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PRESS CONTACTS:

Nicole Shiro, Motley Crew Media for ZACH Theatre
nicole.shiro@motleycrewmedia.com
512.740.6665 (C)

Michael Bratcher, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
Bratcher@LyricTheatreOKC.com
405.524.9310 x.213 (O) 405.408.1781(C)

**CAST ANNOUNCED FOR
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA'S *IN THE HEIGHTS*
DIRECTED BY HAMILTON ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER MICHAEL BALDARRAMA**

"A groundbreaking 21st-century musical. This extraordinary blend of old and new pushes the sound of Broadway even deeper into fresh territory. It's one of the most satisfying musicals in years." - *New York Magazine*

"A big, pulsing power surge of a show, igniting a new energy source for musical theater."
- *Newsday*

"*In the Heights* represents change on Broadway: It's contemporary, heartfelt and full of hope."
- *Time*

Images available: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6IOSn8jHwSydUV1M0ZveEhJQWc>

AUSTIN, TX - **ZACH Theatre** is proud to announce the cast for *Hamilton* composer/playwright **Lin-Manuel Miranda's** extraordinary, Tony Award winning, Broadway musical ***In the Heights***. With music and lyrics by Miranda and book by Quiara Alegría Hudes, ***In the Heights*** plays on stage in the Topfer Theatre **May 31 – July 2, 2017** and is **directed by Michael Balderrama**, San Antonio-native and original Broadway cast member and dance captain of ***In the Heights***. Michael has been with the show from its inception at the workshop production, Off-Broadway, Broadway, and directed the First and Second National Tours. Once ***In the Heights*** closes in the Topfer Theatre, it will play on stage at the Civic Center Music Hall with the **Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma** in Oklahoma City **August 8 – 12, 2017**. ***In the Heights*** is a collaboration between **ZACH Theatre** (Austin, TX) and **Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma** (Oklahoma City, OK) using the same cast and creatives for both engagements.

This groundbreaking, vibrant musical won the Tony Award for Best Musical for Lin-Manuel Miranda and the same dynamic creative team behind Broadway's breakout hit *Hamilton*. Set in



NYC's Washington Heights, this "Upper West Side Story" dazzles with sizzling song and dance, hip hop, salsa, merengue, all as the hopes, romances, and dreams of a community ignite over the July 4th weekend. The show is a joyous, infectious, and moving musical perfect for ages ten and up.

"I'm looking forward to our summer collaborations with the fantastic ZACH Theatre in Austin," Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma Producing Artistic Director, Michael Baron exclaims. "I've had the pleasure of directing *Spring Awakening* and *Peter and the Starcatcher* there and Dave Steakley, ZACH's Producing Artistic Director recently directed the hit comedy, *Fully Committed*, here at Lyric. It just made sense to share the amazing talents, creative teams, and resources of OKC and Austin when putting together *Million Dollar Quartet* and *In the Heights*. Dave is directing *Million Dollar Quartet* and we're both excited to host Michael Baldarrama, resident choreographer for *Hamilton* in Chicago, to direct *In the Heights*. I think audiences in both cities are going to have a blast celebrating the music of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins as well as experience Lin Manuel Miranda's infectious joyous musical, *In the Heights*. But don't worry, while our theaters might get along, the football rivalry is still strong across the Red River!"

KEITH CONTRERAS-MCDONALD will make his ZACH debut on ZACH's Topfer's Theatre stage in the role of Usnavi De La Vega. Joining Contreras-McDonald is THERESA MEDINA (ZACH's *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesuchristo Superestrella*) as Abuela Claudia, CELESTE CASTILLO (ZACH's *A Christmas Carol* and *Evita*) as Carla, GINA MARIE as Daniela, ALICIA TAYLOR TOMASKO as Vanessa, FERNANDO ACEVEDO as Kevin Rosario, NICOLE PALOMA SARRO as Camila Rosario, CRISTINA OESCHGER as Nina Rosario, VINCENT J. HOOPER (ZACH's *The Great Society*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Ragtime*) as Benny, NICHOLAS GARZA (ZACH's *A Christmas Carol*, *Evita*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher*) as Sonny, DEIONDRE TEAGLE as Graffiti Pete, PAUL SANCHEZ (ZACH's *A Christmas Carol*, *Evita*, *The Who's Tommy*, and *Les Misérables*) as Piragua Guy, DOMANICK HUBBARD as Ensemble, JORGE GUERRA as Ensemble, DANNY BURGOS as Ensemble, JORREL JAVIER as Ensemble, DERRICK MEDRANO as Ensemble, GREER GISY as Ensemble/Dance Captain, ALAINA VI MADERAL (ZACH's *Mary Poppins* and *Sophisticated Ladies*) as Ensemble, DAINIQUE JONES (ZACH's *Mary Poppins* and *Sophisticated Ladies*) as Ensemble, LIANNE VALERIO (ZACH's *One Man, Two Guvnors*) as Ensemble and GABRIELLA ENRIQUEZ as Ensemble.

Recommendation: Ten and up.

Run time: Approximately two hours and 45 minutes including one intermission.

Special events in celebration of ***In the Heights***:

- Press Night: Saturday, June 3, 2017. RSVP to nicole.shiro@motleycrewmedia.com
- GLBT Pride Night: Thursday, June 1, 2017
- Wednesday Post-Show Talkback – Wednesday, June 7, 2017
- ASL Interpreted and Open Captioned Performance – Wednesday, June 7, 2017
- Champagne Opening Night – Thursday, June 8, 2017
- Z Lounge: Musical entertainment in the Topfer Theatre's Main Lounge.



Tickets for ZACH's production start at \$25 and are available online at zachtheatre.org, by phone at 512-476-0541 x1, or in person at the ZACH Theatre Box Office, in the Topfer Theatre, 202 South Lamar Blvd. (corner of Riverside Drive and South Lamar Blvd.) Monday through Saturday, 12 – 7 p.m. ZACH Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more. Student Rush Tickets are \$18 one hour before show time (with valid ID).

In the Heights Cast

Keith Contreras-McDonald – Usnavi De La Vega

Theresa Medina – Abeula Claudia

Celeste Castillo – Carla

Gina Marie – Daniela

Alicia Taylor Tomasko – Vanessa

Fernando Acevedo – Kevin Rosario

Nicole Paloma Sarro – Camila Rosario

Cristina Oeschger – Nina Rosario

Vincent J. Hooper – Benny

Nicolas Garza – Sonny

Deiondre Teagle – Graffiti Pete

Paul Sanchez – Piragua Guy

Domanick Hubbard – Ensemble

Jorge Guerra – Ensemble

Danny Burgos – Ensemble

Jorrel Javier – Ensemble

Derrick Medrano – Ensemble

Greer Gisy – Ensemble/Dance Captain

Alaina Vi Maderal – Ensemble

Dainique Jones – Ensemble

Lianne Valerio – Ensemble

Gabriella Enriquez – Ensemble

In the Heights Creative Team

Michael Balderrama – Director

Greer Gisy – Associate Director and Choreographer

Logan Floyd – Assistant to the Choreographer

Allen Robertson – Music Director

Anna Louizos – Scenic Designer

Scott Westervelt – Costume Designer

Serret Jensen - Hair and Makeup Designer

Sarah Maines - Lighting Designer

Miriah Borden – Lightening Design Assistant

Craig Brock - Sound Designer

Steve Baglio - Properties Designer

Megan Barrett - Stage Manager



About the director, MICHAEL BALDERRAMA: Currently Resident Choreographer for the ground breaking musical *Hamilton*, Balderrama is an American Director/Choreographer, Dancer and Producer, who has taught and choreographed for more than twenty years, in over thirty states, and around the world. Michael's notable Broadway credits include *Ghost*, *In the Heights*, *Hot Feet*, *Movin' Out*, *Urban Cowboy*, and *Saturday Night Fever*. Michael can also be seen on film in *Rock of Ages*, *Across the Universe*, and Michael Jackson's *Ghost*. Michael has had the privilege of choreographing for and/or performing with Gloria Estefan, Bruno Mars, Michael Jackson, Sutton Foster, Vanessa Williams, Brian Adams, Mariah Carey, and Jay Sean. Additionally, Michael served as the Resident Director/Choreographer of the 2nd national tour of *In the Heights*, Associate Director and Movement Consultant for *Zorro*, and Associate Choreographer and Creative Consultant over the 2013 Broadway musical, *Soul Doctor*. Michael's areas of teaching interest and masterclasses include: musical theatre, jazz, ballet, contemporary, hip hop, latin/ salsa, adagio/ partnering, stage combat, and musical staging. Michael has participated in developmental and workshop productions of several musicals over the years, and is currently producing the upcoming new musicals *Whiskeyland* and *Boy vs. Girls* through his companies, Silver Towers Productions, LLC and Last Call Theatricals, LLC. silvertowersproductions.com.

About the author, LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA: Broadway: Book-Music-Lyricists-Alexander Hamilton of *Hamilton* (eleven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score), Composer-Lyricist-Unavi of *In the Heights* (four Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Score, Grammy Award, Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Bring It On: The Musical* (Co-Composer/Co-Lyricist, Tony nomination for Best Musical), *West Side Story* (2009 revival, Spanish translations). Off-Broadway: *Hamilton* (ten Lortel Awards, three Outer Critic Circle Awards, eight Drama Desk Awards, 2015 New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best New Musical and the 2015 Obie Award for Best New American Play); *Merrily We Roll Along* and *tick,tick...BOOM!* (both City Center Encores!). Lin-Manuel received an Emmy Award with Tom Kitt for "Bigger" from the "The 67th Annual Tony Awards." TV/Film: "Freestyle Love Supreme," "How I Met Your Mother," "Smash," "Do No Harm," "Modern Family," "House," "The Electric Company," "Sesame Street," "The Sopranos," *The Odd Life of Timothy Green* and *200 Cartas*. Proud council member of the Dramatists Guild. www.linmanuel.com.

About Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma

Founded in 1963, Lyric is Oklahoma's leading professional theatre company. For more than 50 years, Lyric has produced classic and contemporary musicals and plays featuring both nationally known Broadway stars and local favorites. Lyric produces large-scale, fully orchestrated musicals at the Civic Center Music Hall each summer, as well as full-scale productions at the Plaza Theatre during the spring, fall and winter. Lyric's Thelma Gaylord Academy is a professional training ground for students ages 5-18, offering classes in all aspects of musical theatre. Academy students have the opportunity to perform in two full-scale productions each year on the Plaza Theatre stage. Lyric is a member agency of Allied Arts. Lyric Theatre is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, visit www.LyricTheatreOKC.com.



About ZACH Theatre

A non-profit organization, ZACH creates intimate theatre experiences that ignite the imagination, inspire the spirit, and engage the community. As Austin's leading professional producing theatre, ZACH employs more than 300 actors, musicians, and designers annually to create its own diverse array of nationally recognized plays and musicals under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Dave Steakley and Managing Director Elisabeth Challener. Each year, ZACH serves nearly 120,000 Central Texans – 60,000 of which are children and youth who participate in our education and outreach programs, as well as inspiring camps and classes. ZACH Theatre is honored to host private and community events across the beautiful rental-ready spaces on our three-stage campus located in the heart of Austin. Founded in 1932 and in its 84th season, ZACH is the longest continuously running theatre company in the state of Texas, and one of the ten oldest in the country. Visit www.zachtheatre.org for more information.

ZACH Theatre's 2016-17 Season is sponsored in part, by AT&T, Austin Catering, Baylor Scott & White Health, Dell, H-E-B, Holiday Inn-Lady Bird Lake, Kirk Tuck Photography, Marquee Event Group, OnRamp Access, and Schlotzsky's; and by grants from The Shubert Foundation, the Junior League of Austin, The National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Cultural Arts Division of The City of Austin Economic Development Department.

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