

PRESS RELEASE

LFTG

291 3rd Ave,
Chula Vista, Ca 91910

619-356-3292
www.loudfridge.com

Director of Marketing
John Wells III

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

John Wells III
619-724-1151
John@Loudfridge.com

DATE: January 21, 2022

LOUD FRIDGE THEATRE GROUP ANNOUNCES THE FIRST SHOW OF THE 2023 SEASON, *RIPPED*—BY LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT RACHEL BUBLITZ.

WHAT: Loud Fridge Theatre Group produces the San Diego Premiere of *RIPPED*, Written by Rachel Bublitz

CAST: Amira Temple, Devin Wade, and Marcel Ferrin to star in Loud Fridge Theatre Group's inaugural production of *RIPPED*, directed by Kate Rose Reynolds and John Wells III.

WHEN: Playing January 21-February 5, 2023. **Opening Saturday, January 21st.** Performances run Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm.

WHERE: Loud Fridge Theatre Group presents *Ripped* on the **OnStage Playhouse** stage, 291 3rd Ave, Chula Vista, Ca 91910

TICKETS: Tickets range from \$17.50 – \$35. Discounts are available to Groups, Students, Educators, Seniors, and Military. You can purchase tickets online at www.loudfridge.com/shows

RIPPED

Written by Rachel Bublitz

Directed by Kate Rose Reynolds and John Wells III

Preview January 20

Playing January 21 through February 5, 2023

Loud Fridge Theatre Group presents *RIPPED*, written by local San Diego playwright **Rachel Bublitz** and directed by **Kate Rose Reynolds** and **John Wells III**. *RIPPED*, **The Winner of the Detroit New Works Festival Award** deftly explores the prickly subject of campus sexual assault and the uncomfortable gray areas of consent. Chosen for its quick pace and masterful nonlinear structure, *RIPPED* made its World Premiere debut at **Z Space Theatre** in 2019. Now, for the first time in the playwright's hometown, *RIPPED* is making its **San Diego Debut** after enchanting audiences across the states. "The genius of "Ripped" is that of all the plays I saw this year; this one kept me questioning my own reactions to it, even six months later"- KQED ARTS.

About *Ripped*

Lucy goes to college. Lucy brings mace. No need for Lucy to actually use it, right? But something happened that wasn't supposed to happen. Or did it? Oh well, Lucy must be having that quintessential college experience: drinking, boys, and being completely decimated by the people she trusts.

"Ripped" is a brilliantly structured, nausea-inducing, hugely impactful piece about campus culture, perception, and sexual assault. Bublitz uses time and space in a masterful fashion, weaving context into a story we have already decided we understand in the first scene but which is slowly pieced together to create the whole picture. This brilliantly structured 80-minute production with no intermission takes concepts that we as a society believe to be black and white and loads them with a ton of gray.

Praise for *Ripped*

"The power of "Ripped," written with piercing detail by Rachel Bublitz, is that the play takes black-and-white concepts and loads them with nuance. "

-*Bay Area Plays*

" This is a topic that should be and needs to be addressed by everyday people. We can only become better by doing that which makes us uncomfortable. "

-*Front Row Reviewers*

“I would describe Ripped as trauma-informed writing. I appreciate the way that Bublitz deeply looks at all sides. ”

-Utah Theatre Bloggers Association

“The sheer rawness made it brutally appropriate to its thorny subject matter of campus sexual assault and the uncomfortable gray areas of consent, deftly unfolding what happened through a fractured, nonlinear structure. ”

-The Mercury News,

“*The piece* tells you what to think about without telling you what to think... And while it approaches all of these seemingly uncomfortable areas, the brilliance of Rachel’s writing is that she is able to sneak in moments of levity and humor and utilize a nonlinear narrative structure to move quickly between emotional highs and lows.”

-San Francisco Chronicle

More information can be found at: <https://www.loudfridge.com/shows>

For interviews and photos, please contact John Wells III, Marketing Director, at 619-724-1151 or by emailing info@loudfridgetheatre.com

About Rachel Bublitz



Rachel Bublitz is an award-winning and internationally produced playwright known for telling stories about women and creating exciting new work for young performers. She is thrilled to have her first full-length production in San Diego with Loud Fridge Theatre Company. She grew up in San Diego, calling Pacific Beach home for over fifteen years. Her love of theater was born in an after-school program at Pacific Beach Middle School and continued to grow at Mission Bay High, where she was the first student to be cast in every production during her four years. She spent most summers barefoot, walking between the beach and Taco Surf, wading in the ocean, and writing terrible poetry. She continued studying theater during her time at Mesa Community College, where she was awarded the Betty

Jo Tucker Award of Excellence from the Mesa College Theatre Company. Rachel shifted away

from acting and into playwriting after her move to the Bay Area, where she attended San Francisco State University for her Bachelor's and two Masters degrees. Her play *Ripped* is partly inspired by her hometown and the shift she experienced moving to Northern California. *Ripped* had its world premiere at Z Space in San Francisco, where it was awarded the Glickman Award for best Bay Area Premiere. *Ripped* went on for its Utah premiere with Good Company Theatre. In 2016 Rachel moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where she is the resident playwright for the Egyptian YouTheatre. Her play *Burst* had its world premiere with Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, New York, to rave reviews. Rachel has also worked with Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco Playhouse, Salt Lake Acting Company, Plan-B Theatre, PlayGround, and many others. She has published works with Playscripts, Dramatic Publishing, Stage Partners, and YouthPLAYS. When she isn't writing, she's watching her two kids dominate at water polo and missing the excellent Mexican food from San Diego. For more, visit: RachelBublitz.com.

ABOUT THE CAST



Amira Temple is a loving daughter, community activist, crazy best friend, and theatremaker. She currently studies performance at San Diego State, and in the future, she hopes to contribute to the evolution of theatre, and the world, in any capacity meant for her. Amira believes in equity, solidarity, transformative justice, the power of uninhibited joy, and the capacity for change through theatre. She relays her most profound gratitude to all who support theatre and theatre artists in San Diego and is humbled to perform for the very people who keep theatre alive!



Marcel Ferrin is always super excited to perform. He has played Bobby in *American Buffalo*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Steven in *Bring It On The Musical*, understudied David at the Old Globe in *El Borracho*, and he just finished appearing as Johnny in the World Premiere of *The October Night of Johnny Zero*. He wants to thank everyone for supporting Local Theatre!



Devin Wade is a San Diego native and has been performing semi-professionally for the last six years. They are delighted for their debut performance with Loud Fridge Entertainment, especially with a piece as powerful as *Ripped*. Devin is passionate about helping give perspective on subject matters often quieted or overlooked and believes this show explores those matters beautifully. Other San Diego credits include *Admissions* (Charlie), *Sheepdog* (Ryan), *A Bright New Boise*

(Alex), *Monsters Of The American Cinema* (Pup), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Peter/Boy), *A Piece of My Heart* (American Men), *Women in Jeopardy* (Trenner). They have won an Aubrey award for Best Ensemble, and the SD Fringe awarded them Outstanding Actor and the Cultural Exchange Award. They would also like to thank the numerous peers and mentors in the San Diego theatre community for their support, confidence, and endless sense of humor.

Rounding out the production team, *Ripped* boasts a star-studded collection of designers, including **Kevin “Blax” Burroughs** (Lighting Design), **Alyssa Kane** (Set Design), **Anthony Garcia** (Set Builder), **Emily Carter** (Costume Design), **William “Bj” Robinson** (Props Master), **Kandace Crystal** (Intimacy Choreographer), **Brianna Wing** (Sound Design) and **Estefania Ricalde** (Stage Manager).

ABOUT LOUD FRIDGE THEATRE GROUP

Loud Fridge Theatre Group was founded in 2019 by John Wells III to expand the theatre-going experience in San Diego. John recognized the necessity for this company when he came across a daring new work titled “STRAIGHT.” After failing to find a theatre company willing to produce the show, John decided to take on the task himself, and Loud Fridge Theatre Group was born. The theatre is committed to using the performing arts to make NOISE in the San Diego theatre community by amplifying voices that have a history of being silenced, elevating stories that have historically been denied a platform, and creating an inclusive, intersectional environment for artists and patrons. Loud Fridge Theatre Group is dedicated to the transformative power of theatre and strives to foster candid and loving conversations about the role of theatre in our culture and tell equitable stories that reflect the diverse world around us.

After a brief pandemic-induced hiatus, shortly after the theatre’s inaugural production, the non-profit re-opened its doors in January of 2022, producing a series of *Mini-Fridge* special event productions such as *We’re Living Single*, *Slay Burlesque*, *Children of the Slay*, and *The Pandemusical Diaries*.

Now, Loud Fridge Theatre Group is thrilled to announce *Ripped* as the first show of the theatre’s first official full season in 2023. Accompanying *Ripped* in Loud Fridge Theatre Group’s 2023 Season is *Neat* by Charlayne Woodard, co-produced with Scripps Ranch Theatre (March 24, 2023-April 16, 2023). The final show in the season is the world premiere of *They Could Give No Name* by Exhal Iraheta (Fall 2023). Loud Fridge Theatre Group is excited to kick off its inaugural season by delivering theatre that creates conversation in the San Diego Theatre Community.

Meet the NoiseMakers behind Loud Fridge Theatre Group



John Wells III (He/Him) (Founder, Director of Marketing and Operations) is an actor, producer, novelist, and Author of the YA Contemporary Fantasy Series *The Kalib Andrew's Chronicles*. John is an alumnus of the Savannah College of Art and Design and a graduate of California Baptist University. Previous credits include Stage: Baskerville (Lambs Players), Miracle on 34th Street, Memphis (Moonlight), Joseph and The Amazing Technicolored Dream-coat (CCA), The Wiz (Teatro San Diego) Straight (LFTG), All In The Timing (OSP), BASH (LPT), A Midsummers Night Dream, Twelfth Night (Intrepid), Cardboard Piano, The Mystery of Love and Sex (Diversionsary), Dogfight, A Chorus Line (Chance), Sister Act (MTW), Hairspray, Sister Act (Performance Riverside) Monsters in the American Cinema, Communicating Doors (SRT), Summer Vacation Celebration, Character Dance Party (Legoland) Oh Wondrous Night (SeaWorld San Diego) Celebrate The Season, Princess Tiana's Showboat Jubilee, SpectroMagic, Disney's Electric Parade (Walt Disney World Orlando). Staged readings & Workshops: Les Switch (Diversionsary), Swimming While Drowning (Amigos Del Rep), Froggy, SLAM (LJP). John is thrilled to be back working with Lambs Players Theatre.

Other Accolades include: Finalist of the Best Book Awards, The Feathered Quill Awards & and The Indie Author Awards, and Gold Medalist of The Global E-book Awards.



Kate Rose Reynolds (She/Her) (Director of Development and Operations) is an Actor, Director, Designer, Technician, and Producer. Kate is an alumnus of Yale University and the resident Technical Director for the Chequamegon Children's Theatre. Selected Credits Include: Acting: *Iron*, *Margin of Error* (Roustabouts Theatre Company); *Witchland* (Backyard Renaissance); *The Humans* (San Diego REP); *Cardboard*

Piano (Diversionsary); *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly, Move Over Mrs. Markham, and Communicating Doors* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Hamlet, Twelfth Night* (Perspective Theatre Company, SF); *The Academy* (Theater for the New City, NYC); and over fifteen productions with Bristol Valley Theatre in upstate New York, including *Silent Sky, Mary's Wedding, and Private Lives*. She also stars in the independent horror film *Soul to Keep*, currently streaming on various platforms.

Other credits include: Directing: *The Pandemusical Diaries, Straight* (Loud Fridge Theatre Group); *It's a Small World, or, The Robot Play, Mala* (Bristol Valley Theatre).

Lighting Design: *The October Night of Johnny Zero* (Backyard Renaissance); *Ever in the Glades* (Theater for Young Professionals); over twenty productions with the Chequamegon Children's Theatre in northern Wisconsin, including *Frozen, Newsies, and Into the Woods*.



William "BJ" Robinson (He/They) (Director of Community Outreach and Operations)

is the Creator & Host of Tough Talk, a host for KPBS/Arts, and Choir Director for Christ United Presbyterian Church, South Park, SD. Credits include: *The Pandemusical Diaries* w/Loud Fridge Theatre Group at Diversionsary Theatre and w/San Diego International Fringe Festival at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, Creator/Composer for *Art In Conversation: Gordon Parks* w/Continuum Arts, Piano Man in *James Bond: The Musical* w/Lonesome Whistle Productions at Coronado Playhouse, *Loving Cupid* Original Cast Album, Music Director for *Songs For a New World* w/Teatro San Diego, Creator/Composer for *Acts of Matter* w/Continuum Arts, Composer for *Refractions: A Collection of Human Anthems*

w/Blindspot Collective, Creator/Composer for *Art In Conversation: Langston Hughes* w/Continuum Arts, Composer for *Superheroes Anonymous* w/Village Church Community Theater, Cheshire Cat/Tweedle Dum in *Elizabeth Swados' Alice* at Lamb's Players Theatre, Palm Springs Who in *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas* at The Old Globe, Assistant Music Director for *Hall Pass* w/Blindspot Collective at La Jolla Playhouse WOW Festival 2019, Cedric/Mr. Voldy in *Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* w/The Eastern at POWPAC, Music Director for *Godspell* w/Vanguard at Westminster Theatre, Donkey in O'

Wondrous Night at SeaWorld San Diego, Bob Ruby/Music Advisor for *Beachtown* at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Audrey Two in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Coronado Playhouse.

Other Accolades include: San Diego International Fringe Festival Award: Artists' Pick, *THE PANDEMUSICAL DIARIES* (2022), Associate Artistic Director for San Diego Gay Men's Chorus (2014-2015), Accompanist, Assistant Conductor, Choral Manager, and Choreographer at Southwestern Community College (2010-2017).



Eboni Muse(She/Her) (Director of Special Events and Operations)

is the founder of Artists 4 Black Lives San Diego and Vice president of the San Diego Black Artist Collective (S.D.B.A.C.). She is an alumnus of the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts. Credits include: *Original USA Gospel Singers & Band Tour* w/ Frank Serr Showservice International, *Xanadu: In Concert* at Sacramento Theatre Company, *Freedom Riders: A Civil Rights Musical* Cast Album, Pharaoh in *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at California Center for the Arts Escondido, Gina in *Beehive The 60's Musical* at New Village Arts, Ruby Doris Smith in *Freedom Riders: The Civil Rights Musical* w/ Allen & Gray Musicals, Mrs. Wilks in *Undertow* w/ New Match Collective, Audrey Two in *Little Shop*

of Horrors at New Village Arts, Lady in Red in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* w/ La Jolla Theatre Ensemble, *Smokey Joe's Café* at New Village Arts, Lead Female Vocalist in *O' Wondrous Night* at SeaWorld San Diego, MotorMouth Maybelle in *Hairspray* at San Diego Musical Theatre, Student Ensemble in *Freedom Riders: The Civil Rights Musical* in Concert at Lamb's Players Theatre, Leader in *Father Comes Home from the Wars* at Horton Grand Theatre, Marlina Madison in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* at Horton Grand Theatre and New Village Arts, Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q* at OB Playhouse, Addaperle in *The Wiz* at the Lyceum Theatre, Addaperle in *The Wiz* w/ Common Ground Theatre, Female Vocalist for *Shamu Christmas Miracles* at SeaWorld San Diego.

Other Accolades include: the Craig Noel Award: Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical for the role of MotorMouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*, Broadway World 2020 San Diego Award: Vocalist of the Decade; Audrey Two, *Little Shop of Horrors*, New Village Arts, Best of 2020 Black San Diego Magazine: Best Singer.

"It's always hard for people of color to live in their truth; I thank God that I've been able to breathe in mine."

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: 291 3rd Ave, Chula Vista, Ca 91910

Parking: Metered Street Parking. Free after 6 PM and on Sundays.

Accessibility: OnStage Playhouse is ADA accessible.

Contact Information

Tickets and Subscriptions: Available at our website.

Website: www.loudfridge.com/shows

E-mail: info@loudfridgetheatre.com

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