



**Media Contact:**

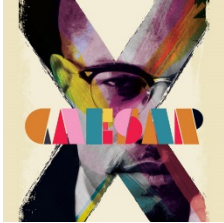
Casey Blake

480-644-6620

[casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com)

**The Acting Company to perform *Julius Caesar* and the world premiere of *X***

Collaboration brings events and education initiatives to audiences and students throughout the Valley



MESA, AZ (Jan. 10, 2017) – The Acting Company will kick off its 2017 season and 44<sup>th</sup> national tour with engagements in the Valley during the week of Jan. 31- Feb. 4. Two gripping dramas, Marcus Gardley's *X* and William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* will be performed as part of a unique collaboration with Arizona State University's Herberger School of Film, Dance and Theatre, Herberger Theater Center, Mesa Arts Center and The Acting Company.

Tickets are on sale now and are available at [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com) or by calling 480-644-6500.

The visitation of The Acting Company includes events taking place in multiple venues, reaching students, audiences and school/community groups. This is one of the first in a wave of collaborations between the university, theaters/producers and presenting organizations, which will offer The Acting Company opportunities to take risks in the development of new work and share in that process with students and community. "It's an exciting, innovative approach that embraces America's current cultural landscape and better serves the communities we visit on tour," The Acting Company's Executive Director Elisa Spencer-Kaplan said.

*X* is a new play by Marcus Gardley, directed by Ian Belknap about the assassination of Malcolm X. The story we think we know and illuminating details that have seldom been shared, is brought to vivid, lyrical life. Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* provides a framework to deepen our understanding of one of America's most complex, compelling historical figures and explore the tumultuous landscape of ideology and activism in the 1960s.

*Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, directed by Devin Brain, tackles essential questions about the balance of ambition, personal loyalty, and love of country, Shakespeare's timeless political masterpiece has never been more relevant. Through the story of Julius Caesar, a rising political star torn down by his most trusted allies, audiences witness the art of persuasion, the ugliness of back-room politics, and the historical patterns we can't stop repeating.

**Performance Details:**

Mesa Arts Center is located at One E. Main Street in downtown Mesa.

World Premiere of *X*, Feb. 2-3, 7:30 p.m., Mesa Arts Center

*Julius Caesar*, Feb. 4, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Mesa Arts Center

Tickets to the performances are \$25 and \$40 when tickets are purchased for both *Julius Caesar* and *X* and are available through the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at [MesaArtsCenter.com](http://MesaArtsCenter.com) or by calling 480-644-6500.

Herberger Theater Center is located at 222 East Monroe Street in Phoenix

*Julius Caesar*, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Herberger Theater Center

First look at *X*, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Herberger Theater Center

Tickets to the performances are \$25 and \$40 when tickets are purchased for both *Julius Caesar* and *X* and are available through the Herberger Theater Center Box Office at [HerbergerTheater.org](http://HerbergerTheater.org) or by calling 602-252-8497.

In addition to the public performances, both venues will present performances of the plays for area high school students. Teachers and school administrators who are interested in learning more about bringing their students to these events are encouraged to contact the respective venue.

###

### **ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER**

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).

### **ABOUT THE ACTING COMPANY**

Founded in 1972 by legendary producer/director/actor John Houseman and previous Producing Director Margot Harley with members of the first graduating class of Juilliard's Drama Division, The Acting Company is America's most honored touring repertory theatre. With 143 productions for more than 3 million people, The Acting Company brings live classical theatre to those who might otherwise never get an opportunity to gain an appreciation for it and have the transformative experience of attending live theatre.

### **ABOUT HERBERGER THEATER CENTER**

The Herberger Theater Center (HTC) is a 501(c)(3) Arizona non-profit organization that supports and fosters the growth of the arts in Phoenix as a premier performance venue, arts incubator and advocate. Opened in 1989 and fully renovated in 2010, the HTC is home to several Valley theater and dance companies; and offers three theater venues – Center Stage, Stage West and The Kax Stage, an art gallery and rentable event space for a variety of community uses. During the last 26 years, 3.7 million patrons have enjoyed more than 11,000 performances at HTC. Proceeds from annual fundraising benefit its Youth Outreach Programs – Arizona Young Artists' Competition, Theater Camp and Wolf Trap, designed to give Arizona children (ages 3-19) opportunities to excel, learn and heal through the arts. For more information, visit [HerbergerTheater.org](http://HerbergerTheater.org) or call 602-254-7399.