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<http://www.borneidentities.com/contact-us.html>

**Ruskin Group Theatre** presents the **World Premiere** of  
**“The Alamo”**

A New Play by Ian McRae and Directed by Kent Thompson

Opening on **Saturday, February 24, 2017**

Running at 8pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2pm on Sundays through March 31, 2018  
Ruskin Group Theatre at 3000 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90405

**Santa Monica, CA** (February 5, 2018) – In the blue collar Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn sits a rundown neighborhood institution called The Alamo; the last great American bar. The owners, Munce and Carmen, along with some of their regulars watched, from the roof, as the World Trade Towers fell, taking down their relatives, friends, and neighbors. Today, with an aging clientele, the place is fighting to keep its doors open and the only hope seems to be the arrival of artist/gentrifiers who are moving into the neighborhood and wanting to adopt the bar as an entertainment hangout. Bay Ridge locals and Alamo regulars don't want to surrender their bar, much less their neighborhood, to these young neo-carpetbaggers without a fight. Touching on themes of, nativism, racism, and war, *The Alamo* paints a humorous yet heartbreaking portrait of eight working class Bay Ridge natives who always seem to find themselves on the front lines of change in America.

During their second decade of bringing Los Angeles audiences outstanding entertainment, Ruskin Group Theatre continues to celebrate the essence of arts and humanity, within the microcosm of theatre. Supporting new writers and the development of new plays is an important part of the Ruskin season.

Ian McRae's *The Alamo* was inspired by an op-ed piece called “The Hard Lessons Of Iraq” by David Ignatius, published in The Washington Post on the tenth anniversary of the invasion. The ten-minute piece found a slot at the Actor's Theatre in New York and The Eight Tens At Eight in Santa Cruz, California, which propelled him to create this full-length play. Ian was an apprentice with Sanford Meisner and has taught at The Neighborhood Playhouse School Of The Theatre. He was a member of Cucaracha Theatre in NYC where several of his plays were produced.

*“I wrote this play because I was angry about the way we became involved in war with Iraq, and lies about the WMD's. Ultimately, who picks up the tab for the mistakes that our foolish leaders continue to make? I was hoping it could add something to a conversation about how we can find ways to treat each other better” - Ian McRae:*  
*Playwright*

Director **Kent Thompson** is widely known for directing both classics and new plays. He is a vital advocate and developer of new plays and served as Producing Artistic Director of the **Denver Center Theatre Company** (2005-2017) and the **Alabama Shakespeare Festival** (1989-2005). Kent created the **Colorado New Play Summit, the Women's Voices Fund, Off-Center** (for immersive, interactive theatrical experiences) and the **Southern Writer's Project**. He has produced close to fifty world premieres that have subsequently been staged by theatres such as **Playwrights Horizons, Goodman Theatre, South Coast Rep, Mark Taper Forum, Chance Theatre, Victory Gardens, Old Globe, Donmar Warehouse** (U.K.), and more. Thompson has been a trustee and board president of **Theatre Communications Group** for 8 years and has served on numerous peer panels, including Doris Duke Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Pew Charitable Trust, National Endowment for the Arts Theatre Panel (also Chair), Fulbright Scholars Panel, and Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.

*“The Alamo is an authentic and touching portrayal of an Italian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn. Both funny and dramatic, it features vivid characters whose lives haven't turned out quite the way that they had hoped. Each of them carries scars of the past (from Vietnam to 9/11, and choices long gone) as they fight for their place in a world*

*under the assault of millennial gentrification. I love this play, because Ian McRae writes with such passion, compassion, and humor, about a forgotten group of people—blue collar Americans” – Kent Thompson; Director*

**John Ruskin** (Artistic Director/Producer) founded the professional company in 2001. He helmed their critically acclaimed production of *Strange Snow* and teaches a Master’s Class in acting at RGT. John’s years of experience include studies at the Yale School of Drama, British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England, and the University of Colorado in Boulder. In New York, Ruskin joined the acting faculty of the Neighborhood Playhouse at the request of Sanford Meisner (who he then apprenticed with) before moving to Los Angeles where he founded his own school of acting in addition to the professional theatre company. He provides outreach through RGT with their "Healing Through the Arts" project. Presently, this includes taking RGT actors into Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA to work with and entertain the patients.

**Michael Myers** (Producer/Managing Director) has produced more than 70 projects since 2002. He recently directed the world premiere of *Digging Up Dad* and the critically acclaimed production of *Faithful* at RGT. Mike is a co-creator of the Ruskin Group Theatre’s popular CAFÉ PLAYS, the monthly offering of one-acts that are done in 10 1/2 hours from conception to staging. He serves as chair of the Santa Monica Arts Commission. Mike recently produced the world premiere hit production of Rex Pickett's *Sideways The Play* and *Paradise: A Divine Blue Grass Musical Comedy*.

**Ruskin Group Theatre** launched the World Premiere of Rex Pickett’s *Sideways The Play*, picked up by La Jolla Playhouse and now slated for Broadway, as well as the project *Paradise, A Bluegrass Musical Comedy*. Ruskin’s Healing Through The Arts program brings their actors into Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, where they are working with the Chase Child Life Program, to work with and entertain the patients. The CAFÉ PLAYS, created by RGT, are produced and now celebrating their 12th anniversary. RGT supporters Dylan McDermott, Ed Asner, Chris Mulkey, Olivia d'Abo, and other industry celebrities joined to produce the Best of Café Plays (both shows sold out within hours) for their 10<sup>th</sup> season. Anthony Hopkins, David Mamet, Tony Franciosa, and Ed O’Neill are just some of the noted guests to have taught Master classes at the Ruskin.

**Our Cast:** **Bobby Costanzo** (Joey), **Eileen Galindo** (Carmen), **Nancy Georgini** (Claudine), **Milica Govich** (Mary), **Julia Arian** (Micaela/Alternate), **Kelsey Griswold** (Micaela /Alternate), **John Lacy** (Dominic), **Jack Merrill** (Tick), and **Tim True** (Munce)

**Our Production Team:** Mike Reilly (Production Manager), John Iacovelli (Scenic Design), Edward Sales (Lighting Designer), Chip Bolcik (Sound Design), Emily N. Smith (Costume Designer), Paul Ruddy (Casting), and Nicole Millar (Stage Manager)

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**The Alamo** opens at 8pm on Saturday, February 24th and continues Fridays – Saturday at 8pm, Sundays 2pm through March 31, 2018. Ruskin Group Theatre is located at 3000 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Tickets are \$27 - \$30 and can be purchased in advance by calling (310) 397-3244 or online at [www.ruskingrouptheatre.com](http://www.ruskingrouptheatre.com) . Free parking available on site.

### **Calendar Information:**

### **What: “The Alamo”**

**Written by:** Ian McRae

**Directed by:** Kent Thompson

**Produced by:** John Ruskin and Michael Myers

**Presented by:** Ruskin Group Theatre

**Where:**

**Ruskin Group Theatre**

3000 Airport Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(Ample free parking)

**How:**

For Reservations call (310) 397-3244 or <http://www.ruskingrouptheatre.com>

**When:** Opening on **Saturday, February 24, 2018**

Running: Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm

Closing: March 31, 2018

**How Much:** \$27 - \$30

Students, Guild Members & Seniors \$17 - \$20

Groups of six or more \$20

**Description:** In the blue collar Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn sits a rundown neighborhood institution called The Alamo; the last great American bar. The owners, Munce and Carmen, along with some of their regulars watched, from the roof, as the World Trade Towers fell, taking down their relatives, friends, and neighbors. Today, with an aging clientele, the place is fighting to keep its doors open and the only hope seems to be the arrival of artist/gentrifiers who are moving into the neighborhood and wanting to adopt the bar as an entertainment hangout. Bay Ridge locals and Alamo regulars don't want to surrender their bar, much less their neighborhood, to these young neo-carpetbaggers without a fight. Touching on themes of, nativism, racism, and war, *The Alamo* paints a humorous yet heartbreaking portrait of eight working class Bay Ridge natives who always seem to find themselves on the front lines of change in America.