



Stage Left Theatre announces the cast for

IN THE BACK / ON THE FLOOR

A World Premiere
Written by Ken Green
Directed by Rachel Van
April 28 – May 28, 2023

Chicago, April 25, 2023 – Stage Left Theatre is ready to launch the upcoming production of **IN THE BACK / ON THE FLOOR - a world premiere by playwright Ken Green and directed by Rachel Van**. The new play examines the issues that minimum wage workers face through the lives of employees at a big-box retail store. Performances take place at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60642. Press opening is Friday, April 28, 2023. The show runs through May 28th.

THE PLAY

IN THE BACK/ON THE FLOOR examines the issues that minimum wage workers face through the lives of several employees at a big-box retail store. Though paid the least, these workers are asked to bear the heaviest burden for the good of profit. They are often seen as easily replaceable parts, but also expected to believe they are members of a "family." When one worker with ambition sees his dreams of advancement within the organization stunted, the situation raises the forbidden word - "union."

Playwright Ken Green says about the play "IN THE BACK/ON THE FLOOR" came from my experience working retail at one of those national chain retail stores (which shall remain nameless), which a lot of us have done. Those can be hard places to work on so many levels, especially for frontline folks - the ones who unload trucks and stock shelves and clean up messes and face customers." Holding the experience of the workers close to his heart he continues, "They're often paid the least but expected to do the most. Those places push the idea that everyone there is "family," but it's a pretty dysfunctional family. Working conditions can be... let's say, challenging, your time is tightly monitored, and because you're considered "easily replaceable," the threat of being fired is always hanging in the air."

When Ken started writing the play seven years ago, He figured that many of issues he was trying to touch on would be obsolete by the time the play was finished. The more Ken developed the play, the more he saw that the "Fight for 15" continues and unfortunately, so is the relevance of the play.

Artistic Director Bobbi Masters said, "Even as our country is fresh off the heels of proclaiming the heroic nature of essential workers, many struggle with working conditions, long hours, and stilted hope. IN THE BACK/ ON THE FLOOR is for anyone who knows the grind of the workforce is out of sync with the smile on the packaging." She continues, "Stage Left Theatre is very excited to present this relevant new play at this critical time in the rewriting of America post-pandemic."

THE CAST:

Jorge Aguliar (Carlos), Juan Conde Belmares (Jose), Ashley-Marie Chave (Julie), Calebe Lee Jenkins (Foley), Loredon Krug (Allen), Jelani Julyus (Larry), Peter Leondedis (Wally), Kairis Rivera (Wanda), and Katherine Schwartz (Donna)

THE CREATIVES:

The cast is supported by an extraordinary creative team of directors and designers, including Ken Green – Playwright, Rachel Van – Director, Dakota Allen - Stage Manager, Eric Cope - Production Manager and Lighting Designer, David Heimann - Managing Director, Jonathan Berg-Einhorn - Scenic Designer and Technical Director, Jake Sorgen - Sound Designer. Andrés (Andy) Mota - Costume Designer, Rocky Kolecke - Props Designer, Carlos Lux - Asst. Stage Manager. Kenneth Martin - Covid Compliance Officer. Stage Left Theatre's ensemble and creative team for IN THE BACK / ON THE FLOOR are led by Artistic Director, Bobbi Masters.

TICKETS, DATES & INFORMATION

(IN THE BACK / ON THE FLOOR) runs over five weeks with two previews and nineteen performances (times are all Central Time):

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 8:00pm (Preview Performance) \$25
Friday, April 28, 2023 at 8:00pm (Opening Night) \$40
Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 2:00pm \$35
Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:00pm \$30
Friday, May 5, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2:00pm \$35
Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 8:00pm \$30
Friday, May 12, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Sunday, May 14, 2023 at 2:00pm \$35
Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 8:00pm \$30
Friday, May 19, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 2:00pm \$35
Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 8:00pm \$30
Friday, May 26, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 8:00pm \$40
Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 2:00pm \$35

Tickets range from \$35 to \$40. Student tickets are reduced by \$25 with coupon code "Student" and are available online through the Stage Left website www.stagelefttheatre.com. For questions or assistance, email tix@stagelefttheatre.com or call 773-883-8830.

Media comps, photos, videos and interviews are available by contacting David Heimann, 773-255-2773 or emailing him at press@stagelefttheatre.com. Hi-res photos, this release, archived releases and production photos will be available at <https://www.stagelefttheatre.com/press-room> .

1105 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60642 • 773.883.8830

press@stagelefttheatre.com

stagelefttheatre.com

ABOUT STAGE LEFT

Founded in 1982, Stage Left Theatre is committed to nurturing voices for the American theatre by developing and producing engaging and relevant theatre for an inclusive industry by highlighting unheard voices, stories, and perspectives. Through a full subscription season and our new play development program, Downstage Left, Stage Left strives to ask provocative social and political questions by producing a mix of new works, regional premieres, and timeless classics.

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