

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10th 2017

DALI & HOPPER

An original play, not about the painters.

By Emilio Merritt

The 54th Entertainment presents the world premiere of a thought provoking story about a group of young adults who deal with love and self-acceptance through the role their subconscious plays in their reality.

Vancouver, BC - Hot on the heels of successes in Mexico and his recent independent theatrical debut in Canada, Emilio Merritt (playwright and director) brings us his textured examination of young adults dreams and how they relate to reality. *DALI & HOPPER* brings forward the duality of our thoughts and actions while providing the audience with compelling characters and a fresh outlook on the choices that stem from our thoughts and the consequences that are intrinsically tied to them. This compelling story talks about love, abusive relationships, *LGBTQ+* issues, self acceptance, immigration, substance abuse, mental illness and much more, all with a fresh and original perspective.

DALI & HOPPER was born shortly after "Transit" (Emilio Merritt, 2017). Artists inspired his artistic vision, approached Merritt to collaborate in art. Based on the actor's stories, experiences and passion for the craft, Merritt went to his computer and began the creative writing process. Merritt approached this a bit differently than what he had done before by taking inspiration through improvisations and ideas from the actors themselves. It was a team effort guided by Merritt to get the final draft, he says: the foundations of the theme came from his own experiences of love, self esteem, sexuality and acceptance.

This play brings the best of Western Canada's new young talent blended with experienced Latin American talent that creates a diverse team:

Marc-Anthony Massiah, an experienced actor, acting teacher, screenwriter, and producer, is once again collaborating with Merritt as the play's producer and director adviser. He is also bringing life to a very important supporting character.

Rheannon Armstrong, born and raised Vancouverite, grew up surrounded by art and performing in high school theatre. Fresh out of an intensive acting program, she is eager to give life to such a compelling character.

Seth Johnson, was born in Prince George but spent his high school years in Kamloops. Once in Kamloops, Seth performed in 3 professional plays and moved to Vancouver to keep working on his craft.

Chris Dickason, a local of BC, has grown up with the arts. Chris now having completed an intensive program here in Vancouver is looking to share that love and passion he has been surrounded by growing up.

Lou Nielsen, born in Alberta, has been in love with acting since he was young. *DALI & HOPPER* touches on points close to home with Lou via the LGBTQ+ ideas and thoughts. He is very happy with his ability to spread both an amazing project and knowledge.

Sarah Almonte Peguero, Dominican born and raised, she went from performing at the Dominican National Theatre and Altos de Chavon Amphitheater to touring with the MGM Musical Theatre Company in Italy and all the way to Taiwan (R.O.C) where she headlined a Latin American music band and participated in many original performance pieces.

Emilio Merritt moved to Canada to share and merge his point of view, knowledge, and art of his Latin American heritage to the Canadian world. "Creating independent theater is difficult if you don't have connections, but that shouldn't be a barrier to making art. Theater and Art are very important in our lives, especially during these times. Witnessing people in front of you being transformed on stage and getting something in return from the experience is rewarding. As young creators, we want to keep making projects that matter; projects that entertain and get the audience thinking. We need your support to make this possible, we make art because we need to express ourselves, but this art must be shared. The more people attending our shows, we have more opportunities to tell these stories. Support independent, original theater."

DALI & HOPPER opens on July 4th and runs through the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th with two performances on July 9th; matinee at 1:30pm and evening at 7:30pm. All performances will be at 7:30 pm with the exception of the 8th at 8:30 pm. Doors open half an hour prior to the start of the show and close once the show starts. Please note: **Latecomers will only be allowed in at the show's 10 min mark.** Tickets available online at The Cultch's website, or at the box office. Discount tickets for students will be available and promo codes are also available on our social media. **The Cultch, Culture Lab** can be found at 1895 Venables St, Vancouver BC V5L 2H6. Cast and crew are delighted to be working in association with the established Vancouver symbol that is The Cultch.

Questions daliandhopper@gmail.com
Tickets <https://thecultch.com/events/could-be-dali-but-its-hopper/>
Facebook <https://m.facebook.com/Dali-Hopper-621543258049236/>

About The 54th Entertainment

The 54th Entertainment, created by Marc-Anthony Massiah, supports the work of local writers, directors and actors. Since its conception in 2007, when it was a way for Massiah, and 8 other acting school graduates, to stay focused on their craft and create their own work, the goal remains to support local talent and produce well-crafted, engaging theatre and film. Now that Emilio Merritt became a partner in the company, Massiah and Merritt are eager to produce quality artist work that is inspiring and entertaining to the audience.

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