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Company One Theatre Presents 2015/16 Programming

# SEASON 17

*Dry Land • An Octoroon • We're Gonna Die • The T Party*

**Boston, MA** — It is with great excitement that Company One Theatre (C1) announces programming for our seventeenth season! In 2015/16, we are excited to begin our relationship with playwrights Ruby Rae Spiegel and Young Jean Lee, as well as welcome back recent favorites Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (*Neighbors*) and Natsu Onoda Power (*Astro Boy and The God of Comics*). We are also reprising our youth and college-centric programs, as well as post-show discussions, pay-what-you-want performances, new play development, parties, and other community engagement events. In collaboration with ArtsEmerson, American Repertory Theater, and Boston Center for the Arts, Company One Theatre invites you to enjoy fierce comedy, stark drama, poignant social commentary, and — of course — >>**What's Next** in American theatre.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR AS LOW AS \$60 ARE NOW ON SALE. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR DETAILS.

## DRY LAND

A Boston premiere by Ruby Rae Spiegel

Directed by Steven Bogart

October 2, 2015 - October 30, 2015 | Boston Center for the Arts, Plaza Theatre

Emerging as the Lena Dunham of the theatre world, 21-year-old playwright Ruby Rae Spiegel — a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn prize — writes a brazen, no-holds-barred play about that time in your life when no one else can possibly understand what you're going through. A story about bad jokes, bathing suits, friendship, and abortion, *Dry Land*, a *New York Times* critics' pick, is a brave portrayal of the contemporary American teenager that epitomizes What's Next in American theatre.

*"Tender, caustic, funny and harrowing, often all at the same time."* — *New York Times*

*"Watching Ruby Rae Spiegel's ruthlessly honest Dry Land, you wonder: Girls, how did theater miss you?!? Everything else belongs to them: film, television, fiction. Yet it takes Spiegel's simple, fierce play to put a young woman's capacity for pain center stage — and the choice feels thrilling, even political."*  
— *Time Out New York*

**C1's Take :** "We are ecstatic to introduce rising star Ruby Rae Spiegel to Boston audiences with her new play, *Dry Land* under the direction of Steven Bogart (*Shockheaded Peter*). Spiegel fearlessly presents one

of the lesser told, but not lesser known, experiences of being a young woman. This story of teenage girls entering adulthood is devastating, riveting, and full of heart.” — **Shawn LaCount, Artistic Director**

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## AN OCTOROON

A co-production with ArtsEmerson

A New England premiere by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Summer L. Williams

January 28, 2016 - February 27, 2016 | Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre

The hottest play of 1859 is back! There's trouble at the plantation: No one is falling in love with who they should be, someone has been murdered, and, unless the mail comes soon, all hope is lost! Obie-award winner Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (*Neighbors*) transforms a 19th century melodrama for today's "post-racial," spectacle-obsessed world. *An Octoroon*, directed by Summer L. Williams, is an incendiary, subversively funny exploration of identity, jammed with sensation and surprises.

*“Hilarious and harrowing... May turn out to be this decade's most eloquent theatrical statement on race in America today.” — The New York Times*

*“A wildly imaginative new work by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins ... it insists that making theater can be the best way to talk back to history” — The Village Voice*

**CI's Take:** “We are honored to produce this mega-hit direct from its sold out New York production. Reuniting director Summer L. Williams and playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, who previously collaborated on the explosive *Neighbors*, *An Octoroon* is wildly comedic and clever look at race in America from the 1800s to present that asks how far we've truly come.” — **Shawn LaCount, Artistic Director**

*“An Octoroon* confirms that we're on very shaky ground whenever we attempt to tell stories about the history of race in America, and as two theater companies who recognize the reality of that shaky ground, we're committed to presenting challenging theater that can deepen our understanding and further our conversations of race in the city of Boston.” — **Polly Carl, ArtsEmerson's Creative Director**

**From The Collaborators:** “We have always been committed to long-term relationships with artists over multiple projects. *An Octoroon* offered the perfect opportunity to continue a partnership with Summer and Company One Theatre that we began with *We Are Proud To Present...*” — **says David Dower, ArtsEmerson's Artistic Director**

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## WE’RE GONNA DIE

A New England premiere by Young Jean Lee

Directed by Shawn LaCount

April 21, 2016 - April 30, 2016 | OBERON

May 1, 2016 - May 15, 2016 | To Be Announced

It's time to get real and rock out about the one thing we all have in common: *We're Gonna Die*. Playwright Young Jean Lee blends storytelling, stand-up, music, and theater into a funny, sweet, and darkly weird song cycle that lets us know we may be miserable, but at least we won't be alone. Boldly exploring the less awesome moments of life with outrageous humor and powerful insight, this Obie-award winning cabaret-style event moves audiences to a charged collective catharsis. Come experience the smartest and most life-affirming way to contemplate the inevitable!

*"I suspect that joining my voice with those of my fellow audience members, chanting 'We're gonna die' over and over will remain one of the most inexplicably pleasurable experiences of my theatergoing life."* — *Vogue*

*"Sly, weird and thoroughly winning ... Its forthright acknowledgement that life can be a rough business is bracing, funny and, yes, consoling."* — *New York Times*

**C1's Take:** "Young Jean Lee has been called "the most adventurous downtown playwright of her generation" by the *New York Times* and here at Company One Theatre, we agree wholeheartedly. With stories and pop songs, *We're Gonna Die* will break your heart and put it back together again." — Shawn LaCount, Artistic Director

**From The Collaborators:** "I have been watching Company One Theatre make excellent work for some time, and their aesthetic and constant inquisitiveness fits perfectly with the vision of OBERON. It seemed quite natural to help present a play by the remarkable Young Jean Lee with Company One Theatre. We're so very excited" — Ari Barbanell, A.R.T.'s Director of Special Projects

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## THE T PARTY

A New England premiere by Natsu Onoda Power

Directed by Natsu Onoda Power

July 22, 2016 - August 20, 2016 | Boston Center for the Arts

Goldilocks is surrounded by bears. Amy and Betsie want to wear matching Texas to the Pride Parade. Nehemiah waxes poetic on dolphin mating habits. J just wants to be told they're beautiful. Based on real stories, *The T Party* is a party-meets-performance mash-up that transgresses, transforms, and transcends gender norms. Through an exhilarating series of scenes, songs, and videos, this immersive theatrical event promises to be an experience like no other!

*"Remarkably inquisitive."* — *The Washington Post*

*"Poetic and kinetic. Interactive and traditional. Kinky and sweet. Always following its heart and its muse. Like so many in the transgender community, The T Party fiercely resists being pigeonholed."* — *DC Theatre Scene*

**C1's Take:** "We are thrilled to be collaborating again with Natsu Onoda Power, an artist of enormous vision and heart. Her new play, *The T Party*, is an exuberant, playful look at gender expression in contemporary America. This summer, come party with Company One Theatre as we celebrate community, love, and acceptance." — Shawn LaCount, Artistic Director

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## >>About Company One Theatre

Consistently dubbed Best Of Boston, Company One Theatre is Boston's theatre for the people. Founded in 1999, Company One's mission is to change the face of Boston theatre by uniting the city's diverse communities through socially provocative performance and the development of civically engaged artists. The award-winning company has been instrumental in bringing younger and more diverse audiences to see and participate in socially and politically relevant theatre.

*"Company One has... established itself as a home for must-see theater... To attend one of their performances is often to feel yourself immersed in exuberance, with waves of energy pouring from the stage, usually reciprocated by an avidly enthusiastic audience that is far younger and more diverse than the Boston theater norm." — Boston Globe*

*"You sense, at a Company One production, that the troupe is reaching out to audiences that other theaters aren't, particularly young audiences. And the laughter that you hear... sounds like a new generation learning to love the theater." — WBUR*

## >>Season 17 Engagement Opportunities

### **C1 Studio Session**

Two weeks prior to each production, we invite guests for a peek into the rehearsal process. We start with an hour of mingling, bites, and booze, before we move to an open rehearsal of the show followed by a chat with the director and cast. Attendees are also offered the opportunity to buy discounted tickets to the production.

### **BosTEEN Night**

BosTEEN Artist Night gives young, civically-engaged artists and community members an opportunity to see our current production, discuss the underlying themes in the work, and get creative with each other and the cast at a social featuring free refreshments, entertainment, and interactive artistic activities.

### **Cahlllege Mixah Night**

Company One Theatre invites Greater Boston's college students to Cahlllege Mixah Night, an evening of activities designed to get college students to break out of their campus bubbles, interact with other students from across the city, and catch a performance.

### **Pay-What-You-Want Performances**

The first two Sundays during each run, Company One hosts pay-what-you-want matinees where one can spend as little as six bucks to see the show.

### **Post-Show Discussions**

As opening night for each production draws nearer, we will announce a series of talk-back sessions curated by our dramaturgical staff.

## >>**What's Next.**

### **Summer L. Williams**

Director of Public Relations

Company One Theatre

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