FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 13 December, 2018) Humanities West, in partnership with the Stanford Humanities Center, presents Democracy Then & Now: From Ancient Greece to This Week, a special Saturday evening program of lectures, discussions and performance exploring the ideas and realities of democracy through the ages. Democracy Then & Now takes place on Saturday, February 2, from 7:30pm to 10:00pm, at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco. Tickets are $80 orchestra and $55 balcony; individual teacher and student balcony tickets are $25. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger; inquire at info@humanitieswest.org.

Humanities West teams up with Stanford Humanities Center to present a unique lecture-performance event Democracy Then & Now: From Ancient Greece to This Week. Noted Stanford Classics professors Josiah Ober and Caroline Winterer will engage in a wide ranging discussion covering the ancient principles of democracy, oligarchy, and dictatorship; the Roman Republic experiment and its failure of Empire; the implications of Ancient Greece and Rome for American intellectual life and its representative democracy; on the contemporary relevance of ancient Greek political thought and practice; on inequality in democratic societies; and more! The discussion is moderated by Tyler Stovall (History, Dean of Humanities at UCSC).
The program is complemented by a performance of Stanford Repertory Theatre’s *Democratically Speaking* introduced by Rush Rehm (*Theater and Classics, Stanford*). *Democratically Speaking* explores “democracy”, from ancient Greece forward, with speeches, writings, and rubrics about democracy across 2,500 years. This staged reading with Gianna Clark, Thomas Freeland, and Gabriella Grier features a timely exploration of “people power” (the root meaning of demos + kratos), a compelling and relevant challenge for modern times.

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**About Humanities West**

Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West Explores History and Celebrates the Arts through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

Each season Humanities West presents a number of programs in which leading scholars and artists present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco’s Marines’ Memorial Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Mechanics’ Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics.

**About Stanford Humanities Center**

The Stanford Humanities Center is a world-renowned hub for advanced research, inspiring the work of innovative scholars and students at all stages in their academic careers. Each year the Center welcomes nearly 50 fellows and international visitors, hosts over 100 research workshops, and presents over 50 public events as part of an on-going project to investigate some of the most important questions facing humanity today.

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**CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/MUSIC**

**WHAT: Democracy Then & Now: From Ancient Greece to This Week**

Humanities West and Stanford Humanities Center present *Democracy Then & Now: From Ancient Greece to This Week* a unique lecture-performance event exploring the ideas and realities of democracy through the ages. The program features a wide ranging discussion with Stanford Classics professors Josiah Ober and Caroline Winterer, and a performance of Stanford Repertory Theatre’s *Democratically Speaking* introduced by professor of Theater and Classics at Stanford Rush Rehm.

**WHEN:** 7:30pm, Saturday, February 2, 2019

**WHERE:** Marines’ Memorial Theatre

609 Sutter Street, San Francisco

**TICKETS:** $25 - $80

Tickets are available through City Box Office at 415-392-4400 or online at [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)

Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

**PUBLIC INFO:** 415/391-9700 or [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org)