

**KIRK DOUGLAS
THEATRE**
2015/16 SEASON

FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

The Object Lesson

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY

Geoff Sobelle

DIRECTED BY

David Neumann

WEST COAST PREMIERE

SEP 4 – OCT 4, 2015

DOUGLASPLUS SPECIAL EVENT

**Kansas City
Choir Boy**

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

Todd Almond

PERFORMED BY

Todd Almond and Courtney Love

DIRECTED BY

Kevin Newbury

WEST COAST PREMIERE

OCT 15 – NOV 8, 2015

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION

Straight White Men

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

Young Jean Lee

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH

the Center for the Art of

Performance at UCLA

WEST COAST PREMIERE

NOV 20 – DEC 20, 2015

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

**Women Laughing
Alone With Salad**

BY

Sheila Callaghan

DIRECTED BY

Neel Keller

WEST COAST PREMIERE

MAR 6 – APR 3, 2016

FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

Endgame

BY

Samuel Beckett

DIRECTED BY

Alan Mandell

APR 24 – MAY 22, 2016



**THE
OBJECT
LESSON**



Center Theatre Group
L.A.'s Theatre Company

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THE OBJECT LESSON

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY

Geoff Sobelle

SCENIC
INSTALLATION DESIGN

Steven Dufala

LIGHTING DESIGN

Christopher Kuhl

SOUND DESIGN

Nick Kourtides

CTG ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kelley Kirkpatrick

PRODUCED BY

Jecca Barry

DIRECTED BY

David Neumann

The Object Lesson is performed without an intermission.

SEPTEMBER 4 – OCTOBER 4, 2015
KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

OH HELLO THERE.

Didn't see you reading this – sorry to interrupt!

Just wanted to welcome you to this place. (Wherever you are – welcome.)

It's really lovely to have you here. All of this has been waiting for you! If you are sitting in this room, and waiting for the show to begin – please know: there is no waiting. This thing has already begun. So – go enjoy yourself. Take a box and open it. Explore. Find someone curious in the room and give them something – like that guy over there. The one with the funny hair. Or the girl who looks a bit tired. You could ask them what they're looking at – just tell them you were told to do so by this piece of paper. Don't be creepy about it.

As the next hour unfolds in whatever way that it will, feel free to move around wherever you'd like. Sit, stand, lie down...it doesn't really matter. Just be mindful of the people around you. (Actually, this is a good way to meet people. I might suggest deliberately standing in front of someone that you fancy, then turning around to say, "Oh sorry – am I in your way? ...would you like me to be?" No – don't say that. That was a joke. Just be mindful.)

Perhaps you're NOT reading this in the little room. Maybe you've saved it for later and are reading it after the show. And as you read this line, maybe you're thinking of the things in your house, in your room, in the one room that you left and will never go back to...and of the things that made up that room – and what happened to all of that stuff..

Or maybe you're reading this miles from here, and a long time from now. From then. Do you remember any of it? Who would? Maybe this is at the bottom of your bag, and you've just dug it up. And you should probably get rid of it. Whenever it is – throw this thing away. Or maybe keep it. Keep it as something to remember this by. No – get rid of it. Or maybe – use it in some clever way. That's certainly more conscientious. Actually it's ridiculous. Just chuck it. It's trash, and it will be out of your hands at least – this thing. This thing that is in your hands now. This thing that is yours now. Your property. Not trash – your property. It wasn't – but now it is. It's all yours. What will you do with it all?

DO YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED?

DO YOU NEED WHAT YOU HAVE?



WHO'S WHO

GEOFF SOBELLE (*Creator/Performer*) is a theatre artist dedicated to the “sublime ridiculous.” He is the co-artistic director of rainpan 43, a renegade absurdist outfit devoted to creating original actor-driven performance works. Using illusion, film and outdated mechanics, R43 creates surreal, poetic pieces that look for humanity where you least expect it and find grace where no one is looking. R43’s shows include *all wear bowlers* (Innovative Theatre Award, Drama Desk nomination), *Amnesia Curiosa, machines machines machines machines machines machines machines* (Obie Award – design), and *Elephant Room* (commissioned by Center Theatre Group). His independent work includes *Flesh and Blood & Fish and Fowl* and *The Object Lesson* (commissioned by Lincoln Center 3). He has been a company member of Philadelphia’s Pig Iron Theatre Company since 2001. All of his work to date has premiered at the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival before touring nationally and internationally. As a teacher, Geoff has led workshops all over the world in devised theatre creation, physical approach to character, clown and “jeu.” He is a core teacher at the Pig Iron School in Philadelphia (APT) and is on the faculty at Bard College. His work has been supported by the Independence Foundation, the Philadelphia Theatre Initiative, the Wyncote Foundation, USArts International, the Princeton Atelier, the MAP Fund and the New England Foundation for the Arts. He is a 2006 Pew Fellow and is a 2009 Creative Capital grantee. He is a graduate of Stanford University, and trained in physical theatre at École Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France. www.geoffsobelle.com.

DAVID NEUMANN (*Director*) is a director, choreographer, dancer and actor. He studied theatre at SUNY Purchase and danced with several choreographers including Doug Elkins, Jane Comfort, Sally Silvers and Doug Varone. As his work expanded into theatre, opera and film, he worked with artists including Hal Hartley, Laurie Anderson, Peter Sellars, Lee Breuer, JoAnne Akalaitis, and Robert Woodruff. Neumann founded his own company, the Advanced Beginner Group in 2001, with work presented at PS122, New York Live Arts, Central Park SummerStage, Celebrate Brooklyn, Symphony Space and The Kitchen. Neumann and company have been honored with four Bessie Awards, a 2009 Creative Capital Grant, a 2011 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award for Dance and a 2014 NDP Production Grant from New England Foundation for the Arts for his latest work *I Understand Everything Better*, which premiered at Abrons Arts Center last April.

STEVEN DUFALA (*Scenic Installation Design*) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Philadelphia. While he works primarily in collaboration with his brother Billy, he also works on as many other projects in as many other fields as possible, being drawn in particular to works that explore overlapping concerns of various disciplines. He makes drawings, clothes, furniture, prints, music, sculpture, photos, books, and thinks an awful lot about what all these things have in common and what on earth people do with them. Steven has been working intermittently with dance and theatre as a designer for about 15 years, and over this time has worked with Pig Iron Theatre Company, BalletX, anonymous bodies, Geoff Sobelle and others. With his brother Billy, he received an Obie Award for design with rainpan 43’s *machines machines machines machines machines machines machines machines machines*. Steven and Billy co-teach sculpture at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and are represented by the Fleisher/Ollman gallery in Philadelphia. Their work is in the

collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the West Collection and many private collections.

CHRISTOPHER KUHL (*Lighting Design*) is a lighting, scenic, installation designer for new performance, theatre, dance and opera. Recent work includes *The Nether, Eclipsed, The Author, Next Stop Amazingland* and *Elephant Room* (Center Theatre Group), *Straight White Men* (Young Jean Lee’s Theater Company, The Public Theater, Centre Pompidou), *Holoscenes* (Early Morning Opera, Nuit Blanche Toronto), *ABACUS* (Early Morning Opera, REDCAT, BAM, Sundance Film Festival, EMPAC), *Dog Days* (LA Opera) and *John Cage Song Books* (SF Symphony, Carnegie Hall). He has also had the pleasure of working and making art at the Fusebox Festival, On the Boards, Kennedy Center, LA Opera, St. Ann’s Warehouse, Philly Live Arts, Arena Stage, MCA Chicago, The Chocolate Factory, The Kitchen, Jacob’s Pillow, Beijing Music Festival, KVS Belgium, MAC France, the Holland Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe. He has received two Ovation Awards, a Drammy and a Horton Award. In 2011 Kuhl received Center Theatre Group’s annual Richard E. Sherwood Award, and in 2014 Kuhl was awarded a Bessie Award for Outstanding Visual Design. He is originally from New Mexico, a graduate of CalArts and an associate artist of Hand2Mouth Theatre.

NICK KOURTIDES (*Sound Design*) designs for musical theatre and creates sound environments for collaborative ensemble works. Previously with Geoff Sobelle: *Elephant Room, Flesh and Blood & Fish and Fowl*. New York: *Sunset o639 Hours* (Joyce), *Object Lesson* (BAM Next Wave), *Elephant Room* (St. Ann’s), *Our Aeneid* (Red Bull), *Carson McCullers Talks About Love* (Rattlestick), Jomama Jones: *Radiate* (Soho Rep), *Chekhov Lizardbrain* (Under The Radar, Soho Think Tank). International: Lublin Konfrontacje Teatralne, Paris Quartier d’Ete, London Barbican, Edinburgh Fringe. Regional: McCarter Theatre, Wilma Theater, Center Theatre Group, Folger Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Prince Music Theater and many others. With Pig Iron Theatre Company: *Cankerblossom, Isabella, Chekhov Lizardbrain, Mission to Mercury*. Visiting instructor in sound design at Swarthmore College in 2010. www.nickkourtides.com.

JUSTIN ROSE (*Assistant Director*) is a Philadelphia based director and performer. Recent onstage credits include *Let the Dog See the Rabbit* (Lightning Rod Special), *Always Coming Soon: The Future* (Brat Productions), and 99 *BREAKUPS* (Pig Iron Theatre Company), The Douglas/Poins in *Henry IV* (Shakespeare in Clark Park and Team Sunshine), The Balladeer in *The West* (Alex Bechtel Producer/Director). Director for former Cirque du Soleil juggler Greg Kennedy’s *Theorem* (Philly Fringe). Consultant for *Leaps of Faith*, (Almanac Dance Circus Theatre). He was a cofounder and co-artistic director of The Candidatos, a two-man theatre company that performed their most popular show, *I’m Sorry & I’m Sorry*, at the New York Clown Theatre Festival, Dublin Fringe, St. Louis, Minneapolis and Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Pig Iron Theatre Company’s Advanced Performance Training Program.

STEVE CUIFFO (*Illusion Consultant*) creates unique performance, art, theatre and magic. He is an actor and magician who makes solo as well as collaborative works with other artists and theatre companies. His work incorporates aspects of sleight

of hand, misdirection, imitation and reenactment. Theatre credits include *Queen of the Night* (as Sarastro), *Elephant Room* (with Geoff Sobelle and Trey Lyford), *Spirit Wife* (with Eleanor Hutchins), *Steve Cuiffo IS Lenny Bruce AT "Carnegie Hall"* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *North Atlantic* (Wooster Group), *Next Stop Amazingland* (Center Theatre Group), *Digital Effects* (Off The Grid), *Hell Meets Henry Halfway* (Pig Iron Theatre), *Fluke* (Radiohole), *The Passion of the Crawford* (with Lypsinka), *Major Bang* (Foundry Theatre), *Patriot Act - A Public Meditation* (New York Theatre Workshop). Steve is a two-time Princeton University Atelier Artist recipient. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Conjuring Arts Research Center in New York.

DAVID PARKER (*Dance Choreographer*) is director of David Parker and the Bang Group, a New York rhythm-based theatrical dance troupe, and has toured widely throughout Europe and North America, and appeared at dozens of festivals, universities and performing arts centers. Awards: finalist in Fourth International Competition for Contemporary Choreographers (Groningen, the Netherlands), special citation from Kurt Jooss Awards jury (Essen, Germany), Notable Emerging Choreographer citation from Nijinsky Awards jury (Monaco) and a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award for design for collaboration with Dutch avant-garde designers Melanie Rozema and Jeroen Teunissen. On the boards of the Danspace Project and The Field, served on the "Bessie" Awards committee, curator and producer of a performance series at Manhattan's West End Theatre, where his company has been in residence since 2003. Guest Artist: most recently with Sara Rudner (*Dancing-on-View* at the ICA Boston), in Christopher Williams' *The Golden Legend*, Doug Elkins' *Fraulein Maria*, New York Theatre Ballet's *Cinderella* and with a variety of independent choreographers. Faculty: Juilliard since 2009, Alvin Ailey School since 1999, Barnard College since 2005.

JEFF LARSON (*Technical Director*) is a designer, director, curator and educator based in Brooklyn. Jeff designed video for Big Dance Theater's *Alan Smithee Directed This Play*, recently presented in the Next Wave Festival at the BAM Harvey. Jeff co-curates "everyone's favorite performance series" CATCH, a semi-nomadic, interdisciplinary, rough and ready, performance event (catchseries.org). This fall, he is a visiting faculty member at Bennington College.

JECCA BARRY (*Producer*) is an opera and theatre producer based in New York City. She is the General Manager of Beth Morrison Projects, an opera production company that commissions, develops and produces new opera-theatre and music-theatre works. Recent and upcoming productions include *The Object Lesson* (Edinburgh Festival, BAM, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto), *Dog Days* (LA Opera, Fort Worth Opera), *Song from the Uproar* (LA Opera), *Kansas City Choir Boy* (PROTOTYPE Festival, ART Boston, Center Theatre Group), *Real Enemies* (BAM, Stanford Live, Virginia Tech), *The Source* (BAM), *Collapse* (BAM, REDCAT, Operadagen Festival, Holland). Jecca holds degrees in contemporary flute performance from The Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester, UK) and New York University.

LISA MCGINN (*Tour Stage Manager*). Recent credits include *The Object Lesson* (BAM, Edinburgh, Philly Fringe Festival, LCT3), *Chimera* and *The Wholehearted* (Stein Holum Projects), *The Light Years* and *Jacuzzi* (The Debate Society), *Eager to Lose* and *Game Play* (Ars Nova), *Winners and Losers* (Soho Rep), *How to Build a Forest* (PearlDamour + Shawn Hall), *The Perfect Play* (Banana Bag and Bodice), *Forbidden Creative Virgin Whore* and *From the Spot Where We/You/I Stand (Stood)* (Miller Rothlein Dance), *You, My Mother* (Theatre of a Two-Headed Calf), *Baby Screams Miracle*

(Clubbed Thumb), PRELUDE Festival 2011 and 2012, *The Seagull* and *Ivanov* (Chekhov at Lake Lucille), *The Peripherals* and *Hot Lunch Apostles* (Talking Band), *Richard II...on Trapeze* (Matchbook Productions/Sonnet Rep). Regional credits include Trinity Repertory Company, Two River Theater Company, George Street Playhouse, Passage Theatre.

KIRSTEN PARKER (*Production Coordinator*). Center Theatre Group: *Chavez Ravine*, *Luna Gale*, *Race*, *Facing Our Truth*, *different words for the same thing*, *I'll Go On* (Gate Theatre production), *A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens!* (world premiere and re-loaded productions), *The Black Suits*, *Neva* (co-production, Center Theatre Group, South Coast Rep/La Jolla Playhouse), *The Nether*, *Jomama Jones: Radiate*, *The Massoud Project*. Off-Broadway: *Bones in the Basket* (The Araca Project), *Food and Fadwa* (New York Theatre Workshop, ASM). Regional: *Romeo and Juliet* (Northern Stage), *Romeo and Juliet* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *The Servant of Two Masters* (Yale Rep, ASM). Various New York credits, including NY Fringe Festival and Yale Rep Workshop. General Manager of the Ojai Playwrights Conference. Management Assistant at Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

FOR CENTER THEATRE GROUP

MICHAEL RITCHIE (*Artistic Director*) is in his 11th season as Center Theatre Group's Artistic Director, and has led over 190 productions to the Ahmanson, Taper and Douglas stages since his arrival in 2005. From 1996 to 2004 Michael was the Producer of the Williamstown Theatre Festival and prior to that he was a Production Stage Manager in NYC. At Center Theatre Group, he premiered six musicals that moved to Broadway – *The Drowsy Chaperone* (which won 13 Tony Award nominations), *Curtains* (eight Tony nominations) *13, 9 to 5: The Musical*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Leap of Faith*. He has produced 40 world premieres including the musicals *Minsky's*, *Venice* and *Sleeping Beauty Wakes*, and the plays *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (a Pulitzer Prize finalist that also moved to Broadway), *Water & Power* and *Yellow Face*, and he presented a broad range of plays and musicals ranging from *Dead End to The Black Rider* to *Edward Scissorhands* to blockbusters such as *God of Carnage*, *Mary Poppins*, *Jersey Boys* and *August: Osage County*. In addition, Michael inaugurated Center Theatre Group's Artistic Development Program, designed to foster the development and production of new work.

STEPHEN D. ROUNTREE (*Managing Director*) joined Center Theatre Group this year as its new Managing Director. He was previously the President and CEO of The Music Center (2002-2014) and held the position of CEO of the Los Angeles Opera concurrently from 2008-2012. Prior to The Music Center, Rountree served the J. Paul Getty Trust for 22 years, starting in 1980 as Deputy Director of the Getty Museum. In 1984, he was appointed Director of the Getty Center Building Program, with responsibility for managing all aspects of project development, design, and construction of the Getty Center in Los Angeles. In January 1998, he was named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Getty Trust. He currently serves as a Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Occidental College and is a trustee of The Ahmanson Foundation, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the Grand Park Foundation. He advises numerous non-profit institutions on matters relating to non-profit management and building programs. His involvement was critical to the building of Walt Disney Concert Hall at The Music Center, serving on the boards of the LA Phil and Walt Disney Concert Hall, Inc.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director*) is now in his 26th season at Center Theatre Group. Previously, he managed Broadway and touring productions including *Tru*, *Born Yesterday*, *The Gospel*

at *Colonus*, *Annie*, *A Chorus Line*, *Working*, *The Wiz and Legends!*, which premiered at the Ahmanson Theatre in 1986 and starred Mary Martin and Carol Channing. Doug is a member of the Achievement Hall of Fame of Chagrin Falls Schools in Ohio and a graduate of Albion College. He is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers. In May 2013 Doug received The Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

KELLEY KIRKPATRICK (*Associate Artistic Director*). Since arriving at Center Theatre Group in 2005, Kelley has produced over 50 productions at the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre, many of which have gone on to future lives on Broadway, off-Broadway and beyond. In addition to producing shows across Center Theatre Group's three stages, he has had the privilege of collaborating with numerous local and national artists to commission and develop new works.

NAUSICA STERGIOU (*General Manager, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre*) has worked professionally supporting artists in theatres of all shapes, sizes and locales including many seasons at Center Theatre Group as General Manager and, previously, as Audience Development Director. She oversees main stage productions at the Taper and Douglas, as well as new play commissions and developmental productions through Center Theatre Group's New Play Development. Nausica has taught at USC's School of Dramatic Arts, and advises and works with local not-for-profits including Daukayev Ballet Theatre and Hollywood Orchard. MFA, Yale School of Drama, and Outward Bound trekker.

GORDON DAVIDSON (*Founding Artistic Director*) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre – including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts and a Guggenheim fellowship. *The Kentucky Cycle* and *Angels in America* (Part One) won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (*Angels in America* won). In 1989 Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

The Object Lesson was commissioned by Lincoln Center Theater and was developed with support from The Map Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Wyncote Foundation, The Carol Tambor Foundation, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, an Independence Foundation Fellowship and the Philadelphia Live Arts Brewery (LAB) program.

Further development was supported by residencies at Abrons Art Center, The Orchard Project, the Space on Ryder Farm and at The Yard, a multi-disciplinary dance space in Martha's Vineyard.

The Object Lesson was the recipient of the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award, The Scotsman Fringe First Award, and the Total Theatre Award for Physical/Visual Theatre during its run at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2014.

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR *THE OBJECT LESSON*

Integrated Archive Designer Jamie Boyle
Specialty Props Designer Rachel McIntosh
Tour Stage Manager Lisa McGinn
Co-Assistant Directors Justin Rose, Jenn Kidwell
Illusion Consultant Steve Cuiffo
Choreographer David Parker/The Bang Group
Technical Director Jeff Larson
Production Coordinator Kirsten A. Parker

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CREDITS


The Object Lesson logo art by Chris Komuro. Three-panel exhibit for *The Object Lesson* on Washington Blvd. includes artwork by Katerina Barry. Costume support by Center Theatre Group Costume Shop. Production photos by Craig Schwartz.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Leonard Haas, Wolfgang Hoffmann, Jay Dunn, Trey Lyford, Orlando Pabotoy, Cori Olinghouse, Erik Sanko, Sophie Bortolussi, James Clotfelter, Emily Rea, Andrew Dawson, Andrew Simonet, Nichole Canuso, Daniel Serafini-Sauli, Shannon Murphy, Rachel Karpf, David White, Ari Edelson, Paige Evans, Paul Smithyman, Craig Peterson, Ian Guzzone, Jay Wegman, Aaron Rosenblum, Joe Melillo and Amy Cassello.

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