

August 15, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT: Shinshin Tsai, Producing Associate, (949) 346-2374 or shinshin@chancetheater.com

For information regarding the 2025 season: www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season

Chance Theater proudly presents...

What the Constitution Means To Me

The Pulitzer Prize Finalist and

Winner of Best American Play from The New York Drama Critics' Circle!

ANAHEIM, CA – Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is proud to announce *What the Constitution Means to Me*, written by **Heidi Schreck** and directed by Project LaFemme Artistic Director **Katie Chidester**. Urgent, moving, and unexpectedly funny, this groundbreaking play asks: who gets a voice in our democracy, and how can we use it? *What the Constitution Means to Me* will run **October 3 – October 26, 2025** on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center.

Heidi Schreck's timely, hilarious, and deeply felt play breathes new life into our country's most important document. Fifteen-year-old Heidi paid her college tuition by speaking in (and winning) debate competitions across the country. Now older, she resurrects her teenage self to tell the story of four generations of extraordinary women in her family whose lives were shaped by the Constitution. Nominated for two Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Schreck's boundary-breaking play reimagines our founding document and considers how it will shape the next generation of Americans.

What the Constitution Means to Me is an unforgettable theatrical conversation that challenges how we see our laws, our country, and ourselves. With disarming honesty and sharp wit, Heidi Schreck bridges past and present as she confronts the ways the Constitution has protected, and failed to protect, everyday Americans. In a performance that shifts seamlessly from personal memoir to civic dialogue, Schreck creates a space for questioning, discovery, and hope.

What the Constitution Means To Me features an exceptional cast, with **Aubrey Saverino** (*Tiny Beautiful Things, Matinicus: The Story of Abigail Burgess, Cry It Out*) as Heidi, **Robert Foran** (Chance Resident Artist, *Ride the Cyclone, The Vandal, Good People, Middletown, The Big Meal*)

as Legionnaire, and former Chance Speak Up artists **Reya Shah** (Chance debut) and **Maria Wang** (Chance debut) as the Debaters.

Director **Chidester** shares her excitement about the production, stating: “Bringing this powerful piece to the stage, at this moment in history, is such an honor. This is more than a play; it's a deeply personal journey through the promises and contradictions of our founding document. It invites us not only to look at history, but to engage with the present. And what is more American than including a democratic exercise as a part of every performance?”

The talented creative team includes Director **Katie Chidester** (*Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Matinicus: The Story of Abigail Burgess*), Scenic Designer **Megan Hill** (*Fancy Nancy*, *The Musical*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Other Place*), Costume Designer **Gwen Sloan** (Chance Resident Artist, *Jane Austen's Emma*, *The Musical*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*), Lighting Designer **Kara Ramlow** (*Alma*, *Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*), Sound Designer **Kris Kataoka** (Chance debut), Stage Manager **Cynthia C. Espinoza** (Chance Resident Artist, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Alma*, *Rent*), and Dramaturg **Karli Jean Lonquist** (*Alma*).

Critics have raved:

“Best and most important new play of the season.”- *The New York Times*

“Something every citizen must see.”- *Time Out New York*

“Let me preface this review with a strong plea to every man, woman and mature teenager in the Los Angeles area to see this play. At a time when the Constitution is being assailed by those who have sworn an oath to defend it, this buoyant and often-stirring civics lesson is the theatrical curriculum Americans desperately need now.” - *Los Angeles Times*

“One of the most exciting things I’ve ever seen....I left feeling more hope about the survival of democracy.” - *Tony Kushner*

Special Events: As a hub for connection, creativity, and compassion, Chance Theater is proud to make a difference in the local community by offering a space for connection, dialogue, and celebration with initiatives like Pride Night, Wine Night, and Community Spotlight. These events enrich the theatergoing experience and help create lasting bonds within our diverse audience.

Post-Show Discussion: Join us for post-show discussions after every performance! We invite the audience to engage with the artists and one another, fostering a more connected, compassionate, and creative community. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and deepen your experience of the production in an open and welcoming environment.

Design Preview Party is on Monday, August 25, 2025, 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, October 18, 2025 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, October 18, 2025, 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, October 17, 2025 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-Can 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.

These individuals are proud to support *What the Constitution Means To Me* at Chance Theater:

Executive Producers **Louise & Steven Koch; Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller; Linda & Tod White**

Associate Producer **Laurie Smits Staude**

Community Partners **Snyder Law, Public Law Center, and Muzeo.**

2025 Executive Season producer, **Bette & Wylie Aitken**, and Associate Season producer, **The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar.**

We are deeply grateful for their extraordinary generosity and commitment.

About The Playwright: Heidi Schreck

Heidi Schreck (she/her) is a playwright, screenwriter and performer living in Brooklyn. Her most recent play *What the Constitution Means to Me* was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist and won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play. Schreck also received two Tony Award nominations for *What the Constitution Means to Me* for Best Play and Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play, the 2019 Smithsonian Magazine American Ingenuity Award, the Horton Foote Playwriting Award, the Hull-Warriner Award, and an OBIE. A filmed version of *What the Constitution Means to Me*, starring Schreck, premiered this past October exclusively on Amazon Prime Video, and was nominated for a Critics Choice Award, a PGA Award, and a DGA Award. Heidi's other plays include *Grand Concourse*, *Creature*, *Mr. Universe*, and *There Are No More Big Secrets*. Her screenwriting credits include *I Love Dick*, *Billions*, and *Nurse Jackie*. Schreck has taught playwriting and screenwriting at NYU, Columbia, Kenyon College, and Primary Stages.

About The Director: Katie Chidester

Katie Chidester is a Southern California-based stage director dedicated to making work that centers on storytelling, collaboration, and a strong female voice. Chance Theater: *Tiny Beautiful Things* (OCTG Winner for Best Direction) *Matinicus: The Story of Abigail Burgess* (OCTG Award nominated Best Play, Best Director) and *Edge* (ATLA Digital Theater Festival). Selected other works include: *Sense and Sensibility* (Costa Mesa Playhouse), *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell (Long Beach Playhouse), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (UNCG), *War of the Worlds* (Curtis Theatre), and *We Will Not Describe the Conversation* (STAGEStheater). She was a founding artist of the Page to Stage Playwrights Festival in Brea. Katie is a board member of OC Theatre Guild and the Program Coordinator for the OCTG Theatre Awards. BA, University of Southern California. MFA, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Thanks to this incredible cast, design team, production crew, and producers!

Tickets and Additional Information

Join us for *What the Constitution Means To Me* from **October 3 - October 26, 2025** on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center, located in Anaheim, CA.

Tickets are available now at [ChanceTheater.com/constitution](https://chancetheater.com/constitution) or by calling the box office at **(888) 455-4212**, Monday through Friday, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Reviewers and other press are welcome to request any performance. We encourage them to attend Opening Night on **Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 8:00 PM.** For press inquiries,

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

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

As one of Southern California's leading ensemble-driven theater companies, Chance Theater is proud to have 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 has earned 42 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical for ***Jane Austen's Emma***, ***The Musical*** and ***Fun Home***, Outstanding Production of a Play and Outstanding New Play for ***Matinicus: The Story Of Abigail Burgess*** (A Chance Theater Commission) and ***Cry It Out***, as well as 6 Orange Curtain Review Awards, with Best Musical for ***Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street***. The theater's achievements also include eight Ovation Awards (four for Best Production of a Musical - Intimate Theatre) and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. In 2014, the Anaheim City Council designated Chance Theater as "the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim," and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as an "Outstanding Arts Organization." Known for using bold, personal storytelling to foster dialogue and connection in Southern California, the Chance remains committed to building a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Producers of Southern California, OC Theatre Guild, and ArtsOC, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: *What the Constitution Means To Me* by **Heidi Schreck**, directed by **Katie Chidester**

On the Cripe Stage...

Heidi Schreck's timely, hilarious, and deeply felt play breathes new life into our country's most important document. Fifteen-year-old Heidi paid her college tuition by speaking in (and winning) debate competitions across the country. Now older, she resurrects her teenage self to tell the story of four generations of extraordinary women in her family whose lives were shaped by the Constitution. Nominated for two Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Schreck's boundary-breaking play reimagines our founding document and considers how it will shape the next generation of Americans.

Previews: Friday, October 3 at 8:00 PM, Saturday, October 4 at 8:00 PM, Sunday, October 5 at 7:00 PM, and Friday, October 10 at 8:00 PM.

Opening Night: Saturday, October 11 at 8:00 PM.

Performances: October 3 - October 26, 2025

Fridays at 8:00 PM, Saturdays at 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM, and Sundays at 3:00 PM (excluding Previews and Opening weekend)

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 40 minutes with no intermissions.

TICKETS: \$12 - \$48 (inclusive of fees)

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center on the Cripe 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

#