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Rogue Machine presents the World Premiere of
“El Niño”

Written by Justin Tanner - Directed by Lisa James

Opening at **8:30pm on Saturday, February 24, 2018** with reception to follow
Running at 8:30pm on Saturdays & Mondays, and 3:00pm on Sundays through April 2, 2018
(no performances on February 26th or March 19th)

Rogue Machine is in the MET Theatre, 1089 N. Oxford Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

Los Angeles, CA – (January 9, 2018) - Rogue Machine kicks off their 2018 season with **Justin Tanner’s** new play *El Niño*, directed by his long time collaborator **Lisa James** with **French Stewart** and John Perrin Flynn producing.

Will the winds blow? The rains come? The cat die? Legendary local playwright Justin Tanner fashions a new laugh-out-loud comedy that encompasses his talent for writing an equally brilliant underbelly of sadness for humankind. Once again discover all you’ve come to love about a Tanner piece, including his regular cast.

“Our four new plays are about the haunted, about how we see ourselves and how we survive in a world that is increasingly nonsensical. One of Rogue Machine’s most important missions is to offer visionary playwrights a professional platform and we are honored to do just that, by presenting four important world premieres from established playwrights” – John Perrin Flynn; Artistic Director

Justin Tanner is a Los Angeles playwright with over twenty produced plays to his credit. His first play, *Changing Channels*, was named one of the **“best of the year”** by the LA Times, produced by Jon Lawrence Rivera at The Second Stage Theater in Hollywood. He then partnered with Diana Gibson and Andy Daley at Hollywood's CAST Theatre where he wrote eleven plays, including the long running hits *Zombie Attack! Teen Girl*, *Pot Mom* and *Heartbreak Help*, working with such notable actors as **French Stewart, Mark Ruffalo, Laurie Metcalf, Pamela Adlon, John Glover** and **Fred Willard**. Justin’s plays *Space Therapy*, *Voice Lessons*, and *Day Drinkers* all received **Ovation Award nominations for Best Play**. In addition to his work in theatre, Justin wrote for multi-award winning **television series My So-Called Life (with Clair Danes and Jared Leto)** and *Gilmore Girls*. His pilot *Silver Lake* was produced by **Aaron Spelling**. Since 2009 he has written, directed, photographed and edited 86 chapters of his mind-bending web series "Ave 43."

"In 2015 I wrestled with chronic pain and self-pity; books became my only comfort. It was while reading 'Mansfield Park' that I came across a sentence, which changed my life: 'He had suffered, and he had learnt to think, two advantages that he had never known before.' Suffering

an advantage? Seriously? I figured 'what the hell' and started writing a new play, pouring all my misery onto the page. El Nino is the result, a story about survival – Justin Tanner; Playwright

Director **Lisa James** is a multi-award winner for her work on *Heartstopper* (**LA Weekly Award**), *Palladium is Moving* (**Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award**), Lynn Siefert's *Little Egypt*, Wendy Macleod's *The Water Children* (**LADCC nomination and Garland Awards**), Justin Tanner's *Bitter Women* (**LADCC Award**), *Bold Girls*, and *The Visible Horse* (**LADCC and Garland Awards**). World Premieres include Beth Henley's *Tight Pants*, Billy Aaronson's *The News*, ASCAP/Disney presentation *Scream* (music by David Foster), Justin Tanner's *Oklahomo!* and *Little Egypt The Musical* (music/lyrics Gregg Lee Henry) at both the Matrix Theatre (LA) and the Acorn Theatre (NYC), *Dying is Easy Comedy is Hard* Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA and NYC, and *End Days* at the Odyssey Theatre. West Coast premieres include *Smoke* by Kim Davies at Rogue Machine (**LA Weekly – GO!**) and *Punk Rock* for the Odyssey Theatre (**Ovation Recommended**). Lisa is currently developing a new musical, *That Was Then*.

Cast: Melissa Denton (Andrea), Maile Flanagan (Colleen), Danielle Kennedy (June), Joe Keyes (Kevin), Jonathan Palmer (Todd), and Nick Ullett (Harvey)

Production Team: John Perrin Flynn and French Stewart (Producers), John Iacovelli (Scenic Design), Brian Gale (Lighting Design), Christopher Moscatiello (Sound Design), and Halei Parker (Costume Design)

John Perrin Flynn (Producer/RMT Founding Artistic Director) has produced all of Rogue Machine's main stage productions, including last year's season, which garnered the **Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season** from the **LA Drama Critics Circle**, and was recognized by **KCRW (Best Theatre 2016)**. He directed *Pocahontas* (**LA Times – CRITICS' CHOICE**), by Samuel D. Hunter, *The New Electric Ballroom* by Enda Walsh, *Three Views of the Same Object* by Henry Murray, and *A Bright New Boise* by Samuel D. Hunter (all named - **LA Times CRITICS' CHOICE**). John was Executive Producer and Director of Lifetime's long-running award winning series *Strong Medicine* and he has produced two other series and 14 television movies or miniseries including the Emmy nominated *Burden of Proof*. He received the **LA Weekly "Career Achievement Award"** in 2012.

Rogue Machine Theatre received **12 Ovation Award** nominations in 2017, including one for **BEST SEASON** and two for **BEST PRODUCTION**, and the **Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season** from the **LA Drama Critics Circle**. They are the only theatre company to be given this award twice in the past sixteen years. **KCRW (Best Theatre 2016)** was another highlight of last season as well as receiving a **Shubert Foundation** grant, awarded to select theatre organizations for their artistic achievement, administrative strength, and fiscal stability along with company's development of new work and other significant contributions to the field of professional theatre in the United States. A recipient of the **American Theatre Wing's 2014 National Theatre Company Grant**, given only to 12 theatre companies in the country, Rogue Machine (**BEST PRODUCTION for three years – Ovation and LADCC Awards**) presents plays that are new to Los Angeles, and the company has garnered recognition for their work in upwards of 75 awards and nominations.

Social Media Identifiers: #ElNiñoPlay **Twitter:** @RogueMachineLA, **Instagram:** @RogueMachineTheatre; **FaceBook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RogueMachineTheatre>

EL NIÑO opens on Saturday, February 24th at 8:30pm and runs Saturdays and Mondays at 8:30pm, Sundays at 3:00pm through April 2, 2018 (no performances on February 26th or March 19th). Rogue Machine is located in The Met, 1089 N Oxford Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Tickets are \$40. Reservations: 855-585-5185 or at www.roguemachinetheatre.com

Calendar Listing Information:

What: El Niño

Playwright: Justin Tanner

Directed by: Lisa James

Produced by: John Perrin Flynn and French Stewart

Presented by: Rogue Machine Theatre

Where:

ROGUE MACHINE (in The Met Theatre)

1089 N Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029

(Street parking or lot at Medical Center east of the freeway, at 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. \$6)

When:

Opening at **8:30pm** on **Saturday, February 24, 2018** with reception to follow

(no performances on February 26th or March 19th)

Pay-What-You-Can on Monday, March 5th (\$5 minimum starts 7pm at box office only)

SCHEDULE: Saturdays and Mondays at 8:30pm, Sundays at 3:00pm

Closing: April 2, 2018

How:

For reservations call **855-585-5185** or www.roguemachinetheatre.com

How Much: \$40

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