



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: nouf saleh

[nouf@mixedblood.com](mailto:nouf@mixedblood.com)

612-451-4466

**The Mixed Blood Theatre Presents  
The World Premiere of  
IMAGINE A U.S. WITHOUT RACISM  
APRIL 13 – MAY 1, 2022**

**\*\*A world premiere commission written and directed by Seema Sueko,  
inspired by interviews with over 100 people across the U.S.\*\***

**\*\*The culminating project of Jack Reuler's tenure as Artistic Director of Mixed Blood\*\***

(Minneapolis, MN) Mixed Blood Theatre announces the world premiere of *imagine a u.s. without racism*, a play commissioned by Mixed Blood, written and directed by Seema Sueko, April 13 – May 1, 2022.

Seven individuals find themselves in a strange, remedial class with an inexorable teacher intent on provoking their imaginations. Comic and somber, foolish and hopeful, the class clashes their way into something unexpected. Drawn from interviews with real-life people across the United States, this play-with-an-ulterior-motive transforms the impossible into the plausible.

*imagine a u.s. without racism* will be the final production produced by Jack Reuler in his capacity of Artistic Director of Mixed Blood, the theater he founded in 1976.

"When Mixed Blood began, I proclaimed that Mixed Blood would be ultimately successful when it is no longer necessary. As a 22 year old idealist that 'success' meant eliminating the isms that plague society, led by racism. Seema Sueko's passion to 'transform the impossible to seem plausible' is just the right punctuation for my career, for Mixed Blood at this moment in time, and facilitating the dreams of others has been my most rewarding work."

The commission began with an email from Reuler to Sueko on April 30, 2021: "If you could do one theatrical thing that provided the right platform to say what you have to say politically and artistically, what would it be, and can you do it at Mixed Blood before I go?"

Sueko embarked on a nationwide journey through Zoom windows and cell phones, interviewing over 100 people across the U.S., at least two from each state, with the prompt, "imagine a u.s. without racism." The result is this 90-minute theatrical event, populated by characters reflecting the disparate peoples of this country.



---

The creative team includes Karin Olson (lighting), Joseph Stanley (scenic), Scott Edwards (sound), Kim Ford (props), and Zahra Jangbar (costumes).

imagine a u.s. without racism previews April 8-10, and opens April 13 with performances through May 1. It is 90 minutes in length, no intermission.

All performances are in Mixed Blood's Alan Page Auditorium, 1501 South Fourth Street on the West Bank in Minneapolis. Practicing Radical Hospitality, admission is without cost, but reservations at [www.mixedblood.com](http://www.mixedblood.com) are recommended.

Audio description is available for all performances after previews. ASL interpretation is available April 21. Those self-identifying as a person with disability may get free transportation to and from the theatre by contacting [boxoffice@mixedblood.com](mailto:boxoffice@mixedblood.com).

All audience members must be vaccinated or have evidence of a negative test within the past 48 hours. Masks are required throughout the entire experience.

### **Cast**

Warren C. Bowles\* - HARRISON  
Michelle Barber\* - SALLY  
Jayce Hanson - BIRCH  
Kurt Kwan\* - KENJI  
Jiavani Linayao - KHADIJA  
Pat O'Brien\* - LAWRENCE  
Faye Price\* - DEE  
Lisa Suarez - YUNIA

*\*Member of Actors' Equity Association*

### **Performance Times**

Friday, April 8	7:30PM preview	Thursday, April 21	7:30PM
Saturday, April 9	7:30PM preview	Friday, April 22	7:30PM ASL
Sunday, April 10	2:00PM preview	Saturday, April 23	7:30PM
Wednesday, April 13	7:30PM opening	Sunday, April 24	2:00PM
Thursday, April 14,	7:30PM	Wednesday, April 27	7:30PM
Friday, April 15	7:30PM	Thursday, April 28	2:00PM DeafBlind
Saturday, April 16	7:30PM	Thursday, April 28	7:30PM
Sunday, April 17	2:00PM	Friday, April 29	7:30PM
Wednesday, April 20	7:30PM	Saturday, April 30	7:30PM
		Sunday, May 1	2:00PM closing

## **Biographies**

**Seema Sueko (Playwright and Director)** is a theater artist from Honolulu, now based in Washington, D.C., who directs stage, digital, consensus organizing, and R&D projects for theaters, think tanks and community organizations. Her previous commissions from Mixed Blood Theatre include *Messy Utopia* (Ivey Award) and *Hijab Tube*. Previous arts leadership positions include Deputy Artistic Director of Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., Associate Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, and Co-Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company. Some of her most recent projects include: directing *Hold These Truths* by Jeanne Sakata and *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* by Ken Ludwig in rotating repertory at Virginia Stage Company; co-creating and directing [Germantown Plays Pericles](#), an original, large-scale, outdoor artistic fair and performance with the community of Germantown, Philadelphia; and creating, in the early months of the 2020 global pandemic, the [Arena Stage Theater Artists Marketplace](#), a socially-distant way to connect artists with audiences and generate income for artists. Her other R&D work include developing the Green Theater Choices Toolkit; adapting Mike Eichler's Consensus Organizing methodology to theater; and testing, in collaboration with researchers from University of California San Diego, whether theater builds empathy, compassion, and well-being in older adults. Their research findings were published [here](#). Seema earned her M.A. in International Relations from the University of Chicago. She serves on the boards of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and the SDC Foundation. You may find more info at [www.seemasueko.com](http://www.seemasueko.com).

**Jack Reuler** has led the Mixed Blood Theatre since its 1976 inception, using theatre to disrupt injustice, advance equity, and build community. He has produced and directed 151 world premieres and scores of comedies, musicals, extravaganzas, and chamber theatre pieces in regional theaters, commercial theater, university theaters, summer stock theaters, and theaters for young audiences. Theatre Communications Group presented Jack with its Peter Zeisler Award, for "exemplifying pioneering practices in theatre, dedication to the freedom of expression, and for being unafraid to take risks in the advancement of the art form." Jack has received the Ordway's *Sally Award* for Vision, Actors' Equity's *Spirit Award*, and the St. Paul Foundation named him a *Facing Race Ambassador*. He was presented with the Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement and was named a *Local Legend* by the United Negro College Fund. In New York, he was presented with the Met Life *Access Award* on behalf of Mixed Blood for the theatre's disability initiatives. Jack was named to Esquire magazine's first "Register of People Under Forty Who Are Changing America." He has also received Actors' Equity's first *Rosetta LeNoire Award* for "celebrating the universality of the human experience on the American stage," Macalester College's *Distinguished Citizen Award*, The City's *Minneapolis Award*, and Minneapolis Community College's *Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award*. Twin Cities Business named Jack a 2021 person to watch as a change agent. He is a founding member and former president of the National New Play Network.