



Media Contact: Kiki Abba
kiki@washingtonensemble.org
563-580-5235

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Cast Announced for *Tin Cat Shoes* at Washington Ensemble Theatre, the West Coast Premiere of Trish Harnetiaux's Absurd Workplace Comedy

April 15 - May 2, 2022

By Trish Harnetiaux

Directed by Maggie L. Rogers

(Friday, March 4, 2022—SEATTLE) **Washington Ensemble Theatre** has announced the cast for the West Coast premiere of *Tin Cat Shoes*, a madcap, rollicking comedy by Trish Harnetiaux about navigating the wilderness of corporate bureaucracy. Are these shoe store employees embarking on a journey of self expansion or will the can-do attitude of capitalism catch them in a fatal web? WET is thrilled to welcome back to its stage **Kiki Abba** (*Everything You Touch*), **Rachel Guyer-Mafune** (*Feathers and Teeth*), **Mario Orallo-Molinaro** (*Everything You Touch*), and **Steve Sterne** (*The Nether*); and making their WET debuts are **Gloria Alcalá**, **Myles Romo**, and **Drew Highlands**. *Tin Cat Shoes* is directed by Artistic Director **Maggie L. Rogers** (*The Doll Pit*, *Everything You Touch*).

Tin Cat Shoes plays **April 15 - May 2, 2022** at **12th Avenue Arts** (1620 12th Avenue in Capitol Hill). Tickets are on sale now at www.washingtonensemble.org.

Director Rogers says, "WET has been in the process of programming *Tin Cat Shoes* since 2019, but you know, COVID. Fortunately for us, this play only continues to become more timely. Written as a response to the 2016 election, Trish Harnetiaux wrote this blisteringly funny play that is a study of America's ability to acclimate to insane circumstances; politicians, laws, authority, workplace culture. The facets of our society that give us a sense of (false) security. The play examines our societal systems and our complacency in obeying them. After the last few years we have all had, WET returning with an absurdist play that takes capitalism and societal norms to task feels like the most WET thing we could do. We have picked a show that requires a tight knit ensemble of actors and I could not be more humbled with the cast we have assembled; a hilarious ragtag group of comedically skilled artists. They will bring heart and humor to this bananas play. Get ready for quite the ride."

Tin Cat Shoes tells the story of a troop of hyper-enthusiastic shoe store employees with the “Can-Do” American attitude set off on an expedition into the great PNW for some deep self-exploration. But when things go awry and the “work is your life” mentality is fallible, all that’s left is the truth and nachos. Trish Harnetiaux’s spirited adventure-comedy of epic proportions takes surprising turns at every bend in the road and explores our pitiful confidence in The System.

About the Cast

Kiki Abba (she/her) is a proud member of The Ensemble and an actor and producer around Seattle. Favorite acting credits include *Everything You Touch* (WET), *No More Sad Things* (Forward Flux), and *Belleville* (MAP Theatre). In 2019, she was nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Play at The Gregory Awards for *Everything You Touch*.

Gloria Alcalá (they/them) (BFA Musical Theatre, Cornish College of the Arts, 2019) is a stage and screen actor, musician, and teaching artist based in Seattle, WA. Regional theatre: *Songs for a New World* (Village Theatre), *The Tempest* (Seattle Shakespeare Company), *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Seattle Children’s Theatre), and *Native Gardens* (Intiman Theatre). Other: *Bright Star the Musical* (Taproot Theatre), *Disenchanted! the Musical* (Mamches Presents).

Rachel Guyer-Mafune (she/her) is thrilled to be back on the WET stage! She is a 4th generation Seattleite and an ACT Core Company member. You may recognize her from WET’s past productions of *Feathers and Teeth*, and *The Internet is Serious Business*. Other credits include *Howl’s Moving Castle* (Book-It Repertory Theater), *The Wolves* (ACT), *The Last World Octopus Wrestling Champion* (ArtsWest), and *Drum and Colors* (Seattle Shakespeare Company).

Drew Highlands (he/him) is making his WET debut! Previous credits include *The Nance* and *Death of a Salesman* (ArtsWest), *Luna Gale* (Seattle Rep), *Balconies* and *Chaos Theory* (Annex), *Miracle!* (Intiman), and numerous film and TV appearances. Drew is the writer and director of *In the Water*, a short film premiering at the Florida Film Festival, and co-creator of the comedic web series *The Last Video Store on Earth*.

Mario Orallo-Molinaro (he/him) is a proud Filipino Italian American, teaching artist, and the Executive Artistic Director of Jet City Improv. He is excited to be back at WET playing the role of Lunch! Some notable organizations he has collaborated with include City of Seattle, Missoula Children’s Theatre, Horse in Motion, WET, and the Sylvia Center for the Arts.

Myles Romo (he/him) is a California Cat that recently graduated from Cornish College of The Arts. Despite his severe cat allergy, he's beyond grateful to be a part of *Tin Cat Shoes*. When he isn't acting, Myles writes work for him and his friends. He would like to thank his family, friends, his girlfriend Ella, and his dog Mac for the unending love and support.

Steven Sterne (he-him) is happy to be part of another show with Washington Ensemble Theatre. He played Mr. Doyle in *The Nether* (2018), and has also performed with The 14/48 Projects, Annex Theatre, Seattle Jewish Theater, Ghostlight Theatricals, Twelfth Night Productions, TheatreMachine, Woodinville Repertory

Theater, and others. Steven is a teaching artist, photographer, and director. He sits on the Board of The 14/48 Projects and serves on the Governance Committee for Sound Theatre Company.

About the Director

Maggie L. Rogers (she/her) is a freelance artist who proudly hails from Louisville, KY and graduated from Columbia College Chicago. She is WET's Artistic Director, former Resident Director at The Horse in Motion, and Cherdonna Shinatra's dramaturg. At WET she has directed *The Doll Pit* and *Everything You Touch*, sound designed *B.* and *Feathers and Teeth*, dramaturged and assistant directed *Teh Internet is Serious Business*, *The Nether*, *Revolt. She Said. Revolt. Again*, *Cherdonna's Doll's House*, and *Every Five Minutes*. She is a fat activist in the theatre community and her piece [All Sizes Fit All: The Case for Normalizing Fatness Onstage](#) was published in American Theatre Magazine.

About the Playwright

Trish Harnetiaux is a Brooklyn based writer and director. Her new play, *California*, will be part of Clubbed Thumb's 2022 Summerworks in NYC. Plays and work have been developed with Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep (writer/director lab), Ars Nova (playgroup), MTC, The Orchard Project, New Georges (affiliate artist), the Mercury Store and more. In 2021 her short film *You Wouldn't Understand* was presented at Sundance Film Festival and her podcast *The MS Phoenix Rising* debuted on Playwrights Horizons Soundstage (where you can still find it!). Premiering this spring, she directed the short film *A Significant Problem*. She has been in residency at MacDowell, Millay, SPACE at Ryder Farm and Yaddo. Her plays are available from Samuel French. She's originally from Washington state, a University of Washington grad, and a big fan of Mount Rainier. MFA in playwriting, Brooklyn College.

About the Creative Team

Tin Cat Shoes features scenic design by **Parmida Ziaei**, lighting design by **Ryan Dunn***, sound design by **Andi Villegas**, properties design by **Adam Zopfi-Hulse**, with stage management by **Castor Kent**. Additional staff includes **Sade Aset** (assistant director), **Marquicia Dominguez** (dramaturg), **Ben Swenson-Klatt*** (choreographer), **Marena Kleinpeter** (dialect coach).

*Member of Washington Ensemble Theatre

About Washington Ensemble Theatre

Through collaborative artistic leadership, Washington Ensemble Theatre fearlessly creates audacious stories for adventurous Seattle audiences. A resident company at 12th Avenue Arts in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, WET is committed to maintaining an environment wherein its members, as well as artists from the community, are challenged to grow through its work as an ensemble. For more information about Washington Ensemble Theatre, please visit www.washingtonensemble.org.

The 2021/22 Ensemble is Maggie L. Rogers, Maria Manness, Erin Bednarz, Joceline Wynn, Tristan Roberson, Ryan Dunn, Sophia Franco, Rachel Guyer-Mafune, Kiki Abba, Brian Dang, Sien Méndez, Ben Swenson-Klatt, Elana Lessing, Quinn Chase, and Antonietta Carpio.

Thanks to our 2021/2022 season sponsors Raynier Institute & Foundation, 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, ArtsFund in partnership with Washington State Department of Commerce, and media sponsor *The Stranger*.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHEN

Pay What You Can Preview: Thursday, April 14, 2022
Opening Night: Friday, April 15, 2022 (press opening)
Pay What You Can Performance: April 17, 2022
Pay What You Can Performance: April 24, 2022
Livestream Performance: April 17 + April 28, 2022
Closing Day: Monday, May 2, 2022

All performances will be closed captioned.

SHOW TIMES

Thursdays - Mondays at 7:30 PM
There will be a matinee performance at 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 1, 2020

WHERE

12th Avenue Arts Studio Theater (1620 12th Avenue in Capitol Hill)

TICKETS

Please visit www.washingtonensemble.org to purchase tickets. Tickets range from \$15 - \$40.

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