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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Théâtre National de Bretagne are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
THÉÂTRE NATIONAL DE BRETAGNE IN
THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
ARTHUR NAUZYCIEL'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRODUCTION OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *JULIUS CAESAR*
SATURDAY–SUNDAY, APRIL 27–28**

Berkeley, March 22, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents French director Arthur Nauzyciel's acclaimed English-language production of *Julius Caesar* in its West Coast premiere on Saturday–Sunday, April 27–28 in Zellerbach Hall. Nauzyciel first created the production for Boston's influential American Repertory Theater in a US election year more than a decade ago, and now revives the work with his current troupe, the Théâtre National de Bretagne. His *Julius Caesar* is set in the era of JFK, with stylish midcentury sets and costumes, choreography by Damien Jalet, a live jazz trio, and a provocative, visually arresting staging that reframes the action as the dream of a minor character, Brutus' slave Lucius.

One of the greatest theatrical studies of tyranny, revolution, and civil war, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* dramatizes friendships and alliances torn apart by political ambition and the intoxicating effects of power. Centered around three of the Bard's most vivid characters—Caesar, Brutus, and Mark Antony—the play contrasts a vast historical canvas with the private fears and dreams of political men. Nauzyciel has explained that his goal in the production is to highlight the continuing relevance of Shakespeare's text to contemporary audiences and to modern political discourse: "For me, classical plays are a memory of the future. They're time capsules, they come from long ago, but they're with us now and they'll be here for centuries. They contain a collective memory of human behavior, aspirations, expectations, illusions. As time capsules, it's interesting to catch them and open them. They are like holograms or like stars, whose light arrives far after their death. In a sense, the play is a user's manual for the next generation, written by Shakespeare for the future, a guide to politics and humanity."

The title role of Julius Caesar will be played by Dylan Kussman, for whom a return to Berkeley is a homecoming. Kussman earned a degree in US history from UC Berkeley in the 1990s, and as an undergraduate studied theater under Berkeley Repertory Theatre artistic director Tony Taccone. Kussman lived in Berkeley and Oakland for a decade, and his Bay Area theater credits include productions at Shotgun Players, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and the Magic Theatre. He has performed at the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and his film work includes *Dead Poets Society*, *Leatherheads*, *Jack Reacher*, *The Mule*, and co-writing the screenplay for *The Mummy*.

A performance on Friday, April 26 was originally planned but has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the ***Théâtre National de Bretagne: Julius Caesar*** on Saturday, April 27 at 8pm and Sunday, April 28 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30–\$98 (prices subject to change). (A performance on Friday, April 26 was originally planned but has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, April 27, 8pm

Sunday, April 28, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

Bancroft Way at Dana Street

UC Berkeley campus

Theater

Théâtre National de Bretagne

Julius Caesar

by William Shakespeare

Arthur Nauzyciel, *director*

Damien Jalet, *choreographer*

Dmitry Ishenko, *double bass*

Leandro Pelligrino, *guitar*

Marianne Solivan, *vocals*

Program: French director Arthur Nauzyciel revives his English-language production of *Julius Caesar*, first created 10 years ago for Boston's influential American Repertory Theater. Now artistic director of the Théâtre National de Bretagne, Nauzyciel highlights the continuing relevance of Shakespeare's great political tragedy—with costumes and design that evoke the era of JFK, a live jazz trio, and provocative staging that refocuses the action so that the tyranny unfolds as the dream of a minor character, Brutus' slave Lucius.

Tickets: \$30–\$98 (prices subject to change)

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