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**COEURAGE THEATRE COMPANY**  
**LA'S PAY WHAT YOU WANT THEATRE COMPANY**  
**PRESENTS**

**A LOS ANGELES PREMIERE**

**SAMSARA**

**BY LAUREN YEE**

**DIRECTED BY REBECCA WEAR**

**OPENS SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
**AT THE MET THEATRE IN HOLLYWOOD**

**Coeurage Theatre Company, LA's Pay What You Want theatre company, has announced the first production of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season, the Los Angeles premiere of *Samsara* by Lauren Yee, directed by Rebecca Wear. There will be one preview performance on Friday, May 10, at 8:30pm, and opening is set for Saturday, May 11, at 8:30pm. *Samsara* will play through June 1 at the Met Theatre in Los Angeles.**

The cast will feature (in alphabetical order) **Aarón Alonso, Joe Calarco, Nardeep Khurmi, Katie Pelensky, and Pooja Shah**. Alternate cast members are (in alphabetical order) **Delia Baseman, Zach Brown, Pranshu Mishra, and Andy Stokan**. Scenic design is by **Amanda Knehans**, lighting design is by **Matt Johns**, costume design is by **Vicki Conrad**, and sound design is by **Dean Harada**. The assistant director is **Josie Osegueda**, and **Jhani Randhawa** serves as dramaturg. Prop designer is **Jer Adrienne Lelliott** and the production stage managers are **Courtney Rhodes** and **Edward Khris Fernandez**.

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# **SAMSARA**

## **COEURAGE THEATRE COMPANY**

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In **Samsara**, Katie and Craig are having a baby—via a surrogate—who lives in India. A month before the baby’s due date, Craig reluctantly travels to the subcontinent where he meets Suraiya, their young, less-than-thrilled surrogate. As all three parents anxiously await the baby’s birth, flights of fancy attack them from all sides. Of *Samsara*, the Chicago Tribune said, “Genuinely moving ... with a laudable awareness of how we sometimes only get one shot at happiness of escape.”

**Lauren Yee** was born and raised in San Francisco and currently resides in New York City. Her plays include *Cambodian Rock Band*, *The Great Leap*, *The Song of Summer*, *King of the Yees*, *Ching Chong Chinaman*, *The Hatmaker’s Wife*, *Hookman*, *In a Word*, and *The Tiger Among Us*. She was a Dramatists Guild fellow, a MacDowell fellow, a MAP Fund grantee, a member of The Public Theater’s Emerging Writers Group, a Time Warner Fellow at the Women’s Project Playwrights Lab, the Shank playwright-in-residence at Second Stage Theatre, a Playwrights’ Center Core Writer, and the Page One resident playwright at Playwrights Realm. She is the winner of the Horton Foote Prize, Kesselring Prize, and Francesca Primus Prize. She has been a finalist for the Edward M. Kennedy Prize, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, ATCA/Steinberg Award, Jerome Fellowship, PONY Fellowship, Princess Grace Award, Sundance Theatre Lab, and the Wasserstein Prize.

**Rebecca Wear’s** previous directing credits include *If the Saints*, *Obedient Steel*, *I Run with You*, and several site-specific pieces. She served as associate director on the world premiere of Lynn Nottage’s *Sweat* and has assisted Kate Whoriskey, Lindsay Allbaugh, and Diane Rodriguez. She is a resident director with HERO Theatre and was previously an associate artist at The Orchard Project.

**Coeurage Theatre Company** exists to make impassioned theatre accessible for all audiences through **Pay What You Want** admission and fresh, challenging productions. The company’s name is inspired by a re-imagining of the word courage — *coeur* is French for heart, and *rage*, meaning fervor; on fire. Together, *Coeurage* (pronounced “courage”) is a heart enflamed with passion, which the company strives to bring to every production.

The regular running schedule is Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8:30pm through June 1. There will be additional performances on Sunday 5/19, at 7pm and Tuesday 5/28, at 8:30pm, and a special performance featuring the alternate cast on Tuesday 5/21, at 8:30pm. All seats are available on a **Pay What You Want** basis and may be reserved online at [www.coeurage.org/buytickets](http://www.coeurage.org/buytickets) or by calling (323) 944-2165. The Met Theatre is located at 1089 N. Oxford Avenue in LA, 90029.

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04/15/19

### **\*\*The Coeurage PAY WHAT YOU WANT Policy\*\***

Pay What You **Can** is based on a person’s ability to pay.

Pay What You **Want** is based on a patron’s desire.

It is a value placement as well as an economic decision, designed to eliminate cost as a factor in attending theatre. Each patron decides what a theatre experience is worth to him or her, and some decide it is worth more than they initially paid.

For that reason, the box office is kept open during intermission and after performances.