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Writers pictured left to right, top to bottom: Hansol Jung, Hilary Bettis, Dan Kitrosser, Harrison David Rivers, Christopher Oscar Peña, Jason Grote, Philip Dawkins, E.M. Lewis, & Anna Ziegler

Profile Theatre Launches *Claudia, A Viral Love Story: A New Audio Play By Nine Playwrights (To Benefit Cascade AIDS Project)*

Inspired by Paula Vogel's Recipe for Playmaking in A Global Pandemic

PORTLAND, OREGON. May 26, 2020- PROFILE THEATRE premieres *Claudia, A Viral Love Story*, a 5-episode audio play by 9 astounding writers, known for their work in theatre, film and TV. Each writer was given prompts to create a scene and was asked to hand over their scene to the next writer to build on. Writers Hansol Jung (*Wolf Play* & Netflix's *Tales of the City*), Christopher Oscar Peña (*Jane The Virgin* on CW & HBO's *Insecure*), Hilary Bettis (*72 Miles To Go* at Roundabout Theatre & FX's *The Americans*), and 6 others paint a portrait of life turned upside down by COVID-19. Starring a tiny pangolin contemplating extinction, multi-generations of a Wuhan fish monger, a gay Iranian opera singer, a Honduran

migrant at Mar-a-Lago and many more, the script offers a magic realist take on a global pandemic that is both touching and hilarious.

Directed by Josh Hecht and featuring a mix of local and non-local performers, *Claudia, A Love Story*, was inspired by Paula Vogel's '[Covid Bakeoff](#)'. Vogel has been teaching playwriting for 30 years, using her signature 'playwriting bake-off': a method for creating new work quickly with a recipe of ingredients, including plots, settings, characters, and other source material. On April 3 she released a 'Covid Bake-Off' using the structure of the classic German play *La Ronde* and characters from around the globe from Wuhan to Tehran, Milan, and more.

The first episode of the play will be released on June 15 at profiletheatre.org.

The series will be free but listeners are encouraged to donate to [Prism Health](#), a primary care center founded by [Cascade AIDS Project](#) (CAP) to help people living with HIV and AIDS.

Profile's Josh Hecht notes: "Paula Vogel's brother Carl died of AIDS in the late 1980s. Paula celebrated him (and plumbed the experience of losing a loved one to a mysterious new illness) in her play *The Baltimore Waltz* which opened our last season. Since then, she has said she embeds a message to Carl in everything she writes. We dedicated our Community Profile program, which uses the practice of writing and storytelling to build much-needed community with the LGBTQIA+ community and People Living With HIV, to Carl Vogel. Cascade AIDS Project has been a terrific partner to us in spreading the word. It's a pleasure to use this special project to help raise money for their primary healthcare center, Prism Health in Paula and Carl Vogel's names."

Prism Health is a primary care health center in Portland, OR providing compassionate healthcare services to the LGBTQ community and beyond. They offer culturally effective healthcare in a safe, affirming and non-judgmental space. Prism was founded in 2017 by Cascade AIDS Project. (CAP) is the oldest and largest community-based provider of HIV services, housing, education and advocacy in OR and Southwest WA.

In conjunction with the launch of the audio play, Profile will announce the lineup for their next 2020-2021 **Generations** season that will continue to explore the voices and visions of three generations of American playwrights: Lynn Nottage, Paula Vogel, and Brenden Jacobs-Jenkins. From Vogel's insights into life in plague times and Jacobs-Jenkins' vivid philosophical reflections on life, death and racial inequality, the season will undoubtedly provide frameworks for thinking (and living) through this complex moment.

ABOUT how to access

The first episode of the play will be released to the public on June 15 at profiletheatre.org. Profile welcomes press previews and critical reviews. Please reach out to Jen (jenmitas@gmail.com) to request episodes in advance of their public release. They will be available to review beginning June 12.

ABOUT the writers

Scene 1: Hansol Jung (*Wolf Play* at Artists Rep, “Tales Of The City” on Netflix)

Scene 2: Hilary Bettis (*72 Miles To Go* at Roundabout Theatre, “The Americans” on FX)

Scene 3: Dan Kitrosser (GLAAD-winning film “We The Animals,” upcoming *Svetlana*, *Svetlana* at Bag & Baggage)

Scene 4: Harrison Rivers (GLAAD-winning writer, *Where Storms Are Born*, Williamstown Theatre Festival)

Scene 5: christopher oscar peña (“Jane The Virgin” on CW, “Insecure” on HBO)

Scene 6: Philip Dawkins (*Charm* at Northlight Theatre and MCC Theatre)

Scene 7: Jason Grote (“Mad Men” on AMC, *1001* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts)

Scene 8: EM Lewis (*Magellanica* at Artists Rep)

Scene 9: Anna Ziegler (*Photograph 51* on the West End starring Nicole Kidman, *Actually* at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Geffen Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival)

ABOUT Profile Theatre

Founded in 1997, Profile Theatre quickly established itself as a leading voice in Portland’s cultural scene. In 2010, Profile was awarded the inaugural New National Theatre Company Award from the American Theatre Wing, designed to bring national attention to “the most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape.” More recently, Profile has twice been recognized by Advance Gender Equity in the Arts for its leadership in the field, and its Diversity and Inclusion Initiative has been profiled in Howlround. 2018-2019, Hecht’s first fully programmed season as Artistic Director, included the commission and world premiere of *(Un)Conditional* by National Medal of Arts Awardee Ping Chong + Company, a community-invested work amplifying the themes of the Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith season, and brought Lisa Kron to Portland for a week-long Playwright’s Residency where she developed the film script for *Fun Home*, led a writing workshop for community members and gave a performance of some of her solo work on the Profile stage.

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Profile's 2019-2020 season used their unique mission to dedicate their season to an in-depth exploration of a playwright's vision with the first season of **Generations**: two seasons of plays from Nottage, Vogel and Jacob-Jenkins' three different generational vantage points. The main stage productions of Nottage's *Sweat* (directed by Christopher Acebo) and Vogel's *Indecent* and *Baltimore Waltz* (both directed by Josh Hecht) were all lauded by local critics.

*For additional bios or to arrange interviews with artists, please contact Marketing Consultant Jen Mitas. For more information, visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080 ###