



NEW RENAISSANCE
THEATRE COMPANY

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NEW RENAISSANCE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS IMAGINATIVE, CINEMATIC PRODUCTION OF JOKER'S WILD

NEW RENAISSANCE THEATRE COMPANY'S FIRST FULL PRODUCTION

(BOSTON) – New Renaissance Theatre Company presents their first full production, written and directed by Vice President and Co-Founder, Amos Nasongo. Performances begin **April 14** in the Center for Intercultural Engagement at Northeastern University (144 Curry Student Center) and will run through April 16. Tickets are now on sale to the general public.

An alternate history, late 1940's-early 50's. Post WWII with a jazz age vibe. Set in fictional San Amando, California. Colloquially referred to as "Fortune City, Nick Wiley is a man with a plan- and a brand new casino. But what happens when his grand opening goes awry? Join the patrons and employees of the Red Joker Casino for a night of chaos and intrigue in *Joker's Wild*. This one act play fuses styles and language from decades across the early-mid 20th century. **Amos Nasongo's** imaginative approach to theatre takes place in an alternate, jazz inspired America.

New Renaissance Theatre Company's first production creates an immersive experience for the audience, emphasizing the point of theatre as a perception of life. With wild and intense characters, director/playwright, Amos Nasongo describes *Joker's Wild* as "an over the top thrill ride" that will bring home the point of theatre as a time to play and be free. In an age where Netflix is in the palms of everyone's hands, **Amos Nasongo** brings a cinematic experience to life on stage.

Travis Bergmann (*Swiped*, Silver Masque; No Jokes Improv Troupe) runs the show as the unbreakable front-man of Red Joker Casino, Nick Wiley. Joining the table is a freshman Theatre and Game Design major, **Rayan Perera**. The cast of *Joker's Wild* also includes **Preethi Boinapally** as Jefferson/Wilson; **Ivy Kee** (*Reeling*, NU Theatre; *Ghosts of the Past*, 8 to 8 Play Festival), freshman Theatre major, as Hanzo; **Sherdé Nicholas** as Cass; **Kathy Tangarife** (*Queen Cleo*, CAMD Capstone), senior graphic design major, as Julio/Wilson; and **Toyin Yusuf**, fourth year BS/MS in Computer Engineering, as Rosie.

CREATIVE TEAM

Amos Nasongo (Director/Playwright) is a third year Political Science major minoring in Theatre. He has been involved in Northeastern's theatre scene since his freshman year, with previous credits including *HAIR*,

Everyman, and *Three Sisters*. He is ecstatic about making his directorial debut, and to premiere *Joker's Wild*, with New Renaissance Theatre Company, where he is a co-founder and the current vice-president.

Tarik Jones (Producer/Production Stage Manager) is a third year Theatre and Interaction Design major with a psychology minor. He is the president and co-founder of New Renaissance Theatre Company. His Northeastern acting credits include *Three Sisters*, *Everyman*, and *HAIR*. He is currently on co-op at the Huntington Theatre Company in their marketing and public affairs departments and previously had a co-op at the City of Boston.

Dan Casey (Technical Director) is a third year mechanical engineering student with a minor in experience design. He's been involved with Generate Product Development Studio and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This semester, he's on co-op at a design consulting firm, playing intramural broomball, and excited to try his hand at his first set build! Hobbies include bikes, woodworking, guitar, and nature.

Amy Dang (Scenic Design) is a second year majoring in behavioral neuroscience and minoring in interaction design. She's been a part of Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, STEM Outreach Club, and Spectrum Literary Magazine in the past, and this will also be her first theatre experience!

James Lyons (Sound Design) is a third year Media and Screen Studies & Political Science major. He is a founding member of the Northeastern Student of Color Caucus and works part-time at the Center for Intercultural Engagement - working to address systemic oppression on campus and beyond. *Joker's Wild* will be his first (but certainly not last) involvement with Northeastern's theatre community.

Shelby Spaulding (Costume Design) is a fifth year History major International Affairs/Anthropology minor. She has been costuming for the Northeastern Theatre Department for the last five years including the department's productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Everyman*.

Kyla Vigdor (Graphic Design) is a third year graphic design major. She is the co-head of the design team for "NU Sci", Northeastern's student-run science magazine and she is excited to be a part of the design team for *Joker's Wild*. She did her first co-op last semester at the Boston Beer Company.

ABOUT NEW RENAISSANCE THEATRE COMPANY

New Renaissance Theatre Company is Northeastern's only theatre company centered on producing plays with a focus on representation, especially for students of color. Our goal is to diversify the theatre community at Northeastern in a collaborative and friendly environment. This club will help bridge different artists and their communities into theatre at Northeastern. Everyone has a voice, and everyone's voice should be heard. Under the direction of President/Co-founder **Tarik Jones** and Vice President/Co-Founder **Amos Nasongo**, Renaissance Theatre Company celebrates and cultivates theatre as a means to connect, express, and understand. For more information, visit newrenaissancetheatre.org/.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As a member of the Vietnamese and Black student populations on campus, I feel that there is a need to establish a connection between different student populations, and performance is the best way to do so. Theatre is the only art form which encompasses all other art forms. Whether you're a singer, musician, actor, painter, designer, writer, etc. there is a place for everyone in theatre. Performance is a way to be expressive with who you are and to feel connected with others.

This club exists to expose people from all walks of life to theatre as an art form. It all started with a conversation I had with my supervisor at Boston City TV in which we discussed conversations we overheard from the audience of Lyric Stage's production of *The Wiz*. We discussed how audience members claimed to have never seen a show before, and this exposure to theatre has created a new interest and a new passion in

them. Theatre has the power to connect and bring forth an understanding to one's world and relationships. There just needs to be a space for those facets to be communicated, respected, and heard. New Renaissance Theatre Company exists to allow our members and audiences to feel welcome and safe in a space which cultivates performance, expression, connection, and inclusion.

I am honored to have *Joker's Wild* as New Renaissance Theatre Company's first full production. The team has worked so hard to put this show together, and I am truly proud of everyone involved. The cast and crew's dedication, hard work, and commitment to this production is inspiring. We are a new club with zero campus resources, but everyone still put our trust in each other to bring this show to life. This just shows the level of passion and dedication this group of people has. When we see a need on campus, we come together to fight for this change. We express ourselves through our performance and creativity, and we hold each other up to achieve the success we deserve. We will continue to support each other. We will be heard. We will make a difference.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

The Center for Intercultural Engagement is an inclusive space on campus that seeks to build communities between our vibrant communities. We host engaging programs and dialogues along with opportunities for intersectional identity development. For more information, visit studentlife.northeastern.edu/cie.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

WHEN

Sunday, April 14 - Tuesday, April 16, 2019
All performances at 6pm

WHERE

Center for Intercultural Engagement (144 Curry Student Center) / Northeastern University

TICKETS

Single tickets are available for free at bit.ly/jokers-wild.

CONTENT WARNING

This production contains guns, sounds of gunshots, and themes concerning death.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE-INTERPRETATION

New Renaissance Theatre Company offers ASL interpretation for the Deaf and hard of hearing at our April 14 performance of *Joker's Wild*. Seating for each ASL-interpreted performance is located in the center of the house. To reserve ASL Access tickets, please contact Max Williams at williams.jon@husky.neu.edu.

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