

# *Las Positas College For Immediate Release*

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## **Las Positas College Announces the Spring Performance of "Under Construction"**

**"A picture of an American past and present" - May 4-12, 2018**

(Livermore, CA) - Las Positas College (LPC) is proud to present an extraordinary piece of theater "Under Construction", a picture of an American past and present by Charles Mee. Performances will be held May 4 - 12 on the LPC campus at the Mertes Center for the Arts Black Box Theater. "Under Construction" is produced by LPC Theater Arts Faculty & Performing Arts Coordinator Tishian Lish and directed by Peet Cocke. The play marks the final production of the 2017-2018 season.

"Under Construction" is a fascinating look at America, a patchwork of many vignettes that explore moments in time from the 1950s to present, each focusing on something different from American facts to American myths, from political to cultural, the idealistic to artistic. The play portrays different themes of American life in scenes, monologue and song - sometimes joyful, sometimes heartbreaking, from moments in time that are beautiful and times in moments, which can also be horrific.

"Under Construction" uses imagery inspired by renowned artists such as Norman Rockwell and Jason Rhoades, the scenes a collage of subjects ranging from an American Thanksgiving dinner, to baseball, to a soldier returning home from serving his country - reflected in Rockwell's work; even a parody on outdated 50s era instructional films such as "how to make friends." The reflection of Rhoades' work in the play explores darker and less idealistic themes, such as the difficulties of being a prostitute, and a "living sculpture" of human beings - these sequences being woven in sharp contrast to those of yesteryear portraying aspects of American life in varying degrees. As Charles Mee describes it, "Under Construction" is a "collage of America, an America of the fifties and now, the red states and the blue states, where we grew up and where we live today, a piece that is, like America, permanently under construction."

Director Peet Cocke notes that he was originally introduced to the work of Charles Mee and the play "Under Construction" by one of his mentors. He says that one of the things that drew him in are the "rhythmic cycles of creation and loss - such is the nature of everything." Adding, "The pictures and stories resolve and then dissolve, and often they are minor and seemingly inconsequential moments brought to the forefront and made poignant, beautiful, and then they vanish."

The LPC 2018 student cast of "Under Construction" includes: Alynn Lima, Amy Gilbrech, Aroyal Rogers, Kaitlyn Davenport, Kayleigh Glenn, Ronnie La, Sami Cowan, Sofia Barrera, Alfonso Gonzalez, Arsalan Khan, Austin Harper, Chris Granlund, Frank Perez, Isaiah Mahoney, John Ruzicka, Joshua Lemos, Patrick Maravila, Sarim Khan, and Seth Benton.

"Under Construction" will make its debut at LPC on May 4 at 8 p.m. Other showtimes include 8 p.m. performances on May 5, 11, and 12, and 2 p.m. matinees on May 6 and May 12.

The Mertes Center for the Arts Black Box Theater is located on the campus of Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Tickets are available at the door when space allows. General Admission: \$15; Students, Staff & Seniors: \$10 (unless noted otherwise) and may include a service charge for both online and in-person purchase between \$1-3 per ticket. For more information, please visit <http://lpcazure.laspositascollege.edu/theater/schedule.php>

### **About Las Positas College**

Las Positas College currently enrolls 8,000 students and offers curriculum for students seeking transfer to a four-year college or university, career preparation, or basic skills education. The College provides university transfer classes, retraining classes for those in need of employment or career advancement, a first-time educational opportunity for many adults, enrichment classes for those seeking a broader perspective, and career and technical training for those entering the technical and paraprofessional workforce.

Las Positas College is a learning-centered institution focused on excellence and student success. It is fully committed to supporting Tri-Valley residents in their quest for education and advancement. Las Positas College faculty and staff are distinguished by their energy, creativity, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of the students they serve and the future of the Tri-Valley region.

Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551

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