



PRESS RELEASE

Press Contact:

James Bryan, Marketing Director
james.bryan@thez.org
757-650-9925

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Remembering those in the Holocaust, The Z presents *Distant Survivors* during the International Holocaust Remembrance.

Virginia Beach - Zeiders American Dream Theater (The Z) in Town Center under the leadership of Artistic Director Bart Kuebler and Executive Director Terry Flint, is pleased to present the masterful and compelling Holocaust drama, ***Distant Survivors***.

The inspiration for *Distant Survivors* came from several volumes of Holocaust poetry by William Heyen – *Erika*; *Falling from Heaven*; and *Shoah Train*. He has created a most prolific and powerful body of work on the subject, confronting man's attempt to fathom the evil that spurred it, the responsibility for that evil, and insight into the nature of man. Director June Prager, Artistic Director of Mirage Theatre Company, has adapted this work for the stage and is also directing this staging at Zeiders American Dream Theater.

In this one-hour poetic drama, a man, an American of German descent, looks back on his ancestral past and tries to make sense of it. He encounters embodiments of the Holocaust: a Nazi soldier, an elderly caretaker, a Jewish survivor, among others. A visitor into the collective unconscious, he takes us to places most of us would like to forget. This play about survival and cruelty is particularly relevant today when quests for power and the ease of prevarication and justification are rampant. This full production will run during the time of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which takes place on January 27.

With Direction by June Prager, the cast includes, Chris Van Cleave* (Nazi Soldier), Jody O'Neil* (Caretaker), Carolyn Collings (Woman), John Silvestro (Man 2), and Joel King (Man). *The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Maya Angelou once praised William Heyen's poetry, as "a painful and poignant offering which reminds me that none of us has survived the Holocaust without scars. Yet, the distinguished work of the poets gives us the hope that maybe, if we are careful and courageous and alert and loving, maybe we can avoid a recurrence of such horror."

***Distant Survivors* begins January 24 through February 3, 2019. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30PM; Saturdays and Sundays at 2PM. There is one Tuesday performance on January 29 at 7:30pm and no performance on Thursday January 31.** Advance tickets are \$20 and tickets at the door for \$23. Tickets are currently on sale online at www.TheZ.org or by calling the box office at 757-499-0317.

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Zeiders American Dream Theater is located at 4509 Commerce Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

About William Heyen

William Heyen is Professor of English/Poet in Residence Emeritus at SUNY Brockport. A former Senior Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature in Germany, he has won NEA, Guggenheim, American Academy & Institute of Arts & Letters, and other fellowships and awards.

About June Prager

June Prager founded Theatre International Exchange (TIE) in Philadelphia, dedicated to presenting premieres by contemporary foreign playwrights and developing international theatre collaborations. In New York, she has directed Off-Broadway, Equity Showcase productions, and staged readings of many plays, including *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the Manhattan Theatre Club, *Image and Likeness* featuring Sam Waterston at St. Clements Theatre, and *Winter Visitor* featuring Beatrice Straight and Lee Richardson at the Carter Theatre.

ABOUT ZEIDERS AMERICAN DREAM THEATER

Zeiders American Dream Theater, known as The Z, is a professional, non-profit performing arts company whose mission is to provide a wide range of highly entertaining artistic experiences to the community by fostering and introducing new works and exceptionally gifted artists in all areas of the performing arts. The Z is a community hub for celebrating creative growth and entertainment. With intimate performance spaces and unique programming that generates an exciting connection between the performer and the audience, The Z inspires audiences and performers to tap into their own creative spark, unleash their dreams, and achieve their full potential. TheZ.org

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