



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Bailey Pfohl

[bpfohl@nearwesttheatre.org](mailto:bpfohl@nearwesttheatre.org)

***Original Youth Production from Near West Theatre Sends Message of Vigor,  
Empowerment, Hope***

*Near West Theatre will stream Rise: The Isolation Project, from October 10 through October 18*

CLEVELAND – What happens when you give the stage to youth with virtually no disclaimers or stipulations? The result is Near West Theatre (NWT)’s next production, entitled: *Rise: The Isolation Project*.

This theatrical experience is headed to the Near West Theatre stage as the first show in its reimagined 2020-21 Season.

*Rise: The Isolation Project* was steeped from the organization’s summer youth program of the same name. This year, the program was designed as an original writing and performance project for youth, by youth, exploring the impact of COVID-19, quarantine, Black Lives Matter, and other social matters happening in the world and in their lives. It offered a unique opportunity to unite the community’s youth from across past programming and shows to share their stories, their hopes, and their experiences. Together, youth developed the original piece that will stream in October. Audiences can expect a powerful performance, packed with a full spectrum of emotion, energy, empowerment, and optimism.

Starring in this production is Near West Theatre’s extended youth cast, ages 9 – 18, under the direction of Trinidad Snider, the organization’s Artistic Director. Scott Ackerman, Mariah Burks, Jodi Kirk, Darius Stubbs, and Olivia Zink all facilitated as teaching artists.

“We have so much to learn from these amazing young artists,” says Snider. “I am so excited for our community, their families, and our supporters because what they are about to experience will hopefully challenge and enlighten them and provide a sense of hope knowing that these incredible humans will one day rule the world.”

Performances will be streamed exclusively online for two weekends from October 10 – 18. With this season, the theatre is introducing a Pay What You Can model for every performance, with a suggested donation of \$15 per streaming.

The season will continue with another original production, entitled: *All Roads Lead to Home: A Near West Theatre Holiday Gathering*, running December 11 – 20. Visit the Near West Theatre website for specific dates and times and casting information. [www.nearwesttheatre.org](http://www.nearwesttheatre.org).

View the trailers for the performance through Near West Theatre’s YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD\\_OkKJ00VtwgSdUyNsYACw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD_OkKJ00VtwgSdUyNsYACw?view_as=subscriber).

The Near West Theatre Box Office is completely closed due to COVID-19 precautions. Patrons are free to email [boxoffice@nearwesttheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@nearwesttheatre.org) to ask questions or receive assistance in purchasing streaming access for *Rise*.



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### *About Near West Theatre*

Near West Theatre builds loving relationships and engages diverse people in strengthening their sense of identity, passion, and purpose, individually and in community, through accessible, affordable and transformational theatre arts experiences. Since 1978, Near West Theatre has been shaping, changing, even saving the lives of children, teens and adults. The community theater hosts a variety of free community events and free after school programs to underline its commitment to accessibility for all people. The organization serves people of all ages, but a focus on youth goes back to its founding and continues to this day.

### **RISE: THE ISOLATION PROJECT**

Fall Youth Production, Ages 9 – 18

Show Run: Oct. 10 – 18

Performances: Oct. 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

Streaming Access: \$15, Pay What You Can

### Production Staff

Director: Trinidad Snider. Teaching Artists: Scott Ackerman, Mariah Burks, Jodi Kirk, Darius Stubbs, and Olivia Zink. Production & Rentals Manager: Michael Stein. Technical Assistant: Russ Miller. Technical Director: Perren Hedderson. Assistant Technical Director: Emily Hehnen. Set Designer: Perren Hedderson. Sound Designer: Emily Hehnen. Lighting Designer: Michael Stein.

### Performance Dates

Sat. Oct. 10 – 7:30pm

Sun. Oct. 11 – 2:00pm

Fri. Oct. 16 – 7:30pm

Sat. Oct. 17 – 7:30pm

Sun. Oct. 18 – 2:00pm

### Suggested Performance Listing

**Near West Theatre**, 6702 Detroit Ave., Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District. [www.nearwesttheatre.org](http://www.nearwesttheatre.org). "Rise: The Isolation Project" streams exclusively online Oct. 10, 16, 17 at **7:30pm**, Oct. 11 and 18 at **2:00pm**. All performances offer Pay What You Can access, with a suggested donation of \$15.