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**THE TEMBLORS, A LOS ANGELES PLAYWRIGHTS INITIATIVE, TO LAUNCH AT LATC
WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF JOHN POLLONO'S *RULES OF SECONDS*, DIRECTED BY
JO BONNEY**

The Latino Theater Company announces the launch of The Temblors - a new collective of Los Angeles-based playwrights, and a four-year initiative to bring **seven Equity world premiere productions** to be produced by the Latino Theater Company at the **Los Angeles Theatre Center**, the multi-cultural theater complex at the heart of downtown Los Angeles. The playwrights who compose The Temblors are (in alphabetical order) **Meghan Brown, Nate Rufus Edelman, Oliver Mayer, John Pollono, Kemp Powers, Vasanti Saxena** and **t. tara turk**. Bios on all the playwrights can be found at <http://thetemblors.org>.

The Temblors, named after the term for an earthquake, are committed to shaking up local theater by bringing mid-size Equity world premieres to Los Angeles and, in the process, hopefully bridge the gap between the city's thriving 99-seat houses and the large (but far fewer in number) LORT houses in the city.

"We were drawn to The Temblors playwrights' passion and commitment to one another's work and to producing in the mid-size theaters, which has been a challenge for many playwrights and companies in Los Angeles," said Jose Luis Valenzuela, Artistic Director of The Latino Theater Company/LATC. "Our vision for the LATC has always been for our programming to reflect the aesthetic and cultural diversity of Los Angeles, as well as to provide a home for diverse L.A. based artists. We feel it is our responsibility as operators of the Los Angeles Theatre Center to produce our city's playwrights in mid-size theaters whenever possible, and we are thrilled to be offering The Temblors playwrights the same attention here as they receive nationally."

The inaugural production will be the world premiere of ***RULES OF SECONDS***, by John Pollono, directed by Jo Bonney. Set in 1855, the piece explores the ramifications of the code duello (Code of Dueling) on a humble family when they are unexpectedly thrust into a deadly blood feud.

"This group stems from a desire to further validate how amazing and diverse LA theater can be," said Pollono, also a founding member of Rogue Machine Theatre. "Many of us cut our teeth in Equity waiver theater and, like me, plan on continuing to produce in that space. But the more passionate, creative work



we produce as a community, the more we generate excitement and audience, which benefits everyone in LA theater from 99 seat to LORT.”

Rules of Seconds is expected to debut in early 2017. Pollono has twice before collaborated with Bonney on hit Off-Broadway productions of “Small Engine Repair” and “Lost Girls” at MCC Theater in NYC.

"I'm excited to be working on this adventurous new piece, my third collaboration with John but our first on the West Coast," said Jo Bonney. "I love the venue, and downtown Los Angeles has a great energy that reminds me of New York back in the early nineties."

The individual members of The Temblors have been a force on the local Los Angeles theater scene over the past several years and have begun to expand their reputations far beyond the city limits. Collectively, plays written by members of the collective have won 6 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, 5 NAACP Theatre awards and been nominated for 20 Ovation awards, as well as numerous LA Weekly, Garland and regional theater awards. Many of the Los Angeles premieres written by members of the group have launched into larger productions in New York City, London and LORT theaters around the United States.

“There is this perception that most playwrights living in the city of Los Angeles are only here to work in film and television,” said playwright Kemp Powers. “We’re hoping this initiative helps to establish a new understanding... that there are many locally-groomed writers who are just as committed to writing for the stage.”

That commitment is what brought the group to the Latino Theater Company in downtown Los Angeles. After months of planning, the decision was made to have The Temblors become an initiative within the LATC, which falls in line with the organization’s commitment to creating multi-cultural performing arts events reflective of the city of Los Angeles. All Temblors plays will be produced in one of the LATC’s three larger stages, ranging in size from 298 to 500 seats, depending on the needs of the particular play.

The mandate of The Temblors is to produce one play by each member of the collective, at the rate of two productions per year. For each production, the playwright whose play is in development will step into the role of production manager, with the other members of the group helping to execute that member’s unique vision through dramaturgy, fundraising and development.

After *Rules of Seconds*, The Temblors’ production schedule will include plays by Kemp Powers, t. tara turk, Meghan Brown, Oliver Mayer, Nate Edelman and Vasanti Saxena, including the follow-ups to the hit plays *Blade to the Heat* and *One Night in Miami*... **Details on all of the planned Temblors productions can be found by visiting <http://thetemblors.org>.**



At the end of the four-year cycle, each Temblor member will be responsible for selecting their replacement, at which time the entire initiative will be handed over to seven new playwrights, thus creating the city's first true new play factory, by and for the people of Los Angeles.

For additional information and interviews, please contact Philip Sokoloff, showbizphil@gmail.com (626) 683-9205.