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Shotgun Players presents *Elevada*, written by Sheila Callaghan, directed by Susannah Martin

"It is a risk to love, to fall in love, to reach out to someone despite, or in the midst of, your own personal traumas and baggage. Love is an act of activism. To love is to commit an act of hope." —*Elevada* Director Susannah Martin

Berkeley, CA – We meet a couple on their first date. One has a wild scheme to sell his personality to the highest bidding corporation. The other has cancer. Despite these obstacles, they make plans to meet again. *Elevada* explores family ties, tango, and romance under the most unlikely circumstances. Expect to be whisked off your feet with Callaghan's incisively witty tale. ***Elevada* begins previews on Thursday, October 17; opens on Thursday, October 24; and runs through Sunday, November 17, 2019, at the Ashby Stage.**

Playwright Sheila Callaghan incorporates tango into this unlikely romance. "It's all part of the crazy, lovely, lyrical, anarchic, eminently theatrical world of Sheila Callaghan", says director Susannah Martin. What better metaphor for love — and the risk of loving — than the intimacy of tango? "Whether it's being swept off your feet, or falling into (and in love with) someone at the absolute worst moment of your life; whether it's about being lifted above the fray, or digging into the earth and letting yourself get dirty — to dance with someone, partner with someone — is an act of courage." Dance history is notoriously questionable, but as legend has it, tango started in the backstreets of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the late 19th century, where the dance was originally done by *compadritos* (young toughs) on the dirt and cobblestones of the waterfront. It was supposedly then that "the elevada" — a method of stepping high to minimize contact with the ground — was invented.

The cast of *Elevada* features **Wes Gabrillo, Karen Offereins, Soren Santos, and Sango Tajima**. The dance ensemble features **Ebony Araman, Jonas Aquino, Andy Collins, Maggie Kelley Connard, Xiaomin Jiang, Jason Torres Hancock, Paul Melish, Mimu Tsujimura, Jessica Uher, and Quinci Waller**. The creative team features direction by **Susannah Martin**, set design by **Mikiko Uesugi**, lighting design by **Cassie Barnes**, costume design by **Alice Ruiz**, stage management by **Bri Owens**, props design by **Devon LaBelle**, sound design by **Matt Stines**, video design by **Erin Gilley**, and choreography by **Natalie Greene**.

More at shotgunplayers.org/online/article/elevada.

Bios

Sheila Callaghan, Playwright

Sheila Callaghan's plays have been produced and developed with Soho Rep, Playwright's Horizons, Yale Rep, South Coast Repertory, Clubbed Thumb, The LARK, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, New Georges, The Flea, Woolly Mammoth, Boston Court, and Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre, among others. Sheila is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award for emerging artists, a Jerome Fellowship from the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, a MacDowell Residency, a Cherry Lane Mentorship Fellowship, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, and the prestigious Whiting Award. Her plays have been produced internationally in New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Germany, Portugal, and the Czech Republic. These include *Scab*, *Crawl Fade to White*, *Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)*, *We Are Not These Hands*, *Dead City*, *Lascivious Something*, *Kate Crackernuts*, *That Pretty Pretty*; or, *The Rape Play*, *Fever/Dream*, *Everything You Touch*, *Roadkill Confidential*, *Elevada*, *Bed*, and *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*. She is published with *Playscripts.com* and *Samuel*

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French, and several of her collected works are published with Counterpoint Press. She has taught playwriting at Columbia University, the University of Rochester, the College of New Jersey, Florida State University, and Spalding University. Sheila is an affiliated artist with Clubbed Thumb and a member of the Obie-winning playwright's organization 13P. Sheila is also an alumnus of New Dramatists.

In 2010, Callaghan was profiled by *Marie Claire* as one of "18 Successful Women Who Are Changing the World." She was also named one of *Variety's* "10 Screenwriters to Watch" of 2010. Sheila was a longtime writer/producer on the hit Showtime comedy *Shameless* and a founder of the feminist activist group The Kilroys. She was nominated for a 2016 Golden Globe for her work on the Hulu comedy series *Casual* and a 2017 WGA Award for her *Shameless* episode "I Am A Storm." sheilacallaghan.com

Susannah Martin, Director

An award-winning director, teacher, and theatre-maker, Susannah's relationship with Shotgun began in 2004 when she conceived and directed an original multidisciplinary theatre piece on faith in America called *The Faith Project* as part of Shotgun's Lab. Her work has been seen at A.C.T., Boxcar Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Crowded Fire, Golden Thread Productions, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Mugwumpin, the Playwright's Foundation, Porchlight Theatre Company, San Francisco Playhouse, and TheatreFIRST. Susannah is also the theatre director and arts program coordinator at San Francisco University High School and a proud company member of Mugwumpin. She is honored to call Shotgun her artistic home. susannahmartin.net

Calendar Listing

WHAT: We meet a couple on their first date. One has a wild scheme to sell his personality to the highest bidding corporation. The other has cancer. Despite these obstacles, they make plans to meet again. *Elevada* explores family ties, tango, and romance under the most unlikely circumstances. Expect to be whisked off your feet with Callaghan's incisively witty tale.

WHEN: Thursday, October 17–Sunday, November 17, 2019 • M.A.D. Night: Thursday, November 7 (especially for folks 25 and under)

WHERE: [The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley](#)

TICKET PRICES: Pay-what-you-can previews: October 17–23. Regular tickets: \$7–\$40. Advance reservations strongly advised. Shows will sell out!

For more information, go to shotgunplayers.org/online/article/elevada.

About Shotgun Players

Shotgun Players is a company of artists determined to create bold, relevant, affordable theatre that inspires and challenges audience and artist alike to re-examine our lives, our community, and the ever-changing world around us. More at shotgunplayers.org.