

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

FEATURING

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



INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

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More Opera and New Music

Kansas City Choir Boy

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

Todd Almond

FEATURING

Todd Almond AND **Courtney Love**

DIRECTED BY

Kevin Newbury

CHOREOGRAPHY

Sam Pinkleton

MUSIC DIRECTION

David Bloom

SET DESIGN

Victoria "Vita" Tzykun

COSTUME DESIGN

Paul Carey

LIGHTING DESIGN

D.M. Wood

VIDEO & PROJECTION DESIGN

Darrel Maloney

SOUND DESIGN

Brandon Wolcott

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN

David Bova

MS. LOVE'S "GODDESS" DRESS BY

Zac Posen

CTG ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kelley Kirkpatrick

STAGE MANAGER

Marisa Levy

SIRENS

**Kate Douglas, Angel Lin, Molly McAdoo, Barrie McLain, Angela Sclafani,
Sylver Wallace**

MUSICIANS

**Sarah Goldfeather (Violin), Josh Henderson (Violin), Sarah Elizabeth Haines (Viola),
Eric Allen (Cello), Rachel Iba (Violin Substitute)**

PRODUCED BY

Beth Morrison Projects

Kansas City Choir Boy is performed without an intermission.

This engagement of *Kansas City Choir Boy* is generously supported in part by **Joni and Miles Benickes, Diana Buckhantz/Vladimir and Araxia Buckhantz Foundation, Mara and Joseph Carieri, Kiki and David Gindler, David Goren, Jody and David Lippman, Bruce and Randy Ellen Ross, Eva and Marc Stern.**

Originally premiered at **PROTOTYPE Festival** in New York City, a co-production of **Beth Morrison Projects** and **HERE**. The *Kansas City Choir Boy* premiere was produced in association with **Dan Shaheen** and **Jamie deRoy**.

**OCTOBER 15 – NOVEMBER 8, 2015
KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE**

a note from the author

KANSAS CITY CHOIR BOY began as music written with unexpected parameters (I was stuck in a Kansas City hotel with only my laptop – no keyboard – and the Garage Band app). The lightning-bolt-of-inspiration hit when I saw, while writing, a story on the news about a local Kansas City girl who'd gone missing. The image of the girl instantly took me back in time to a moment a few years earlier when a young woman I had known, an actress named Sarah Fox, went missing; it wasn't until Sarah's face popped up on New York 1 News that day that any of us who knew her learned what had happened to her; she was murdered in Inwood Park by a still-unidentified stranger. I had just composed a musical version of *The Odyssey* for Sarah's class at Juilliard – in the production Sarah played Athena and she had that very special "thing" we speak of when we refer to people who seem to wear their destiny on the outside. I didn't know Sarah at all beyond rehearsals, but I thought she was a rare and wonderful talent, and I was sad (and shocked – one never actually knows the faces that show up on the news) when I saw her image on the television with the cold and impersonal birth-to-death dates imposed upon it. So this memory hit me while I was writing songs on my computer in this lonely hotel room in a Midwestern city that is quite vibrant but Midwestern nonetheless. I ended up crafting the songs to a story of two lovers in Kansas City, one, the man, named Kansas City Choir Boy and one, the woman, named Athena. The story is simple and borrows bits from my own experiences in the Midwest (I grew up in Nebraska). I felt that the music, for the most part, was finding itself in these rather crude Garage Band "tracks" I was creating – I'm not an electronic musician by any means, but something vital in the music exists in those files. So we've worked to thread those original tracks throughout the evening.

–Todd Almond

WHO'S WHO



TODD ALMOND (*Kansas City Choir Boy*; *Composer/Lyricist*) is a composer, lyricist and playwright. Todd's musical *Girlfriend* recently received an acclaimed run at Center Theatre Group/Kirk Douglas Theatre in Los Angeles following productions at Actors Theatre of Louisville and Berkeley Rep. Todd's

musical *Iowa*, a collaboration with playwright Jenny Schwartz, also recently received its world premiere at Playwrights Horizon. Todd composed, wrote and starred in an adaptation of *The Odyssey* at The Public Theater under Lear deBessonet's direction. Todd and Lear also worked together to adapt *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest* for The Public Theater, for which Todd also composed, wrote and starred.

KEVIN NEWBURY (*Director*) is a theatre, opera and film director. He has directed over a dozen world premieres including, in 2015, *Kansas City Choir Boy* (Prototype Festival), *Oscar* (Opera Philadelphia) and *The*



Manchurian Candidate (Minnesota Opera). His work has also been seen at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Barcelona Liceu, Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Bard SummerScape, Glimmerglass Opera and others. Upcoming new

productions include the world premieres of *Bel Canto* for Lyric Opera of Chicago and *The Good Swimmer* at the Prototype Festival.

SAM PINKLETON (*Choreographer*) is a New York City-based director and choreographer. His recent work includes the world premiere of *Amélie* (Berkeley Rep), *Machinal* (Broadway/Roundabout), *Pretty Filthy* (The Civilians), *Kansas City Choir Boy* (Prototype Festival), *Natasha*, *Pierre*, and *the Great Comet of 1812* (Kazino, upcoming at ART), *Heisenberg* (MTC), *Mr. Burns*, *A Post-Electric Play*, *Fly By Night*, *Stage Kiss* (Playwrights Horizons) and *Buyer & Cellar* (Barrow Street/tour).

Upcoming: *Illuminations* (BAM), *The Good Swimmer* (Prototype Festival). Sam teaches *Bustin' Moves* at NYU. www.sampinkleton.com.

DAVID BLOOM (*Music Director*) is Founding Co-Artistic Director of Contemporaneous, a New York-based ensemble of 21 musicians dedicated to performing the most exciting music of the present moment. David has conducted over 120 world premieres at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and (le) poisson rouge and worked with artists and ensembles as diverse as David Byrne, Donnacha Dennehy, NOW Ensemble and Dawn Upshaw. David is a conductor for Face the Music and Special Music School High School and, along with Contemporaneous, he is in residence at his alma mater, Bard College.



COURTNEY LOVE (*Athena*). Film: *The People vs. Larry Flynt* (Golden Globe nomination; Best Supporting Actress Award from New York Film Critics Circle and the Boston Society of Film Critics), *Man on the Moon*, *Trapped*, *Julie Johnson*, *200 Cigarettes*, *Sid and Nancy*, *Straight to Hell*. Television: *Sons of*

Anarchy, *Lee Daniels' Empire*. Albums: *Live Through This* (multi-platinum), *Pretty on the Inside*, *Celebrity Skin* (multi-platinum), *Nobody's Daughter*, *America's Sweetheart*.

KATE DOUGLAS (*Siren*) is an NYC-based performer, songwriter and theatre artist. Recent credits include her genre-defying piece *The Imaginary Menagerie* (Joe's Pub, Ars Nova, The McKittrick Hotel). Her EP *The Blue House* is available on Bandcamp now. She is an associate artist and performer at Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More*.

ANGEL LIN (*Siren*) is a recent graduate of NYU Tisch and a frequent performer-deviser in several music projects headed by Tony-nominated Liz Swados, including *The Stinky Cheese Man* (Atlantic Theater Company) and *The NYU Reality Show* (Madison Square Garden). Angel is also a voiceover artist. www.angeldoesthings.com.

MOLLY McADOO (*Siren*) is an actor/singer-songwriter/theatre maker. She has performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Most recently, Molly helped to create *what's this called, this spirit?* with the band scouts for the ANT Fest at Ars Nova.

BARRIE McLAIN (*Siren*) is an NYC performing artist. Recent Work: *Julie Klausner* at Joe's Pub, featured soloist at Bonnaroo 2015 with Fresh Ground Pepper, Chanteuse at Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More*.

ANGELA SCLAFANI (*Siren*) has been featured in a new musical workshop *The Good Swimmer*, under the direction of Kevin Newbury, written by Heidi Rodewald and Donna DiNovelli. Her work as a performer and writer

in Liz Swados' *The NYU Reality Show* musical is featured in the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival documentary *Better to Live*. Angelasclafani.com.

SYLVER WALLACE (*Siren*) received her BFA in Experimental Theatre and both Performance Studies and Religious Studies from NYU Tisch. Recent credits include Shaina Taub's *The Daughters* (2012), an NYU Mainstage, and *- Ness* (2014), an original "choreopoem" and performance project conceived and choreographed by Sylver.

SARAH GOLDFEATHER (*Violin*) is a Minnesota-born, Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter and violinist. She is the bandleader for her eponymous indie-folk band, the Sarah Goldfeather Band, which released an EP called *Goldfeather* in 2014 and will release a full-length record in 2016.

JOSH HENDERSON (*Violin*) is a New York City-based violinist, violist, electric bassist and composer, who leads a multi-faceted career that ranges from solo performances with orchestras to playing electric violin in rock bands. He currently plays with the groups Contemporaneous, Warp Trio and Whale Belly. www.joshhendersonviolin.com.

SARAH ELIZABETH HAINES (*Viola*) is a New York City-based violist, violinist and vocalist. She is an ecstatic member of Contemporaneous, and co-manages with Jessica Clinton the Brooklyn-based Americana group Bellehouse, as well as being violist and vocalist for Emanuel and the Fear and for Kenyon Phillips and the Ladies in Waiting.

ERIC ALLEN (*Cello*) is a multi-instrumentalist, arranger and composer living in Brooklyn. Eric has created orchestral arrangements for the National Symphony Orchestra and for the Portland Ballet. Recent performances include premiering Max Grafe's *Perchance To Dream* for cello and chamber orchestra with the Chelsea Symphony. He can be seen in the TV series *The Knick* and *Mozart in the Jungle*.

VICTORIA "VITA" TZYKUN (*Set Design*) has designed sets and costumes for companies such as Wexford Opera Festival, Norwegian Opera, The Kennedy Center, Kristiansund Opera (Norway), Wolf Trap Opera, Teatro Imeras (Athens), 3LD Art & Media Center and Cherry Lane Theatre, among others. Her numerous film and TV credits include art direction for Lady Gaga's ABC Thanksgiving Special, production design for several features and shorts, and commercials for leading companies such as PBS, DirectTV, Bulova, Qualcomm and the U.S. Army.

PAUL CAREY (*Costume Design*) is a costume designer for theatre, opera and film based in New York City. Recent theatre credits include *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest*

(The Public Theater) and *The Odyssey* (The Old Globe), all staged by Lear deBessonnet with music and additional text by Todd Almond. Other credits include *Trouble in Mind* (Yale Rep), *Takarazuka!!!* (Clubbed Thumb), *A Kind of Alaska* (New York Live Arts), *The Happy Embalmer* (NYMF) as well as productions for NYU Tisch School of the Arts (Atlantic Theater School, Experimental Theatre Wing), Amphibian (Fort Worth, Texas) and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Opera credits include the world premiere of *Doubt* (Minnesota Opera), *El Niño* (San Francisco Symphony), *Orpheus and Euridice*, *Green Sneakers* (UrbanArias), *Hansel and Gretel* (Virginia Opera), *Romeo et Juliette* (Palm Beach Opera), all directed by Kevin Newbury, as well as *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* and *Il Viaggio a Reims* (Wolf Trap), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Caramoor). Film credits include the award-winning *Monsura is Waiting* and *STAG*.

D.M. WOOD (*Lighting Design*). Recent designs include *Anna Bolena* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), *Don Bucefalo*, *Silent Night* and *Salomé* (Wexford Festival Opera), *Norma* (San Francisco Opera), *Euryanthe* and *Die Liebe der Danae* (Bard SummerScape), *La Favorite* (Oper Graz in Graz, Austria), *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (The Bolshoi), *Anna Nicole* (world premiere, co-designer; Royal Opera House in Covent Garden). Upcoming designs include *Norma* (Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Spain) and *Don Giovanni* (Bergen Nasjonale Opera in Bergen, Norway).

DARREL MALONEY (*Video & Projection Design*) has designed for broadcast, concerts, film and theatre. Broadway: *American Idiot*, *A Night with Janis Joplin*, *Everyday Rapture*. Off-Broadway: *Found* (Atlantic Theater), *Checkers* (Vineyard Theatre, Drama Desk nomination), *Kung Fu*, *Golden Child* (Signature Theatre), *The Village Bike*, *The Submission* (MCC), *Bikeman* (Tribeca Performing Arts Center), *Masks Outrageous and Austere* (Culture Project). Darrel is also the founder of the design and production studio “the 13th,” and serves on the faculty of the Yale School of Drama. www.darrelmaloney.com.

BRANDON WOLCOTT (*Sound Design*). Recent/Notable: *The Record* by 600 Highwaymen (original score), *The Good Person of Szechwan* and *Titus Andronicus* at The Public Theater. *Kiss the Air* at the Park Avenue Armory with Elizabeth Streb, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *The Maids* with Red Bull Theater, *The Tenant and Confidence Man* with Woodshed Collective, an immersive *Balm in Gilead* directed by Brian Mertes, *So Much Mad in Me* with Faye Driscoll. N.Y.: MTC, PS122, 3LD, New Ohio, Juilliard, Clubbed Thumb and many more. Regional: Two River, Great Lakes, The Magic.

DAVID BOVA (*Hair & Makeup Design*). Makeup Design: *Violet*, *The Real Thing* (Broadway). Hair/Makeup Design: *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Here Lies Love*, *Bootycandy*, *The Killer*, *My Name is Asher Lev*, *Good Person of Szechwan*, *The Ohmies* (off-Broadway), *Lady Madeline* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare Theatre, D.C.), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (first national tour),

Addams Family, *Camelot*, *Rock of Ages* and *Spamalot* (non-Equity tours).

JAMES MATTHEW DANIEL (*Assistant Director*) is a director and cinematographer. Recent projects include *Romance of a Lifetime* as part of the Park Avenue Armory Under Construction Series, Kevin Newbury's *STAG*, editing season one of *Peeta Planet* for Dubai One TV and assisting at Santa Fe Opera and Florida Grand Opera. James works frequently with We Rise Creative, the incredible duo at Navigate and the brilliant educators at Story Pirates.

MARISA LEVY (*Stage Manager*). Broadway: *Dividing the Estate*. Off-Broadway: *The Christians*, *The Qualms*, *Bootycandy*, *Stage Kiss*, *The Patron Saint of Sea Monsters*, *The Great God Pan*, *Me, Myself & I* (Playwrights Horizons); *Talley's Folly* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *The Designated Mourner*, *February House* (Public Theater); *Him*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Adrift in Macao* (Primary Stages); *On The Levee* (LCT3); *The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature Theatre Co.); *Single Black Female* (New Professional Theatre).

BETH MORRISON PROJECTS (*Tour Producer*) identifies and supports the work of emerging and established composers and their collaborators through the commission, development, production and touring of their work, taking the form of opera-theatre, music-theatre and multimedia concert works. To date the company has commissioned, developed and produced more than 40 premiere works that have been performed around the globe. The New York Times recently said, “The production of new [opera] works in the city still falls mostly to the tireless Beth Morrison and her Beth Morrison Projects...” BMP projects have been performed in the Brooklyn Academy of Music, LA Opera, American Repertory Theatre, PS122, Lincoln Center, Walker Art Center, The Barbican, The Holland Festival, The Beijing Music Festival and more. BMP STAFF: Beth Morrison, Creative Producer | Jecca Barry, General Manager | Noah Stern Weber, Associate Producer | Rachel Karpf Reidy, Production and Administrative Associate | Dan Balkin, General Management Fellow. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Frederick Peters, Chair | Sue Bienkowski, Treasurer | Judy Brick Freedman, Secretary | Matthew Annenberg | Ralph Dandrea | Pamela Drexel | Nicholas Firth | David Gindler | Jane A. Gross | Jane Gullong | Nancy Sanders | Raymond Steckel. ADVISORY BOARD: Linda Brumbach | Andrew Hamingson | Ruby Lerner | Joseph V. Melillo.

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 Theatre, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre stages including the premieres of six musicals that moved to Broadway – *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Curtains*, *13, 9 to 5: The Musical*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Leap of Faith* – and

the Pulitzer Prize in Drama finalist *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*.

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 concurrently the CEO of the Los Angeles Opera (2008-2012). He served the J. Paul Getty Trust for 22 years, starting in 1980 as Deputy Director of the Getty Museum, then Director of the Getty Center Building Program, and in 1998, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Getty Trust.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director*) is now in his 26th season at Center Theatre Group. 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 local and national artists to commission new works.

NAUSICA STERGIU (*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. 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.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Manager.....Rosie Cruz
Production Coordinator.....Brooke Baldwin
Assistant Director.....James Matthew Daniel
Assistant Choreographer.....Chloe Treat
Set Design Associate.....Clark Parkan
Video & Projection Design Associate.....Paul Lieber
Sound Design Associate.....Tyler Kieffer
Video Engineer.....Ryan Tirrell
Deck Sound.....Matthew Collieran, Corwin Evans
Wardrobe Crew.....Whitney Oppenheimer
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CONCIERGES

Olivia Choate, Candice Clasby, Amber Espinosa-Jones, Eduardo Fernandez-Baumann, Angela Garcia, Christina Hjelm, Joan Kubicek, Eliza Laytner, Jay Lee, Victoria Longwell, AJ Meijer, Janice Motuapuaka

DISCUSSION LEADERS

Chase Anderson-Shaw, Stephen Lydic, Isabella Petrini, Mark Schroeder

CONCESSIONS

Abilene Gonzalez, Monica Greene, Tatiana Rene Jones

STAGE DOOR ATTENDANTS

Cory Aycock, Michael Hanson, Ian Ray

CREDITS

Costume support provided by the Center Theatre Costume Shop.
Los Angeles production photography by Craig Schwartz.

SPECIAL THANKS

Mark Subias, Jean Andzulis and Matthew Dudley, Playwrights Horizons Theater School/440 Studios, American Opera Projects, Paul Hogan, Maria Goyanes, Jacob Paul, Pamela Bob, Mira Veikley, World Stage, Atisha Paulson, Kyle Chepulis, Eva Pinney, Eric McNatt, Victor De Vita, Matthew Principe, Jill Steinberg, Zac Posen

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 CONNOR BERGMAN Corporate Relations Associate
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