



Written by Camilo Almonacid

Directed by Emily Joy Weiner

***Presented by Houses on the Moon Theater Company
and Rhymes Over Beats***

INFO PACKET



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ABOUT THE PLAY

Inspired by the true stories of, and unlikely friendship between, two individuals touched by gun violence, *THE ASSIGNMENT* is an original play by Camilo Almonacid about an English professor who is shaken when a student's personal essay describing an act of violence reopens long buried wounds. The play explores the long-term emotional toll of violence from both sides of the gun barrel, and the struggle to forgive others and ourselves.



PROJECT HISTORY

The Assignment was inspired by and developed in response to gUN COUNTRY, a collection of true stories written, cultivated, and presented by Houses on the Moon Theater Company members and members of the community who have been impacted by guns and gun violence.

This program has been described by audiences as powerful, soul stirring, deeply moving, surprising, hopeful, and even humorous.

Brought together by Houses' workshop process, THE ASSIGNMENT was inspired by a friendship between two gUN COUNTRY collaborators--a woman who founded a youth violence prevention program after her teenage son was murdered by gun violence, and a man who found education and rehabilitation while serving 17 years in prison for manslaughter. Though a fictionalization, the seeds of the play were born from a mother's desire to understand what caused another to take her son's life, and a man's need to express remorse.

THE ASSIGNMENT was presented in repertory with gUN COUNTRY at NYC's ART-NY Theatres from April 17-May 7, 2017. A licensed production of THE ASSIGNMENT was presented at New Jersey's Luna Stage from November 29-December 9, 2018.

THE ASSIGNMENT and gUN COUNTRY are now available for touring and licensing; for more information, please contact Emily Joy Weiner at info@housesonthemoon.org.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CAMILO ALMONACID (PLAYWRIGHT) is a multi-talented artist based in New York City with over ten years of experience creating dynamic stories that explore the diverse voices of America. Some of his notable plays include *Hotel Happy* (P.S. 122, 2024), *Westpine Myopes* (Rita Goldberg Award 2014), *Checkin In* (Irv Zarkower Award 2012), *For the Flies* (Here Arts 2015), *Church Of Why Not* (Theatre 167 2015), *After the Crowds* (Queen's Museum, NY times Critics Pick 2014), and *Shithole* (Here Arts 2010). In addition to being a playwright, he is also a skilled freelance writer who has collaborated on branded content projects with major media outlets like Netflix, Remezcla, and Vice Media. Camilo Almonacid holds a BFA in acting from Rutgers University and an MFA in Playwriting from Hunter College. He is a proud member of the Dramatist Guild. You can find more information about his work at camiloalmonacid.com.

EMILY JOY WEINER (DIRECTOR) is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Houses on the Moon Theater Company. Since the company's inception in 2001 she has been creating, developing, performing, producing and directing new works that address the complex and sensitive issues of our time. Emily has been a facilitator of creative theater making workshops throughout the NYC public school system for the past 25 years, specializing in programs with teenagers and young adults in the criminal justice system. Emily directed HOTM's Off-Broadway production of *THE SANTA CLOSET* at Teatro Circulo, guided the company through its production of *DE NOVO* at Next Door at NYTW, and continues to guide the touring, live storytelling production of *gUN COUNTRY*. She has performed all over NYC and beyond, and co-developed and toured a one-woman adaptation of Faulkner's *AS I LAY DYING* with the late Wynn Handman of The American Place Theatre. The League of Professional Theatre Women recently honored Emily with the Josephine Abady award for her work with Houses in the creation of multicultural works. She wrote and performed in the original Houses on the Moon play *SHARED SENTENCES*, which had its Off Broadway world premiere in Fall 2022.



WORD OF MOUTH

“The Assignment... deserves, needs to be seen. This is theatre that nourishes the soul.”

– David Rothenberg, Founder of The Fortune Society

“Socially relevant and thought-provoking, profoundly heartrending and often funny, playwright Camilo Almonacid’s The Assignment – inspired by a true story and developed by Houses on the Moon Theater Company in association with Rhymes over Beats – examines the relationship of two people dealing with the devastating aftermath of gun violence. Presented at A.R.T./New York Theatres, and directed with balance and compassion by Emily Joy Weiner, the compelling two-hander considers the issues of guilt, remorse, and second chances, understanding and forgiveness, from the perspectives of those involved and affected.”

– DC Metro Theater Arts

“The play impacted me and brought me to tears at several junctions. This man played his role so spectacularly, it was a mirror image into my life and how I grew up, and I mean literally. I wanted to get up and just praise this man and woman who allowed me to reflect upon a traumatic period in my life that defines why I’m able to respect, trust, be sincere; love and be loved, smile, and be happy.”

– Andre Cates



BOOKING

***For more information about booking, please contact
info@housesonthemoon.org***

