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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE**

**OBIE AWARD-WINNING**

**CHERRY LANE ALTERNATIVE**

**& MENTOR PROJECT**

**RETURNS AFTER 6 YEARS HIATUS**

**SUPPORTING PLAYWRIGHTS AND SMALL THEATER COMPANIES**

**THROUGH MULTIPLE PROGRAMS FOR 30 YEARS**

**KYRA SEDGWICK, GARRET DILLAHUNT,  
OWEN TEAGUE, & DAVID ZAYAS TO STAR**

**IN READING OF**

**“THE DEMAND OF AVARICE”**

**WRITTEN BY MATTHEW MCLACHLAN**

**DIRECTED BY DAVID ZAYAS JR.**

**MONDAY, APRIL 27 AT THE CLARK STUDIO THEATER AT LINCOLN CENTER**

**New York, NY** (April 16, 2026) – **Cherry Lane Alternative**, the non-profit creative development organization, relaunches this month with a new iteration of works in progress and artist mentorships, following a six-year hiatus, under the new leadership of **Mary Geerlof** as Artistic Director. Founded in 1997 by Angelina Fiordellisi, Cherry Lane Alternative's mission is to support playwrights and small theater companies whose programs uplift emerging writers, enhancing our culture's literary landscape and, consequently, the future of American drama.

Cherry Lane Alternative separated from the Cherry Lane Theatre after the venue was acquired by the indie film studio A24, allowing the Alternative to continue its cultural development into the future. Cherry Lane Alternative's programming includes the Obie Award-winning Mentor Project, the Tongues reading series, and various programs and grants that support emerging artists and new works.

**Angelina Fiordellisi**, Founder and Board President of the Cherry Lane Alternative, said, “Our goal is to make sure talented writers get the right support at the right moment. We do this by putting the theater's greatest living practitioners in direct relationship with those who will carry the artform into the future – and then giving those new voices a stage.”

The Tongues reading series, named in honor of director Joseph Chaikin and playwright Sam Shepard's Cherry Lane play of the same name, relaunches with a staged reading of *The Demand of Avarice*, written by **Matthew McLachlan**, directed by **David Zayas Jr.**, and co-presented by **Clayton Howe** of Roxedge Entertainment. The reading will be held Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at The Clark Studio Theater at Lincoln Center (Samuel B. & David Rose Building, 165 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street). The cast stars Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winner **Kyra Sedgwick** (“The Closer”), **Owen Teague** (*Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*), **David Zayas** (“Dexter”), and Screen Actor Guild Award winner **Garret Dillahunt** (“Raising Hope,” *12 Years a Slave*). Casting is by **Caparelliotis**

**Casting / David Caparelliotis, CSA and Joe Gery.** The reading will be general managed by **Ampersand Theatrical Management**. A reception will follow the reading. In *The Demand of Avarice*, the world's three richest billionaires are kidnapped by a masked vigilante who demands a price their wealth cannot meet.

Cherry Lane Alternative is in development on ***Remember Me Remember*** by **Lisa Ramirez** and ***Esai's Table*** by **Nathan Yunkerberg**.

Cherry Lane Alternative's **Mentor Project** is the Obie-Award Winning legacy program dedicated to launching the next generation of American dramatists. Mentor Project engages leading playwrights in one-on-one mentoring relationships with early-career writers. Over the course of a season, mentors guide their writers through the challenging process of new play development—from readings, rewrites, and casting, through rehearsals and performance. The program culminates in fully-staged productions, following the core belief that there is no better teacher for a playwright than experiencing a play as it was intended: in living, luminous shape on stage, in the company of an audience.

Previous Cherry Lane Alternative mentor & mentee pairings have included: Lina Patel & David Henry Hwang, Jocelyn Bioh & Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Nathan Yunkerberg & Stephen Adly Guirgis, Antoinette Nwandu & Katori Hall, C.A. Johnson & Martyna Majok, Kate Cortesi & Anne Washburn, Rajiv Joseph & Theresa Rebeck, Jen Silverman & Lynn Nottage, and Bridgette Wimberly & Wendy Wasserstein. For a complete list of past Cherry Lane Alternative mentor/mentee pairings, please visit [clalt.org](http://clalt.org).

Cherry Lane Alternative's Board is comprised of Angelina Fiordellisi, Margarida De Brito, Mary Vetri, Serafina Lawrence, Mary Geerlof, and Nicolette Norton. The Advisory Board is comprised of Carolyn Rossi Copeland, Joyce DeNicola-Friedman, Jamie deRoy, David Henry Hwang, Rajiv Joseph, Harry King, Patti LuPone, Denise O'Connor, Lisa Ramirez, Rotem Reshef, Robin Rothstein, Sam Rudy, Jack Serio, Hannah Shepard, Matt Williams, and Nathan Yunkerberg. The Honorary In-Memoriam Board is comprised of Edward Albee, Billie Allen, Ruby Dee, A. R. Gurney, Bridgette Wimberly, Carol Levine, and José Quintero.

For more information, please visit [clalt.org](http://clalt.org).

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