



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Jill Evans La Penna
SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations
jill@shoutchicago.com
312.533.9119

*Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials may be available upon request

**THE FACTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST SHOW OF THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON, MIKE OOI'S
CAPTAIN STEVE'S CARING KINGDOM,
OCTOBER 27 – DECEMBER 9**

Company Member Mike Ooi Writes and Directs the Production that Delves Behind the
Scenes into What Happens to the Land Frequented by a Popular Children's TV Show
Host When He's Not There

CHICAGO – The Factory Theater presents the first production of its 25th anniversary season, the world premiere of *Captain Steve's Caring Kingdom*, playing at the Factory Theater, 1623 W. Howard St., October 27 – December 9. The new play is both written and directed by Company Member **Mike Ooi**. Previews are Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. **Opening night is Friday, Nov. 3 at 8 p.m.** The regular run, November 3 – December 9, is Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for previews, \$18 for students and seniors and \$25 for general admission. Tickets may be purchased through the Box Office by calling 866.811.4111 or by visiting TheFactoryTheater.com.

Everyone is familiar with the host of a children's show visiting a land filled with talking animals and puppets. What happens when the host isn't around? Do the animals also go to jobs they hate? Are they struggling to save their relationships? Do they have issues they can't seem to fix? The Factory Theater takes a glimpse into the lives of the residents of Captain Steve's caring kingdom, in a new story not suitable for children.

The cast for *Captain Steve's Caring Kingdom* includes: Christy Arington (Shakes and Frankie), **Jennifer Betancourt** (Meowser and Ronnie), **Greg Caldwell** (Dr. Stork), **Blake Dalzin** (Squeals), **Brittany Ellis** (Ellie Phant), **Chris Hainsworth** (Beaky), **Dan Krall** (The Fattie/Donnie), **Topher Leon** (Busby), **Scott OKen** (OK Bear), **Michael Reyes** (Turv the Perv), **Sarah Scanlon** (Allamis Morrison), **Christopher M. Walsh** (Mookie/The King) and **Rebecca Wolfe** (Nellie Phant/Grimby).

Understudies include **Phil Claudnic**, **Morgan Gire**, **Lydie Hiller**, (U/S Allamis, Shakes/Frankie, Meowser/Ronnie), **Brian Kulaga**, **Andrew Rodriguez** (Dr. Stork, Busby), **Allie Romano** (Ellie Phant), **Anthony Tournis** (Beaky) and **Ashley Yates** (The Fattie/Donnie).

The production team for *Captain Steve's Caring Kingdom* includes: Mike Ooi, director and playwright; **Mandy Walsh**, assistant director; **Jeremy Hollis**, scenic designer; **Meghan Erxleben**, lighting designer; **Rachel Sypniewski**, costume designer; **Gary Nocco**, co-costume designer; **Caleb Awe**, assistant costume designer; **Chas Vrba**, sound designer; **Ann Sonnevile**, prop designer; **Jill Frederickson**, puppet designer; R&D Choreography: **Rick Gilbert** and **Victor Bayona**, violence design; **Monica M. Brown**, stage manager and **Timothy C. Amos**, production manager.

- more -

About Mike Ooi, playwright and director

For the Factory, Ooi directed *Street Justice:Condition Red* (2013) and wrote *Dating & Dragons* (2016). Ooi has also worked as an actor, stage manager, and in other aspects for Lifeline Theatre, AdventureStage, ETD, Strawdog, The House Theatre of Chicago, and The Hypocrites. TV credits include NBC's Chicago Fire. He is a proud company member of the Factory Theater and is represented by Paonessa Talent.

About The Factory Theater

For almost 25 years, The Factory has created its shows from scratch, doing exactly the kind of theater they wanted to do. From writing workshops to the closing night bash, Factory shows are a unique experience that fits its exacting standards: original, bold, and full-tilt. Its shameless ensemble is ambassadors of a good time, making certain that Chicago remains heartily entertained.

The Factory Theater presents the first production of its 25th anniversary season, the world premiere of *Captain Steve's Caring Kingdom*, playing at the Factory Theater, 1623 W. Howard St., October 27 – December 9. The new play is both written and directed by Company Member Mike Ooi. Previews are Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. Opening night is Friday, Nov. 3 at 8 p.m. The regular run, November 3 – December 9, is Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for previews, \$18 for students and seniors and \$25 for general admission. Tickets may be purchased through the Box Office by calling 866.811.4111 or by visiting TheFactoryTheater.com.

#