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For Immediate Release

## **SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE TO PRESENT *BEACHTOWN LIVE!* STREAMING WEEKLY BEGINNING JUNE 3**

**San Diego, CA – May 18, 2020 - San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) announced today ***Beachtown Live!***, a brand new weekly streaming project written and directed by REP Playwright-in-Residence **Herbert Siguenza**. Beginning on **Wednesday, June 3** and happening live **every Wednesday through July 29**, members of the original cast of Siguenza's *Beachtown* and other San Diego favorite actors will join San Diego REP audiences to discuss how their fictional hometown should face the global pandemic crisis. Full of comedy and music, *Beachtown Live!* is certain to be the most innovative, immersive and interactive project in San Diego REP history. Access to the weekly live stream will be free of charge and further details about how to participate will be announced soon.

"We're collectively experiencing something that none of us have ever gone through. Times like these call for innovative ideas and provocative experimentation. What Herbert and the artistic staff at San Diego REP have come up with in *Beachtown Live!* fits the bill," says **Sam Woodhouse**, San Diego REP's Artistic Director. "We're thrilled to be trying something this fresh and new, and trust that San Diego REP audiences will love the opportunity to become part of the show in this new virtual way. Theatre happens when actor and audience meet, and *Beachtown Live!* aims to spark that magic online."

The small Southern California coastal community of Beachtown is facing a pandemic. The city has formed the Road to the Future Task Force to deal with the challenges the pandemic brings, and they need to hear your thoughts and opinions. As a citizen of Beachtown, you'll help decide when and how to open beaches, parks, schools and offices; how to mitigate the effect on vulnerable communities, and other timely issues. Every Wednesday, Mayor Steve Novak and the Road to the Future Task Force will meet online at 7pm to host a participatory town hall with each other and with citizens (like you) who join the conversation and debate online. The first of 9 Task Force meetings will be broadcast live on the web on Wednesday, June 3 at 7pm. As always, town hall meetings are free to join and participation is welcomed but not mandatory.

The cast of San Diego REP's *Beachtown Live!* includes **Jason Heil** (*Hand to God, Clybourne Park*), **Salomon Maya** (*Manifest Destinities, Bad Hombres/Good Wives*), **Marci Anne Weubben** (*Beachtown* at San Diego REP, *A Little Night Music* at Cygnet Theatre), **Antonio "TJ" Johnson** (*Beachtown* at San Diego REP, *Father Comes Home from the Wars, Parts 1, 2 & 3* at Intrepid Theatre Company), **Sandra Ruiz** (*Beachtown, In the Time of the Butterflies*), **William "BJ" Robinson** (*Beachtown*, host of KPBS/arts) and **Mondis Vakili** (*House of Joy* at San Diego REP, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* at The Old Globe).

Siguenza will write and direct the piece, with consultation from **Rachel Grossman**, the founder of Washington D.C. area theatre, dog & pony dc. **Sarah Zimmerman** will serve as Stage Manager and Technical Director, with **Danielle Ward** as Dramaturg.

**HERBERT SIGUENZA (PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR)** is Playwright-In-Residence at The REP through a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. He is also a founding member of Culture Clash, the most popular and produced Latino ensemble in the nation. For the last thirty years, he has co-written or adapted and performed over fifteen original critically acclaimed award winning plays at prestigious regional theatres around the country. Theatre Communications Group Books has published three compilations of their collective works which includes *Radio Mambo*, *Zorro in Hell!* and *Chavez Ravine*. Siguenza has also written and performed solo works outside the group including *Cantinflas!* (2003), *A Weekend With Pablo Picasso* (2010), *El Henry* (2014), *Steal Heaven* (2015), *Manifest Destinitis* (2016), *Beachtown* (2018) and *Bad Hombres/Good Wives* (2019). Additionally, Mr. Siguenza recently directed Jose Rivera's *Cloud Tectonics* for New Village Arts and his voice is featured in the Oscar nominated animated film *Coco*.

### **About San Diego Repertory Theatre**

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

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