

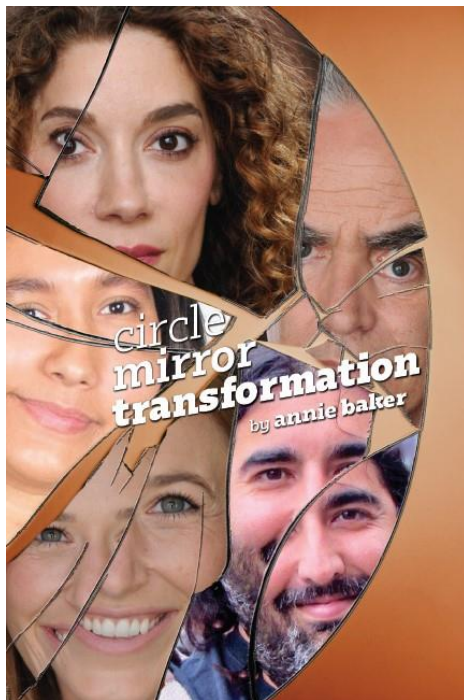


Media Contact:

Perry Aliado, Press Coordinator & Dramaturg
(415) 798-2682, press@custommade.org

Custom Made Theatre Co. presents Annie Baker's "Circle Mirror Transformation" at the Phoenix Theatre, San Francisco. March 25 - April 16, 2022

Press Opening: Sunday, March 27 at 2:00 pm; Critics, please
RSVP to press@custommade.org - seating is limited



San Francisco, CA (January 2022) – Custom Made Theatre Co. (Brian Katz, Executive Artistic Director) opens its 23rd season with the Obie Award Winning "Circle Mirror Transformation" by Annie Baker. Associate Artistic Director Ciera Eis will direct.

"Circle Mirror Transformation" will launch Custom Made's residency at the Phoenix Theatre, 414 Mason Street, Sixth Floor. The Phoenix is a historic 49-seat thrust stage next to Union Square in downtown San Francisco.

About Circle Mirror Transformation: "Five unlikely strangers come together to play Marty's transformative theater games in their community center. Over six weeks of drama exercises ranging from the hilarious to the heartbreaking, their lives become entangled and transformed in the most humorous and moving ways. "Circle Mirror" is a beautifully crafted diorama, a petri dish in which we see, with hilarious detail and

clarity, the antic sadness of a motley quintet.

COVID-19 policy

Custom Made will comply with all county and city Covid-19 guidelines and recommendations. All performers and staff are double-vaccinated and boosted, and all patrons will show proof of vaccination and booster upon entry. Masks will be required in the theatre at all times, and concessions will not be permitted.

About *Circle Mirror Transformation*

Circle Mirror Transformation will be directed by Custom Made Associate Artistic Director, Ciera Eis, who says, “‘Circle Mirror Transformation’ is a play about many little lives. After the years we have all been sifting through this pandemic, trying to discover what is healthy for our communities, our families, the greater good, and ourselves, we have each experienced a great number of tiny daily lives. We were forced to reassess our bonds, to reflect, to grow through resilience as a means of survival; but through each small death and rebirth there is the opportunity for reflection and transformation. This play is an exploration on how to reconnect.”

The cast features David Boyll (JAMES), Brenda Cisneros (LAUREN), Lauren Dunagan (THERESA), Emily Keyishian (MARTY), and Alfred Muller (SHULTZ).



Photo credit: Jay Yamada Pictured Emily Keyishian, David Boyll, Lauren Dunagan, Alfred Muller, Brenda Cisneros.

In addition to Ciera Eis, the creative team will be made up of Ashley Corso (Costumes), Starr Jiang (Scenic), Weili Shi (Lights), Jasmine Murray (Stage Management), and Sara Witsch (Sound).

About Annie Baker:

Annie Baker's other plays include *The Antipodes* (Signature Theatre/National Theatre), *John* (Signature Theatre/National Theatre, Obie Award), *The Flick* (Playwrights Horizons/Barrow Street/National Theatre, Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Hull-Warriner Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Award, Olivier Nomination), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Playwrights Horizons/Royal Court, Obie Award and Critics Circle Award), *The Aliens* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Obie Award and Critics Circle Award) and an adaptation of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* at Soho Rep, for which she also designed the costumes. Recent honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship, Steinberg Playwriting Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, and the Cullman Fellowship at the New York Public Library. In 2019 she and set designer Chloe Lamford co-directed the European premiere of *The Antipodes* at the National Theatre. She is an Associate Professor of Practice at the MFA in Playwriting Program at the University of Texas, Austin.

About Ciera Eis:

Ciera Eis (she/her) is a director and producer. She is the Associate Artistic Director at Custom Made Theatre, the Co-Artistic Director of FaultLine Theater, and the Creative Producer of Pint Sized Plays. She is passionate about developing socio-political new work, supporting emerging artists, and exploring immersive space. She has developed new work at American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Magic Theatre, The Curran, Shotgun Players, and Playground. Recent directing credits include: *A Gather Town Murder Mystery* and *The Twilight Zone* (Thunder Bay Theatre), *Faustian Red Piling* (The Ground Floor), *The Lost Ballad of our Mechanical Ancestor...* (Shotgun Players CRS), *Every Brilliant Thing* (Saint Mary's), *In the Dark* (Playground-LA), *You Had Me At Hello* (FaultLine) and *The Official Unicorn Hunter's Guide* (Winner of Shortlived VIII), as well as three commissioned media projects through Shotgun Players. Assistant Directing credits: *Wakey Wakey*, *Both Your Houses*, *Spring Awakening* (A.C.T.). She was a SDCF Observer 2019-2021 and graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz with a double in Directing and Psychology. www.cieraeis.com.

Show Times and Tickets

Previews: March 25th & 26th at 8:00 pm

Press Opening: Sunday, March 27, at 2:00 pm (note: new opening time)

Runs: March 27th – April 17th, 2022. Thurs-Sat 8:00 pm; Sunday 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$20-45

Learn more & buy tickets at <http://www.custommade.org> or (415) 798-CMTC (2682)

For Calendar Editors

Circle Mirror Transformation. "Five unlikely strangers come together to play transformative theater games ranging from the hilarious to the heartbreaking." Directed by Ciera Eis. Custom Made Theatre, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco. Previews Mar 25 & 26, 8:00 pm; Press Opening Mar 27 2:00 pm; runs through Apr 17. Thurs-Sat 8:00 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets: \$20-45. (415) 798-2682, www.custommade.org

About Custom Made Theater Co.

The Custom Made Theatre Co., in its 23rd season of production in San Francisco, is committed to producing plays that awaken our social conscience, focusing on the strength of the ensemble and creating an intimate theatrical experience.

Custom Made is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and Theatre Bay Area (TBA). Recipient of the SF Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Paine Knickerbocker Award for making a lasting contribution to Bay Area theatre.

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Custom Made Theatre, 414 Mason St. Suite 601, San Francisco 94102**