

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**PRESS & MEDIA CONTACT:**

Austin C. Lang

Press and Publications Manager

206-859-4044 | [austinl@sct.org](mailto:austinl@sct.org)

**SCT Press Room**



**Critically-acclaimed artist, Paige Hernandez returns to Seattle Children's Theatre presenting Havana Hop, a dance journey about discovering your roots!**

(Seattle, WA) Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) is thrilled to welcome back **Artist-in-Residence Paige Hernandez** with her vibrant one-woman show, *Havana Hop*, opening on October 16, 2024. Created by Hernandez herself, this dynamic production invites audiences to meet young Yeila as she travels to Cuba to connect with her grandmother, blending her hip-hop style with the rich rhythms of salsa.

*Havana Hop* is an exhilarating exploration of confidence, culture and identity, encouraging audience participation as Yeila discovers the joy of her multi-cultural heritage through dance. Throughout the performance, Hernandez expertly portrays three generations of spirited, confident women, bringing their stories to life and highlighting the importance of family connections and cultural roots. This interactive experience promises to engage and inspire audiences of all ages, inviting them to join Yeila on her journey of self-discovery and celebration of diversity. With its lively choreography and heartfelt storytelling, *Havana Hop* is set to leave a lasting impression on everyone who attends.

Paige Hernandez, a critically acclaimed multidisciplinary artist, brings a wealth of experience to the stage. With accolades that include multiple Helen Hayes nominations and recognition as a "classroom hero" by The Huffington Post, Paige's work has resonated nationally. Her collaborations with prestigious organizations such as Lincoln Center and The Kennedy Center further underscore her commitment to creating inclusive and impactful theatrical experiences. When asked about SCT's partnership with Hernandez, Artistic Director Idris Goodwin said "*Paige Hernandez is a vibe for the whole family.*"

Audiences joining SCT for *Havana Hop* will be welcomed by a newly renovated lobby, which significantly enhances accessibility and introduces engaging elements designed to enrich the overall experience. In celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season, this exciting upgrade creates a vibrant and inviting space where patrons can gather, connect, and immerse themselves in the magic of theater before the show begins. The renovations reflect our commitment to inclusivity and provide a warm atmosphere that invites everyone to be part of our artistic community.

SCT is collaborating closely with Hernandez as their 24-25 Artist-in-Residence. Throughout the run of *Havana Hop*, unique learning opportunities for students and community are available.

Hernandez will lend her knowledge to Fall Drama School class Tablecloth Theatre where participants learn to use theatre skills and their creativity to weave stories and craft characters using a tablecloth as their curtain. Hernandez offers students a chance to engage with her artistic process and learn from her experience in this engaging course for young actors.

Additionally, in partnership with the **Sea Mar Museum of Chicano/a/Latino/a Culture**, Hernandez will present an interactive spotlight performance of *Havana Hop* on October 24, 2024. The audience will see a full spotlight performance of *Havana Hop* on location at Sea Mar Museum, featuring language and music from the show, and will spend the evening learning some dance moves directly from Paige. **Tickets available here.**

**Seattle Opera** and Seattle Children's Theater will partner to present a workshop performance of the hip-hop opera *Stomping Grounds*, written by Paige Hernandez and composed by Victor Simonson. In this innovative work, hip-hop, spoken word, and opera seamlessly blend for this one-of-a-kind exploration of love, faith, and home. Stories of refugees, immigrants, natives, and descendants of enslaved people intertwine as an inner-city coffee shop faces gentrification. This workshop takes place Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:30 PM at The Opera Center. Free with RVSP **here**

### **Accessible Performances:**

Central to Seattle Children's Theatre's mission is a commitment to serving diverse communities including those who are deaf and hard of hearing and who have low vision or blindness. SCT has taken several steps to increase the accessibility of our performances for the 24-25 season and beyond.

Tickets for ASL/AD performances are available throughout the season online or through the Ticket Office at [tickets@sct.org](mailto:tickets@sct.org) or (206) 441-3322.

### **Access Performance- Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 2:00pm.**

Access performances are a welcoming experience that provide patrons with the opportunity to see a show that addresses multiple access needs at once. The Access performance will feature sensory sensitive accommodations, a skilled and professional ASL interpreter at the front of the stage, and live audio description narration.

### **Sensory Sensitive Performance- Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 10:30am**

SCT's Sensory Friendly performance incorporates special modifications to accommodate children and families with sensory needs. **Learn more about Sensory Friendly Performances** [here](#).

### **ASL Interpreted and Audio Described Performances**

ASL Interpreted Performance: **Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 10:30am**

Audio Described Performance: **Sunday, November 10, at 2:00pm.**

In addition to our Access performance, Seattle Children's Theatre is offering **Audio Description On Demand (ADOD)**. To request this service, please contact the Box Office at: [tickets@sct.org](mailto:tickets@sct.org).

### **Low-cost Tickets:**

**SCT for ALL** Under SCT for ALL, SCT provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and any family who express need. To book tickets simply call (206) 441-3322 or email [the Ticket Office](#) and set any price for any upcoming show in the 22-23 Season.

### **For Calendar Editors:**

#### **What:**

Havana Hop

By Paige Hernandez  
Directed by Danielle Drakes  
Commissioned by Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning, VA  
Developed by Playhouse Square, OH

**Where:** SCT's Eve Alvord Theatre

**When:** October 16 – November 16, 2024

**Cost:** Tickets range \$25-\$50 on [sct.org](https://sct.org)

Approx 60 minutes, no intermission | Recommended for Ages 2+

[Read more about Paige Hernandez here.](#)

**About SCT:**

Founded in 1975, and now celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, SCT is currently led by Artistic Director Idris Goodwin and Managing Director Kevin Malgesini. SCT is the leading generator of new works for young people and their communities and a primary provider of theater education in the Puget Sound, reaching over 130,000 individuals annually. For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SCT celebrates the good humans who create, connect, learn, work, volunteer, donate and believe in the power of theatre for young people. People like you.

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