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For Immediate Release

**SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE TO PRESENT ONE-MAN SHOW  
ABOUT A TRUE AMERICAN HERO**

**SAN DIEGO, CA – September 24, 2019 - San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) announced today the cast and creative team for ***Hold These Truths***, the inspiring true story of Gordon Hirabayashi. The production, written by **Jeanne Sakata** and directed by **Jessica Kubzansky**, will run **November 14 – December 8, 2019**, in San Diego REP's Lyceum Space Theatre, with previews November 14 – 19, and press opening on **Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.**

Shocked by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and driven by fear and prejudice, America shipped its own citizens of Japanese ancestry off to internment camps for forced detention. *Hold These Truths* tells the inspiring true story of American hero Gordon Hirabayashi, a young man who defied President Roosevelt's order to report to a WWII internment camp. Join Gordon on a 50-year quest to avenge an injustice to his community, restore his faith in the U.S. Constitution and reconcile America's greatness with its shortcomings. *Hold These Truths* has played to sold-out audiences all over the country and features a tour-de-force performance by stage and screen actor **Ryun Yu**, who plays Gordon and 37 other characters.

"The Presidential order to put American citizens in forced detention in 1942 is a profound scar upon our country's history," says San Diego REP Artistic Director **Sam Woodhouse**. "The passion for and commitment to justice that Gordon Hirabayashi brought to his quest to right this wrong makes him an American to be honored and treasured. His story is an extraordinary one."

*Hold These Truths* is playwright Jeanne Sakata's lone foray off stage and screen, having made a highly successful career as an actor. Her inspiring solo play has been widely produced across the nation, including sold-out performances with the Guthrie Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Portland Center Stage and more. In addition to critical and audience acclaim, *Hold These Truths* is also on display at the Library of Congress Playwrights Archive in the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection in Washington D.C., where the Jeanne Sakata Collection was established in July 2011.

Starring as Gordon Hirabayashi (and 37 other characters) is renowned actor of stage and screen Ryun Yu. Yu was the first Korean-American to train at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and holds the first theatre degree ever awarded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Yu has worked closely with award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang, having appeared in film adaptations of Hwang's plays *Bondage* and *Yellow Face*. Other film credits include *The Last Tour* (which he also directed), *Only the Brave*, *The Brothers Solomon* and *The Mikado Project*. On stage, he played George in the Los Angeles premiere of Julia Cho's *The Language Archive* and David in the world premiere of Lloyd Suh's *American Hwangap* at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco. He also

performed in the west coast premiere of Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winning *Take Me Out* at the Geffen Playhouse.

San Diego REP's production of *Hold These Truths* is supported in part by a grant as part of the **California Civil Liberties Public Education** program at the **California State Library**. The grant, one of 30 awarded in 2019, will provide free tickets to students through San Diego REP's Project Discovery program, facilitate 11 audience and community engagement events and support the creation of a comprehensive guide for audiences to explore the historical context and themes of the play. Created in 1998, the California Civil Liberty program's purpose is to "sponsor public educational activities and development of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered so that the causes and circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood."

The creative team features the award-winning **Ben Zamora** (Scenic & Lighting Design), **John Zalewski** (Sound Design), **Alyssa Escalante** (Stage Manager), **Chelsea Smith** (Production Manager) and **Kim Heil** (Casting Director).

Tickets to *Hold These Truths* are on sale now. Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$72.00 and are available for purchase in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000 or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Prices subject to change.

**JEANNE SAKATA (PLAYWRIGHT):** Jeanne's acting and writing talents span across theater, film and television, with multiple productions of her acclaimed solo play *Hold These Truths* (2013 Drama Desk Nomination, Outstanding Solo Performance; 2019 Theatre Bay Awards, Outstanding Production, Direction and Principal Performance) recently produced at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Arena Stage, Hang A Tale, Lyric Stage Company, Pasadena Playhouse, the Guthrie, ACT Seattle, Portland Center Stage, Perseverance Theatre and PlayMakers Repertory Company, among others. Called a "local treasure" by *The Los Angeles Times*, Jeanne's screen credits include Jennifer Phang's internationally acclaimed indie sci-fi film, *Advantageous*; on TV, guest/recurring roles on "Big Hero 6," "Dr. Ken," Bravo's "True Fiction," "NCIS Angeles," "NUMB3RS," Tyler Perry's "Meet the Browns," "Desperate Housewives," "Presidio Med," "ER," "Threat Matrix," "Line of Fire," "American Family," John Ridley's "I Got You," "Hiroshima" and "Sex and Marriage," a Justin Lin YOMYOMF YouTube webseries. Onstage, Jeanne has performed with the Public Theater, Lincoln Center Theater, Kennedy Center, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Rep, Intiman Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Portland Center Stage, People's Light, Syracuse Stage and the Arizona Theatre Company.

**JESSICA KUBZANSKY (DIRECTOR):** Jessica has been Artistic Director of Boston Court Pasadena since its inception. For Boston Court, Jessica has directed the world premiere of Stefanie Zdravec's *Colony Collapse*, Luis Alfaro's *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* (at The Getty Villa), Sheila Callaghan's *Everything You Touch* (Rattlestick at the Cherry Lane, NYC), plus World premieres of: *EYT, R II* (Kubzansky's three-person adaptation of Richard II), Michael Elyanow's *The Children*, Jordan Harrison's *Futura*, Laura Schellhardt's *Courting Vampires*, Salamone/McIntyre's *Gulls*, Mickey Birnbaum's *Bleed Rail*, Carlos Murillo's *Unfinished American Highwayscape #9&32*, Van Itallie's *Light*, Cody Henderson's *Cold/Tender*. Plus: *Camino Real* and *Mother Courage*. Elsewhere: South Coast Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, Geffen, ACT, Portland Center Stage, etc. Recently: *Stupid F\*cking Bird*, *Pygmalion* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Hamlet* (Theatre 150). Kubzansky teaches graduate playwrights and directors at UCLA, has her MFA in Direction from the California Institute of the Arts

and her undergraduate degree in Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins and Harvard. She has received many awards and honors, among them the Los Angeles' Drama Critics' Circle's Margaret Harford Award for Sustained Excellence in Theatre.

### **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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### **FACT SHEET**

#### ***Hold These Truths***

Written by Jeanne Sakata

Directed by Jessica Kubzansky

**Performance Dates:** November 14 – December 8, 2019

**Previews:** November 14 – 19, 2019

**Press Opening:** Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

**Closing:** Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.

**Synopsis:** The inspiring true story of American hero Gordon Hirabayashi, a young man who defied an unjust order to report to an internment camp, and fought for 50 years to right this wrong.

#### **Cast:**

**Gordon Hirabayashi and others:** Ryun Yu\*

*\*Appearing Courtesy of Actor's Equity Association*

#### **Creative Team:**

Director: Jessica Kubzansky

Scenic & Lighting Design: Ben Zamora

Sound Design: John Zalewski

Production Manager: Chelsea Smith

Stage Manager: Alyssa Escalante

Assistant Production Manager & Company Manager: Sarah Zimmerman

Casting Director: Kim Heil

**Performance Schedule:**

Previews:

- Thursday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 16 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Night

- Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Performances

- Thursday, November 21 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 22 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 23 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 29 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 30 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 6 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.

**Ticket Prices:** \$25.00-\$72.00

**Ticket Information:**

Tickets are on sale now. Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$72.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Active-duty military, teachers, group and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances at ½ off regularly priced seats. Prices subject to change.

**Location:**

San Diego Repertory Theatre  
79 Horton Plaza  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Box Office:**

Phone: 619.544.1000  
Website: [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org)

**Parking:**

Parking is available in the Horton Plaza parking garage for \$8 with validation. Enter the garage from Fourth Avenue just south of the Balboa Theatre. Follow entrance lanes, then turn right and continue to the third level to park. Horton Plaza parking tickets (issued from machines at entry) may be

validated in the Lyceum Theatres lobby during your show. Validation will allow patrons to pay a flat \$8 rate.

**Please note:** If you do not validate your ticket at the theatre, the current rate charged at exit is \$2.00 for every 15 minutes (daily maximum charge = \$48.00). Westfield Horton Plaza parking garage rates are subject to change at any time. For any additional ABM Parking information, contact ABM Parking at 619.233.1491.

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