

**THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY
AND GETTY VILLA MUSEUM
CO-PRODUCE VIRTUAL PLAY READING OF
LAUREL OLLSTEIN'S NEW PLAY**

Pandora

February 26 – March 19, 2021

LOS ANGELES, CA (19 February 2021) – **TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** and **The Getty Villa Museum** will co-produce a FREE virtual play reading of ***Pandora***, the story of Pandora's Box, by acclaimed playwright **Laurel Ollstein**. Directed by TheatreWorks Artistic Associate and Director of New Works **Giovanna Sardelli**, ***Pandora*** was developed in an online workshop reading presented by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley in September 2020—this digital reading shares a newly-revised version of the play. ***Pandora*** retells the Pandora's Box myth from a feminist perspective. This intriguing new work hypothesizes what might happen if a woman was suddenly created and dropped into the middle of the world now: a woman with no preconceived notions of anything—like beauty, love, or violence—who might allow humanity and the gods to suddenly see the world through her clear eyes. ***Pandora*** examines how hope and curiosity can change one woman's fateful actions.

Pandora launches **5pm PST February 26, 2021**, and will be available to view on the Getty's website until **11:59pm PST March 19, 2021**. Free advanced registration is required to obtain a password for viewing. To register the public may visit **<https://www.getty.edu/museum/programs/performances/pandora.html>**.

Pandora is part of the Getty Villa Museum's theater program, presenting reinterpretations of Greek and Roman classical plays through play-readings, theater labs, premiere presentations and the annual outdoor theater production.

“While sheltering-in-place, we have continued to collaborate and cultivate new works,” said Sardelli. “Last year, we created an online workshop and reading of *Pandora*, allowing us to develop this play—and expand our understanding of creating and presenting inventive stories in the virtual world. Since then, Laurel has done fantastic work on the script and our partnership with the Getty Villa has provided us the chance to revisit this wonderful story, along with what we’ve learned over the past months about presenting exciting works in this new medium.”

Laurel Ollstein (Playwright) is an award-winning writer, director and teacher. Ollstein’s plays include *They Promised Her the Moon*, seen onstage at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley in March 2020, as well as *Esther’s Moustache*, *Dorothy Parker is in the Bath*, *OPA! The Musical*, *Unhappily Married in Valencia*, *Anatomy of a Brain Injury*, and her acclaimed one-woman-show *Laughter, Hope, and a Sock in the Eye*. She is a founding member of Tim Robbins’s The Actors’ Gang. She has written commissions for Virginia Avenue Project, New Jersey Repertory Company, Playwrights’ Arena, and Clark Library, and she has developed plays with The Actors’ Gang, Ensemble Studio Theater, The Barrow Group, Cornerstone Theater Company, Skylight Music Theatre, The Road Theatre Company, Miranda Theatre Company, and Playwrights’ Center. Recognition of her works includes grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and California Arts Council, as well as Ovation, Garland, and *LA Weekly* Theater Awards.

Giovanna Sardelli’s (TheatreWorks Artistic Associate and Director of New Works) many directing credits at TheatreWorks include the March 2020 Northern California Premiere of *They Promised Her the Moon*, as well as Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph’s *Archduke* (2019), *FINKS* (2018), *The Velocity of Autumn* and *Crimes of the Heart* (2016), Joseph’s *The Lake Effect* (2015), *Somewhere* by Matthew Lopez (2013), and the World Premiere of Joseph’s *The North Pool* (2011). She is an award-winning director who has worked on numerous plays by Rajiv Joseph including the world premiere of *Archduke* (Mark Taper Forum) and *Guards at the Taj* (Geffen Playhouse; 2016 Ovation Award for Best Production of a Play) and the World Premiere of the Obie Award winning play *Describe The Night* (Alley Theatre, Atlantic Theater Company in NYC). She has directed world premieres of plays by Theresa Rebeck, Lynn Rosen, Joe Gilford, Jeff Augustine, Lauren Yee, Zayd Dohrn, Melissa Ross, Lila Rose Kaplan, Matthew Lopez, and Zoe Kazan among others. Sardelli

is set to direct TheatreWorks's upcoming productions of *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *Nan and the Lower Body* in its 51st season.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley is the recipient of the 2019 Regional Theatre Tony Award. Led by Artistic Director Tim Bond and Executive Director Phil Santora, the Palo Alto-based theater company serves more than 100,000 patrons per year and has captured a national reputation for artistic innovation and integrity. Since its founding in 1970, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley has become one of the nation's leaders in cultivating and producing new musicals and plays, developing and premiering 70 works by new and veteran artists and 173 Regional Premieres. The company's New Works Festival and Writers' Retreat programs attract authors and composers of national stature (Rajiv Joseph, Stephen Schwartz, Beth Henley, Paul Gordon, Marsha Norman, Henry Krieger, Duncan Sheik, Jules Feiffer, Joe DiPietro, and Andrew Lippa, among many others), providing an artistic home in which America's theater artists can create new works. In addition, the company has developed scores of works which have gone on to regional, Off-Broadway, Broadway, and West End productions. The company's 51st season has been postponed in accordance with global efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), with TheatreWorks currently scheduled to resume in-person performances in October 2021.

For Calendar Editors:

WHAT: **TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** and **The Getty Villa Museum** will co-produce a FREE virtual play reading of acclaimed playwright **Laurel Ollstein's *Pandora***, the story of Pandora's Box. Directed by TheatreWorks Artistic Associate and Director of New Works **Giovanna Sardelli**, *Pandora* was developed in an online workshop reading presented by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley in September 2020—this digital reading shares a newly-revised version of the play. *Pandora* retells the Pandora's Box myth from a feminist perspective. This intriguing new work hypothesizes what might happen if a woman was suddenly created and dropped into the middle of the world now: a woman with no preconceived notions of anything—like beauty, love, or violence—who might allow humanity and the gods to suddenly see the world through her clear eyes. *Pandora* examines how hope and curiosity can change one woman's fateful actions.

WHEN: **5pm PST Friday, February 26 – 11:59pm PST Friday, March 19**

WHERE: Online. Patrons must sign up to view the stream in advance at <https://www.getty.edu/museum/programs/performances/pandora.html>

TICKETS: Free to stream.

INFO: For information visit **getty.edu**.

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PRESS: Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.
lauren@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://cbpr.co/press/pandora>