



CHANCE THEATER
Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center
5522 E La Palma Ave
Anaheim, CA 92807

www.ChanceTheater.com/press-room

March 26, 2026

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ORANGE COUNTY PREMIERE FROM THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT

Sanctuary City

ANAHEIM, CA — Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is thrilled to announce the third show of its 2026 Season, *Sanctuary City*, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Martyna Majok** and directed by Chance Theater Executive Artistic Director **Oánh Nguyễn** (*Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious*, *Skylight*, Chance Resident Artist).

In the aftermath of 9/11, two teenagers in Newark, New Jersey, navigate the precarious terrain of adolescence while grappling with the looming threat of deportation. When G becomes naturalized, they devise a plan to help B stay in the country. However, as time progresses, their bond is tested by the complexities of love, identity, and the harsh realities of their circumstances.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Martyna Majok** crafts a poignant narrative that delves into the lives of undocumented youth, exploring themes of belonging, sacrifice, and the pursuit of a future in a society that marginalizes them. Through sharp dialogue and compelling characters, *Sanctuary City* offers an intimate portrayal of resilience and the human spirit's capacity to endure.

Oánh Nguyễn shares, "*Sanctuary City* may be set in the early 2000s, but its urgency feels unmistakably present. It asks what it means to grow up knowing that the place you call home could disappear overnight, and what survival demands of love and friendship when the stakes are that high. As someone who grew up in immigrant and refugee communities in Orange County, I've seen how vulnerable undocumented youth can be, and the impossible choices people make to stay in the only home they know. *Sanctuary City* captures that reality with extraordinary intimacy and honesty."

Joining Nguyễn on the design team for *Sanctuary City* is scenic and costume designers **Mio Nunez** (*Tick, Tick... Boom!*) and **Fred Kinney** (*Tick, Tick... Boom!*), lighting and sound designer **Andrew J. Hungerford** (Chance debut), stage manager **Jordyn Nieblas-Galvan** (*Such Small Hands*), and intimacy and assistant director **Shinshin Yuder Tsai** (*Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious*, Chance Resident Artist).

The three-person cast features a returning actor and two new faces to the Chance stage: **Spike Pulice** (*Sweat*) plays B, **Vicky Yvonne** (Chance debut) plays G, and **Jonathan Keyes** (Chance debut) plays Henry.

Tickets for *Sanctuary City* are on sale at <https://chancetheater.com/sanctuary/> or by calling the box office at (888) 455-4212. Early booking is recommended due to high demand.

For press inquiries, interviews, press comps, or photos, please contact Producing Associate Shinshin Tsai at (949) 346-2374 or Shinshin@chancetheater.com.

SUPPORTERS

Executive Producer: Linda & Tod White

Associate Producers: Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield and Laurie Smits Staude

Supporting Producer: Diane Silber

Season Producer: Bette & Wylie Aitken

Associate Season Producer: The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar

We are deeply grateful for their extraordinary generosity and commitment.

CRITICS HAVE RAVED

“I have rarely seen a play that so effectively embodies the way external forces distort the inner lives of actual humans.”

—*The New York Times*

“The most beautiful sound an audience can make in a theater isn’t applause or even laughter. It’s the audible hush of rapt attention. No one who cares about contemporary American drama

should miss this play.”

– *The Los Angeles Times*

“A compelling contemporary drama that has enigmatic characters, rising intensity, vigorous argumentation, timely themes, and an underlying sense of humor and compassion.”

– *am New York*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Design Preview Party is on Monday, March 30, 2026, where members of Chance Theater gain insights from the Director, Designers, and Cast about the artistic vision behind the Show.

Community Spotlight is on Saturday, May 16, 2026 starting at 2:00 PM. This special afternoon is dedicated to celebrating the vibrant community surrounding Chance Theater. Join us for a pre- and post-performance happy hour designed to foster meaningful conversation and connection.

Pride Night is on Saturday, May 16, 2026, starting at 7:00 PM. Theater lovers who share an identity can come together over refreshments and conversation. Before enjoying the performance, this special event provides a welcoming space to connect with others in the community, celebrate shared experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Wine Night is back by popular demand on Friday, May 15, 2026 starting at 7:00 PM where you can enjoy exclusive wines generously donated by long-time supporters Judy & David Joss. The first 50 patrons through the door will receive complimentary access to these special wines, with priority access given to members and their guests. It's the perfect way to kick off the evening before the show begins!

Pay-What-You-Choose Previews tickets are available for every show we produce for as low as \$12 per ticket, and **SaverTIX** are available for every performance after opening. Our goal with these initiatives is to make live theater accessible to everyone in our community, regardless of financial barriers.

Post-Show Discussion: Every performance features post-show conversations, inviting audiences to engage with the cast, crew, and community partners.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, Chance Theater has received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for “nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre.” The Chance won 31 OCTG Theatre Awards, including two for Outstanding Production of a Musical (“Next to Normal” and “Fun Home”) and one for Outstanding Production of a Play (“Cry It Out”). Previously, Chance Theater won eight Ovation Awards, including four for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre), and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, The Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles, and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

In the aftermath of 9/11, two teenagers in Newark, New Jersey, navigate the precarious terrain of adolescence while grappling with the looming threat of deportation. When G becomes naturalized, they devise a plan to help B stay in the country. However, as time progresses, their bond is tested by the complexities of love, identity, and the harsh realities of their circumstances. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Martyna Majok crafts a poignant narrative that delves into the lives of undocumented youth, exploring themes of belonging, sacrifice, and the pursuit of a future in a society that marginalizes them. Through sharp dialogue and compelling characters, *Sanctuary City* offers an intimate portrayal of resilience and the human spirit’s capacity to endure.

WHEN:

Previews: May 1 - May 7, 2026; Fridays at 8PM, Saturday at 8PM, and Sunday at 7PM

Press Opening: Friday May 8, 2026 at 8PM

Opening Night: Saturday May 9, 2026 at 8PM

Remaining Performances: May 10 - May 24, 2026

Fridays at 8PM, Saturdays at 3PM & 8PM, and Sundays at 3PM

FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

- Fri, May 1 @ 8:00 pm - PREVIEW
- Sat, May 2 @ 8:00 pm - PREVIEW
- Sun, May 3 @ 7:00 pm - PREVIEW
- Fri, May 8 @ 8:00 pm - PRESS OPENING
- Sat, May 9 @ 8:00 pm - OPENING
- Sun, May 10 @ 3:00 pm
- Fri, May 15 @ 8:00 pm - WINE NIGHT
- Sat, May 16 @ 3:00 pm - COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
- Sat, May 16 @ 8:00 pm - PRIDE NIGHT
- Sun, May 17 @ 3:00 pm
- Fri, May 22 @ 8:00 pm - (Public Sale for closing weekend begins May 1)
- Sat, May 23 @ 3:00 pm
- Sat, May 23 @ 8:00 pm
- Sun, May 24 @ 3:00 pm - CLOSING

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 30 minutes with no intermission

TICKETS: \$12-\$48, with discounts for educators, veterans, seniors, and students.

Pay-What-You-Can preview performances and SaverTIX are also available to ensure that live theater is accessible to everyone.

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center on the Fyda-Mar Stage
5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center is located at 5522 E. La Palma Avenue in Anaheim Hills. Going west on La Palma from Imperial Highway, we are on the left in the front of the industrial park just past the In & Out. There is plenty of free convenient parking in front of the theater.

MORE INFO: www.ChanceTheater.com or call (888) 455-4212

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