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The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company Launches Youth Theatre Conservatory at Rogue Machine Theatre with Free Community Celebration

Encore Event on August 21 Marks New Chapter for Los Angeles Youth Theatre Program

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company invites the Los Angeles community to Encore, a free launch party and community mixer celebrating the opening of its Youth Theatre Conservatory at Rogue Machine Theatre and the release of DEVISE Magazine Vol. 3, the organization's youth-produced arts and culture publication.

The event takes place Friday, August 21 from 7-9pm at Rogue Machine and is free and open to the public.

Encore marks a major milestone for The Unusual Suspects, which has spent over three decades mentoring youth in under-resourced communities through collaborative original theatre. The Youth Theatre Conservatory offers free, ensemble-based theatre training rooted in devised performance to high schoolers across Los Angeles.

"Rogue Machine is exactly the kind of home we want for our young artists, a professional theatre with a deep commitment to new voices. This partnership lets our students train and create in a working artistic space alongside people committed to the highest levels of artistic excellence. My hope for the Conservatory is simple: that every young person who walks through these doors leaves seeing themselves as an artist with something worth saying, and a community that's ready to listen." — Abiram Brizuela, CEO, The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company

Rogue Machine Theatre, one of Los Angeles' most respected intimate theatre companies, joins Boston Court Pasadena as the Conservatory's second non-school site, serving as its home for the fall 2026 season. Both locations are now open for fall 2026 enrollment, with classes beginning the week after Labor Day. The partnership reflects The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company's commitment to connecting young artists with professional theatre spaces and communities.

"For Rogue Machine, producing new plays and developing new playwrights are inseparable. After years of collaborating with The Unusual Suspects, we're honored to welcome the Youth Theatre Conservatory. Together, we're creating a pathway where young artists can discover their voices, develop their craft, and ultimately see themselves as part of Los Angeles' professional theatre community." — Justin Okin, Executive Director, Rogue Machine Theatre

Encore will also celebrate the release of DEVISE Magazine Vol. 3, The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company's youth-produced arts and culture publication featuring writing from students across its programs. This issue's cover features actress María Gabriela de Faria, who played The Engineer in 2025's Superman, alongside an interview with Rafael Agustín, writer on The CW's Jane the Virgin and author of the bestselling memoir *Illegally Yours*.

Attendees can look forward to live monologues from Conservatory alumni, food and drinks, and community games, and opportunity drawings throughout the evening. Encore is free to attend. RSVPs are encouraged at

eventbrite.com/e/encore-a-launch-party-community-mixer-tickets-1991719140565.

ABOUT THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS THEATRE COMPANY

Founded in 1993, The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that mentors and educates youth in under-resourced communities through the creation of collaborative, original theatre. All programs, including Residency, Conservatory, Voices From Inside, and Youth Journalism Fellowship, are tuition-free and transform school stages, community centers, and juvenile justice facilities into platforms for powerful, original work created by young artists themselves. What began as a single volunteer-run program now reaches over 3,000 youth and families across Los Angeles County each year, closing the gap in arts education access and helping a new generation share their stories and be heard. Learn more at theunusualsuspects.org.

ABOUT ROGUE MACHINE THEATRE

Founded in 2008, Rogue Machine Theatre is one of Los Angeles' leading producers of world premieres and contemporary plays new to Southern California. Now in its eighteenth season, the company has produced more than 30 world premieres and over 40 Los Angeles, West Coast, Southern California, and American premieres, earning four Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Polly Warfield Awards for Outstanding Season, more than any other theatre company in Los Angeles history. In addition to its acclaimed mainstage productions, Rogue Machine develops the next generation of theatre artists through programs including Celebrating Voices, the Engine Room the Playwrights' Roundtable, and the Youth Theatre Conservatory in partnership with The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company. Learn more at roguemachinetheatre.org.

Encore — A Launch Party & Community Mixer

Friday, August 21 | 7-9 p.m.

Rogue Machine Theatre | 7657 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90046

Free admission | RSVP:

eventbrite.com/e/encore-a-launch-party-community-mixer-tickets-1991719140565

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