



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Through May 1, 2016
For More Information: David Wedekindt, Center for the Arts
716-645-6775 or drw6@buffalo.edu

UB Theatre & Dance Department in conjunction with UB's Humanities Institute, the Department of English, with additional support from the Robert G. and Carol L. Morris Visiting Artist Fund presents

A Ring Never Ends

Written and Directed by Sean Graney,
Eileen Silvers WBFO Visiting Professor in the Arts and Humanities
April 28-May 1, 2016

Buffalo, NY – The University at Buffalo Department of Theatre & Dance will present a premiere production of **A Ring Never Ends** from **Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1** in the Black Box Theatre, located at the Center for the Arts, North Campus. Tickets are \$20, Students (any school) & Seniors \$10. Performance times are: April 28-30 at 7:30 pm, May 1 at 6pm and April 30 & May 1 at 2pm.

In Wagner's *Ring* cycle, the end of the world foretells a new beginning. The brief interval of human civilization is merely the prelude to the *Götterdämmerung*, the Twilight of the Gods, which brings with it interminable war, a burning world, a cleansing flood—and, just possibly, rebirth. In other words, Wagner's fantasy looks very much like our present reality. WBFO-Silvers Visiting Professor Sean Graney's new play *A Ring Never Ends*—which receives a world premiere production at UB this spring—begins where Wagner ends. Humanity huddles in the ashes of a ruined world that once resembled our own. Graney's play asks: How do we rebuild after the end? How do we begin again?

A Ring Never Ends is a play in dialogue with Richard Wagner's opera *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. Apocalyptic forces are slowly consuming the world. A young person trying to survive in a demolished opera house finds a program for the Wagner opera and believes the plot described in the pages is the truth. The character creates a religion around the Ring Cycle and worships the various artifacts found from the opera. As the world's end threatens the harbor, events unfold that mirror the Ring Cycle.

The themes of the play are love, religion and fear. The twelve actors in the ensemble are students from the Department of Theatre & Dance. Each performance features six ensemble members. No two performances have the same cast.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
103 CENTER FOR THE ARTS
BUFFALO, NY 14260-6000

INFO: 716-645-2787
FAX: 716-645-6929
WEB: WWW.UBCFA.ORG

April 28th – preview night – mixed gender cast version 1

Thursday, Performance 1, 7:30pm:

Raven: Samantha Nelson

Corpse: Justin Silvus

Halflight: Sinclair Johnson

Thief: Jes Tokarski

Worm: Alexandra McArthur

Cur: Alejandro Gomez

April 29th – world premiere – mixed gender cast version 2

Friday, Performance 2, 7:30pm:

Raven: Jacob Craven

Corpse: Jacqueline Libby

Halflight: Alexandria Watts

Thief: Joseph Isgar

Worm: Matthew Rivera

Cur: Mary Aalbue

April 30th – male cast

Saturday Matinee, Performance 3, 2pm:

Raven: Jacob Craven

Corpse: Justin Silvus

Halflight: Sinclair Johnson

Thief: Joseph Isgar

Worm: Matthew Rivera

Cur: Alejandro Gomez

April 30th – female cast

Saturday Evening, Performance 4, 7:30pm:

Raven: Samantha Nelson

Corpse: Jacqueline Libby

Halflight: Alexandria Watts

Thief: Jes Tokarski

Worm: Alexandra McArthur

Cur: Mary Aalbue

May 1st – mixed gender cast

Sunday Matinee, Performance 5, 2pm:

Raven: Samantha Nelson

Corpse: Jacqueline Libby

Halflight: Sinclair Johnson

Thief: Joseph Isgar

Worm: Matthew Rivera

Cur: Mary Aalbue

May 1st – mixed gender cast

Sunday Evening, Performance 6, 6pm:

Raven: Jacob Craven

Corpse: Justin Silvus

Halflight: Alexandria Watts

Thief: Jes Tokarski

Worm: Alexandra McArthur

Cur: Alejandro Gomez

About the Playwright/Director: Sean Graney is a Chicago-based artist who concentrates on adapting and directing classic plays to create relevant theatrical pieces for our contemporary society. **Graney** currently serves as the Artistic Director of The Hypocrites, a company he founded in 1997. **Sean Graney** attended Emerson College and taught at University of Chicago, DePaul University and Columbia College Chicago. Graney's other works include Sophocles: Seven Sicknesses, an adaptation of all seven surviving texts of Sophocles, which had successful, runs in Chicago, Providence and NY. As a director, **Sean Graney** has helmed over 75 productions. He has participated in the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors in 2004. His work has been seen at American Repertory Theater, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Berkeley Rep, Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Court Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Steppenwolf for Young Audiences, Chicago Children's Theatre and is currently running at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival until October 2016.

In 2013, he became a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University where he completed writing All Our Tragic, a twelve-hour adaptation combining all thirty-two surviving Greek Tragedies, which was presented by The Hypocrites the summer of 2014 and remounted during the summer of 2015. It garnered six Joseph Jefferson Awards, including Best Director and Best Adaptation.

The UB Department of Theatre & Dance 2015-16 season takes inspiration from one of the five named UB 2020 themes, Justice.

Tickets: Center for the Arts Box Office (Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm) and tickets.com. To charge tickets call 1-888-223-6000. For more information call 716-645-2787 or visit www.ubcfa.org or www.theatredance.buffalo.edu.