

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Z SPACE TO HOST WORKSHOP FOR “WILDFIRE,” JESSICA KAHKOSKA’S IMMERSIVE CONCERT-PLAY

San Francisco, CA - August 14, 2024 - New immersive concert-play *WILDFIRE* is making its way to the West Coast for a workshop at Z SPACE, San Francisco’s premier home for the development of new work. The two-week workshop will culminate in two invite-only presentations on September 7th & 8th, 2024.

Written and Conceived by Jessica Kahkoska (*The Death of Desert Rose, Letters to the President*), *WILDFIRE* is inspired by a community-responsive research process and features songs by Chimney Choir, Elephant Revival, Gregory Alan Isakov, Cary Morin, Daniel Rodriguez, and SHEL.

WILDFIRE follows the lives of eight people in a picturesque, mountain resort town over the course of one momentous week as they face the threat of a massive wildfire. A local fire marshal, a park ranger, a reporter, a rancher, and other evacuated residents...these are a few of the lives that are crossed, changed, and ultimately interwoven forever.

Featuring a score by award-winning folk musicians and inspired by real testimony from more than 30 oral history interviews, *WILDFIRE* explores trauma, grief, healing, and the communities that rise from disaster.

The Workshop Performances will be Directed by Adin Walker (*PrEP Play, or Blue Parachute* by Yilong Liu -NCTC), with Music Supervision and Orchestrations by Mark G. Meadows (*The Outsiders*), Dramaturgy by Lynde Rosario (Director of Fellowship Programs, Playwrights’ Center), and

Creative Producing by Melissa Cashion (David Byrne's *Theater of the Mind*). Other creative team members include Michael Creason (Sound Design), Kelyn Crapp (Musician), Matt Fukui Grandy (Associate Music Direction), and Ray Oppenheimer (Lighting Design).

Featuring an talented cast of actor-musicians including: Lila Blue (Reporter), Ashkon Davaran* (Fire Marshall), Mark G. Meadows (Rancher), Josh Pollock (Historian), Dom Refuerzo (Kid), Deborah Martínez Rosengaus (Pastor), and Christina Walton (Park Ranger).

*member, AEA

WILDFIRE was initially commissioned and produced by Denver Center for the Performing Arts where it re-opened the company's live performances following the pandemic shutdown with an outdoor amphitheater tour throughout the state of Colorado. This re-imagining invites audiences into an indoor, immersive and intimate setting and connects Bay Area communities with both universal and hyper local stories of struggle, collaboration, and resilience in the face of climate crises.

Workshop Performances are open by invitation only. For more information, email Creative Producer, Melissa Cashion: melissa.d.cashion@gmail.com and Shafer Mazow, Executive Director, Z Space: smazow@zspace.org.

This workshop is sponsored in part by the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

ABOUT Z SPACE: Z Space is a non-profit theater company located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. With a mission to empower artistic risk and collaboration, we develop and produce our own multidisciplinary work, foster and subsidize the development of other creative artists with our Subspace and residency programs, and serve as a presenting home to a wide variety of performing arts organizations through our curated rental program. Operating out of an old can-making factory, we now activate two performance venues, an 83-seat intimate theater (Z Below) and a 236-seat flexible theater space (The Steindler Stage), with a warehouse aesthetic and an adventurous edge. Z Space is also home to Word for Word, our resident theater company that brings works of fiction to the stage in their own unique style.

ABOUT JESSICA KAHKOSKA: Jessica Kahkoska is a writer, researcher, and producer for theater and TV. In theatre, she has premiered/developed new plays and musicals in New York and across the country— with New York

Stage and Film, Roundabout Theatre Company, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Goodspeed Musicals, and others. She has World Premiere Productions upcoming at Northern Stage Theatre Company (*The Vermont Farm Project*) and the Colorado Spring Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (*In Her Bones*). She is currently under new work commissions from Broadway Licensing (Concord) and the Alley Theatre. In TV, she has worked as an Associate Producer/Writer for series and films at Netflix, HBO Max, CNN, Discovery, and is developing original series with Lighthouse Pictures and HappyBad Bungalow. Selected Awards: Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellowship, National Archives Foundation's Cokie Roberts Women's History Fellowship, Marion International Fellowship in the Performing Arts (2-time recipient), Green Box Arts Residency, Faberlull Olot Residency. BA: Northwestern University, www.jessicakahkoska.com