FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Williams Project Is Building Community, Dialogue, and Theatre!

Complete Casting Announced for the Company’s Production of Tony Kushner’s Prescient
A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY

October 25 - November 18 at Hillman City Collaboratory

Seattle, WASH. (September 27, 2018) - The Williams Project today announced the full ensemble cast for its production of Tony Kushner’s A Bright Room Called Day, an exciting convergence of the company’s national ensemble with Seattle-based actors. A Bright Room Called Day will run October 25 – November 18, 2018 at the Hillman City Collaboratory, and all tickets are pay-what-you-can and available now at TheWilliamsProject.org.

The complete ensemble casting includes Grant Chapman (Gregor Bazwald), Lexi Chipman (Rosa Malek), Nick Edwards (Vealtinnc Husz), Lateefah Holder (Agnes Egglng), Elise LeBreton (Zillah Katz), Claudine Mboligikpelani Nako (Paulinka Erdnuss, Die Alte), Brandon J. Simmons (Emil Traum, Gottfried Swetts), and Dedra D. Woods (Annabella Gotchling).

The Williams Project increasingly is recognized by its community for its commitment to hiring actors at the top of their craft and paying them a liveable wage -- A Bright Room Called Day fulfills this ambition. “With this fierce cast, The Williams Project sustains some of the hallmarks of our process: building a top-flight ensemble, paying them fairly for their work, casting with a commitment to gender parity and racial equity. What’s new here is that our goal of merging our national ensemble with local excellence is coming into focus. Hopefully, this production is the first step in a journey that brings national recognition to local actors and facilitates artistic cross-pollination.”

In true Williams Project form and in preparation for this production, the full company of actors will engage in a concentrated two-week, live-in rehearsal period before bringing the production to its theatre-alternative venue, the Hillman City Collaboratory in South Seattle, for a four-week run. Special to this Williams Project production is a series of post-show collaborations with Seattle-based nonprofits, aiming to engage audiences in civic action.
More details around these dynamic partnerships and what they mean to show attendees will become available in the coming weeks.

For more information about The Williams Project, please visit: TheWilliamsProject.org.

ABOUT THE CAST OF A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY

Grant Chapman returns for his fifth season with The Williams Project (WP), last seen in the wildly popular 2017 production, Blues for Mister Charlie. With credits at Guthrie Theater, Trinity Rep, and many others, Grant has performed as Prior Walter in both parts of Angels in America at Actor’s Express and the title role in Winnie-the-Pooh at Alliance Theater, both in Atlanta, GA. Making her WP debut is Seattle actor Lexi Chipman who audiences may recognize from her roles in Romeo and Juliet and The Taming of the Shrew at Seattle Shakespeare Company as well as a number of productions at Cornish College of the Arts. Also Seattle-based and making his WP debut is Nick Edwards, an actor and director of both scripted and improvised work who has been seen at Annex Theatre, Seattle Opera, Washington Ensemble Theatre, Seattle Public Theater, Jet City Improv, and more. Lateefah Holder returns to the WP, having been last seen in the company’s 2016 workshop of Blues for Mister Charlie. Some of Lateefah’s theatre credits include Napoli! and A Christmas Carol at American Conservatory Theater and The House of Bernarda Alba at Moscow Art Theatre. Her TV and film credits include “Transparent,” “Modern Family,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “2 Broke Girls,” and much more. New York City-based actor Elise LeBreton returns to The Williams Project for the fifth season, last seen in 2017’s Blues for Mister Charlie. Elise’s performance credits include turns with Trinity Rep, UglyRhino, The Brick, and Woodshed Collective, and Elise’s work as a playwright has been produced numerous time in New York. Making her WP debut is local actor Claudine Mboligikpelani Nako. Claudine may be recognized for her work in local productions of A Raisin in the Sun at Seattle Repertory Theatre, My Heart Is the Drum at Village Theatre, and The Crucible at ACT Theater; her TV credits include Megan Griffiths’ Sadie, Lynn Shelton's Outside In, and Netflix's “Everything Sucks!”. Gregory Award-winning writer, actor, producer and director Brandon J. Simmons joins this cast as well. Co-founder of the Seagull Project, he has appeared in The Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard, and The Seagull, both in Seattle and on tour to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Other local credits include turns with On the Boards, Seattle Public Theater, Washington Ensemble Theatre, Seattle Children’s Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company. Local actor Dedra D. Woods rounds out this cast of eight and makes her debut with the WP with this production. Dedra’s local credits include work with Seattle Shakespeare Company, upstart crow collective, Intiman Theatre, Arts West, Seattle Children’s Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and more.

ABOUT RYAN GUZZO PURCELL (DIRECTOR)

Ryan Guzzo Purcell is the founding artistic director of The Williams Project, where he has directed Orpheus Descending (with Intiman Theatre, 2015), The Glass Menagerie (with Café Nordo, 2016), and the company’s critically acclaimed Blues for Mister Charlie (2017). From 2013 to 2015, he served as the Associate Artistic Director of Magic Theatre in San Francisco,
where he has directed Mfoniso Udofia's *Sojourners*, Joshua Harmon's *Bad Jews*, and the world premiere of Christina Anderson's *pen/man/ship*. His most recent local credits include *Every Five Minutes* at Washington Ensemble Theatre (2017) and *How I Learned to Drive* at Strawberry Theatre Workshop (2018). Other directing work has been seen at Intiman Theatre, The Hangar Theater, LaMaMa ETC, Brown Playwrights Rep, The National New Play Network Showcase, The Village Gate, The Olney Theatre Center, FringeNYC, and the Kennedy Center as part of the American College Theatre Festival. He is a Fulbright Scholar, a Princess Grace Award-winner, and a Drama League Directing Fellow. He holds an MFA in directing from Brown University/Trinity Rep and a BFA from Boston University in Theatre Studies.

**COMPLETE CREATIVE TEAM**
The creative team includes Ryan Guzzo Purcell (director); An-Lin Dauber (design); and Maria Gray (stage manager).

**ABOUT THE VENUE**
The Hillman City Collaboratory is a social change incubator, where community forms across boundaries and visionaries bring their dreams to life. The Collab is a cooperative, multi-purpose space shared by grassroots organizations and individuals who care about social justice, creative expression, and community building. The Collab strive to be an instrument of transformation, providing a built environment and programming that supports community and equips change-makers. Learn more at [hillmancitycollaboratory.org](http://hillmancitycollaboratory.org).

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**
**WHAT:**
*A Bright Room Called Day*
By Tony Kushner
Directed by Ryan Guzzo Purcell

A new president has just come to power by the slimmest of margins. Though his rhetoric is alarming, democratic institutions are strong and the opposition is looking good heading into the next election. This is Berlin, in 1932. In Agnes Eggling’s apartment, a group of artists and activists struggle between their conscience and their comfort, trying to decide how much they are willing to sacrifice for their beliefs. First produced in 1985, this prophetic play by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner is a wake-up call and warning for contemporary America, posing timely questions about citizenship, resistance, and complicity. In Williams Project fashion, this production will partner with local nonprofits and activist organizations to connect audiences with new avenues for civic engagement in their communities. All tickets are pay-what-you-can and available now at [TheWilliamsProject.org](http://TheWilliamsProject.org).

**WHERE:**
Hillman City Collaboratory
5623 Rainier Ave S.
Seattle WA 98118
WHEN:
October 25 - November 18, 2018
Thursday-Sunday (with two exceptions, there is no performance on Thursday, October 8, and instead there is a performance on Monday, October 12).
Show begins at 7:30 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 p.m.)
Opening Night - Friday, October 26, 2018. Media Invite to come.

TICKETS:
$0-$50 - ON SALE NOW
Online Box Office >> TheWilliamsProject.org
All seating is general admission. Learn more about The Williams Project's inclusive approach to ticket pricing here: http://www.thewilliamsproject.org/box-office

SOCIAL:
TheWilliamsProject.org
Facebook - /WilliamsProject
Instagram - @TheWilliamsProject

About The Williams Project
The Williams Project is a theatre ensemble that strives to make theatrical excellence accessible to diverse and engaged audiences, while paying our artists a living wage. The writing of Tennessee Williams shapes our vision of theatrical excellence, so we strive, like him, to create theatre that is:

- Entertaining enough to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the community;
- Ambitious enough to risk humiliating failure;
- Powerful enough to move people to love each other more, even in the face of the temporary nature of theatre and life.

The Williams Project strives to make theatre in a manner consistent with our belief that professional artists are vital to our culture, and that such artists deserve to be compensated in a way that recognizes their value. Great theatre artists sacrifice greatly to make important work, and we pay our artists a living wage in order to support that work.

This production of A Bright Room Called Day is supported, in part, by grants from 4Culture/King County Lodging Tax, the Washington State Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Show Sponsor for A Bright Room Called Day is Verity Credit Union. KUOW is this production's Media Sponsor.

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