



Contact: Danielle Schreppel
763-607-4107

dschreppel@theatreunbound.com

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THEATRE UNBOUND DRAFTS A WINNING TEAM *Minnesota Playwrights Work Together on "Title IX"*

(**Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota**) **Theatre Unbound** continues their 16th season with the world premiere of **Title IX**, a new work by Minnesota playwrights **Eli Effinger-Weintraub** (*Girl Gumshoe and Detective Dad*), **Jessica Huang** (*Purple Cloud*), **Marcie Rendon** (*SongCatcher*) and **Saymoukda Vongsay** (*Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Cannibals*). Title IX will perform October 9-11 at Dreamland Arts in St. Paul and October 16-18 at Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis.

"We commissioned this piece because we wanted to bring stories of women athletes to the stage," says Theatre Unbound Executive Director, Anne Bertram. "This all-star writing team crafted a script that reinforces the importance of telling these stories. When we see how others 'keep their eye on the prize and their heart in the game,' it can give us the power to overcome our own obstacles."

Title IX tells the story of Anygirl, who struggles to keep her place on the school track team despite upsets at home and shoes held together with duct tape. In a dream, she is transported to a fantastical sporting arena where she is coached and empowered by extraordinary athletes past and present, including: **Toni Stone**, the first woman to play big-league baseball; a karate black belt representing the Minnesota women who fought for the right to spar in tournaments; and **Amy "Smoka Hontas" St. Clair**, All Star roller derby champ.

Title IX explores and celebrates the effects that participating in sports can have on women's lives and how the simple 1972 law has inspired and enabled so many to reach for their goals. The content of the production is aimed at young women in grades 6-9 and their adult champions. The performance is high-energy and interactive. These are stories to get pumped up about!

To broaden our reach to the whole Twin Cities community, Title IX will have performances in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

About the Director

Alissa Blaeser has been working professionally in the Twin Cities since 2007 after receiving her BA in Theatre from Minnesota State University at Moorhead. Along with Theatre Unbound she has directed for Lyric Arts, Chameleon Theatre Circle, Berxco Theatre, Heritage Theatre Company, and Workhouse Theatre Company, and assistant directed at Theatre in the Round and Park Square. Other theatres worked with include Gonzo Group Theatre, New Century Theatre, and The Children's Theatre.

About the Actors

Anika Kulander (Macalester College) makes her Theatre Unbound debut as Anygirl, the frustrated high-school student who is ready to throw in the towel on a sport she loves. Her nemesis, the aggressive and tormenting Sports Announcer, is played with zeal by Theatre Unbound company member, **Heather Burmeister**. **Suzanne Cross** (Walking Shadow Theatre), **Carin Leonard-Gorrill** (Theatre Unbound), and **Delinda Pushetonequa** (Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre) fill out the cast as the team of powerhouse athletes that jump in the game to help Anygirl summon her courage.

FACTS SHEET

Theatre Unbound Presents

Title IX

by Eli Effinger-Weintraub, Jessica Huang, Marcie Rendon and Saymoukda Vongsay

Directed by Alissa Blaeser

Starring:

Heather Burmeister, Suzanne Cross , Anika Kulander, Carin Leonard-Gorrill & Delinda Pushetonequa

Title IX explores and celebrates the effects that participating in sports can have on women's lives.

Location & Dates

October 9-11 at Dreamland Arts: 677 Hamline Ave N, St. Paul

October 16-18 at Intermedia Arts: 2822 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Tickets

General admission: \$14

13 and under: \$5

612-721-1186

<http://www.theatreunbound.com/tickets>

Performance Calendar

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 9 7:30 PM	October 10 3:00 PM 7:30 PM	October 11 3:00 PM
October 16 7:30 PM	October 17 3:00 PM 7:30 PM	October 18 3:00 PM

This activity is made possible in part by grants from The Dramatists Guild Fund and the Women of Influence Giving Circle of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

About Theatre Unbound

Theatre Unbound is one of a dozen or so women's theatre companies across the nation working to shrink the gender gap on America's stages. Others include Airmid Theatre in Long Island, NY; The Women's Theatre Project in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Echo Theatre in Dallas, TX; Looking for Lilith Theatre Company in Louisville, KY; and The Women's Project in New York, NY.

Theatre Unbound delivers thought-provoking live theatre conceived and created by women, providing audiences with engaging, rarely-seen perspectives on issues that are relevant and universal.

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