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***HOW TO LOAD A MUSKET* makes world premiere at 59E59 Theaters**

**A spectacular cast is locked and loaded for Talene Monahon's compelling docu-
drama about the quirky culture of historical reenactors**

New York, New York November 25, 2019 —**59E59 Theaters** (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director), welcomes the world premiere of ***HOW TO LOAD A MUSKET***, written by **Talene Monahon** and directed by **Jaki Bradley**. Produced by **Less Than Rent Theatre**, ***HOW TO LOAD A MUSKET*** begins performances on **Saturday, January 11** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, January 26**. **Press Opening is Thursday, January 16 at 7:30 pm**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday - Friday at 7:30 pm; Saturday at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm; Sunday at 2:30 pm**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison). Single tickets are **\$25** (\$20 for 59E59 Members). Tickets are available by calling the **59E59 Box Office** at **646-892-7999** or by visiting www.59e59.org.

Every year, across the country, thousands of historical reenactors stage the bloodiest, most divisive battles fought on American soil. Pursuing total authenticity, they fire muskets, chew hard-tack, and wear handmade period clothing in brutal weather.

Playwright Talene Monahon, a self-described history buff who studied at Dartmouth, began infiltrating the reenactment community in 2015, spending time with Revolutionary War units in Massachusetts and New York before making her way down South to speak to the reenactors of the Civil War. Woven from these verbatim conversations, ***HOW TO LOAD A MUSKET*** explores this unique and all-consuming hobby and the people who practice it as they find themselves caught in the crosshairs of a national battle over how history is told.

At its heart, ***HOW TO LOAD A MUSKET*** is a microcosm of our country. Through the very candid responses of these ultra-method actors, Monahon exposes the radically contrasting opinions of what this country is and who it should be for through the lively conversations held among present-day Americans.



59E59 THEATERS
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The cast features **Carolyn Braver** (*The Iceman Cometh* with Denzel Washington on Broadway); **Adam Chanler-Berat** (*Saint Joan* on Broadway); **David J. Cork** (Showtime's *City on a Hill*); **Ryan Spahn** (*Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow* at MCC); **Andy Taylor** (*Sunset Boulevard* on Broadway); **Lucy Taylor** (*Dance Nation* at Playwrights Horizons); **Richard Topol** (*Indecent* on Broadway); and **Nicole Villamil** (*Network* on Broadway).

Jonathan Larson Award-winner **Zoe Sarnak** (Broadway-bound musical *Empire Records*) is writing original music for the production.

The design team includes **Lawrence Moten** (set design); **Stacey Derosier** (lighting design); **Jim Petty** (sound design); **Caitlyn Murphy** (prop design); and **Heather McDevitt Barton** (costume design). The Production Stage Manager is **Haley Gordon**.

Talene Monahon's (playwright) first play, *All in Good Fun*, an interview-based exploration of the social scene at Dartmouth College, was produced at the Peterborough Players in 2014 and toured various academic institutions across New England. *How to Load a Musket* has been workshopped with Cape Cod Theater Project and Northern Stage at Women's Project. Her latest play, *proud revengeful ambitious*, examines obsession, competition, and identity as two young male actors (played by women) compete to become the next great movie-star in a fast-changing landscape. As an actor, she has performed in productions at the Roundabout Theater Company, Playwrights Horizons, the Atlantic, MCC, New Georges, Encores! Off-Center, Red Bull Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse, the Huntington Theater Company, Gingold Theater Group, and Les Freres Corbusier as well as selected film and television. Her satire writing can be found on McSweeney's and Points in Case. Talene was a Senior Fellow at Dartmouth College, where she graduated in 2013.

Jaki Bradley (director) is a Brooklyn-based director of new plays and musicals. Recent projects: *White Noise* (Berkeley Rep); *Playing Hot* (Ars Nova/Pipeline); *Radio Island*, *Good Men Wanted* (NY Stage and Film); and *1969: The Second Man* (NYTW: Next Door). She has developed and presented work with The Public, Williamstown, Soho Rep, Clubbed Thumb, Denver Center, Goodspeed Musicals, Arena Stage, and Ars Nova. As an associate, she worked with Michael Greif, Leigh Silverman, Lisa Peterson, and Daniel Aukin. She has been a member of the Civilians R&D Group, an Artist-in-Residence at Ars Nova, a Drama League Artist-in-Residence and TV Directing Fellow, a member of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, Williamstown Directing Corps, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and U.S. Fulbright Scholar. www.jakibradley.com