

Media Contact Scott Golden and Paul Plunkett, Publicity:
Publicity@sacredfools.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sacred Fools Closes Out Season 21 with World Premiere of *Akuma-shin*



Los Angeles, CA (March 19, 2018) The Sacred Fools Theater Company is excited to present the World Premiere of the monster drama *Akuma-shin* by Kenley Smith, directed by Scott Leggett. The final Mainstage show of the company's 21st season opens Friday, March 30 and runs through Saturday, April 28 with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 7pm. The show will be performed in the Main Stage Theater of the Broadwater Theater Complex.

About *Akuma-shin*

In 1956, a giant kaiju (monster) destroys Tokyo and sends seismic waves of fear, anger and ignorance through generations. Facts are questioned, history is alternatively written and modern politics is set against primal religion in this ferociously civilized cautionary tale of two nations coping with their own damaged legacies. Can humanity reckon with the monsters that rise against us, the ones that live within us all?

"When *Akuma-shin* was selected for Sacred Fools it seemed timely. Unfortunately, a year later it feels even more apt," says director Scott Leggett. "There is a sense of living in an alternate reality right now. As if there's a monster lurking out there. This play is a thrilling and scary exploration of where we are right now as a nation and a people."

Production Team and Cast

Playwright **Kenley Smith** is a West Virginian by birth but now resides and writes in Nashville, where he directs the brand-new Tennessee Playwrights Studio with his partner and muse, Molly Breen. Other productions include *Empires of Eternal Void* in Memphis and *Devil Sedan* in Chicago, Nashville, Omaha and Virginia. He sends thanks to the Great Plains Theatre Conference and Sewanee Writers Conference, where *Akuma-shin* first scorched the earth. kenleymith.com, tnplaywrights.org

Director **Scott Leggett** is currently one of the Artistic Directors at Sacred Fools and is a veteran of many Fools productions both on and off stage. Most recently, he helmed the World Premiere of the award-winning musical *Skullduggery: The Musical Prequel to Hamlet*. Other productions at Sacred Fools include the stage adaptation of *Neverwhere*, based on the novel by Neil Gaiman and the stage version of Richard Elfman's cult film *Forbidden Zone: Live in the 6th Dimension*. As an actor, he has appeared in such shows as *Stoneface* and *Cookie and the Monster*, as well as the titular character in the hit *Watson* plays.

Producer **Brian W. Wallis** has been producing hit shows with Sacred Fools and other LA theaters since 2008. Highlights include *Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara* at the Matrix Theatre, *Savin' Up for Saturday Night*, the two *Watson* plays, *Stoneface* at both Sacred Fools and at the Pasadena Playhouse, and last year's *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play*. He previously worked with director Scott Leggett in 2016, kicking off Sacred Fools' 20th season together on *Skullduggery: The Musical Prequel to Hamlet*.

The design and production team for *Akuma-shin* is staffed mostly by Sacred Fools veterans. Set Design is by Technical Director and former Artistic Director **Joe Jordan**, Costume Design by **Jennifer Christina DeRosa** (*The Sirens of Titan, Candide*), Sound Design by **Jaime Robledo** (along with extensive directing credits, sound designs include *Astro-Boy and the God of Comics, The Behavior of Broadus, Louis and Keely: Live at the Sahara*) Lighting Design by **Matt Richter** (*Hit the Wall, Plasticity, Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*), Properties Design by **Bo Powell** (also Asst. Director), with Fight Choreography by **Mike Mahaffey** (*She Kills Monsters, Stoneface, Casa Valentina*).

For the video portions of the show, the team includes Animation Video Artist **Emily Bolka** (projections for Waxworks Theatre Company's original show *Crunch*), Video Graphics by **Curt Bonnem** (key art design for *Watson and the Dark Art of Harry Houdini, Bill & Joan, A Kind of Love Story*), with Video Editing and Programming by **Allison Faith Sulock** (*Mr. Burns, a post-electric play, Skullduggery, Shakespeare's Last Night Out*). The



Composer for *Akuma-shin* is **Michael Teoli** (*Tonya & Nancy: The Rock Opera*, *CarnEvil* and *The Werewolves of Hollywood Boulevard*).

The cast of *Akuma-shin* features Libby Baker, Adam Burch, Victor Chi, Corinne Chooy, Tony DeCarlo, Eddie Goines, Amir Levi, Paul Parducci, Stasha Surdyke, Reuben Uy and David Wilcox. The understudy cast consists of Pete Caslavka, Isaac Deakyne, Hennie Hendrawati, Corey Klemow, Rebecca Larsen, Gavin Lee, Sean Liang, K.J. Middlebrooks, Marz Richards, Glenda Suggs and Travis York.

Donate What You Can Performance – Friday, April 6

It's "Pay What You Can" with a twist! Half of all proceeds for this performance will be donated to [Nature and Culture International](#), whose mission is to protect biologically diverse ecosystems in concert with local people in Latin America. Other recent beneficiaries have included [ProjectQ](#), [Direct Relief](#) and [The Center for Inquiry](#).

Additional Programming at Sacred Fools

Finishing up its acclaimed run in the Broadwater Black Box is the smash *The Art Couple* by Brendan Hunt, directed by Lauren Van Kurin (see [previous press release](#)). Also, Saturday nights during *Akuma-shin*, the long-running late-night show *Serial Killers* wraps up its 13th season with its tournament-style playoffs where only one serial can survive. There will also be fresh installments of our ongoing shows *Ten Tops* and *We The People*, press releases forthcoming on both. For more information on these and other upcoming performances, please visit www.sacredfools.org.

Quick Summary

WHAT: *Akuma-shin* by Kenley Smith

WHERE: The Broadwater Main Stage, 1076 Lillian Way, LA CA 90038

WHEN: March 30 – April 28, 2018. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 7pm.

TICKETS: \$15

Press RSVP: Publicity@sacredfools.org

Public RSVP: Reservations can be made by contacting sfreservations@sacredfools.org or buy tickets online at www.sacredfools.org

MORE PRESS: Photos and EPK content (after opening) available soon at www.sacredfools.org/publicity

No Patron will pay more than \$15 for a Sacred Fools show

We believe that theatre should be accessible to everyone. That's why, for our 21st season, we've made a pledge to lower our ticket prices so that anyone who wants to experience live theatre has the opportunity to do so.



* * * * *

Sacred Fools Theater Company, the resident theater company of The Broadwater, 1078 Lillian Way (Santa Monica Blvd. and Lillian Way) on Theater Row, is a non-profit, ensemble-run theater company founded in 1997, committed to the development of new plays and projects that challenge traditional expectations of the theatrical experience.

For more information about any of our programming or the company itself, contact us at publicity@sacredfools.org and visit www.sacredfools.org.

For information regarding The Broadwater, please visit www.thebroadwaterla.com

###