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## BROWN/TRINITY REP MFA PROGRAM PRESENTS

### “THE LATE WEDDING”

#### Christopher Chen’s play on stage November 11 - 21

**PROVIDENCE, RI:** The Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company MFA Programs in Acting and Directing present *The Late Wedding* by Christopher Chen, directed by **Aileen Wen McGroddy**. Performances run November 11 through November 21 at the Pell Chafee Performance Center on 87 Empire Street in Providence. General admission is \$15 with a discounted price of \$10 for seniors and \$7 for students. Tickets are on sale now at Trinity Rep’s ticket office, by phone at (401) 351-4242, or online at [trinityrep.com/wedding](http://trinityrep.com/wedding).

#### ABOUT THE PLAY

Based on the works of fabulist writer Italo Calvino, *The Late Wedding* takes a dive into the challenges of intimacy, longing, and trust in romantic relationships through a series of genre-bending vignettes. From documentary-style tours of marriages across fictional cultures to an intergalactic voyage across the stars, playwright Christopher Chen masterfully weaves Calvino’s second-person narrative style with his signature wit. The play explores timeless themes of the malleability of personal relationships, the desire to be in a partnership, why we search for this mythical person called “the one”, and the exquisite compromise of commitment.

“This play has a bit of a broken heart,” director **Aileen Wen McGroddy** said. “It’s a fun theatrical journey, but it is also asking serious questions about ‘What is this thing that we do as people where we decide that ‘I’m going to invest my life in this other person? What does it mean to partner up with somebody in life, and what happens when it falls apart?’”

*The Late Wedding* will be Brown/Trinity Rep's first live in-person ticketed production since March 2020, something that Aileen considered heavily when staging this play. She said that the production will be a uniquely theatrical experience.

"Part of this project was going to be about coming back to the theater after COVID," Aileen said. "I was asking a lot of questions, like 'What do we want to experience now? How do we give people an experience that is uniquely theatrical, not something that you can experience on Netflix or Zoom?'"

### CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

**Aileen Wen McGroddy** is a Chinese-Irish-American theatre director, educator, and producer of live events. Her work is imaginative, inclusive, and playfully experimental, coming from a robust background in physical theatre and a deep commitment to hospitality. Raised in New York, Aileen studied and worked in Chicago before coming to Providence and Brown/Trinity Rep for her MFA. Credits include: *On The Y-Axis* by Lucas Baisch, *Summer and Smoke* by Tennessee Williams, *Akira Kurosawa Explains his Movies and Yogurt* by Julia Izumi, and *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare adapted by Aileen McGroddy (Brown-Trinity); *Or*, by Liz Duffy-Adams and *Dani Girl* by Christopher Diamond and Michael Koonan (Winnepesaukee Playhouse); *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* and *The Snowy Day* (Emerald City Theatre); *Montauciel Takes Flight* (Lifeline Theatre); *Ulysses* (The Plagiarists); *A Hero's Journey*, *The Hunting of the Snark*, *Robin Hood*, and *The Pied Piper* (The Forks & Hope Ensemble); *The Whiskey Radio Hour*, *Wake: A Folk Opera*, *Kodachrome Telephone* and *Sign of Rain* (The Whiskey Rebellion); *Gentle*, *The Edge of Our Bodies*, *Music Hall*, *The Anyway Cabaret* (TUTA); *The Nose* and *Reika and the Wolves* (Mudlark Theatre); and *In This Final Century* (Theatre-Hikes). She has assisted at The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Trinity Rep, Court Theatre, The Actors' Gymnasium, The Hypocrites, and The House. Before moving to Providence, she was the artistic director of The Forks & Hope Ensemble and the Whiskey Rebellion; she was a company member of TUTA, sat on the steering committee of DirectorsLabChicago, and on the producing team of Physical Festival Chicago.

Aileen will work alongside **Tatiana Kahvegian** (scenic design), **Camilla Dely** (costume design), **Jennifer Fok** (lighting design), and **Caroline Eng** (sound design).

The cast of this production features five final-year students from the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA program in acting, all playing multiple roles throughout the production: **Alfredo Antillon** as Han and others; **Andrew Gombas** as Sailor and others; **Jihan Haddad** as Eleanor and others; **Gunnar Manchester** as Stranger and others; and **Han**



**Van Sciver** as General and others. Local Rhode Island actor **Catia** will also appear in the show as Narrator and others.

The Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Programs provide a three-year professional training program under the auspices of an Ivy League university and Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater company. Brown University's Department of Theater and Performance Studies is internationally recognized for the quality of its faculty and instruction. Trinity Rep, with its deep tradition of resident artists, provides powerful artistic assets and creates a firm foundation for a new generation of theater artists.



**AT A GLANCE**

***The Late Wedding***

By Christopher Chen

November 11 – November 21, 2021

**Director:** Aileen Wen McGroddy

**Scenic Designer:** Tatiana Kahvegian

**Costume Designer:** Camilla Dely

**Lighting Designer:** Jennifer Fok

**Sound Designer:** Caroline Eng

**Production Stage Manager:** Grace Dolan

**Cast**

Alfredo Antillon

Catia

Andrew Gombas

Jihan Haddad

Gunnar Manchester

Han Van Sciver

**Performances:**

Thursday, November 11 at 7:30 pm

Friday, November 12 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 13 at 2:00 pm

Saturday, November 13 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 14 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, November 18 at 7:30 pm

Friday, November 19 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 20 at 2:00 pm

Saturday, November 20 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 21 at 2:00 pm

**Website:** [trinityrep.com/wedding](http://trinityrep.com/wedding)

**Ticket Office:** (401)-351-4242; 201 Washington Street, Providence, RI, 02903