pels/PEN Mid-career Award, the Hermitage Greenfield Prize, LAMBDA Literary Award, Hull-Warriner Award, Flora Roberts Award and Steinberg/ACTA Best Play Award among many others. He has three Tony nominations and three Obie Awards and has been a Pulitzer finalist.

Cast Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Andrea Abello is a Colombian American actor, poet and educator. She is making her Arena Stage debut! Off-Broadway: *Passage* (Soho Rep.), *Last Night in Inwood* (Signature), *Hindsight* (Fault Line Theatre). Regional: *A Doll's House Pt. II* (St. Louis Rep.), *Little Bunny Foo Foo* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *You Across from Me* (Humana Festival). Workshops at NYTW, EST, The Lark, Playwrights Realm, The New Group, WP Theater, Repertorio Español and others. TV: *Lisey's Story* (Apple TV+) written by Stephen King and produced by J.J. Abrams. She is a recipient of the Leonard A. Slade Jr. Poetry Fellowship with the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. BFA: NYU Tisch. She/Her. andreaabello.com. For Mary, and so many others whose stories have been left untold.

Regan Linton is making her Arena Stage debut following five years as artistic director at Phamaly Theatre Company in Denver, CO. Regional acting credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*; *Safe at Home*; *Animate* at Mixed Blood Theatre (MN); *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Marginalia* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts; *Blood and Gifts* at La Jolla Playhouse; *Into the Woods*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Side Show* and *Urinetown* at Phamaly and *A Madrigal Opera* at Boston Court (CA). She is co-director of the documentary *imperfect* (2021) about disabled theater actors. MFA Acting, UC San Diego; MSW, University of Denver. Regan lives with a spinal cord injury. reganlinton.com Instagram: @reganlinton.

Jeffrey Omura is thrilled to make his Arena Stage debut. He's known for his work onstage in New York with the Public Theater, Playwrights' Realm, Ma-Yi Theater Company, and National Asian American Theater Company and around the country with Weston Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Hartford Stage and more. He was recently seen on television in *Hawaii Five-0*, *Succession*, *Elementary*, *Limitless*, *The Blacklist*, *The Interestings* and *High Maintenance*. His voiceover work can be heard in more than 50 films and television shows. He's a founding member of Fair Wage Onstage, Be An #ArtsHero and an elected member of Actors' Equity's National Council. He was a recent candidate for New York City Council and named to City & State's 2021 Labor 40 Under 40. He's a proud graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. Twitter/Instagram: @jeffreymura. www.jeffreyomura.com.

Kathryn Tkel is making her Arena Stage debut. She was most recently seen by D.C. audiences in Studio Theatre's streaming production of *Cock* earlier this year. Other select D.C.-area credits include *An Octoroon* at Woolly Mammoth; *Sense and Sensibility* and *Timon of Athens* at Folger; *Jefferson's Garden* and *The Guard* at Ford's Theatre; *A Doll's House, Part 2* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* at Round House; *The Wanderers* at Theatre J; *Venus in Fur* and *The 39 Steps* at Rep Stage. Regionally she has appeared at Everyman Theatre, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Theatrical Outfit, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Perseverance Theatre, North Coast Rep, Arizona Theatre Company and The San Francisco Playhouse. She can be seen on screen in the film *Harriet*. MFA from the Academy for Classical Acting. www.KathrynTkel.com.

Luis Vega's most recent New York theater credits include *Hindsight* (Fault Line Theatre), *The Underlying Chris* (Second Stage), *Tell Hector I Miss Him* (Atlantic Theater Company), *i thought i would die but i didn't* (New Georges/The Tank) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Back Room Shakespeare Project). Regional credits include *Where Storms Are Born* (Williamstown), *The Underpants* (Old Globe), *Seize the King* (La Jolla Playhouse), *As You Like It* (The

Guthrie) and *The Humans* (Broadway National Tour). Luis' film and TV credits include *The Good Fight* (Paramount +), *Madam Secretary* (CBS), *Another Earth* (Fox Searchlight), *Chinese Puzzle* (dir. Cédric Klapisch) and *Thorp* (Independent Feature). He holds a BA in English from Columbia University and an MFA in Acting from UCSD. Instagram: @sinverguenzaluisvega.

For full company biographies, please visit arenastage.org/tickets/2021-22-season/change-agent.

Prime Sponsorship for *Change Agent* is generously provided by **Decker Anstrom and Sherry Hiemstra**. *Change Agent* is the recipient of an **Edgerton Foundation New Play Award**.

Change Agent is a fictional play inspired by historic events.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Change Agent

Written and directed by Craig Lucas

In the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle | January 21 – March 6, 2022

ABOUT: The Cuban Missile Crisis, the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War were just some of the most influential periods in U.S. history, in an eerie resonance with the current social and racial movements of today. Tony Award-nominated (*An American in Paris*, *The Light in the Piazza*) playwright and director Craig Lucas' provocative Power Play imagines dramatic scenes between figures from history who were celebrated and unsung. These insider voices were responsible for influencing major decisions that are still unfolding and radically impacting our country today.

CAST:

Andrea Abello
Regan Linton
Jeffrey Omura
Kathryn Tkel
Luis Vega

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director: Craig Lucas
Set Designer: Wilson Chin
Costume Designer: Alejo Vietti
Lighting Designer: Cha See
Original Music and Sound Design: Broken Chord
Projection Designer: Caite Hevner
Fight and Intimacy Consultant: Jenny Male
Dialect and Vocal Coach: Lisa Nathans
Dramaturgs: Jocelyn Clarke, Otis Ramsey-Zöe
Casting: JZ Casting/Geoff Josselson, C.S.A.
Stage Manager: Rachael Danielle Albert
Assistant Stage Manager: Leigh Robinette

PLAN YOUR VISIT

TICKETS: Tickets for *Change Agent* are \$40-95, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as pay-your-age tickets, student discounts, Southwest Nights and hero's discounts, visit arenastage.org/tickets/savings-programs.

Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C. The Sales Office is open Tuesday – Sunday, 12:00-8:00 p.m. for phone purchases and beginning 90 minutes prior to each performance until curtain for in person purchases. **Please note that proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and photo identification must be shown to enter the building.**

Sales Office/Subscriptions: 202-488-3300
Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380
TTY for deaf patrons: 202-484-0247
Info for patrons with disabilities: 202-488-3300

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., no evening shows on Tuesday, February 15 and Wednesday, February 16

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2 p.m., no matinee on Saturday, January 22

Sunday at 6 p.m. on February 13

Weekday matinees at noon on Wednesday, February 9, Tuesday, February 15 and Wednesday, February 16

Closed captioning: GalaPro begins February 4, subject to change

Open-captioned performance: February 24 at 8 p.m. and March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Audio-described performance: February 12 at 2 p.m.

Southwest Night: January 27 at 8 p.m.

Full Calendar: arenastage.org/tickets/calendar

STAY SAFE: Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and photo identification must be shown to enter the building. Arena Stage is requiring that patrons, staff and volunteers wear facial masks inside the Mead Center regardless of vaccination status. Enhanced cleaning and sanitization will take place throughout the building. For superior air quality, we have upgraded our ventilation/filtration systems and have implemented a full digital ticketing system that will include contactless ticket scanning and digital programs. These conditions are subject to change. For the latest information, visit arenastage.org/tickets/Safety-Protocols.

METRO: Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

PARKING: Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$18. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$25 or on the day of the performance for \$27 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited accessible parking is available by reservation. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$18 when pre-purchased and \$22 on the day of the performance.

VALET PARKING: Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs who call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$30, based on availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth Street.

For complete 2021/22 Season details, visit: arenastage.org/tickets/2122-subscriptions.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000.
arenastage.org

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