

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- August 2020

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San Francisco, CA- We Players to release debut film inspired by 2018 production of *Caesar Maximus*. In our continued effort to utilise this time when we're unable to gather in person as an opportunity to work in previously unexplored medias and to produce projects that had heretofore resided on the back burner, we're releasing our first film. Eager to explore a new medium for our work, we filmed our production of *Caesar Maximus at the Music Concourse* with the goal of creating a brand new piece that took full advantage of the unique capabilities of film. We proudly present: **Caesar Maximus**, a visual exploration of the thematic elements of our original adaptation of Shakespeare's classic. In collaboration with Tracy Martin, long time friend and videographer of our work, Ava Roy uses the aesthetic language of the original live performance to create a landscape of metaphor to further investigate the ideas of exploitation of power and the

danger of mob mentality and collective violence, as well as elevating the presence of the female characters beyond what is found on the page in the original text of *Julius Caesar*.

WE CONNECT Campaign

In tandem with the release of the film, we'll be launching a fundraising campaign focusing on connecting our audiences with our current and future projects during this challenging time. A donation of any size will receive a link to the piece. We're committed to continuing to create work that connects people to place—whether that's in the ways that we're used to, or using new and innovative tools. We can't do that without the help of our community. The WE CONNECT campaign is centered around the idea that we cannot exist without our audience, there's no We without You! The campaign will span from August 8 through September 5, 2020.

About our Cast

Long time We Player **Libby Oberlin** anchors our cast as our Julius Caesar. At the height of the #metoo movement, this casting choice was particularly powerful. Of playing the role as a woman, Oberlin says “Playing a female Caesar, a character who possesses so much power, and influence over the men and populous of Rome, seems all the more urgent during this stark moment where we find ourselves in 2018.” **Rotimi Agbabiaka** as Antony, **Joseph Schommer** as Brutus, **Hunter Scott MacNair** as Cassius and The Carpenter, and **Alan Coyne** as Cinna the Senator and The Cobbler all made their We Players debut in the 2018 production. Returning We Players performers included **Lauren Hayes** as Calpurnia, **Britt Lauer** as Portia, **Emily Stone** as The Soothsayer, and **Chris Steele** as Casca. **Zoltan DiBartolo** as our opera-singing Cinna the Poet and **Oscar Velarde** as Juggler Extraordinaire, newcomers both, round out the cast.

About Tracy Martin

Tracy has been documenting our work since 2010 when she and husband Mark Kitaoka shot *Hamlet on Alcatraz*. Tracy so effectively captures and communicates the feeling of our work that she was a natural choice to partner with on a film. Serving as both director of photography and editor, her vision and creative aesthetic is present throughout the piece. To see more of Tracy's work visit her website <https://tracymartinphotography.com>.

About the Place

Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse, originally constructed as the Grand Court for the Midwinter Fair of 1894, becomes Rome on Election Day. This vibrant civic space perfectly transforms into the hustling, bustling circus that is the city under Caesar. Most often recognized as the promenade between the de Young and the Academy of Science, the space is an attraction in its own right with its Temple of Music, pollarded Wych Elms, and grand Rideout Fountain. Processing through the space, the performance utilizes the entire length of the Music Concourse. In our final act, the

horrors of war are viewed from inside a medical tent, staged in the iron-gated pedestrian tunnel below the de Young, as the ghosts of the dead haunt the few left living.

ABOUT WE PLAYERS

We Players has been recognized by Backstage.com as [one of seven companies](#) around the globe producing groundbreaking immersive theatre. We Players was featured in [American Theatre Magazine's cover story on immersive theatre](#) and was honored by San Francisco Magazine with the "Best of the Bay" pick for their unique site-specific performance work noting, "We Players didn't just break the fourth wall, it toppled the whole playhouse." We Players has received several "Best of Bay" awards from the SF Weekly, including this mention in their 2015 award, "We Players actors have the ability to draw power out of their surroundings, channeling it into spectacular, immersive experiences for audience members unlike anything you'll see on Broadway."

We Players creates site-integrated performances that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theatre in an effort to engage with history and the environment, build community, and activate personal relationships with place. **Our work inspires, awakens the senses, and connects people with each other and the landscape.** We Players is a Bay Area arts non-profit founded in 2000 at Stanford University by Ava Roy. For more information about We Players, please visit www.weplayers.org.

Calendar Listing Information

Dates: August 8 through September 5, 2020

Info: Donate any amount to our campaign and receive a link to our debut film.

Website: <http://www.weplayers.org/we-connect>