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Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents

American Son

Parents and police collide in this highly charged and suspenseful new drama by attorney/playwright Christopher Demos-Brown.

Pittsburgh Public Theater is proud to present the regional premiere of Christopher Demos-Brown's Broadway and Netflix hit, *American Son*. Returning to direct this riveting contemporary drama is Justin Emeka (*Sweat* at Pittsburgh Public Theater last season). *American Son* runs March 5 – April 5, 2020 at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. For tickets call 412.316.1600, go to ppt.org, or visit the Box Office.

As *American Son* begins, it's 4 a.m. in a Miami police station. Kendra Ellis-Connor (Bianca LaVerne Jones) is there because her 18-year-old son, Jamal, has not returned home after an evening out. All Officer Paul Larkin (Michael Patrick Trimm, *A Few Good Men*) will tell her is that Jamal has been "identified in an incident." He says that it's police protocol to wait for the morning liaison officer, Lieutenant John Stokes (Giuieseppe Jones), to provide more information. Soon Scott Connor (Pittsburgh favorite David Whalen) arrives. Officer Larkin is impressed that Scott is an FBI agent and surprised by his relationship to Kendra and Jamal. Differing perspectives, which challenge each characters' assumptions about the others, are brilliantly revealed in Mr. Demos-Brown's writing. He also tackles head-on the anxieties of 21st century parenting and takes a brave look and race, gender, and power.

According to director Justin Emeka: "*American Son* invites the audience into an intimate examination of what it means to be an American, what brings us together, and what pulls us apart. At the heart of the play is a conversation between two people struggling to build a vocabulary to address the challenges facing their family and community," he says.

The design team for ***American Son*** is **Richard Morris** (Scenic), **Rachel Dozier-Ezell** (Costumes), **Andrew D. Smith** (Lighting), and **Angela Baughman** (Sound). Casting is by **McCorkle Casting** and **Fred Noel** is the Production Stage Manager.

About the Playwright

Christopher Demos-Brown's *American Son* premiered at the Booth Theater on Broadway in 2018 and was made into a Netflix movie in 2019, both directed by **Kenny Leon**. In addition to ***American Son***, Demos-Brown has written more than a dozen plays and screenplays, including *American Hero*, *Captiva*, *Stripped*, and *When the Sun Shone Brighter*. He is also a trial lawyer and former prosecutor. He and his wife, Stephanie, practice law together in Miami. They are also co-founders of the theater company Zoetic Stage, whose home is the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, Florida.

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March 5 – April 5, 2020

Performance Schedule

Tuesdays at 7 pm.

Wednesdays thru Saturdays at 8 pm (except Wed. March 18).

Saturdays at 2 pm (except March 7 & 14) plus 2 pm on Thurs. April 2.

Sundays at 2 & 7 pm (except April 5 when the final performance is at 2 pm).

Opening Night/Press Night is Friday, March 13.

Ticket prices start at \$31. Tickets for students and age 26 and younger: \$16.50.

Discounts for groups of 10+ are available by contacting **Katina White** at 412.316.8221 or groupsales@ppt.org.

Ticket prices are subject to change.

For tickets contact 412.316.1600, ppt.org, or The O'Reilly Box Office.