

MFA Acting YEAR 3 | REPERTORY

Blade to the Heat

Written by Oliver Mayer
Directed by Edgar Landa

Seize the King

Written by Will Power
Directed by Michele Shay

THE COMPANY *(in alphabetical order)*

Hideyoshi Akai Oscar Enrique Gonzalez Torres Stephen Humes
Cameron Murphy Kumar Rohit Nicole Royster John Stephens

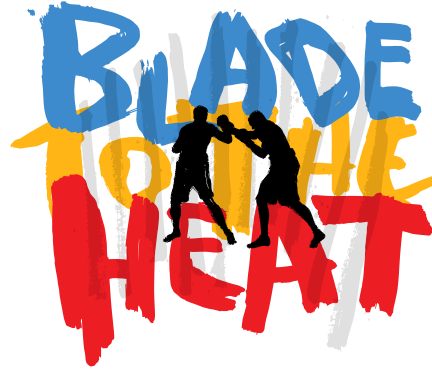


February 16–27, 2022 | Scene Dock Theatre

REPERTORY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Blade to the Heat
Thursday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 19 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m.
Friday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Seize the King
Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 19 at 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m.



Written by Oliver Mayer
Directed by Edgar Landa

SCENIC DESIGN
Takeshi Kata

COSTUME DESIGN
JoEllen J. Skinner

LIGHTING DESIGN
Josh Epstein

PROJECTION DESIGN
Nicolas Shawn
Hussong

SOUND DESIGN
Alma
Reyes-Thomas

STAGE MANAGER
Emi Yoshino

CAST OF CHARACTERS *(in order of appearance)*

Stephen Humes
Garnet

John Stephens
Jack

Oscar Enrique
Gonzalez Torres
Alacran

Cameron Murphy
Pedro Quinn

Jeremiah O'Brian
Referee/Reporter

Kumar Rohit
Mantequilla

Nicole Royster
Sarita

Hideyoshi Akai
Vinal

Additional roles played by Alcides B. Costa Jr. and Kaixiang Zhang.

TIME 1959 PLACE Los Angeles

There will be no intermission.

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains strobe lights, flashbulbs, violence, mature language and themes

PRODUCTION STAFF

Fight Choreography Edgar Landa | Intimacy Direction Carly D. Weckstein | Assistant Stage Manager Sarah Costigan
Assistant Scenic Design Monica Kosmos | Assistant Lighting Design Zoe McCracken | Assistant Costume Design Kali Bissanti
Assistant Sound Design Renata Finamore | Assistant Technical Director Lizzy Lourenco
Vocal & Speech Coach Lauren Murphy Yeoman | Taiko Drummer Maceo Hernandez | Crew Jewel Abdo, Brooke Bowling,
Alcides B. Costa Jr., Josh Flowers, Siouxsie Lennox, Ava Motamedi, Amos Pai, Krosby João Roza,
Christine Taghizadeh, JT Waugh, Gabriella Weltman, Kaixiang Zhang

BLADE TO THE HEAT is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.
Original New York Production by The New York Shakespeare Festival.



Written by Will Power
Directed by Michele Shay

SCENIC DESIGN Takeshi Kata	COSTUME DESIGN Howard Schmitt	LIGHTING DESIGN Josh Epstein	PROJECTION DESIGN Nicolas Shawn Hussong	SOUND DESIGN Alma Reyes-Thomas	STAGE MANAGER Marcus Maia
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CAST OF CHARACTERS *(in order of appearance)*

Hideyoshi Akai <i>Richard/Chorus</i>	John Stephens <i>Lord Hastings/ Rebel Soldier Two/Chorus</i>	Nicole Royster <i>Queen Woodville/Master of the Royal Wardrobe/Chorus</i>	Cameron Murphy <i>Edward V/French Attendant/ Rebel Soldier Three/Chorus</i>
Oscar Enrique Gonzalez Torres <i>Lord Buckingham/ Gardener Two/Chorus</i>	Kumar Rohit <i>Lady Anne/Edward IV/ Chorus</i>	Stephen Humes <i>Gardener One/Gregor the Tailor/ Reverend Shaw/Royal Servant/ Soldier One/Rebel Soldier/Chorus</i>	

Additional role played by Megan Tomei.

TIME Past and Present. **PLACE** England and the world.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

WARNING Please be advised that this production features strobe lights and physical violence, including swordplay and strangulation, and acts of coercion.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Choreography Lisa Ruffin | **Fight Choreography** Edgar Landa | **Dance Captain** Stephen Humes
Fight Captain Stephen Humes | **Assistant Stage Manager** Lexey Glouberman
Assistant Scenic Design Kate Schaaf | **Assistant Lighting Design** Zoe McCracken | **Assistant Sound Design** Amelia Anello
Assistant Costume Design Kealey Busch | **Assistant Technical Director** Lizzy Lourenco | **Vocal & Speech Coach** Lauren Murphy Yeoman
Crew Madeline Bennett, Devin Craig, Arantxa Guerrero, Deniz Himmetoglu, Addie Lillard, Beryl Liu,
Josephine Mo, Lewis Oliveras, Megan Tomei, Aria Upton, Aristaia Yanakakis-Carroll

*Produced by special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials supplied by WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR ENTERTAINMENT, LLC.
The World Premiere of SEIZE THE KING – Produced in 2018 by La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, California.
Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director & Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director.*

for **Blade to the Heat**

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Edgar Landa is an adjunct faculty member and the resident fight director for the School of Dramatic Arts. He directs and creates fights & violence for theatres large and small in Los Angeles and beyond. He has also been a guest director at USC, Long Beach State University and Loyola Marymount University. Edgar is an alumnus of the Directors Lab West and the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab. Recent directing credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Off Square Theatre) and *The Comedy of Errors* (USC). Edgar is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. www.edgarlanda.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Tegan Ashton Cohan; USC Trojan Boxing Club; Pat Towne for the VO; Stephen Humes for taking the lead on song curation; Gabby Weltman for stepping into the ring when necessary; Kai Zhang and Alcides Costa for managing the corner duties; David Warshofsky for the extra set of eyes from the stands; and Oliver Mayer for the books, the pugilism schooling, the wisdom, the words he wrote and the friendship.

for **Seize the King**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In *Seize the King*, playwright Will Power explores the spectrum of dark and light in man, asking the question, "Why do the archetypes of what we call the worst in human nature keep returning age after age?" In this story of Richard the Third, we look at complex issues of the past through a modern lens: the greed for power, politics, family dysfunctionality, and hopefully understand more about who we are.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Michele Shay has directed seven plays from the August Wilson canon, including *Gem of the Ocean*, *Fences*, *Seven Guitars*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *King Hedley II*, *Two Trains Running* (Ovation Nomination), *In the Green Space*, and *AW Cycle* recordings produced by Dr. Indira Etwaroo for New York Public Radio. Shay directed readings of *King Hedley II* with Stephen McKinley Henderson and Leslie Uggams, and *Two Trains Running* featuring Anthony Chis olm, Russell Hornsby and Tracie Thoms. Most recently, she directed the world premiere of *Reparations* by James Sheldon (2020 Audelco Award) and *The Old Settler* by John Henry Redwood with Pauletta Washington at the Billie Holiday Theater in Brooklyn. Other productions include *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Lorraine Hansberry), *Bullrush* by Eisa Davis, *Wedding Band* by Alice Childress, *Blue Stockings* by Jessica Swale, *Gloria* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and *da kink in my hair* by Trey Anthony. She is the 2019 recipient of National Black Theater Festival's Lloyd Richards award for her directing career.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to playwright Will Power for visiting the cast and speaking with us about *Seize the King* and his cousin Lucio Bianchi for contributing dramaturgical historical research for the play. Thank you also to internationally renowned gender artist Lisa Wolpe, Sabina Zuniga Varela, choreographer Lisa Ruffin, fight choreographer Edgar Landa, David Warshofsky, Natsuko Ohama for their contributions to the production. Gratitude to the design team, production teams, stage management and MFA students Devin Craig and Megan Tomei for all their work to bring the production to life.