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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sacred Fools Launches New Works Reading Series With Four Fresh Plays



Los Angeles, CA (January 11, 2018) The Sacred Fools Theater Company is kicking off its New Works Reading Series with presentations of four unproduced plays from emerging playwrights that embrace the theatrical form and speak to the diverse culture of contemporary society. The readings will take place on four Sundays at 5:00 pm in late January and February. These readings will be held in the Second Stage at the Broadwater Theater Complex and attendance is free to the public. A series reception will follow the first reading next door at The Broadwater Plunge.

The plays being presented are as follows:

January 20 – *Monkey Love* by Madhuri Shekar, directed by Reena Dutt

January 27 – *Babel* by Jacqueline Goldfinger, directed by Shaela Cook

February 10 – *The Couches* by David Jacobi, directed by Travis Snyder-Eaton

February 17 – *U-R-U* by Julia Lederer, directed by Jacob Sidney



"I'm really excited about launching this first-of-its-kind effort by Sacred Fools to share exciting new plays with our community at such an early stage," said Sacred Fools Literary Manager Jacob Sidney. "I can't think of four better playwrights to help us do it. They're talented, playful, and fearless writers, joined in an effort to discover and reveal the future of the form."

About the Plays and the Playwrights

MONKEY LOVE by Madhuri Shekar

Deep in the jungles of East India, two different couples (of the monkey and of the human persuasion) experience an eventful night of falling in, and out, and back into love. Finding your soulmate is tricky enough – the real challenge is holding on to them.

Directed by Reena Dutt, this reading will feature Kapil Talwalkar, Ulka Mohanty, Troy Blendell, Lauren Van Kurin and Jax Ball.

Playwright **Madhuri Shekar** was born in California and grew up in India. Her plays include *House of Joy* (upcoming world premiere at California Shakespeare Theater), *Queen* (Victory Gardens Theatre and others), *In Love and Warcraft* (winner of the Alliance Theater's Kendeda Graduate Playwriting contest and published by Samuel French), *A Nice Indian Boy* (East West Players and others), and *Bucket of Blessings* (winner of the Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Original Work). Madhuri is a recipient of Audible's new commissioning program and has been commissioned by South Coast Rep, Victory Gardens, and the Alliance Theater. She holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from USC, and recently graduated from the playwriting program at Juilliard. She currently writes for the upcoming HBO show *The Nevers*.

BABEL by Jacqueline Goldfinger

A talking stork, lesbian moms, and the power to build your own baby... In this version of a near future society, prospective parents learn within the first weeks of conception which traits their child will have and what behaviors it is likely to exhibit. Based on these test results, they are either issued a PRE certification which legally guarantees the baby will be a "good" person or not. Without the certification, the child will be limited in what it is allowed to do.

Directed by Shaela Cook, this reading will feature Libby Baker, Joe Hernandez-Kolski, Lynn Adriana, Crystal Keith and Rowan Hall.



Playwright **Jacqueline Goldfinger** is a playwright and dramaturg. She co-Founded The Foundry @ PlayPenn. She is an Affiliated Artist at New Georges and The Lark Playwright's Center. She is a member of the writers' labs at The Barrow Group and Azuka Theatre. She won the Yale Drama Prize, Smith Prize, Brown Martin Award, Barrymore Award, and Philadelphia Critics Award. Her play *Bottle Fly* was a Finalist at the 2018 International Book Awards. Her plays have been developed and/or produced by theaters including: The National Theatre/London, Wilma Theatre, The Kennedy Center, La MaMa, Disquiet/Lisbon, Florida Studio Theatre, Orlando Shakespeare, Kansas City Rep, Perseverance Theatre, Capital Stage Company, The Seattle Public, Manhattan Theatre Works, and the NYC International Fringe Festival. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild and represented by Abrams Artists Agency. For more information: www.jacquelinegoldfinger.com

THE COUCHES by David Jacobi

Ethan Couch has lived in a bubble of pampered privilege for his entire life, so when he's convicted of killing four people while driving drunk, he and his mother Tonya flee to a resort in Mexico rather than face the consequences. In this self-imposed state of limbo, Ethan pays hotel clerk Daniel \$1000 to be his friend and help maintain the facade of his prior life. But as the unlikely pair drink, sing, and stumble through the night, delusions of how the world works melt away as quickly as their cash flow.

This reading will be directed by Travis Snyder-Eaton and casting is underway.

Playwright **David Jacobi's** plays have been performed and developed throughout the U.S. and in China, including Sideshow Theatre, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Portland Center Stage's JAW Festival, RISK IS THIS, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Kennedy Center MFA Playwright's Workshop, SLC Playwrights Lab and PlayPenn. He is a winner of the Holland New Voices Award, Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audiences Award, a Relentless Award semifinalist, and has been nominated for the Weissburger. David was the 2015 Shank Fellow at Pig Iron Theatre Company and is currently commissioned by the Denver Center and South Coast Rep. He received a BFA in Dramatic Writing from Purchase College and an MFA from UC San Diego.

U-R-U by Julia Lederer

What happens when the powers of machines exceed those of nature? At what point will A.I. resemble humans enough to deserve human rights? Absurdly comic and existentially chilling, *U-R-U* examines the societal obsession with progress at all costs and the decreasing worth of humanity in this increasingly artificial world.



This reading will be directed by Jacob Sidney and casting is underway.

Playwright **Julia Lederer** is an internationally acclaimed writer from Toronto. Her work has been produced across North America and in the UK, in places including Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Toronto, and Alaska. Recent productions include: *With Love and a Major Organ* (Boise Contemporary Theatre; Theatre @ Boston Court: 4 Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Nominations, 7 Stage Raw Theatre Award Nominations), *Reality Theatre* (SummerWorks Performance Festival), and simultaneous workshop productions of *U-R-U* at Occidental College (LA) and Humber College (Toronto).

www.julialederer.ca

For more information about the New Works Program at Sacred Fools, visit

<http://www.sacredfools.org/misc/newworks/>.

Additional Programming at Sacred Fools

There's always something happening at Sacred Fools, including [Serial Killers](#), [The Joe and Joshua Show](#), [Ten Tops](#) and [We The People](#) as well as the upcoming full production of [Too Heavy for Your Pocket](#). For more information on these and other upcoming performances, please visit www.sacredfools.org.

Quick Summary

WHAT: Sacred Fools New Works Reading Series

WHEN: Four Sundays: 1/20, 1/27, 2/10, 2/17 all at 5:00pm.

WHERE: The Broadwater Second Stage, 6320 Santa Monica Blvd., LA CA 90038

TICKETS: Admission is free, but space is limited, reservations are recommended.

Press RSVP: Publicity@sacredfools.org

Public RSVP: Reservations can be made by contacting sfreservations@sacredfools.org or reserving tickets online [here](#).

MORE PRESS: Photos and EPK content (after opening) available soon at

www.sacredfools.org/publicity

No Patron will pay more than \$15 for a Sacred Fools show

We believe that theatre should be accessible to everyone. That's why we've made a pledge to lower our ticket prices so that anyone who wants to experience live theatre has the opportunity to do so.



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Sacred Fools Theater Company, the resident theater company of The Broadwater, 1078 Lillian Way (Santa Monica Blvd. and Lillian Way) on Theater Row, is a non-profit, ensemble-run theater company founded in 1997, committed to the development of new plays and projects that challenge traditional expectations of the theatrical experience.

For more information about any of our programming or the company itself, contact us at publicity@sacredfools.org and visit www.sacredfools.org.

For information regarding The Broadwater, please visit www.thebroadwaterla.com

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