

Complete Cast and Creative Team Announced for Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Midwest Premiere of



By Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright Ayad Akhtar

November 20, 2018 [Milwaukee] [Milwaukee Repertory Theater](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) is pleased to announce the complete cast and creative team for the Midwest premiere of *Junk* by Milwaukee native and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Ayad Akhtar**. Since its Broadway premiere at Lincoln Center last year, **Ayad Akhtar** along with **Artistic Director Mark Clements** have continued to hone *Junk* to bring Milwaukee audiences a new, two hour no intermission riveting story set in the financial world of the 1980s.

"I'm thrilled to finally have the opportunity to direct one of Ayad's plays, having previously produced his entire output of dramatic works at Milwaukee Rep," said **Artistic Director Mark Clements**. "I saw the very first draft of this epic, thrilling, and audaciously ambitious play several years ago, and it has been most gratifying to be able to collaborate directly with Ayad, as he continues to refine the piece from its productions in New York, Munich and Hamburg."

Junk features one of the largest casts ever on the Quadracci Powerhouse stage and includes Milwaukee native **N'Jameh Camara** (*The Color Purple*, Nat'l tour) as Jacqueline Blount, **Dominic Comparatore** (*A View from the Bridge*, Broadway) as Giuseppi Adesso, **Matt Daniels** (*Man of La Mancha*, Milwaukee Rep) as Maximilien Cizek, **Todd Denning** (*A Christmas Carol*, Milwaukee Rep) as Corrigan Wiley/Union Leader/Kurt, **DiMonte Henning** (*Our Town*, Milwaukee Rep) as Kevin Walsh, **Rebecca Hirota** (*Jane Eyre*, Milwaukee Rep) as Judy Chen, **Justin Huen** (*One House Over*, Milwaukee Rep) as Raúl Rivera, **Gregory Linington** (*Blind Date*, Goodman Theatre) as Robert Merkin, **Brian Mani** (*Death of a Salesman*, APT) as Leo Tresler, **Michael Milligan** (*La Bete*, Broadway) as Mark O'Hare, **Norman Moses** (*Holmes and Watson*, Milwaukee Rep) as Murray Lefkowitz, **James Ridge** (*Our Town*, Milwaukee Rep) as Thomas Everson, **Rachel Sledd** (*The Shape of Things*, St. Louis Rep) as Amy Merkin, **Demetrios Troy** (*2666*, Goodman Theatre) as Israel Peterman, and **Jonathan Wainwright** (*A Christmas Carol*, Milwaukee Rep) as Boris Pronsky.

Junk is directed by Artistic Director **Mark Clements** with set design by Rep Associate Artist **Todd Edward Ivins** (*A Christmas Carol*, Milwaukee Rep), costume design by **Theresa Ham** (*The Little Mermaid*, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), lighting design by **Thom Weaver** (*The Royale*, Milwaukee Rep), original music and sound

design by **Lindsay Jones** (*Through the Night*, Geffen Playhouse), projection design by **Jared Mezzocchi** (*American Song*, Milwaukee Rep), dialect coaching by **Clare Arena Haden** and stage managed by **Laura F. Wendt**.

Junk is hailed by critics as “an epic, strutting, slam-bang-wham piece of work” by *Chicago Tribune*, and a “high-stakes thriller with light comedy and space for the characters to consider how high finance both deviates from and reflects traditional American values” by *AM New York*. It is inspired by the real junk bond kings of the day, where magnates are pitted against workers, lawyers against journalists, and everyone against themselves. With *Junk*, debt is an asset, and we see from the inside how money became the only thing that mattered.

Junk is presented by **Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty** and sponsored by **Associated Bank** with Executive Producers **Rhonda and Greg Oberland** and **Caran and Joel Quadracci**. The Media Sponsor is **Milwaukee Business Journal**. The Rep is sponsored in part by **The United Performing Arts Fund**.

Junk runs January 15 – February 17, 2019 in the Quadracci Powerhouse. Opening night is set for Friday, January 18 at 8pm. Purchase tickets at www.MilwaukeeRep.com, by calling the Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or in person at **108 E. Wells Street** in downtown Milwaukee.

For more information, please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com

About Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin in terms of audiences served and one of the largest professional theaters in the country. Each year, The Rep welcomes up to 275,000 people at nearly 700 performances of 15 productions ranging from compelling dramas, powerful classics, new plays and full-scale musicals in its three unique performance venues – the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. Now in its 65th Season, The Rep has gained a national reputation as an incubator of new work, an agent of community change and a forward-thinking provider of vital arts education programs. Under the leadership of **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman**, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee’s rich diversity.

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