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Company One Theatre, in partnership with the Boston Public Library and The Theater Offensive, announces

The Interrobangers

a new play by **M Sloth Levine**

directed by **Josh Glenn-Kayden**

dramaturgy by **Regine Vital**

FREE with Pay-What-You-Want tickets!

January 26 – February 24, 2024 at Boston Public Library

Rabb Hall, Central Library in Copley Square (700 Boylston Street, Boston)

Boston, MA — Company One Theatre (C1) announces the world premiere of ***The Interrobangers*** by M Sloth Levine, directed by Josh Glenn-Kayden, and produced in partnership with the Boston Public Library and The Theater Offensive. Press opening will be Saturday, January 27, 2024 with a preview performance on Friday, January 26. Performances continue through February 24 at Rabb Hall, Central Library in Copley Square (700 Boylston Street, Boston). Tickets are available now at companyone.org. As part of C1's ongoing commitment to uplifting Public Art for Public Good, **all performances are free** with Pay-What-You-Want tickets.

The Interrobangers follows Zodiac, Hank, Luna, and Dani: four groovy teens searching through the woods for the Foggy Bluffs Monster. Along the way, they uncover their town's darkest secrets, explore their queerness, and rebuild old friendships that have lain dormant since Zodiac disappeared five years ago. Inspired by the nostalgia of shows like *Stranger Things*, *Scooby Doo*, *The X-Files*, and more, this witty world is fleshed out with cryptids, conspiracies, and a lovable dog in the form of a puppet. By producing *The Interrobangers*, C1 amplifies queer and trans youth coming into their own— finding community & family, supporting each other even when they don't have all the answers.

"Working with C1 to produce *The Interrobangers* has been a dream come true," says Levine, an alum of C1's PlayLab Circuit. "I wrote this play to give queer youth the space they deserve, to

allow us time to reconcile with the ambiguity of nostalgia and identity. I want people to come out of the theater excited and curious about their own potential and the potential of the world around them. I can't think of a better company than C1 to realize this vision and make sure *The Interrobangers* is seen by those who will be the most impacted by its message."

"Putting on a play like *The Interrobangers* in a space like the Boston Public Library just feels so right," says Glenn-Kayden. "In a time where queer people all over the world are being legislated out of public spaces, it's vital to uplift these communities onstage, backstage, in our audiences, and in our neighborhoods. And the BPL has been supporting the LGBTQ+ community through events, book lists, and resources for years, so it's a fitting partnership."

The Interrobangers is the beginning of a new three-year residency at the Boston Public Library, where C1 has been producing shows since Jiehae Park's *peerless* in 2017. As with previous BPL productions of Hansol Jung's *Wolf Play* and Inda Craig-Galván's *Black Super Hero Magic Mama*, C1 is uplifting the work of local community organizations like The Theater Offensive, BAGLY, Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ+ Youth, and more. C1 will also collaborate with the BPL and other partners on the event series Branch Out with C1, featuring local community gatherings across the city.

"Library spaces are cultural spaces, best brought to life with innovative partnerships," said David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library. "We are delighted to partner with Company One for the fourth time bringing a fully Pay-What-You-Want production to the Boston Public Library, and are excited to see this as a catalyst for connective engagement across the neighborhoods and communities of Boston."

"I'm so excited to once again be working with both Sloth and the Boston Public Library," says C1 Artistic Director Shawn LaCount. "Sloth writes with a sense of empathy and creativity that stands out in the American theatre, and *The Interrobangers* allows us to understand, experience, and witness queerness through a subversion of nostalgia into something new. It's a thrilling start to our 25th season of building community at the intersection of art and social change."

>> About the Production

Something's lurking deep in the woods of Foggy Bluffs. And as usual, it's up to four groovy teens and a dog to get to the bottom of it. But in order to solve the mystery, the old friends must delve into their chilling past and uncover their town's darkest secrets.

M Sloth Levine puts a thrilling new spin on a classic tale with *The Interrobangers*, a queer coming-of-age story about exploring identity, creating community, and finding that men in masks are the scariest monsters of all. And they might have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for these meddling kids!

>> **Company One Theatre is producing *The Interrobangers* to AMPLIFY:**

- Public Art for Public Good at the Boston Public Library, where all are welcome, in the face of rising censorship, book banning, and anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation across the country.
- joy, nostalgia, and curiosity as transformative tools for nurturing intergenerational connection, the exploration of identity, and how we navigate and cope during uncertain, dark times.
- unapologetic visibility of our queer, trans, and non-binary community onstage, backstage, in our audiences, and in our neighborhoods.
- community partners and organizations who celebrate queer youth as their truest selves through the creation of safe spaces, mental health resources, and supportive programming in Boston.
- accessible creative development programs like C1's PlayLab (of which playwright M Sloth Levine is an alum), that create opportunities for emerging theatermakers to develop their unique voice and become civically-engaged artists.

>> **Cast**

Anderson Stinson, III* (he/they) — Zodiac DuMaurier

Jay Connolly (he/him) — Hank Mason

Jenine Florence Jacinto (they/them) — Luna Jaffe

Schanaya Barrows (she/her) — Dani Bundy

Jupiter Lê (he/him) — Hoover

Chris Everett (she/her) — Bettie Roswell/Tess Mason

Michael J. Blunt (they/them) — Sheriff Craig/Guy at The Jackalope

Alex Jacobs (he/him) — Mr. Dahl/Nathan Hobart

**appears courtesy of Actors Equity Association*

>> **Production, Artistic, and Design Team**

Playwright: **M Sloth Levine** (they/them)

Director: **Josh Glenn-Kayden** (he/him)

Lead Dramaturg: **Regine Vital** (she/her)

Staff Dramaturg: **afrikah selah** (they/them)

Associate Director: **Des Bennett** (they/them)

Production Stage Manager: **Liz Diamond** (they/them)

Assistant Stage Manager: **Becca Cottrell** (they/she)

Assistant Stage Manager: **Melee Lee** (they/she)

Scenic Designer: **Danielle DeLaFuente** (she/her)

Costume Designer: **E. Rosser** (she/her)

Lighting Designer: **Elmer Martinez** (he/him)

Sound Designer: **Anna Drummond** (they/them)
Projections Designer: **Maria Servellon** (she/her)
Props Designer: **Kelly Smith**
Puppet Designer: **Amanda Gibson**
Assistant Puppet Designer: **Amy West**
Technical Director: **Kevin Parker** (he/him)
Production Electrician: **Baz Kouba**
Wardrobe Supervisor: **Elijah Brown**
Projections Tech: **Grace Kroeger**

Scenery constructed by Wooden Kiwi Productions, Waltham, MA

>> Performance Schedule

Friday, January 26 @ 7:30PM - Preview Performance
Saturday, January 27 @ 7:30PM - Press Opening
Sunday, January 28 @ 2PM
Thursday, February 1 @ 7:30PM
Friday, February 2 @ 7:30PM
Saturday, February 3 @ 7:30PM
Sunday, February 4 @ 2PM
Thursday, February 8 @ 7:30PM
Thursday, February 9 @ 10AM - Youth Matinee
Friday, February 9 @ 7:30PM
Saturday, February 10 @ 7:30PM
Sunday, February 11 @ 2PM
Thursday, February 15 @ 7:30PM
Friday, February 16 @ 10AM - Youth Matinee
Friday, February 16 @ 7:30PM
Saturday, February 17 @ 7:30PM
Sunday, February 18 @ 2PM
Thursday, February 22 @ 7:30PM
Friday, February 23 @ 7:30PM
Saturday, February 24 @ 2PM
Saturday, February 24 @ 7:30PM

How to purchase tickets:

- Online at companyone.org
- In-person at the Boston Public Library within 45 minutes prior to performance
- A digital streaming version of the production will also be made available for on-demand viewing during the run, details to come.

>> About the Creative Team

M Sloth Levine (they/them) – Playwright

M Sloth Levine is a playwright, director, dramaturg, and designer. Sloth's plays have been developed at thousands of coffee shops and several theatre companies including Roundabout Theatre Company, Parity Productions (Parity Development Award Winner 2021), Central Square Theatre, and Theatre [Untitled]. They were the Script Supervisor on Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Bad Cinderella* and a former barista at Flour Bakery + Cafe. Sloth's been a long-time fan and collaborator of Company One, as a member of the VoltLab and PlayLab writing groups, and assistant director for *Wig Out!* In 2020 their live web-series *Tales from Camp Strangewood* was produced with a grant from the Mayor's Office of Boston. mslothlevine.com

Josh Glenn-Kayden (he/him) – Director

Josh Glenn-Kayden is a Boston based director, the Artistic Producer and Casting Director at Company One Theatre, and a co-producer of the Legion Theatre Project. Josh's work centers around new plays that help us imagine a more equitable and just world together.

Recent directing projects include *Break, Break* by Erin Lerch (Legion Theatre Project & Artists' Theatre of Boston), *Muse* by Sarah Wendy Burman (Wellesley College), *Shrike* by Erin Lerch (Fresh Ink Theatre), *Wild Flowers* by Tatiana Isabel Gil (Company One Better Future series), *Visionary Futures: Science Fiction Theatre for Social Justice Movements* (consisting of new plays by Phaedra Michelle Scott, M Sloth Levine, and Jaymes Sanchez) at UMass Amherst, *Baltimore* by Kirsten Greenidge (UMass Amherst), workshops of *Walden* by Amy Berryman and *The Interrobangers* by M Sloth Levine (UMass Play Lab), *Greater Good* by Kirsten Greenidge (A.R.T. & Company One, associate director), the world premiere of *This Place/Displaced* (Artists' Theater of Boston, ArtsFuse Best Stage Productions of 2018), *The Lyons* by Nicky Silver (Titanic Theatre), and *Don't Give Up the Ship* by Laura Neill (Fresh Ink Theatre). Josh is also the director and co-producer of *The Legion Tapes*, a sci-fi podcast written by Erin Lerch.

Josh has directed and developed new work for the A.R.T., Company One Theatre, Fresh Ink Theatre, Flat Earth Theatre, Artists' Theater of Boston, the Museum of Science, UMass Amherst, Wellesley College, and Hub Theatre, among others. Josh holds a BA in Drama from Tufts University and an MFA in Directing from UMass Amherst. www.joshglennkayden.com

Regine Vital (she/her) – Lead Dramaturg

Regine Vital is a storyteller, theatre artist, educator and current Associate Producer at Actors' Shakespeare Project. Most recently, she was seen onstage in ASP's productions of *As You Like It* (Celia) and *Seven Guitars* (Louise). As an actor, director, dramaturg, teaching artist, and coach, she has worked with several theatre companies, programs, and schools. She teaches performance studies, composition, literature, and public speaking at Boston area universities; text and performance to high school students; and has taught continuing adult education

classes in literature. A hometown girl from Somerville, MA, she is the previous Manager of Curriculum and Instruction at The Huntington. Regional credits: The Huntington, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, American Repertory Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, ArtsEmerson, Company One, SpeakEasy Stage, Central Square Theatre. Fringe/Local: Fresh Ink Theatre, Boston University School of Theatre, Moonbox Productions, Plays In Place, Flat Earth Theatre, HUB Theatre of Boston, Open Theatre Project, Concord Players, Birch Tree Productions, Green Door Labs. NYC/Podcasts/Film: The Huntington, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Broadway Podcast Network, The Penumbra Podcast, Revolutionary Spaces. Education: BA, Boston University; MA, University of Massachusetts, Boston; MA candidate, King's College London/Shakespeare's Globe. "Merde, folks!"

>> About Company One Theatre (C1)

Founded in 1998, Company One has situated itself as a home for social justice and artistic excellence by connecting Boston's diverse communities through live performance, the development of new plays and playwrights, arts education, and public engagement programming. By establishing a dedicated space for marginalized and alternative narratives to thrive and working with partners and collaborators across the city, Company One has become a local leader in the ongoing conversations that continue to define the era of social change in contemporary America.

Company One Theatre's work falls into four main areas: Productions, Education, New Play Development, and Connectivity. Over its 20+ year history Company One has produced over 80 productions, employed over 1500 local artists, and has been awarded over 30 Boston theatre awards. We have served over 100,000 audience members and 15,000 students.

MISSION

Company One Theatre builds community at the intersection of art and social change.

VISION

A Boston defined by justice, equity, and artistic innovation.

MPACT STATEMENT

As Boston's Theatre for the People, C1 is committed to:

- creating artistically innovative, responsive theatre to galvanize C1 audiences toward individual and collective action.
- tearing down the vestiges of segregation, and breaking the silos that confine people and issues.
- shining unflinching attention on how racial and economic power and privilege shape Boston.
- collectively organizing for change in deep collaboration with new voices, younger generations and community partners.
- advocating for Boston's culture workers, and the economic and creative sustainability of our rich arts ecology.

“Company One Theatre pushes the boundaries of narrative with a focus on marginalized stories, and has probably done more than any other institution to bring new audiences to Boston theater.”

— *WBUR* (2023)

>> Contact

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