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## **TRINITY REP ANNOUNCES SCOTT AIELLO AS BUDDY CIANCI** *Tickets go on sale for highly-anticipated The Prince of Providence August 10*

**PROVIDENCE, RI:** Trinity Rep announces that New York-based actor **Scott Aiello**, best known for his role of Tommy Barkow on the Showtime television series *Billions* will play Vincent “Buddy” Cianci in the highly-anticipated upcoming play, *The Prince of Providence*. The production will run September 12 – October 20 and is expected to sell out. Tickets will go on sale Saturday, August 10 at 10:00 am online and in-person at the theater.

The play is written by George Brant and is based on the New York Times best-selling book of the same name by Mike Stanton about the highs and lows of the career of former Providence mayor Buddy Cianci. Cianci was twice removed from office because of legal issues. He remains a polarizing figure locally and a well-known political figure nationally, in part because of the podcast *Crimetown*, which featured his story in its first season. The play will be directed by Obie-Award winning Taibi Magar, a Brown/Trinity alumna who has garnered international attention for her work.

In March 2018, Trinity Rep announced that they had obtained the underlying rights to the book *The Prince of Providence* from Stanton and subsequently commissioned Brant to adapt the book into a play. Brant’s first commission for Trinity Rep resulted in *Into the Breeches!*, which debuted during the 2017-18 Season and has since been produced at theaters around the country. Trinity Rep commissioned and developed *The Prince of Providence* with support from The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.

It was previously announced that Trinity Rep resident acting company member **Rebecca Gibel** would play the role of Sheila Cianci. Other actors in the production include resident company members: **Stephen Berenson**, **Janice Duclos**, **Mauro Hantman**, **Phyllis Kay**, **Brian McEleney**, **Charlie Thurston**, and **Joe Wilson, Jr.**

Brown/Trinity MFA students **Caitlin Duffy** ‘20, **Ian Kremer** ‘20, **Lindsey Steinert** ‘20, and **Nick Vicinzaro** ‘20 will also join the cast. Also joining the ensemble is **Erick Betancourt** (*Blue Bloods*, *New Amsterdam*, *For Life*). Erick

grew up in Providence, Rhode Island and worked at Trinity Rep for several years on the security staff before leaving to pursue acting. He returns to Trinity Rep for his role in *The Prince of Providence*.

Associate Artistic Director, **Tyler Dobrowsky**, said of Scott Aiello and the process of casting Buddy Cianci: “We were looking for an actor who could capture Buddy's charisma, his humor, his intelligence, as well as the more menacing qualities of the former mayor. We also wanted an actor who could convincingly play Buddy when he first gets elected mayor in his 30s, and then also play an older Buddy during his trial and last days in office. Scott was that actor. He stood out in a number of ways -- he is a Julliard-trained actor with a number of high-profile theater, film, and television credits to his name, so we knew he could handle a role of this size and importance, and in his auditions he really seemed to understand Buddy on a fundamental level. We're very lucky to have him.”

#### **ABOUT SCOTT AIELLO**

Scott Aiello is a graduate of the Julliard School's Drama Division, as well as The Second City's Conservatory for Improv and Sketch Comedy. He has appeared in various productions, including *Support Group for Men* at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in 2019. He wrote and debuted his first full-length play *Bernie and Mikey's Trip to the Moon* in 2018 in New York City. He is known for his recurring guest roles on CBS' *The Good Fight*, Showtime's *Billions*, and TBS' *The Last O.G.* and has narrated over 100 audiobooks.

#### **ABOUT TAIBI MAGAR**

Director **Taibi Magar** has been a sought-after director around the country since graduating from the Brown/Trinity MFA program in 2014. Her Trinity Rep directing credits include *The Hunchback of Seville*, *A Christmas Carol*, and last season's *The Song of Summer*. She recently directed *We Live in Cairo* at Boston's American Repertory Theater. She won the 2018 Obie Award in directing for her production of *Is God Is* at Soho Rep. Her work has garnered international attention, including productions at the Hamburg Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne, and Soho Theatre in London.

#### **THE PRINCE OF PROVIDENCE TICKETS**

*The Prince of Providence* is one of the most anticipated theatrical events of the season and is expected to sell out. The show has been a driving factor behind significant growth in Trinity Rep's subscriber count. The number of new subscribers has more than doubled compared to previous years, as subscribers receive significant



discounts and the best seats for this once-in-a-generation show. Subscriber tickets begin at \$20 per show and final discounts may be as high as 75%.

Tickets will go on sale at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 10. Tickets will be available online at [trinityrep.com/buddy](http://trinityrep.com/buddy) or in person at the Trinity Rep box office, located at 201 Washington St. The lobby will open at 8:30 am. Tickets will not be available by phone on August 10. Regular phone and walk-up service will resume on Monday, August 12 and tickets will be available online at any time for as long as they remain.

Group tickets to *The Prince of Providence* will go on sale on **August 5 at 10:00 am. Groups of 10 or more can receive up to 25% off but seats are limited.** Groups get specialized personal service and planning assistance. For more information, contact Group Sales Associate Ava Mascena at (401) 453-9238 or email [amascena@trinityrep.com](mailto:amascena@trinityrep.com).

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR *THE PRINCE OF PROVIDENCE***

Other special performances for *The Prince of Providence* include **Open Captioned** performances for the show on Sunday, September 15 at 2:00 pm and Wednesday, September 25 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The **Next Generation Night** will be held on Thursday, September 19.

The media sponsor for *The Prince of Providence* is **Providence Media**. The 2019-20 Season Sponsors are **Ocean State Job Lot and Rhode Island Council on the Arts**. **Providence Tourism Council** is a Supporting Season sponsor. **Southwest Airlines** is the official airline of Trinity Rep.

#### **TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY**

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.

Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for more than four decades and made memories for over a million audience members. It will return again in 2019 for its 42nd year.



Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2019-20 Season, including the world-premiere of *The Prince of Providence* by George Brant, based on the book *The Prince of Providence* by Mike Stanton; *Fade* by Tanya Saracho; August Wilson's *Radio Golf*; *A Tale of Two Cities* by Brian McEleney, based on the novel by Charles Dickens; *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage; and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler. Single tickets for all shows other than *The Prince of Providence* and *A Christmas Carol* will go on sale August 20.

**For more information on our 2019-20 Season, call the box office at (401) 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's website at [www.TrinityRep.com](http://www.TrinityRep.com).**

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