Happy New Year to the Woolly Mammoth herd!

in Parkland, Florida took place. but also because within days of officially saying "yes" to move to Washington, D.C., the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas (MCD) High School to succeed Howard Shalwitz as the second Britistic Director ever at Woolly Mammoth. I remember this time vivialy not only for personal reasons I can't believe it is 2025, and that I have been with Woolly for nearly 7 years! It was February 2018 when I got the call about being chosen

pizza party on our stage and feeling so proud and excited to be joining Woolly and moving to Washington, DC to be in the thick of all this energy space for students at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School after that whirlwind day of civic action and protest. I remember hearing about the and Everytown for Gun Safety, with sibling events all around the United States and the world. Woolly Mammoth actually provided a decompression About a month later on March 24, 2016, I was in DC for the first MARCH FOR OUR LIVES, organized by a student-led group called Never Again

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families affected by gun violence every single day in this country. dying because of it. You don't need me to remind you that the story you are witnessing tonight is NOT unique. That the Olivers are one of the many as "school" or do we count universities as well? You don't need me to remind you that this country has a serious problem and our children are highest rate on record. And what exactly constitutes "a school shooting incident?" Is it the number of injured parties? Do we count only K-12 grades And yet, the number of school shooting incidents has increased in the 7 years since the Parkland shooting, with 2024 being the year with the

Joaquin's legacy to DC is one of the honors of my career. topic, and none have moved me as deeply or profoundly as GUAC. To work with Manny and Patricia, as well as director Michael Cotey, on bringing gorgeous and playful spirit is manifested by his father in every single performance of this piece. I have worked on my fair share of plays on this We need the Olivers to share their story, because it is a deeply prescient, contemporary, and American story. We need to meet Loaquin, whose

so moved to talk about it for years to come. pushed, engaged, challenged by the theatre we make. I want to care about the people making the theatre, the story that they are telling, and be The theatre to me is not ever just entertainment, even though Woolly always strives to make theatre that is entertainING. I want to be impressed,

GUAC, however, is asking more from you than that.

May you be so moved to DO SOMETHING, however you can, to end the scourge of school shooting incidents in America.

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Written and Performed by MANUEL OLIVER Co-Written by **JAMES CLEMENTS**

Directed by MICHAEL COTEY

Presented in Association with THE PUBLIC THEATER

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develop their voices today.

or America's playwrights of tomorrow to discover and generation's spirit of activism, and providing a platform for self-expression and social change, harnessing this country. Its mission is to promote playwriting as a tool inspire meaningful action in communities across the theater that will spark critical conversations and to confront gun violence by creating new works of ENDUBRY PLAYS TO END BUN VIOLENCE Calls on teens

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Gymnasium, and Next Act Theatre. Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Adventure Stage Chicago, Third Avenue Playworks, Actors His designs have been presented at theaters throughout the Midwest region, including The House Theatre, вяриея настоя в стали Designer) is a Jeff Award-winning sound designer and licensed mental health counselor.

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Curator: Winston Peraza (Partner + CCO) ESPACIO

Organized by: Change The Ref changetheref.org,

unconventional action against gun violence.

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SPECIAL THANKS

story and would like to thank Manny, Patricia, and Michael. Let's Change the Ref! z'JAUÐ to trad a part of benonoly lidiberani zi end. Vriversity. She is incredibly honored to be a part of GUAC's

Savannah College of Art and Design, she worked as the resident lighting designer for the Lexington Children's JUSTINE BURKE (*) (Lighting Designer) is a New York City-based lighting and scenic designer. A graduate of the Theatre, American Blues Theatre, and 1st Stage. MICHAELCOTEY.COM @MCOTEY

Chamber Theatre, First Stage, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Cabinet of Curiosity, Gift of active shooter drills. Directing credits: Off-Broadway: Guac at The Public. Regional: Next Act Theatre, Milwaukee he is the executive producer of a short film adaptation of Rehearsal, an ENOUGH! play highlighting the trauma theater piece based on interviews with healthcare workers about their experiences with gun violence. Additionally, encouraging teens to write short plays addressing this issue. Michael co-developed Terminal Exhale, a verbatim is the creator and Joaquin Oliver Artistic Producer of ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence, a national initiative

MICHAEL COTEY (Director) has spent the last five years exploring theater's role in gun violence prevention. He

and Artist-in-Residence with the Espacio de Culturas. JAMES-CLEMENTS.COM

Co-Artistic Director of What Will the Neighbours Say? Theatre Company, an Adjunct at NYU Tisch School of the Arts (BroadwayWorld), "compelling" (The Guardian), "affecting" (Playbill), and "intellectual" (Theatre is Easy). He is the Kingdom, have been described by critics as "searing" (New York Times), "magnifying" (Time Out), "intricate" " and Scotland. His plays, which have been performed in cities across the United States, Canada, and the United JAMES CLEMENTS (Co-Writer) is a Scottish writer, actor, theatermaker, and arts educator based between New York (bəunitno2) 2018

BIOS

JOAQUIN GUAC OLIVER On the morning of Valentine's Day, he walked into school with flowers and a plan for a date with his girlfriend. He was a supportive brother, a thoughtful friend, and a beloved son known for his loyalty and sense of humor. He was a brilliant writer, authoring beautiful love poems and thought-provoking short stories, always proud of his Venezuelan heritage, basketball court skills, and diverse musical taste. His legacy becomes an extension of his life and a powerful tool for activism against gun violence.

MANUEL OLIVER (Writer/Performer) Oliver's 17-year-old son, Joaquin, was tragically killed in 2018 by a mass shoote at his school in Parkland, Florida. In response, he and his wife, Patricia, founded the nonprofit advocacy group Change the Ref, which aims to empower young leaders to end gun violence in America. Oliver is an artist, creative director, and a recognized mentor in the advertising industry. He is also a global activist and international speaker. Together, the Olivers have partnered with politicians, musicians, influencers, and communities in their quest to find a new approach to America's gun violence epidemic. @MANUELOLIVEROD

The Tony Award-winning WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY creates badass theatre that highlights the stunning challenging, and tremendous complexity of our world. For over 40 years, Woolly has maintained a high standard of artistic rigor while simultaneously daring to take risks, innovate, and push beyond perceived boundaries. One of the few remaining theatres in the country to maintain a company of artists, Woolly serves an essential research and development role within the American theatre. Plays premiered here have gone on to productions at hundreds of theatres all over the world and have had lasting impacts on the field. Currently co-led by Artistic Director Maria Manuela Goyanes and Managing Director Kimberly E. Douglas, Woolly is located in Washington, DC, equidistant from the Capitol and the White House. This unique location influences Woolly's investment in actively working towards an equitable participatory and creative democracy

After the murder of Joaquin "GUAC" Oliver during the Parkland Shooting in Feb 2018, CHANGE THE REF was formed to amplify and support youth efforts and movement building, shifting America's social response to gun violence by uniting creativity, activism, disruption, and education. CHANGETHEREF.ORG, @CHANGETHEREF

THE PUBLIC THEATER continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering HAIR in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musicals Hamilton by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Suffs by Shaina Taub, and Hell's Kitchen by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 64 Tony Awards, 194 Obie Awards, 62 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 65 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. **PUBLICTHEATER.ORG**



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GUAC was developed as GUAC: My Son My Hero under the original direction of James Clements.

Resident Intimacy Consultant: CHELSEA PACE

Assoc. Artistic Dir./Connectivity Director: KRISTEN JACKSON Miranda Family Connectivity Fellow: ANNIE NGUYEN

"THAT DAY, I PROMISED JOAQUIN

FROM MY HEART, THAT THIS

Patricia Padauy-Oliver, Guac's Mom

WILL NOT BE IN VAIN."

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