



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two River Theater Company
presents the East Coast Premiere of

26 **Miles**

By **Quiara Alegria Hudes**
Directed by **KJ Sanchez**
September 15 - October 4, 2009

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company opens its 2009/2010 season with the **east coast premiere** of **26 Miles**, a new play, by **Quiara Alegria Hudes**. **26 Miles** is the story of Olivia, a brilliant teenage girl, and her estranged mother Beatriz. Mother and daughter reunite on an unexpected road trip, where, together, they discover love, a common understanding, and find a part of their identity that has been missing all along.

“This is a sneaky play. It’s funny, it’s smart and the story unfolds effortlessly,” says the plays director. “And yet, within this entertaining coming-of-age road trip lives so much love and humanity – it is so true to life – that it’ll sneak up on you and go straight to the heart.”

By the author of the Broadway smash ***In The Heights***, **26 Miles** is directed by **TRTC’s Associate Artistic Director KJ Sanchez** and is being co-produced with **Round House Theatre** in Bethesda, MD. The cast of four includes **Zabryna Guevara, Laura C. Harris, Michael Frederic, and Triney Sandoval**. **26 Miles** begins previews **Tuesday, September 15**, opens **Saturday, September 19**, and runs through **Sunday, October 4**.

Biographies

Quiara Alegria Hudes was nominated for a Tony Award for her book for *In the Heights* which captured the 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical and was a finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize. Her previous works include *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue* (2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist); *Yemaya's Belly*; and the new children's musical *Barrio Grrrr!*. Originally trained as a composer, Hudes graduated with a B.A. in music composition from Yale and an M.F.A in playwriting from Brown. A resident writer for New Dramatists, Hudes is currently writing the second and third plays in the *Elliot* trilogy and the screenplay of *In the Heights* for Universal Pictures.

Sanchez's other directing credits include last season's *Private Lives* at Two River, *The Giver* at Asolo Repertory Theatre, Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and her own plays *Pants on Fire* at the American Repertory Theatre, *Highway 47* with Working Classroom in Albuquerque, New Mexico, *Handcuff Girl Saves the World* at the Washington Ensemble Theatre. Her play, *For All Time*, produced by Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles, recently received an *LA Times'* Critics Pick and her play *ReEntry*, also part of TRTC's 2008/2009 season received rave reviews.

Zabryna Guevara, Beatriz: Off-Broadway credits include: *Sonia Flew* and *El Paso Blue!*, SPF; *Santa Concepción!*, The Public Theatre; *The Cook, Tight Embrace* and *Now and Then*, INTAR; *Bulrusher!*, Urban Stages; *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue*, Page 73 Productions. Regional: *The Cook*, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, Connecticut Critics Circle Nomination; *Twelfth Night*, Actors Theatre of Louisville; *Sonia Flew*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Breath, Boom!*, The Huntington Theatre; *Noises Off*, Studio Arena; *1001*, CATF; *Hamlet*, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival; *Dreamlandia*, Dallas Theatre Center. Film & Television: *Marley and Me*, *All Good Things* (2009), *The Rebound* (2009), *Pariah* (2009), *Whispers* (HBO, Sundance Film Festival, Gordon Parks Film Festival Award), *3 Lbs*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Sopranos*, *The Jury*.

Laura C. Harris, Olivia: is based in Washington, D.C., where her credits include *The Winter's Tale*, *The School for Scandal*, Folger Theatre; *1984*, Catalyst Theater Company; *Rough Guide to the Underworld*, Riverrun Theatre Company; *What Remains*, Source Festival; *Long Beach '44*, Washington Women in Theater; *An Experiment with an Air Pump*, Potomac Theatre Project; *The Bewitched*, American College Theater Festival; National Finalist, Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition. New York City credits

include *Cigarettes and Chocolate*, *No End of Blame* (u/s), Atlantic Stage 2. Regional: *On the Verge*, *5 Hysterical Girls Theorem*, *Beirut*, *The Wedding Dress*, *Necessary Targets*, *Angels in America*, *Midwives*. Training: Middlebury College, BA in Theatre and Film.

Michael Frederic, Aaron: NY theater credits include *Night Over Taos*, Theatre for a New City – Estelle Parsons, dir.; *Summer and Smoke*, Theatre Row; *The 365 Plays*, Public; *Thorny Bushes*, INTAR; *Vampire University*, Ohio Theatre; *Expressing Willie*, West End Theatre; *The Sky Over Ninevah*, HERE; *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, NYU. Regional: *Doubt* and *The Unexpected Guest*, Fulton Theatre; *Doubt*, Cleveland Play House; *Gross Indecency*, *As You Like It*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *Violet*, PlayMakers Rep; *Deathtrap* and *A Christmas Carol*, Public Theatre of Maine; *Play by Play*, StageWorks/Hudson; *The Comedy of Errors*, Saratoga Springs Shakespeare Festival; and *Assassins*, Open Stage of Harrisburg. Film: *MovieMoney* with Andre Royo. Member: INTAR Actors' Collective and Actors' Equity Association. Training: MFA (UNC-Chapel Hill), Michael Howard (The Michael Howard Studios).

Triney Sandoval, Manuel: Broadway: *A Man for All Seasons*, Chapuys; *Frost/Nixon*, Manolo Sanchez (Both with Frank Langella). Other New York credits: *The Idiot*, *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *As You Like It*, and *Art*. Regional: *Private Lives*, Two River Theater Company; *Death and the Maiden*, Baltimore Center Stage; *Day of the Kings*, *26 Miles*, The Alliance Theatre; *Ladies of the Camillias* and *Taming of the Shrew*, Yale Rep; *Napoli Millionaria*, Milwaukee Rep; *Figaro Gets a Divorce*, La Jolla Playhouse; *The Tempest*, Alabama Shakespeare; *Eurydice*, The Wilma (Barrymore Award); and *Art*, Virginia Stage. Other credits include: The Oregon Shakespeare Festival and The Old Globe. TV: *The Sopranos*, *One Life to Live*, *All My Children*, recurring roles on *Law & Order* and *Law & Order SVU*.

Leading the creative team is TRTC regular **Scenic and Projection Designer Daniel Conway** (*Dirty Blonde*, The Signature Theatre; the premiere of Jason Robert Brown's: *Trumpet of The Swan* for The Kennedy Center; *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, The Roundhouse Theatre; *The Giver*, ASOLO Theatre; *Macbeth*, Two River Theater Company and Folger Theatre). The **Lighting Design** will be handled by *Entertainment Design Magazine* Tyro Talent award winner **Thom Weaver**, whose TRTC credits include *Bad Dates*, *Macbeth*, *A Year With Frog and Toad* and *ReEntry*. **Sound Designer Zachary Williamson** also returns to TRTC after previous productions: *ReEntry*, *Glass Menagerie*, *The Charlatan's Séance* and *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. Rounding out the design team is longtime TRTC favorite **Costume Designer**

Marion Williams. Audiences may remember her most recent scenic design for *The Glass Menagerie* and her scenic and costume designs for *ReEntry*.

Underwritten in part by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation and co-produced by Round House Theatre, *26 Miles* is scheduled to run **Tuesday, September 15** through **Sunday, October 4**. **Tickets are \$35 - \$61.** Get more information online at www.trtc.org, call **732.345.1400**, or visit the **Two River Theater Company Box Office** in Red Bank, located at 21 Bridge Avenue. Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: 12pm-5pm.

TRTC's Artistic Department will lead **Before Play**. This **pre-show discussion series** is scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance and will offer an in-depth look at the production. **Post-show discussions** are scheduled following the 8pm performance on **Wednesday, September 23** and following each of the **Sunday matinees: September 20, 27 and October 4** at 3pm, as well as **Wednesday, September 30** at 1pm. One **student matinee performance** is scheduled on **Tuesday, September 29** at 10am. **Discounted group rates** are available through the Box Office.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assistive listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

CALENDAR NOTICE

Events for *26 Miles*:

Tuesday, September 15 – Community preview performance. More than 150 volunteers from Lunchbreak in Red Bank, Atlantic Highlands Arts Council, Hispanic Affairs Resource Center of Monmouth County, and the Middlesex County Fair Association will be treated to the first public performance.

Saturday, September 19 – Opening Night performance of *26 Miles* and post-show celebration.

Sunday, September 20 – **FYI Series.** TRTC and Monmouth University collaborate to host a series of interactive scholarly conversations. These panel discussions with scholars, experts and artists are designed to ignite passionate and thought-provoking dialogue, discourse and further investigation.

Wednesday, September 23, 8pm; Sunday, September 27, 3pm; Wednesday, September 30, 1pm –
Post-show discussions led by a member of the artistic staff will follow each performance.

Wednesday, September 30 – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 1pm. Tickets are \$14 for those needing audio-description. Call 732.345.1400.

Sunday, October 4 – “So What Was That?” Brand new this season, join TRTC Executive Producer Robert Rechnitz for wine, cheese, and a lively exploration of the play. Whether you were amazed or confused, enthralled or appalled, this is the conversation for you.

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *26 Miles* on **Saturday, September 19 at 8pm**. Please schedule tickets through Sean P. Murphy, Marketing Manager, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 834** or via email at smurphy@trtc.org.

WHERE:

Two River Theater Company
21 Bridge Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

WHEN:

September 15 – October 4, 2009

WHO:

Written by **Quiara Alegria Hudes**
Directed by **KJ Sanchez**
Scenic and Projection Design by **Daniel Conway**
Costume Design by **Marion Williams**
Lighting Design by **Thom Weaver**
Sound Design by **Zachary Williamson**
Production Stage Manager **Denise Cardarelli**

CAST:

Michael Frederic....Aaron
Zabryna Guevara....Beatriz
Laura C. Harris....Olivia
Triney Sandoval....Manuel

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz and over the past 15 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Stephen Colbert, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, Sheldon Harnick, and the African Children's Choir. The company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2006, and from *The Star-Ledger* in both 2006 and 2008. At the July 2009 meeting of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, TRTC was designated as a Major Impact Organization. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. TRTC is a member of LORT (League of Resident Theatres) and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.