

INTERACT THEATRE COMPANY

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“NINA BALATKA,” BASED ON ANTHONY TROLLOPE’S VICTORIAN NOVEL, RECEIVES A WORKSHOP PRODUCTION AT INTERACT THEATRE COMPANY

Presented at the Pico Playhouse on Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17.

Los Angeles, CA—(June 6, 2016) Interact Theatre Company will present playwright Henry Ong’s adaptation of Anthony Trollope’s Victorian novel “Nina Balatka” at the Pico Playhouse, 10508 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles for two performances on Saturday, July 16, 8pm; and Sunday, July 17, 3pm. Produced by Michele Rose Naggar, “Nina Balatka” is one of three plays selected for Interactivity 2016, Interact Theatre’s Festival of Staged Readings, performed over one weekend, starting on July 14 and ending on July 17; the other two plays are “Patagonia” by Robert George and “When You Get There” by Marsha Mercant.

“Nina Balatka” tells the story of a poor Christian maiden of Prague who must give up her love of a Jewish businessman or face the ire of her family and society. Anthony Trollope (1815-1882), a contemporary of Charles Dickens, is beloved for his subtle delineation of human character and middle class mores. He penned 47 novels, three times as many as Dickens. His best-known works include *Barchester Towers*, one of several in the *Chronicles of Barsetshire* series, *He Knew He Was Right*; and *The Way We Live Now*.

Cast members include: Jully Lee, Kent Minault, Alan Naggar, Christian Alexander Pentice, Milo Shearer, Tamika Simpkins, Douglas Scott Sorenson, Charline Su, and Lizzie Zerebko. Choreography by Charline Su, music by Jen Swartz, sound design by Tommy Dunn, and lighting design by Carol Doehring.

Henry Ong is an internationally-produced playwright, whose credits include *Madame Mao’s Memories*, *Sweet Karma*, *Fabric*, *Rachel Ray*, *The Legend of the White Snake*, and *People Like Me*. As a 16-time recipient of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Artist-in-Residence grants, he has conducted many workshops in various communities, including at the Markaz, the Braille Institute and the Program for Torture Victims. Ong is an active member of the Dramatists Guild.

Interact Theatre Company is one of the most respected companies in the Los Angeles theater community. Since its full company production of Dylan Thomas’ “Under Milk Wood” in 1993, the company has received 78 awards and 154 nominations for Outstanding and/or Distinguished Achievement in Theatre. It has been acknowledged by Back Stage West for “sustained excellence in theater” and by the Los Angeles Times as “one of L.A.’s true theater successes.”

Tickets are \$12, and available on the theater’s website, www.interactla.org. For more information, please call (818) 765-8732.

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