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World Premiere: “See Me” created by OutLoud Dallas, A Groundbreaking Immersive Theatrical Experience at The Eisemann Center

Debuting September 27th and directed by award-winning artist Ruben Carrazana, this work is a collaboration between North Texas young adults and professional artists exploring the impact of technology on human connection

Dallas, Texas (August 20, 2024) - OutLoud Dallas is excited to announce the world premiere of “See Me” a groundbreaking immersive theatrical experience presented at the Eisemann Center in Richardson, TX. The production is inspired by the stories of young people from across North Texas, bringing their voices to life using cutting edge technology, projections and holograms. Exploring how existing in a hyper-connected world impacts the human condition, this show offers a poignant dialogue between technology and the arts.

“All of our work at OutLoud centers around asking young people, who needs to hear your voice and what do they need to hear you say?” says co-founder and Executive Director, Jeffery Moffitt. “See Me” provides space for young people to answer these questions and creates a larger dialogue in the fabric of the community narrative.

“So many of the stories we see onstage and onscreen are larger than life.” Says “See Me” Director, Ruben Carrazana, “Great warriors, accomplished historical figures, superheroes. These are the people that stories are written about. What *See Me* posits is that everyone's story deserves space to be seen. That small, personal, seemingly trivial story from your childhood that you hold so close to your heart is worth sharing with the world.”

The “See Me” project began in early 2024 with a series of workshops at North Texas schools and community partner sites. These workshops, led by Carrazana and OutLoud artists, guided high school and college students through exercises in personal identity exploration using writing, spoken word poetry, and theater.

Outloud has assembled an exceptional, award-winning creative team to bring “See Me” to life. In addition to Carrazana, Avery-Jai Andrews, Danny Anchondo Jr., Aaron Johansen, Jasmine Woods, Claudia Jenkins Martinez, Weyni Kahsay, and Omar Padilla who will be contributing to choreography, sound design, lighting design, and visuals.

The cast for the play includes Bella Brown, Allison Marshall, Breanna J. Cox, Will Schmitt, Jackson Holmes, and MattJohn West - ranging from institutions such as University of

Texas-Arlington, Mountain View College, Southern Methodist University, Tyler Junior College, and KD Conservatory.

The cast exemplifies the mission of OutLoud Dallas and were identified from the nearly 60,000 community members from 30 North Texas zip codes that OutLoud has served. 81% of youth report not having access to the arts, and OutLoud has trained over 1200 artists to help meet this need.

This focus on youth voices, and bridging the empathetic gap between generations helped OutLoud win the highly competitive \$100,000 Eisemann Edge Initiative grant for innovative uses of art and technology. Having the resources to develop a must-see production has helped OutLoud dream even bigger to serve North Texas youth.

Following its premiere at the Eisemann Center, OutLoud plans to tour "See Me" to several out-of-state fringe festivals beginning in the summer of 2025.

"This touring opportunity will enable youth performers to share their voices on a national stage, highlighting the power of their stories and expanding their impact as artists and changemakers." says Allison Caldwell, cofounder of OutLoud Dallas.

Performance Details

All performances will be held at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts and Corporate Presentation in the Bank of America Theater.

- September 27th, 28th, October 3rd, 4th at 8:00PM
- September 29th, October 5th at 2:00PM

Tickets are \$25 and are available for purchase online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650. Group discounts are available for 10 or more persons. Lobby and Ticket Office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, two hours before showtime on Sundays and through intermission on performance evenings/Sundays.

For more information about the immersive production, please visit:

www.weareoutloud.org/seeme

About OutLoud

At OutLoud, we believe that youth are forces of change in our community. Youth don't just have future potential; they are powerful right now, and their voices need to be heard. We serve youth and educators from over 30 different zip codes in the Dallas area, providing free access to arts and well-being programming at our Youth Arts Center and community sites across the city. OutLoud has a longstanding commitment to empowering young people through artistic expression, reaching communities across the DFW metroplex. "See Me" continues this mission by providing a larger platform and more resources to

amplify the voices of young people, fostering community engagement, and shifting perspectives on the capabilities of today's youth.

About Ruben Carrazana

Ruben Carrazana is a theater artist from Miami. Represented by Grossman & Jack Talent, stage acting credits include: Steppenwolf Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, and more, with screen credits including "Chicago PD" and Nordstrom. Ruben has directed for Lifeline Theatre and Pegasus Theatre Chicago. As a writer, he has been commissioned by Kitchen Dog Theater and Danielle Georgiou Dance Group. He has received numerous grants and awards, including the Edyth Renshaw Award, an Activating Vacancy grant from bcWORKSHOP and the National Endowment for the Arts, a TACA Resiliency Initiative Grant, and an Individual Artists Program Grant from the City of Chicago. Ruben holds a BFA from Southern Methodist University.

About Eisemann Edge Initiative

OutLoud is the 2024 recipient of the Eisemann Edge Initiative grant and was awarded \$100,000 for the development and premiere of "See Me". The Eisemann Edge Initiative at Communities Foundation of Texas ("Eisemann Edge") uplifts nonprofits and projects that explore the intersection of technology with performing and visual arts. Launched in 2019 through support from Charles and the late Ann Eisemann, the Eisemann Edge encourages the growth of tech-based arts internationally. In 2022, CFT began partnering with the Eisemanns to manage and support its grantmaking process.

About the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts:

The Eisemann Center, a City of Richardson facility, is a hub for arts and culture dedicated to presenting exceptional and innovative artistic experiences. Dubbed *The Crown Jewel of North Texas*, the center hosts a diverse range of performances, exhibitions, and educational programs aiming to enrich the entire North Texas region through artistic expression. The Eisemann Center is in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. The Eisemann Center is easily accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/ Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit going south or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park.