



# WE MAKE SPACE FOR ART

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEDIA ALERT**



### **CULTURALDC PRESENTS "TYRANT" BY LONGACRE LEA**

(Work in Progress)

#### **WHAT**

Kathleen Akerley's original play "Tyrant" interrogates the intersection of racial and class-based oppression. Twenty years after the passage of a Federal law "solving" homelessness with the creation of a mandatory work program, one man's relationship with his staff exposes the cracks in the system with brutal results. As actors alternate roles, "Tyrant" explores how scenes function when racial demographics are altered.

Supporters of the company, artists in the community, and interested parties will be welcome at certain rehearsals in addition to the Friday, May 18 reading and discussion. In every case, an audience-engagement specialist will facilitate responses from the community during and after the reading.

This play contains potentially disturbing material and is recommended for mature audiences.

#### **WHO**

Scott Ward Abernethy  
Moriama Akibu  
Tamiaka Chavis  
Séamus Miller  
Em Whitworth  
Carl Williams

#### **WHEN**

**One performance only**  
Friday, May 18  
7:30 p.m.

#### **WHERE**

Source Theatre Black Box  
1835 14th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009

#### **HOW**

This performance is **Pay-What-You-Can** with a suggested donation of \$10

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## **ABOUT CULTURALDC**

[CulturalDC](#) has a 19-year history of creating affordable, sustainable artist spaces in the Washington, DC area. CulturalDC has brokered more than 250,000 square feet of artist space, including the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market, Atlas Performing Arts Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Source Theatre, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Each year, CulturalDC serves more than 1,000 artists and welcomes 30,000 audience members and participants who patronize local businesses and contribute an estimated \$1 million to the local economy.

CulturalDC's performing arts program is geared at developing performing artists and performing arts organizations and connecting with communities across Washington, DC. We offer participants a chance to explore their craft by providing the basic tools needed to produce strong work: access to unique performance spaces and production mentorship. Specific production support provided by CulturalDC includes collaboration on marketing, publicity, and audience development, as well as production and artistic advisement as needed. This season, we are partnering with Blind Whino SW Arts Club for a performance in September and Dupont Underground for performances in December and April.

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## **ABOUT LONGACRE LEA**

[Longacre Lea](#) is a professional theater specializing in absurdism, magical realism, and the role of the unseen and unexplained in the human condition. The company has been in residence in the Callan Theatre every summer since 1999.

Artistic Director and Playwright Kathleen Akerley has premiered two of her plays (*Theories of the Sun* and *Tyrant*) at Sideshow Theatre in Chicago. Locally she has presented work at Theater Alliance, The Source Festival, Rorschach Theatre's MythAppropriations series, Theatre J's 5x5 reading series, eXtreme eXchange, and has written many of the more recent Longacre Lea shows, including *Whipping or The Football Hamlet*, *Fear*, and *Something Past in Front of the Light* — which the Company is now making into a film.