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Kory Kelly – Director of Marketing at Pasadena Playhouse:

***“Moving, exciting and profoundly eye-opening.” - The New York Times***

***“Captures all of Richard’s complexity: his rage, his verbal wit and, above all, the tension between his need to be both feared and loved.” - The Guardian***

***“Funny, irreverent and insightful.” - Chicago Sun Times***

# ***Teenage Dick***

**by Mike Lew**

**Directed by Moritz von Stuelpnagel**

**Streaming exclusively February 3 to February 27, 2022**

**Special “Watch Parties” with creatives February 3 and February 10**

**Tickets now on sale at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](https://pasadenaplayhouse.org)**

PASADENA, CA (January 25, 2022) – Pasadena Playhouse, the State Theater of California, presents ***Teenage Dick***, a brilliantly hilarious take on *Richard III* by Mike Lew and directed by Tony Award nominee Moritz von Stuelpnagel, streaming online at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](https://pasadenaplayhouse.org). The production, produced in association with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and Huntington Theatre Company, was professionally filmed in HD with multiple cameras in front of a live audience during the in-person run in Boston. *Teenage Dick* will be made available as a digital stream exclusively from Thursday, February 3 to Sunday, February 27, 2022.

The Playhouse will also host two special live “Watch Parties” which include pre-show talks with creatives, followed immediately by the show with live chat with the artists from the pre-show event. The “Opening Night Watch Party” on February 3 at 7:30pm will include playwright Mike Lew, director Moritz von Stuelpnagel and lead, Gregg Mozgala and will be hosted by Sandra Tsing Loh. The “Cast Watch Party” on February 10 at 7:30pm will include the entire of the cast of the production.

“Mike Lew’s brilliantly hilarious high-school spin on Shakespeare’s classic play is at once everything you’d imagine and nothing you’d expect,” said Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director. “We are proud to have joined Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and Huntington Theatre Company to create this extraordinary and powerful production and are fortunate to have professionally recorded the show a few weeks ago during the in-person run in Boston. “

Tickets for ***Teenage Dick*** are \$25 for streaming video on demand, and \$55 each for both “Watch Parties” and are available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](https://pasadenaplayhouse.org). Once purchased, patrons will have access to view the production for 48 hours. Video of the show will only be made available for purchase throughout the entire run of ***Teenage Dick***.

***Teenage Dick*** is produced in association with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and Huntington Theatre Company and had its world premiere at the New York Public Theater in 2018. Shakespeare's classic tale of power lust reimagines the most famous disabled character of all time as a 16-year-old outsider in the deepest winter of his discontent: his junior year at Roseland High. Bullied for his cerebral palsy, Richard plots his revenge — as well as his glorious path to senior class presidency.

Mike Lew is the author of *Tiger Style!* (Huntington Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, Olney Theatre Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Alliance Theatre; O'Neill workshop), *tiny father*, *Bike America*, and *microcrisis*.

"Gregg Mozgala gifted me with an electric idea: reimagine Shakespeare's *Richard III* in high school and call it *Teenage Dick*," said playwright Mike Lew. "We set out to re-examine disability politics from Shakespearean times to our time, through a dark comedy that mashes up Shakespeare-talk and Tik Tok. We wanted to ask ourselves: if Richard III was third in line for king, what if this Richard is third in line for senior class president? And if he - still, today - feels like he has no hope of succeeding unless he plays dirty, does that make his journey MORE tragic?"

For Broadway, Moritz von Stuelpnagel directed *Bernhardt/Hamlet* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *Present Laughter* (three Tony Award nominations including Best Revival), and *Hand to God* (five Tony Award nominations including Best Play and Best Director).

Director Moritz von Stuelpnagel said, "Mike's done a brilliant job of modeling the play after classic high school makeover movies like *She's All That* or *Can't Buy Me Love*. You know, a lot of the movies many of us grew up on! And in all those movies is the question of whether you'll lose yourself before you find yourself. What's unique is that the play centers around characters with disabilities without being laden with the pity we often see around such characters. They are fully rounded individuals who navigate a world of cyberbullying, sex, and social politics, in a larger context of toxic masculinity which fetishizes strength and power in and of themselves. In that way, the play is a satire of everything that makes us scratch our heads about modern politics and considers if our politicians are maybe stuck in high school."

Featuring Gregg Mozgala as Richard, ***Teenage Dick*** was commissioned and developed by Mozgala's own theatre company, The Apothetae, which is dedicated to productions that illuminate the disabled experience. Jesse Green on *The New York Times* writes that *Teenage Dick* is "Exhilarating. It suggests how much richer the theater will be when it is truly open to artists of all kinds. Not just because those artists deserve employment but also because the canon of classics deserves reimagining to match our world." Mozgala was nominated for a Drama League Nominee for Distinguished Performance Award, honored as a "Champion Of Change" by the New York City Mayor's Office For People With Disabilities in 2017, and named a Kennedy Citizen Artist. Mozgala also received a Lucille Lortel Award (Best Featured Actor) for his work in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Cost Of Living* by Martyna Majok.

The cast of ***Teenage Dick*** includes **Shannon DeVido** (Hulu's "Difficult People," Netflix's "Insatiable"), **Louis Reyes McWilliams** (The Public Theater's *Coriolanus*, The Flea/Notch Theatre Company's *Anna Karenina: a riff*), **Gregg Mozgala** (*Cost of Living*, Lucille Lortel Award, *Teenage Dick*, Drama League Distinguished Performance Award Nominee), **Portland Thomas** (Classical Theatre of Harlem's *Fit for a Queen*, Bedlam with The McCarter Theatre's *Hamlet & St. Joan*),

**Emily Townley** (*The Totalitarians*, Helen Hayes Award) and **Zurin Villanueva** (Broadway: *The Lion King*, *Mean Girls*, *Shuffle Along*, and *The Book of Mormon*.)

The production features work by choreographer Jennifer Weber (Disney's "Zombies 2" & *Juliet* at the Shaftesbury Theater in London), assistant director and choreographer Ashleigh King (*Legally Blonde* at Keegan Theatre, *Fairview* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre), Robb Hunter (*Invisible Man* at The Huntington, *HIR* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre), scenic designer Wilson Chin (Warner Bros. and NBC's "Blindspot," *Next Fall* on Broadway), lighting designer Amith Chandrashaker (*Bhangin' It* at La Jolla Playhouse, *The Underlying Chris* at Second Stage), costume designer Kelsey Hunt (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at Ford's Theater, *The Nether* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre), and sound designer Palmer Hefferan (*Grand Horizons* at Second Stage, *Tiger Style!* at The Huntington). Other production staff include Judy Bowman, CSA (Casting Director), Sam Layco (Stage Manager), Kevin Schlagle (Assistant Stage Manager) and K. Rudolph (Associate Lighting Designer).

### **ABOUT PASADENA PLAYHOUSE**

Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for 100 years to experience bold and important theater. It is one of the most prolific theaters in American history with a legacy of profound theatrical impact and courageous new work. In 1937, the Playhouse was officially recognized as the State Theater of California for its contribution and commitment to the dramatic arts. Today it continues that tradition of excellence under the helm of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman. Dedicated to enriching lives through theater, community programs, and learning initiatives, Pasadena Playhouse is a living force in the community.

### **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company – Co-Producing Theater**

Woolly Mammoth is “the hottest theater company in town” (*Washington Post*); priding itself on developing, producing, and making theater that disrupts conventional processes and stimulates transformative experiences. For almost four decades, Woolly has held a unique position at the leading edge of the American theater, earning a reputation for staying “uniquely plugged in to the mad temper of the times” (*New York Times*). The co-leadership of Maria Manuela Goyanes (Artistic Director) and Emika Abe (Managing Director) is supported by a core company of artists that holds itself to a high standard of artistic excellence. Woolly is relentless in its desire to take risks, experiment, innovate, interrogate, and create a radically inclusive community. Located in Washington, D.C., Woolly Mammoth stands upon occupied, unceded territory: the ancestral homeland of the Nacotchtank whose descendants belong to the Piscataway peoples.

### **Huntington Theatre Company – Co-Producing Theater**

Celebrating our 40th season, The Huntington is Boston’s theatrical commons and leading professional theater company. On our stages and throughout our city, we share enduring and untold stories that spark the imagination of audiences and artists and amplify the wide range of voices in our community. Committed to welcoming broad and diverse audiences, The Huntington provides life-changing opportunities for students through its robust education and community programs, is a national leader in the development of playwrights and new plays, and serves the local arts community through its operation of The Huntington Calderwood/BCA. Under the leadership of Managing Director Michael Maso, The Huntington is currently conducting a transformational renovation of the historic Huntington Theatre, a storied venue with a bold vision for the future, which will allow us to innovatively expand our services to audiences, artists, and the community for generations to come. For more information, visit [huntingtontheatre.org](http://huntingtontheatre.org).

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Shannon DeVido (Buck)** is an award-winning actress, comedian, and writer. The BAFTA Breakthrough actress is best known for her roles in TV/Film: "Difficult People," "Bridesman," "Best Summer Ever," "Insatiable" "The Other Two," "Pew! Pew! Pew!" "Delco Proper," "Manifest," "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore", and "Sesame Street". Off Broadway: *Teenage Dick* (The Public Theater), *The Healing* (Theater Row). Shannon has also acquired a dedicated following on her disability-focused comedy YouTube channel Stare at Shannon. Instagram/Twitter: [@shannondevido](#)

**Louis Reyes McWilliams (Eddie Ivy)** is an actor and writer based in Brooklyn, NY. Off-Broadway: *Coriolanus* (The Public Theater), *Anna Karenina: a riff* (The Flea Theater/Notch Theatre Company), *The War Boys* (Columbia Stages). Regional: *Little Women* (Dallas Theater Center, The Old Globe), *No Cure* (Playwrights' Center), *A Christmas Carol* and *An Iliad* (Trinity Rep), *Prowess* (Pyramid Theatre Company, Cloris Leachman Award), *Unknown Soldier* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Macbeth* (Berkeley Rep). Education: BA, Stanford University; MFA, Brown University/Trinity Rep, recipient of the Richard Kavanaugh Fellowship. [louismcwilliams.com](#)

**Gregg Mozgala (Richard)** has been in various productions with The Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York Theatre Workshop, La Mama ETC, Theater Breaking Through Barriers, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and The Kennedy Center. He worked with M. Night Shyamalan and Golden Globe winner Andra Day on the video for her Emmy nominated Single "Rise Up." He received a Lucille Lortel Award (Best Featured Actor) for his work in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Cost Of Living* by Martyna Majok. He was nominated for a Drama League Distinguished Performance Award for the role of Richard in *Teenage Dick* by Mike Lew. Mr. Mozgala was honored as a "Champion Of Change" by The New York City Mayor's Office For People With Disabilities in 2017, and named a Kennedy Citizen Artist Fellow by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2016. Gregg is the founder and artistic director of The Apothetae, a theatre company dedicated to the production of works that explore and illuminate the "Disabled Experience." He is currently the director of inclusion at Queens Theatre.

**Portland Thomas (Clarissa)** is a NYC based actress. Off-Broadway: *Seize the King* and *Fit for a Queen* (Classical Theatre of Harlem). Regional: *Hamlet & St. Joan* (BEDLAM with McCarter Theatre Center), *The Wolves* (Marin Theatre Company), *The Syringa Tree* (Creede Repertory Theatre). Film: "Fernanda" (Sundance Institute). Education: BFA, NYU Tisch School of the Arts. [portlandthomas.com](#)

**Emily Townley (Elizabeth York)** is a proud Woolly Company Member, where she has appeared in *HIR*, *The Arsonists*, *The Totalitarians* (Helen Hayes Award nomination, Outstanding Lead

Actress), *Detroit*, *Bright New Boise*, *Maria/Stuart*, *The House of Gold*, *Spain*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Wonder of the World*, and *Watbanaland*. Select DC credits: *The Amateurs*, *Comedy of Tenors*, *Bad Dog* (Olney Theatre Center); *How I Learned To Drive*, *The Sisterhood* (Round House Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Play), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare Theatre Company); *The Mystery of Love and Sex* (Signature Theatre); *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Laugh*, *Skin Tight*, *Rock N' Roll*, *The Bright and Bold Design* (Studio Theatre). Regional credits: *The Game's Afoot*, *All My Sons* (Gulfshore Playhouse).

**Zurin Villanueva (Anne Margaret)** is originally from Brooklyn, NY. Broadway: *The Lion King*, *Mean Girls*, *Shuffle Along*, *The Book of Mormon*. Regional credits: *Ruined* (Everyman Theatre), *Ragtime* (Barrington Stage Company), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Crossroads Theatre Company), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Pittsburgh CLO). TV/FILM: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Insatiable," and "Detroit." Education: proud graduate of Howard University (BFA) and the Laguardia High School for the Performing Arts Drama program. IG: [@zurinspeed](#)

## CREATIVES BIOGRAPHIES

**Mike Lew (Playwright):** *Tiger Style!* (Huntington Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, Olney Theatre Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Alliance Theatre; O'Neill workshop) and *Tiger Style! An Audio Play*. Other plays include *tiny father* (Audible; Cape Cod Theater Project and Ojai Playwrights Conference workshops); *Teenage Dick* (Woolly Mammoth, Seattle Rep, Donmar Warehouse, Ma-Yi Theatre Company; O'Neill workshop); *Bike America* (Ma-Yi Theater Company, Alliance Theatre); and *microcrisis* (Ma-Yi Theater Company, InterAct Theatre Company). He and Rehana Lew Mirza are Mellon Foundation Playwrights in Residence at Ma-Yi Theater Company where they cowrote *The Colonialism Trilogy* and the book to *Bhangin' It* with composer/lyricist Sam Willmott (La Jolla Playhouse; Richard Rodgers Award; Project Springboard and Rhinebeck Writers Retreat workshops). Other: Dramatists Guild Council member, Tony voter, and New Dramatists resident. Honors: Guggenheim, Lark Venturous, and NYFA fellowships; Kleban, PEN, Lanford Wilson, Helen Merrill, Heideman, and Kendeda awards. Education: Juilliard, Yale. [mikelew.com](http://mikelew.com)

**Moritz von Stuelpnagel (Director):** Broadway: *Bernhardt/Hamlet* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *Present Laughter* (three Tony Award nominations including Best Revival), *Hand to God* (five Tony Award nominations including Best Play and Best Director). West End: *Hand to God* (Olivier Award nomination). Off Broadway: *Seared* (MCC Theater), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizons), *Teenage Dick* (Ma-Yi Theater Company/The Public Theater), *Important Hats of the Twentieth Century* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Verité* (Lincoln Center Theatre/LCT3), *Bike America* (Ma-Yi Theater Company), *Trevor* (Lesser America), *Love Song of the Albanian Sous Chef* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Mel & El* (Ars Nova), *Spacebar* (Studio 42), and *My Base and Scurvy Heart* (Studio 42). Huntington Theatre Company: *Tiger Style!* and *Tiger Style! An Audio Play*. Regional: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Alliance Theatre, Hudson Valley Shakes, and more. Audio plays: Audible Originals, Playing on Air. Other: former artistic director of Studio 42, NYC's producer of "unproducible" plays. [moritzvs.com](http://moritzvs.com)