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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 8, 2022

**Tacoma Arts Live's Professional Regional Theater Production**  
**GROUNDING – Powerful Show Speaks to Female Service Members**  
**in Pierce County, Home to 86,000 Veterans**  
**Eight Shows at Theatre on the Square – February 17 – March 6**

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**SPONSORS:** [ARTSFund](#), [National Endowment for the Arts](#), [Tacoma Creates](#), [Theater Angels](#), [Washington State Arts Commission](#), and [Wells Fargo](#)

**TACOMA, WASH.—** Tacoma Arts Live's Regional Theater Program's production's powerful one-woman show speaks to female service members in Pierce County, which is home to 86,000 Veterans. **GROUNDING** by George Brant will open for a preview night on Thursday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m., plus seven additional performances between February 18 – March 6 at Tacoma's Theater on the Square. This play is an example of theater which can be moving, edgy, and thought-provoking, while maintaining a safe and supportive environment. Tickets start at \$19 and are on sale now.

**GROUNDING** seamlessly blends the personal and the professional in the story of a female Air Force pilot whose career in the sky ends after she becomes pregnant with her first child. When she returns to active duty, she is reassigned to operate military drones from a windowless trailer outside Las Vegas and she must learn to navigate the intersection of wartime and home life. By day she hunts terrorists and then returns to her family each night. As the pressure to track a high-profile target mounts, the boundaries begin to blur between the desert in which she lives and the one she patrols half a world away. A tour de force one-woman play, **GROUNDING** soars from the heights of lyricism to the shallows of workaday existence, targeting our assumptions about war and family through the power of storytelling.

**GROUNDING** will be performed by Samantha Chung in her acting debut with Tacoma Arts Live on the cusp of Black History and Women's History Months. She is a graduate of the Guildford School of Acting, University of Surrey, an actor, and theatre maker with a current focus on learning more about anti-racist and trauma-informed artistic practices. Chung is the founder and visionary behind [empathos company](#), an independent theatre company based in Tacoma. Chung's anti-racist ethos is to center historically excluded people, specifically Global Majority folk, with projects that dismantle what has been the accepted narrative of the United States.

The Pacific Northwest professional cast and crew includes:

**ARTISTIC TEAM:**

Samantha Chung (she/her), *Pilot*

Brett Carr, Director

Eric Clausell, Associate Director

Serena Berry, Stage Manager

Monique Otter-Johnson, Assistant Stage Manager

Jeanette Sanchez-Izenman, Intimacy Choreographer

**PRODUCTION TEAM:**

Lex Marcos, Scenic Design

Matthew Lawrence, Lighting and Visual Design

Ryan Coleman, Sound Design

Kim Izenman, Charge Artist

Chris Berryman, Lead Carpenter

**TACOMA ARTS LIVE TEAM:**

Amanda Rae, Company Manager

Nick Shellman, Assistant Director of Operations

Brett Carr, Co-Producing Artistic Director

David Fischer, Co-Producing Artistic Director

**GROUNDING** won the National New Play Network's 2012 Smith Prize, which honors a new play on American politics and also a Fringe First award at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



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George Brant is a native of Illinois and a graduate of Northwestern University. His plays include *Grounded*, *Elephant's Graveyard*, *Marie and Rosetta*, *Grizzly Mama*, *Good on Paper*, *The Mourners' Bench*, *Salvage*, *Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile*, *Any Other Name*, *Defiant*, *Dark Room*, *Miracle: A Tragedy*, *Ashes*, *NOK*, *The Lonesome Hoboes*, *All Talk*, *One Hand Clapping*, *The Royal Historian of Oz*, *Lovely Letters*, *Three Men in a Boat*, *Borglum! The Mount Rushmore Musical*, *Tights on a Wire* and *Night of the Mime*.

Tacoma Arts Live's Professional Regional Theater Program intends to produce a season of great plays with a conscience, engage empathy, challenge complacency, and inspire audiences to live in thoughtful inquiry. Each play is carefully chosen with the support of the [Theater Angels](#) and Theater Cohorts group.

Tickets to **GROUND**ED are \$19, \$29, and \$39 and are on sale now. To purchase tickets, call Tacoma Arts Live Box Office at 253.346.1721, visit in person at Tacoma Armory – 1001 S Yakima Ave., or online at [www.TacomaArtsLive.org](http://www.TacomaArtsLive.org).

**More information:** [GROUND](#)ED | [Regional Theater Productions](#) | [Theater Angels](#)

**GROUND**ED is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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Tacoma Arts Live's mission is to energize the community through live performance. Founded in 1979, Tacoma Arts Live is a non-profit organization recognized for leadership in presenting world-class performing artists and providing one of the largest arts access and education programs in Washington State. Learn more at [TacomaArtsLive.org](http://TacomaArtsLive.org).

Tacoma Arts Live gratefully acknowledges the following Sponsors for support of the 2021-22 Season: [ArtsFund](#), [Arts WA](#), [Boeing](#), [The Forest Foundation](#), [Graduate! Tacoma](#), [KNKX](#), [Mary Bridge Children's - Multicare](#), [Tacoma Creates](#), [The News Tribune](#), [National Endowment for the Arts](#), [Pierce County](#), [Safeco Insurance Foundation](#), [US Bank](#), [Virginia Mason Franciscan Health](#), [The Washington State Arts Commission](#), and [Wells Fargo Foundation](#)