

TULANE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND DANCE PRESENTS

DANCE NATION

BY CLARE BARRON

DIRECTED BY JENNY MERCEIN

MOVEMENT DIRECTION BY JEFFREY GUNSHOL

MARCH 7TH TO 11TH AT 7:30PM

MARCH 11TH AND 12TH AT 2:00PM

LUPIN THEATER, 150 DIXON HALL ANNEX

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tulane University's Department of Theatre and Dance
presents
DANCE NATION
By Clare Barron
Directed by Jenny Mercein
Movement Direction by Jeffrey Gunshol

New Orleans, La: On March 7, 2023, TUTD will open *Dance Nation*, a dramatic comedy that follows a preteen competitive dance team in their journey to make it to the national finals.

Premiering at Playwrights Horizon in 2018 and hailed by the New York Times as "a blazingly original play", Barron's script was a Pulitzer Prize Finalist in drama the following year. *Dance Nation* offers a look into the world of early adolescent dancers discovering the power inside of them and deciding what to do with their potential.

"At turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *Dance Nation* celebrates the fierce, competitive nature of teenage girls instead of portraying them as victims," says director Jenny Mercein. "The play speaks to the fact that we all are profoundly marked by what happens to us in our early teenage years. For better or for worse, we all carry the shadow of our 13-year-old selves with us every day. I love that Barron asks our Tulane actors (and audiences) to reflect not only on their younger selves, but on who they might become in the future."

The cast features Tulane students Victoria Guest, Nya Phillips, Eric Weiss, Sydney Schneider, Arushi Thakur, Douglas Corcoran and Madi Bolin, as well as Tulane professors Kelly Bond and Jeffrey Gunshol. Designers include MFA candidates Kaeane Louks (costumes) Samuel Verdino (props and lighting), and Ali Robinson (set), as well as industry veteran Mike Harkins (sound design).

The show will run Tuesday, March 7th through Sunday, March 12th, 2023. Evening performances are Tuesday to Saturday at 7:30pm, with a 2:00pm matinee on Saturday and Sunday. Due to limited audience size reservations are encouraged. General admission is \$15, Student and Tulane Faculty and Staff are \$10. Performances will be held in the Lupin Theatre located on the Tulane University uptown campus, just off the Newcomb Quad in 150 Dixon Hall Annex.

To reserve media passes please contact Marketing and Box Office Manager, Mary Guiteras at mguiteras@tulane.edu or (504) 865-5106. Tickets for the general public are available www.purplepass.com/TULANETD

Tulane University's Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to making relevant, diverse, and dynamic art and shaping young talents to do the same. For more information, please visit <https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance>
