

# WATER BY THE SPOONFUL

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Daniel José Molina (Elliot Ortiz)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm drawn to *Water by the Spoonful* because it both delves into contemporary issues such as the complexity of online relationships, cyber chatroom communities, PTSD and addiction, and is at its heart about connection. I am moved by how the play reveals the many subtle ways people soothe themselves, how they find escape from their quietly desperate lives and how they deny the truth to keep it from affecting their cherished coping mechanisms. We get to know people living in near-isolation reaching out to one another despite the odds of making true connections in our heavily managed and often disconnected lives. And we learn how social media creates a sense of intimacy and immediacy but also almost ensures a kind of remove from the actual intimacy of in-person contact. Yet people cling to these thin threads of hope and possibility in an effort to heal, either through the cyberworld of rehab or the spirit world of redemption.

At its base, *Water* examines the effect of trauma in families, often entering in the form of violence precipitated by the effects of war. This is a strong thread—from World

War I shell shock to today's PTSD. It has had a long history in human culture and is now perhaps a part of our DNA. But are we destined to follow that path like lemmings off a cliff? How do we prevent the sins of the mother from being visited upon the son? In *Water by the Spoonful*, the family becomes the piece that stands in for the whole of American society in all its striving, trauma and addiction. The play attempts to uncover what price this triumvirate exacts from the individual, the family and the society as well as the resilience it fosters.

—SHISHIR KURUP



To learn more about this play, scan here ▶

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