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**Press Performance: Thursday, April 21, 2016**

[Digital Press Kit](#)

**Company One Theatre & American Repertory Theater's OBERON Present**

# **We're Gonna Die**

**A NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

**By Young Jean Lee, Directed by Shawn LaCount**

**April 20 - April 29, 2016 | OBERON, 2 Arrow Street, Cambridge**

**Boston, MA** — [Company One Theatre \(C1\)](#) and OBERON at the [American Repertory Theater](#) present *We're Gonna Die* by Young Jean Lee. Performances take place April 20, 2016 through April 29, 2016 at OBERON at the American Repertory Theater (2 Arrow Street, Cambridge, MA 02138). Tickets, from \$25-\$35, are on sale now at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org](#) or by phone at 617-547-8300. Group, student, and senior discounts are available.

**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!**

Dubbed *New York Times* critics' pick, chief theatre critic Ben Brantley described the play as "Sly, weird and thoroughly winning ... Its forthright acknowledgement that life can be a rough business is bracing, funny and, yes, consoling."

Of the performance, *Vogue* magazine said, "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"

This is Company One's first time performing in Cambridge and the first time they'll be teaming up with American Repertory Theater.

“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,” said Ari Barbanell, A.R.T.’s Director of Special Projects. “It seemed quite natural to help present a play by the remarkable Young Jean Lee with Company One Theatre. We’re so very excited.”

This project also marks the first time Company One will be producing work by the visionary playwright Young Jean Lee, a writer who epitomizes >>what’s next in American theatre. Artistic Director Shawn LaCount, who will also be directing *We’re Gonna Die*, says, “Young Jean Lee has been called the most adventurous playwright of her generation and here at Company One Theatre, we agree wholeheartedly.”

## >>TICKETS AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

### Press Performance

April 21, 2016

[RSVP HERE](#)

Single tickets are \$25 - \$35

- Premium Seats: \$35
- Table Seats: \$25
- Stools: \$25

### Purchase:

- Online at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org)
- By phone at 617.547.8300
- In person at Loeb Drama Center box office, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5pm, or
- In person at OBERON Theatre box office one hour before performance times

## >>WE’RE GONNA DIE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### >> C1 Studio Sessions

Part cocktail hour, part exploration of the rehearsal process, C1’s Studio Sessions is an opportunity to interact with our productions prior to opening night. Toast *An Octoroon* before heading over to the rehearsal room for an inside look at how the show gets pieced together. Complimentary appetizers, cash bar.

### >> Cahllege Mixah Night

Company One Theatre invites Greater Boston’s college students to Cahllege Mixah Night, an event designed to get college students to break out of their campus confines, catch a performance, and interact with other students from across the city.

### >>ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Young Jean Lee

YOUNG JEAN LEE is a writer, director, and filmmaker who has been called “the most adventurous downtown playwright of her generation” by the New York Times and “one of the

best experimental playwrights in America” by Time Out New York. She has written and directed ten shows in New York with Young Jean Lee's Theater Company, and toured her work to over thirty cities around the world. Her plays have been published by Theatre Communications Group (*Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven and Other Plays; The Shipment and Lear; and We're Gonna Die*) and by Samuel French (*Three Plays by Young Jean Lee*). She is currently under commission from Lincoln Center Theater and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and has written a screenplay commission for Plan B/Paramount Pictures. Her first short film, *Here Come the Girls*, was presented at The Locarno International Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, and BAMcinemaFest. In 2013, she released her debut album, *We're Gonna Die*, with her band, Future Wife. Lee is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two OBIE Awards, a Prize in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Doris Duke Artist Residency, a Foundation for Contemporary Arts grant, and the ZKB Patronage Prize of the Zürcher Theater Spektakel. She has also received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Rockefeller MAP Fund, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Creative Capital, the Greenwall Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Arts Presenters/Ford Foundation Creative Capacity Grant, the Barbara Bell Cumming Foundation, and the New England Foundation for the Arts: National Theater Project Award.

### **>>ABOUT THE DIRECTOR: Shawn LaCount**

Shawn is a proud co-founder of Company One Theatre. Recent directorial credits include the regional premiere of Annie Baker's *THE FLICK* (Elliot Norton Award, Outstanding Production); the world premiere of Kirsten Greenidge's *SPLENDOR* (IRNE Award nominee, Best New Play); the Boston premieres of *BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO* by Rajiv Joseph; *THE ELABORATE ENTRANCE OF CHAD DEITY* by Kristoffer Diaz (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director and Outstanding Production); Annie Baker's *THE ALIENS* (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director and Outstanding Production), the world premiere of *GRIMM* (IRNE Award nominee for Best New Play), the Boston premiere of *THE OVERWHELMING* by JT Rogers (Elliot Norton Award nominee for Outstanding Drama, Fringe); the Boston premiere of Haruki Murakami's *AFTER THE QUAKE* (Elliot Norton Award nominee for Outstanding Drama, Fringe); Stephen Sondheim's *ASSASSINS* (IRNE nomination for Best Director and Best Musical); the Boston premiere of Noah Haidle's *MR. MARMALADE* (Elliot Norton Award nominee for Outstanding Director/Outstanding Drama); the Boston premiere of *AFTER ASHLEY* by Gina Gionfriddo; and Anthony Burgess' *A CLOCKWORK ORANGE* (featuring original music by the Dresden Dolls). Local academic directing credits include Adam Rapp's *PARAFFIN* and *NURSING* at Emerson Stage. Shawn holds an MA Ed. in theatre Education from Clark University and an MFA in Directing from The University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has taught at the Boston Arts Academy, Huntington Theatre Company, Tufts University, Stage One and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Shawn is deeply grateful to the entire C1 family and of course to his wife Jessica, his sisters Terri & Cacia, and his children Shiloh and Levi.

### **>>ABOUT THE PERFORMER: Obehi Janice**

Obehi is an actress, writer, and comedian from Lowell, Massachusetts, and is the TCG Fox Foundation Resident Actor at Company One Theatre. Recent credits include *MR G* (Underground Railway Theater), her solo play *FUFU & OREOS* (Bridge Rep), *ARABIAN NIGHTS* (Central Square Theater), *IT FELT EMPTY* (Theatre on Fire), and *SPLENDOR* (Company One). She

is a graduate of Georgetown University. The Improper Bostonian named her “Boston’s Best Actress” in 2014.

## >>ABOUT THE BAND

### **Steve Sarro (Band member and Music Director)**

Steve Sarro is excited to be making his debut with Company One. His recent credits include music directing GOD HATES MUSICALS (Ministry of Theater) and serving as music assistant for BIG FISH (SpeakEasy). He regularly performs as music director for Mainstage and Touring Company shows at ImprovBoston in Cambridge where he also teaches musical improv, and he is also a music director for Artbarn Community Theater in Brookline.

### **Ethan Selby**

Ethan is thrilled to be involved in his first production with Company One and third project working with Steve Sarro. He has been playing drums since he was thirteen years of age with the same drumset that he is playing for this show. He has played for several different rock bands throughout his career as well as many musical productions including BOSTON’S UNSCRIPTED MUSICAL PROJECT (BUMP), IMPROV BOSTON’S GOREFEST 2014, and IMPROV BOSTON’S HOLIDAY SHOW. He thanks you for supporting live theatre and hopes you enjoy the show.

### **Shahjehan Khan**

Shahjehan, a Massachusetts native, has been performing in one way or another for more than 20 years. He is currently a working actor and educator with The Improbable Players, and most notably is a founding member of The Kominas, a South-Asian punk band that has toured all over the world since 2005. WE’RE GONNA DIE is his first foray into performing with a professional theatrical ensemble as a musician, and he’d like to thank CompanyOne for this incredible opportunity.

### **Thom Dunn**

Thom Dunn is a writer, musician, and new media artist, as well as a staff writer at Upworthy. His plays have been performed in New York, Boston, Hollywood, and Alaska, and he is currently a Huntington Playwriting Fellow, supported by the Stanford Calderwood Fund for New American Plays, at the Huntington Theatre Company. He has also written comic books for Grayhaven Comics and Ninth Art Press, essays and criticisms and other vaguely-non-fictional ramblings for Quirk Books and Tor.com, and poetry published by Asimov’s and others. He is a graduate of the Clarion Writer’s Workshop at UCSD and Emerson College.

## >>ABOUT COMPANY ONE THEATRE

Dubbed Boston’s Best Fringe Theatre by *Boston* magazine, 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. For more information visit [www.companyone.org](http://www.companyone.org).

## >>ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER: A.R.T.

The A.R.T. at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work in Cambridge and beyond. The A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008. Under her leadership, the A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming events that immerse audiences in transformative theatrical experiences. The A.R.T. collaborates with artists around the world to develop and create work in new ways. It is currently engaged in a number of multi-year projects, including a new collaboration with Harvard's Center for the Environment that will result in the development of new work over several years. Under Paulus's leadership, the A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been an incubator for local and emerging artists and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models. Dedicated to making great theater accessible, the A.R.T. actively engages more than 5,000 community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area. Through all of these initiatives, the A.R.T. is dedicated to producing world-class performances in which the audience is central to the theatrical experience.

OBERON is the American Repertory Theater's second stage, a destination for theater and nightlife on the fringe of Harvard Square. In addition to offering work from the A.R.T.'s main season, OBERON is also a thriving incubator for emerging artists to imagine new projects that could only exist in this exciting club-theater environment. Thousands of artists and performance groups bring work to the space each year. OBERON regularly features local performers including aerialists, beat poets, food artists, tap dancers, gender-bending sketch troupes, comedians, hula-hooping burlesquers, and pop-and-lock human statues to name a few.

For more information visit [www.americanrepertorytheater.org](http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org).

## **>> *WHAT'S NEXT***

### **Summer L. Williams**

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