

2017/18 SEASON

FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

BIG NIGHT

By Paul Rudnick
Directed by Walter Bobbie
World Premiere
Sep 10 – Oct 8, 2017

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION

SPAMILTON

Created, Written & Directed by
Gerard Alessandrini
West Coast Premiere
Nov 5, 2017 – Jan 7, 2018

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

ELLIOT, A SOLDIER'S FUGUE

By Quiara Alegria Hudes
Directed by Shishir Kurup
Jan 27 – Feb 25, 2018

FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

BLOCK PARTY

Celebrating Los Angeles Theatre

Playwrights' Arena
BLOODLETTING

By Boni B. Alvarez
Directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
Mar 29 – Apr 8, 2018

Critical Mass Performance Group
AMERYKA

Written and Directed by Nancy Keystone
Created in collaboration with the company
Apr 19–29, 2018

Celebration Theatre
DIE, MOMMIE, DIE!

By Charles Busch
Directed by Ryan Bergmann
May 10–20, 2018



KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA

BLOODLETTING

MAR 29 – APR 8

BY BONI B. ALVAREZ
DIRECTED BY JON LAWRENCE RIVERA

Myra Cris Ocenar. Photo by Playwrights' Arena.



Valerie Spencer. Photo by Turner Munch.

CRITICAL MASS
PERFORMANCE GROUP

AMERYKA

APR 19 – APR 29

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
NANCY KEYSTONE
CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMPANY

DIE, MOMMIE, DIE!

CELEBRATION
THEATRE

MAY 10 – MAY 20

BY CHARLES BUSCH
DIRECTED BY RYAN BERGMANN

Drew Droege. Photo by Matthew Brian Denman.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following donors who have made extraordinary investments in Center Theatre Group's future. Their support will ensure that Center Theatre Group—and Los Angeles audiences and artists—enjoy another 50 years of theatrical excellence.

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MICHAEL RITCHIE Artistic Director | **STEPHEN D. ROUNTREE** Managing Director | **DOUGLAS C. BAKER** Producing Director
GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

Presents the ^{PLAYWRIGHTS'} **arena** production of

BLOODLETTING

Written by

Boni B. Alvarez

With (in alphabetical order)

Boni B. Alvarez.....**BOSLEY LEGASPI**

Alberto Isaac.....**JENRY FLORES**

Myra Cris Ocenar**FARRAH LEGASPI**

Anne Yatco..... **LEELEE FLORES**

Scenic Design

Christopher Scott Murillo

Center Theatre Group
Associate Producer

Lindsay Allbaugh

Costume Design

Myllette Nora

Production Stage Manager

Brooke Baldwin

Lighting Design

Lily Bartenstein

Stage Manager

Maggie Swing

Sound Design
& Original Music

Howard Ho

Directed by

Jon Lawrence Rivera

Time/Place: Princess Café in Puerto Princesa, Island of Palawan, Philippines.

Bloodletting will be performed without an intermission.

Bloodletting received its World premiere at Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles, Jon Lawrence Rivera, Artistic Director.

Bloodletting was written and workshopped in Skylight Theatre Company's PlayLAB.

The play was further developed in the Black Swan Lab at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

MARCH 29 – APRIL 8, 2018

KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

Block Party receives major support from Aliza Karney Guren and Marc Guren, with generous funding also provided by Joni and Miles Benickes and an anonymous donor. *Block Party* is also made possible in part by a Culver City Performing Arts Grant with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment.

WHO'S WHO



BONI B. ALVAREZ (*Bosley Legaspi, Playwright*). His plays include *Fixed, Nicky, Dallas Non-Stop, Dusty De Los Santos, and Ruby, Tragically Rotund*. His plays have been produced/developed at Playwrights' Arena, Echo Theater, Coeurage Theatre, Chalk Rep, Skylight Theatre, Moving Arts, Artists At Play, The Vagrancy, LATC,

2g (NYC), InterAct Theatre (Philadelphia), and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is a resident playwright with New Dramatists and has performed with Echo Theater, Critical Mass Performance Group at REDCAT, American Repertory Theater, San Jose Rep, Golden Thread, Ma-Yi, NAATCO, Milagro Theatre, La MaMa, and PS 122.



ALBERTO ISAAC (*Jerry Flores*) appeared in the East West Players productions of *Equus, Three Sisters, Rashomon, Twelfth Night, and Accomplice*. Other theatre: *Bloodletting* (Playwrights' Arena), *Blood Wedding* (Odyssey Theatre), *Dogeaters* (Center Theatre Group, La Jolla Playhouse), *Last of the Suns* (Berkeley Rep), *Fishhead*

Soup (Berkeley Rep, A Contemporary Theatre), *The Wash* (Studio Theatre, D.C.), *Made in Bangkok* (Center Theatre Group), *Importance of Being Earnest* (A Noise Within), *As You Like It* (Antaeus). Film and television: *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Beyond the Next Mountain, West Wing*.



MYRA CRIS OCENAR (*Farrah Legaspi*). Stage: *Songs for a New World* (Yes, and Productions), *Imelda* (East West Players), *Woman from the Other Side of the World* (East West Players), *The Bride* (Chalk Rep Flash Fest), *Our Town* (Interact), *A Jive Bomber's Christmas* (Japanese American National Museum),

Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare Orange County). TV/film: *Pure Genius, Followers, Delikadesa, Unrest*. Also works as a voiceover artist in film and commercials. Graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, studied with SITI in L.A. This one's for my Lola.

ANNE YATCO (*Leelee Flores*) holds a BS in biomedical engineering from Marquette University and an MFA in acting from CalArts. Theatre credits include *Bumpersticker: The Musical* (Hollywood Fringe), *The Hollow* (Speakeasy Society),



Elizabeth Hammond—A Eulogy (Son of Semele/Drive Theatre), *Cinnamon Girl* and *Dallas Non-Stop* (Playwrights' Arena), *Medea* (UCLA Live). Voiceover credits include the English dubs for Netflix shows *La Casa de Papel, ID-O, Kuromukuro, and Violetta*. Many thanks to Jon,

Boni, and Center Theatre Group!

JON LAWRENCE RIVERA (*Director*). Directed *Dogeaters* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in 2007. Other Boni B. Alvarez plays: *Ruby, Tragically Rotund* and *Dallas Non-Stop*. Recent World premieres include *Bingo Hall, Little Women, Billy Boy, The Hotel Play, Fairly Traceable*, and many more. Rivera is the recipient of the first Career Achievement Award from Stage Raw, a NY Fringe Festival Award, an *LA Weekly* Award, and a five-time Ovation Award nominee. He is the Founding Artistic Director of Playwrights' Arena.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO (*Scenic Design*) is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles. Recent credits with Playwrights' Arena include *Billy Boy* and *The Hotel Play*. Currently, he is an Associate Artist with Playwrights' Arena serving as their resident Scenic Designer. Most recently, his work has been seen at Skylight Theatre Company, Native Voices, East West Players, Chance Theater, The Getty Villa, and the Hollywood Bowl. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Fellowship—Pierre Cardin Award.

MYLETTE NORA (*Costume Design*). NAACP Theatre Award for best costumes; listed in the honors edition of The Cambridge Who's Who Registry among Executive and Professional Women. Work consists of television, film, and stage, and was seen nightly on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and now weekly on *Jay Leno's Garage*. The famed artist Synthia Saint James noted Mylette as being the inspiration for her painting "Ensemble." Check out Mylette's designer doggie wear, FromTheHeartDoggieWear.com, and heirloom dolls, called My Mind's Eye.

LILY BARTENSTEIN (*Lighting Design*) is a designer for live performances based in Los Angeles. Recent work includes *In a Word* (lighting and projection designer, Chance Theater), *Silent Sky* (projection designer, International City Theatre), *Rigoletto* (scenic designer, Opera Las Vegas), and *Fairly Traceable* (projection designer, Native Voices at the Autry). Lily received her MFA from the University of California San Diego, BA from the University of Chicago, and teaches at Cal State LA. lilybartenstein.com

HOWARD HO (*Sound Design & Original Music*) is a playwright, composer, and Ovation Award-nominated sound designer. He has created sound design at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, East West Players, Playwrights' Arena, Native Voices, Sierra Madre Playhouse, and Company of Angels. Other credits include his play *Various Emporia*, which was a 2017 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference finalist, and his original musical *Pretendo*, featured in the Center Theatre Group library play reading series this April. He was a Center Theatre Group Literary Fellow in 2016.

BROOKE BALDWIN (*Production Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group: *Spamilton*, *Big Night*, *Good Grief*, *Vicuña*, *Disgraced*, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*, *Kansas City Choir Boy*, *Girlfriend*, *Chavez Ravine*, *Luna Gale*, *Race*, *different words for the same thing*, *The Nether*, *The Convert*, *Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens*. Rio Hotel in Las Vegas: *Duck Commander Musical*. Universal Studios Hollywood: *Special Effects Show*, *Grinchmas*. Other venues: Moonlight Amphitheatre (San Diego), Geffen Playhouse, Cabrillo Music Theatre.

MAGGIE SWING (*Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group: *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *Spamilton*, *Big Night*, *King of the Yees*, *Block Party 2017*, *Vicuña*, *Throw Me On the Burnpile and Light Me Up*. Geffen Playhouse: *Big Sky*, *Barcelona*, *Guards at the Taj*, *Discord*, *The Country House*, *American Buffalo*. Boston Court: *Collective Rage*. European tour: *The Apple Family Plays*. Off-Broadway: *Regular Singing*, *Sorry*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Sweet and Sad*, *Knickerbocker*, *Compulsion*, *That Hopey Changey Thing* (The Public Theater), *Slowgirl* (Lincoln Center), *Blood Knot*, *The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature Theatre Company).

PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA is the only theatre created and dedicated to discovering, nurturing, and producing bold new works for the stage written exclusively by Los Angeles playwrights to create original, adventurous, daring materials with the intent of challenging the mind, touching the heart, and provoking the spirit. It was founded in 1992 by Jon Lawrence Rivera and Steve Tyler. It is the recipient of multiple international, national, and local theatre awards. PlaywrightsArena.org

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Fight Director Edgar Landa
Automation Operator Corwin Evans
Casting Consultant Raul Clayton Staggs
Deck Crew Ryan Howard

PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA STAFF

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Myllette Nora, Michael Premsrirat,
Nick Salamone, Janine Salinas Schoenberg,
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Artistic Director Jon Lawrence Rivera
Literary Manager Adrian Centeno
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Original Graphic Design Celina Taganas-Duffy

A NOTE ON ASWANGS BY PLAYWRIGHT BONI B. ALVAREZ

Aswangs are essentially Filipino witches. Over the past few centuries, they have transformed from terrifying demonic monsters (with enormous bloodshot eyes, fangs, and wings) to contemporary human shapeshifters with an “evil” eye. Their special powers are activated at night. With the aid of the moon, they cause headaches and food poisoning, shapeshift into birds or pigs, feast on humans—or turn them into *aswangs*.

According to the mythology, *aswangs* come from the Visayas and Mindanao islands. In these provincial areas of the Philippines, belief in *aswangs* still runs as strong as belief in a Roman Catholic God. You'll hear gossip about who might be an *aswang*—they could be your neighbors, your friends, or even your family members.

BLOCK PARTY **2018**

Los Angeles is home to over 250 theatre companies featuring an abundance of talent, diversity, and ingenuity. To celebrate the vibrant theatre of our city, Block Party presents three recently produced productions from local theatre companies as part of the Kirk Douglas Theatre season. We're proud to be highlighting some of the best work our region has to offer for our audiences, sharing our resources and reach with companies that are new to us, and encouraging collaboration and stronger relationships among the Los Angeles theatre community. Thank you for being part of our second annual Block Party!

“Everyone who does theatre in Los Angeles knows about Block Party. Being part of this new community, of this brand new playground, is incredibly exciting. People are going to see a show we created in our 53-seat black box in this amazing theatre, and go ‘Oh, I think I want to go see them!’”

—*Michael A. Shepperd, Co-Artistic Director, Celebration Theatre*



“Block Party is a really unique way for Center Theatre Group to interact with other parts of the Los Angeles theatre community and amplify their voices, and also bring parts of the theatre community together in different ways.”

—*Nancy Keystone, Artistic Director, Critical Mass Performance Group*

“Participating in Block Party gives us visibility for an audience that may not know us. I would hope that they see that our work is representative of the adventurous and diverse programming that we do. A Filipino-American story is part of the storytelling of Los Angeles.”

—*Jon Lawrence Rivera, Artistic Director, Playwrights' Arena*





MICHAEL RITCHIE Artistic Director | **STEPHEN D. ROUNTREE** Managing Director | **DOUGLAS C. BAKER** Producing Director
GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

Presents the **CRITICAL MASS** performance group production of

AMERYKA

Written & Directed by

Nancy Keystone

Created in collaboration with the company

With (in alphabetical order)

Curt Bonnem..... THOMAS JEFFERSON
Russell Edge WILLIAM J. CASEY
Ray Ford..... GENE JEFFERSON
Richard Gallegos CHIEF LITTLE TURTLE
Lorne Green CURTIS BROWN
Drew Stafford Harper TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO
Nick Santoro AGENT WELLER
Liza Seneca EWA
Valerie Spencer ANNA WALENTYNOWICZ

Scenic Design

Nancy Keystone

Costume Design

Lena Sands

Lighting Design

Adam J. Frank

Sound Design & Original Music

Randall Robert Tico

Projection Design

Hsuan-Kuang Hsieh

Dramaturg

Tom Bryant

Center Theatre Group
 Associate Producer

Lindsay Allbaugh

Production Stage Manager

Susie Walsh

Stage Manager

Maggie Swing

Ameryka is performed with an intermission.

Ameryka received its World premiere by Critical Mass Performance Group, Nancy Keystone, Founding Artistic Director/Executive Producer. *Ameryka* is made possible, in part, by support from the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award program, United States Artists Hoi Fellowship, Center for Cultural Innovation Investing in Artists Grant, The MacDowell Colony, Network of Ensemble Theatres Micro Fest. *Ameryka* was developed, in part, with assistance from the Orchard Project, a program of The Exchange (www.exchange NYC.org).

APRIL 19–29, 2018
KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

Block Party receives major support from Aliza Karney Guren and Marc Guren, with generous funding also provided by Joni and Miles Benickes and an anonymous donor. *Block Party* is also made possible in part by a Culver City Performing Arts Grant with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment.

WHO'S WHO



CURT BONNEM (*Thomas Jefferson*). Lech Walesa said, "It is hardly possible to build anything if frustration, bitterness, and a mood of helplessness prevail." When our leaders foment division, and individuals make enemies of allies, we must look deep at ourselves, our history, and the struggles of all who have fought for

equality and freedom throughout the world. Thank you Center Theatre Group and the Kirk Douglas Theatre for letting Critical Mass raise our voices just a little louder in Solidarity. Curtbonnem.com



RUSSELL EDGE (*William J. Casey*) is excited to bring *Ameryka* to the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Other Critical Mass Performance Group shows include *Alcestis*, *The Akhmatova Project*, and *Apollo*. Regional theatre: *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Mr. Roberts*, *Three Sisters*, *The Rivals*,

Richard III, and *Love's Labour's Lost*. TV: *Castle*, *Agent Carter*, *ER*, *Private Practice*, *CSI: Miami*, *West Wing*, *Boomtown*, *Numb3rs*, *Cold Case*. Film: *Changeling* and *Charlie Wilson's War*. My love to Betsy, Phoebe, and Ryan.



RAY FORD (*Gene Jefferson*). Off-Broadway/regional: *Apollo* (Portland Center Stage), *King Lear* (Yale Rep), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *A Hole in the Dark* (City Theatre), *Angels in America* (Trinity Rep), *The Colored Museum* (Alliance Theatre), *Love Suicides* (La MaMa ETC), *Hollis Mugley's Only Wish* (The Public Theater), and *Alcestis* (Boston Court).

Television: *The Real O'Neals*, *Fresh Off the Boat*, *Touch*, *Switched at Birth*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *So Notorious*, *Good Luck Charlie*, *Don't Trust the B in Apartment 23*, *Jessie*, and *Game Shakers*.



RICHARD GALLEGOS (*Chief Little Turtle*). With Critical Mass Performance Group: *Apollo* (*Parts 1 & 2*) (World premiere at Kirk Douglas Theatre), *Apollo* (*Parts 1, 2 & 3*) (Portland Center Stage), *Ameryka* (workshop at SCR), *Antigone* (workshop at The Actors' Gang). Other theatre credits include *The Secret Garden*, *Frost/Nixon*,

Art, *Othello*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Sylvia*, *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. With

Rosanna Gamson/World Wide: *Grand Hope Flower*, *Aura*, *Rita Goes to Hell*, *Lovesickness*, *Tov*. Richardgallegos.com



LORNE GREEN (*Curtis Brown*) is delighted to make his Kirk Douglas Theatre debut. Past Critical Mass Performance Group and Nancy Keystone projects include *The America Play*, *365 Days/365 Plays*, *Apollo*, *Alcestis*, and *The Noir Series*.

Lorne is grateful to his Critical Mass company members and Nancy for enriching him with awe and wonder throughout the years. He gives infinite thanks to his wife Rachel for her unwavering love and support that allows him to grow and flourish each day.



DREW STAFFORD HARPER (*Tadeusz Kościuszko*) is an artist, writer, and performer from Portland, Oregon. He is the author, with his father Brad, of *Space at the Table: Conversations Between an Evangelical Theologian and His Gay Son*. Drew created the role of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Portland

Playhouse and played Motel in *Fiddler On The Roof*, Doug in Yussef El Guindi's *Threesome*, and Jamie in *The Last Five Years* at Portland Center Stage. He has directed and produced staged readings, collaborative performance, and major public art projects in New York City, Cairo, and Portland.



NICK SANTORO (*Agent Weller*) received a BFA in acting from Carnegie Mellon and has been a member of Critical Mass Performance Group since 2007. Shows include *Apollo* at Portland Center Stage, Heracles in *Alcestis* at Boston Court, and an ensemble member in workshops of *TSA* and *The Privacy Project*. Films

include *Argo*, Sean Baker's *Starlet*, and Matthew Huffman's *Dealing—A Comedy about Depression*, which he co-wrote and co-starred in, and which won the Audience Choice Award at the Big Bear Film Festival.



LIZA SENECA (*Ewa*). Select theatre credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Cloud 9* (Antaeus), *Macbeth* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival), *Pulp Shakespeare* (NYC and L.A. premieres), *A Shayna Maidel* (ICT), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Kentucky Shakespeare). TV:

The Following, Grey's Anatomy, Lie to Me, Monk, Big Love, Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, Alias. Film: *Finding Dory, The Lego Batman Movie, Night Eyes, Zwartboek (Black Book), The Drama Club*, among others.



VALERIE SPENCER (*Anna Walentynowicz*).

It was a mad thrill being part of the Kirk Douglas Theatre's premiere season in 2005 with *Apollo*, and it's extra sweet to be returning with *Ameryka*. Other Critical Mass Performance Group shows: *Untitled Communion* (REDCAT), *Alcestis*, *Antigone*, *The Akhmatova Project*, *Bread*,

and *The Rover*. Other theatre: *Out of Our Father's House* (Edinburgh Fringe) and *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* (Boston Court). Also: several works by renowned video artist Bill Viola. But wait, there's more: valerie-spencer.com

NANCY KEYSTONE (*Playwright, Director, Scenic Design*) is the Founder/Artistic Director of Critical Mass Performance Group and the ensemble's playwright, director, and scenic designer. She is the honored recipient of a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and a United States Artists Hoi Fellowship. As a visual artist, Ms. Keystone works in mixed media, creating paintings and collages, as well as unique scenic environments for her productions. She also works as a freelance theatre artist, directing and designing award-winning productions around the country. nancykeystone.com

LENA SANDS (*Costume Design*) is a costume designer, puppet artist, and scenographer. Her work supports the unsettling of dramatic space and the wringing out of shared cultural routines. Favorite Los Angeles designs include *Ameryka* (Critical Mass Performance Group, Ovation nomination); *Untitled Communion*, *Substrata* (REDCAT); *Next to Normal*, *Kentucky* (East West Players); *The Bumps* (Skirball, BBC Documentary); *Ghost Town* (Cornerstone); *Exit Strategy* (Los Angeles LGBT Center); *The Other Side* (Iris Company); *That Pretty Pretty* (SoSe); *Riot/Rebellion* (LATC); *Paradise by Design* (CalArts CNP).

ADAM J. FRANK (*Lighting Design*). His designs have been produced at The Public Theater, South Coast Rep, Syracuse Opera, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, REDCAT, Theatre @ Boston Court, A Noise Within, CalArts, USC, The School of Drama at The New School, and Columbia University. He assisted at the LA Opera, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Tri-Cities Opera, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, New York Shakespeare Festival, and on Broadway.

MFA from CalArts. Adam is Senior Show Lighting Designer at Walt Disney Imagineering.

RANDALL ROBERT TICO (*Sound Design & Original Music*).

With Nancy Keystone and Critical Mass Performance Group: *Apollo* (Garland Award, Ovation Award nomination), *Alcestis*, *The America Play*, *Antigone* (Drammy Award), and *The Akhmatova Project*. As composer with Chris Coleman (Portland Center Stage): *Astoria*, *Othello*, *Anna Karenina*, *Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Also: *Magic Fruit* (Cornerstone), *Mother Courage*, *The Glass Menagerie* (directed by Jessica Kubzansky), and *Jackie Unveiled* and *Baby Doll* (directed by Jenny Sullivan).

HSUAN-KUANG HSIEH (*Projection Design*) is a multidisciplinary artist and video designer for live performance. She has been collaborating with theatre artists, musicians, and choreographers. Her recent stage work includes *Until, Until, Until...* by Edgar Arceneaux, The Glue Factory Project's *Parallel Lives* by Corning Works, and the new opera *Afterword* by Sean Griffin. Hsuan-Kuang holds her MFA in interactive media for performance, with a concentration in integrated media, from CalArts. HsuanKuang.com

TOM BRYANT (*Dramaturg*). With Nancy Keystone: *Apollo* (Kirk Douglas Theatre and Portland Center Stage). With Robert Schenkkan: *All the Way* (Broadway), *The Great Society*, *The Kentucky Cycle* (Broadway), *Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates*. With Lisa Loomer: *Roe*. With Catherine Trieschmann: *The Most Deserving* and *How the World Began*. Also: *The Wind Cries Mary* by Philip Kan Gotanda; *Discovery of America* by Arthur Kopit; *The Mandrake Root* by Lynn Redgrave. Film development work includes projects for HBO, BBC, and Disney.

SUSIE WALSH (*Production Stage Manager*). In Los Angeles, Susie has stage managed over 150 shows at theatres such as the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theatre, the Geffen, LATC, the Wallis, and Pasadena Playhouse. Favorites include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Stuff Happens*, *Arcadia*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Minsky's*, *The Price*, and *Endgame*. In New York, Susie stage managed *Putting it Together* with Carol Burnett. She loves Ken.

MAGGIE SWING (*Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group: *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *Spamilton*, *Big Night*, *King of the Yees*, *Block Party 2017*, *Vicuña*, *Throw Me On the Bumpile* and *Light Me Up*. Geffen Playhouse: *Big Sky*, *Barcelona*,

Guards at the Taj, Discord, The Country House, American Buffalo. Boston Court: *Collective Rage.* European tour: *The Apple Family Plays.* Off-Broadway: *Regular Singing, Sorry, Love's Labour's Lost, Sweet and Sad, Knickerbocker, Compulsion, That Hopey Changey Thing* (The Public Theater), *Slowgirl* (Lincoln Center), *Blood Knot, The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature Theatre Company).

CRITICAL MASS PERFORMANCE GROUP is a Los Angeles-based ensemble that invents category-busting new works, encompassing a wide range of forms and genres, including epic historical-poetical projects, adaptations of classic texts, intimate interactive salons, public happenings, and social practice art, performed in traditional and alternative spaces. Among the company's award-winning productions: *Ameryka, Alcestis* (Getty Villa, Theatre @ Boston Court), *Apollo* (Kirk Douglas Theatre, Portland Center Stage), *The Akhmatova Project.* Critical Mass Performance Group was named 2013's Best Theatre Company by the *LA Weekly.*
CriticalMassPerformanceGroup.com

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Assistant Director/Guy Who Does ThingsTurner Munch
Video Engineer.....Corwin Evans

CREDITS

Danielle K. Jones collaborated on the development and performance of *Ameryka* from 2010 through the 2016 premiere. Costumes developed through workshops by Sarah Brown and Sybil Mosely. Original prop design by Amanda Rountree.

Western Amerykanski: Polish Poster Art and the Western (Kevin Mulroy, ed.) provided the initial inspiration for this project.

Some of the text in *Ameryka* is taken from or inspired by: Louis Armstrong, Walter Benjamin, Dave & Lola Brubeck, Steve Coll, Penny von Eschen, Carl Foreman, Frank Fox, Timothy Garton Ash, Thomas Jefferson, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mariusz Knorowski, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Ewa Kulik, Chief Little Turtle, Helena Luczywo, Adam Michnik, Kevin Mulroy, Gary Nash & Graham Russell Gao Hodges, Shana Penn, Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, Ronald Reagan, Tomasz Sarnecki, Anna Walentynowicz, Booker T. Washington, and official US and Polish government documents and transcripts.

THANK YOU to our wonderful collaborators who have been on the journey with us in previous iterations of *Ameryka*, and whose spirits and ideas are embedded in this project: Sarah Brown, Francois-Pierre Couture, Julia Colbert-Ruiz, Kacy-Earl David, Mark Doerr, M.C. Earl, Lisa Gumm de Los Angeles, Elizabeth Harper, Jeffrey Johnson, Danielle K. Jones, Casey McGann, Michael Matthys, Matthew Floyd Miller, Sybil Mosely, Wes Myers, Nikhil Pai, Jeremy Pivnick, Christopher Rivas, Amanda Rountree, Christopher Salazar, Darrett Sanders, Jeremy Shranko, Nathan Singh, Doug Sutherland, Joe Tower, Patrick Wenk-Wolff.

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GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

Presents the **C E L E B R A T I O N** production of

DIE, MOMMIE, DIE!

Written by

Charles Busch

With (in alphabetical order)

Andrew Carter **TONY PARKER**
Tom DeTrinis **LANCE**
Drew Droege **ANGELA ARDEN**
Julanne Chidi Hill **EDITH**
Gina Torrecilla **BOOTSIE**
Pat Towne **SOL**

Scenic Design

Pete Hickok

Costume Design

Allison Dillard

Lighting Design

Matthew Brian Denman

Sound Design

Rebecca Kessin

Original Casting

Jami Rudofsky

Center Theatre Group
Associate Producer

Lindsay Allbaugh

Production Stage Manager

Mercedes L. Clanton

Stage Manager

Maggie Swing

Directed by

Ryan Bergmann

Time/Place: Beverly Hills, California in 1967.

Die, Mommie, Die! will be performed with an intermission.

Original Off-Broadway Production by Kenneth Elliott.

MAY 10–20, 2018

KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

Block Party receives major support from Aliza Karney Guren and Marc Guren, with generous funding also provided by Joni and Miles Benickes and an anonymous donor. *Block Party* is also made possible in part by a Culver City Performing Arts Grant with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment.

WHO'S WHO



ANDREW CARTER (*Tony Parker*). L.A.: *Die, Mommie, Die!* (Celebration), *No Wake* (VS/Route 66), *Around the World in 80 Days* (Actors Co-op), *The Missing Pages of Lewis Carroll* (Theatre @ Boston Court). Chicago: Steppenwolf, Goodman, TimeLine, Chicago Shakespeare, Mary-Arrchie. Regional: Asolo Repertory, Cardinal Stage. Television: *New Girl*, *Lopez*, *Criminal Minds*, *Real Husbands of Hollywood*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Pretty Little Liars*, *Agent Carter*, *Fresh Off the Boat*, *Castle*, *Sam & Cat*, *Y&R*, *Boss*, *Chicago Fire*. Film: *Off the Menu*. abcisme.com



TOM DETRINIS (*Lance*) is thrilled to be making his Center Theatre Group debut and is grateful to the whole *Die, Mommie, Die!* team! Most recently, he was the associate producer/understudy for the critically acclaimed *Bright Colors and Bold Patterns* at the SoHo Playhouse in NYC, where he made his Off-Broadway debut.

He is a company member of Celebration and IAMA Theatre Company, and is the Producing Director of 30 Minute Musicals. More?! detrinis.com or @detrinis on Instagram.



DREW DROEGE (*Angela Arden*). Off-Broadway: *Bright Colors and Bold Patterns* (SoHo Playhouse, Barrow Street Theatre). Los Angeles: *Die, Mommie, Die!* (Celebration Theatre), *The Groundlings*, *Casita del Campo*, *Rockwell*. TV: *Heathers*, *Cocktails & Classics*, *Life in Pieces*, *Transparent*,

Nobodies, *2 Broke Girls*, *Drunk History*. Film: *Ideal Home*, *The 4th*, *The Circle*, *You're Killing Me*, *Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse*, *Ass Backwards*. Online: *Minor Revelations* podcast (host), *The Disgustings*, *Not Looking*, *Planet Unicorn*, *The Chloe Shorts*. Outfest Award for Emerging Talent. *Out Magazine* Out 100.



JULIANNE CHIDI HILL (*Edith*). Theatre: *Fences* (Lone Tree Arts Center, Wren T. Brown dir.), *Bootycandy* (Celebration Theatre, Stage Raw Award Female Comedy Performance, LADCC nom), *We are Proud to Present a Presentation about the Herero of Namibia* (Matrix Theatre, LADCC Award, *LA Weekly* Award

Supporting Female Performance), *Blue Iris* (Fountain Theatre), *Flight* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), *The Odyssey*

(McCarter Theatre), *Search: Revisited* (LGBT Center), *The Women of Brewster Place* (Celebration Theatre). TV/film: *Gilmore Girls*, *Weeds*, *Black-ish*, *Ray Donovan*, *Foster Boy*, *LAabyrinth*.



GINA TORRECILLA (*Bootsie*). Television: *Brooklyn 99*, *Citizen*, *Scandal*, *Mad Men*, *Bones*, *Incredible Crew*, *Raising the Bar*. Film: *The 98*, *Twinkies & Donuts*, *Britney Baby...*, *All's Well*. Theatre: *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *Failure: A Love Story*, *Currency*, *The Exit Interview*, *The Magic Finger*, *The Real Housekeepers Of Studio*

City, *The Next Fairy Tale*, *Assassins*, *Reckless*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Constant Wife*, *A Little Night Music*. Many thanks to Center Theatre Group for the joy that is Block Party! ginatorrecilla.com, @ginacilla



PAT TOWNE (*Sol*). Theatre: *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Garry Marshall Theatre), *The View Upstairs* at Celebration, *Stoneface* (*LA Weekly* Award Best Ensemble), *Skullduggery: The Musical Prequel to Hamlet* and *Gorey Stories* (Ovation Award, Best Musical) at Sacred Fools, *Exorcistic: The Rock Musical Parody Experiment* (HFF Best Musical & Best of Fringe), *Frank Zappa's Joe's Garage*, *Hoboken to Hollywood* (*LA Weekly* Best Musical), Pasadena Playhouse, Second City Hollywood, National Lampoon, Independent Shakespeare Co., SciFest LA. TV: *Transparent*, *I Love Dick*, *Mad Men*, *Boston Legal*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Las Vegas*, *Gilmore Girls*.

CHARLES BUSCH (*Playwright*) is the author of *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, which ran for nearly two years on Broadway and received a Tony Award® nomination for Best Play. He wrote and starred in the film versions of his plays, *Psycho Beach Party* and *Die, Mommie, Die!*, the latter of which won him the Best Performance Award at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2003, Mr. Busch received a special Drama Desk Award for career achievement as both performer and playwright.

RYAN BERGMANN (*Director*), Midwest born and educated, has been directing, producing, and acting in L.A. theatre for over 15 years. He is honored and grateful to be working with Center Theatre Group and Celebration Theatre. Getting the opportunity to work with this ridiculously hilarious and talented cast again is a dream. Please sit back and laugh with us, we could all use it! Most importantly, thanks Mom for being my everything!

PETE HICKOK (*Scenic Design*) is a scenic designer and artist based out of Los Angeles. His most recent scenic design projects include *Freud's Last Session* at the Odyssey Theatre, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at Celebration Theatre, and *Crimes of the Heart* at the International City Theatre in Long Beach. He holds an MFA and PB from the San Francisco Art Institute and a BFA from Lewis & Clark College.

ALLISON DILLARD (*Costume Design*) received an MFA in costume design from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Recent design work includes *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Die, Mommie, Die!, Dream Boy, Bootycandy* (Celebration Theatre); *Shine Darkly, Illyria* (Fugitive Kind); *Romeo and Juliet* (The Vagrancy); *Sons of the Prophet* (Blank Theatre); *Spies Are Forever* (Tin Can Bros); *Les Misérables, Lion King Jr.* (Milken Community Schools); *Failure: A Love Story* (Coourage Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group). Her work can be seen at allisondillard.com.

MATTHEW BRIAN DENMAN (*Lighting Design*) is delighted to return to the second year of Block Party. He recently designed lighting for productions of *Failure: A Love Story* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, *Charm* and *Bootycandy* (Ovation Award nomination) at Celebration Theatre, and *Niagara Falls* (Stage Raw Award nominee) at Theatre of NOTE. Other productions in Los Angeles include *Corpus Christi, revolver, What's Wrong With Angry?, The Next Fairy Tale, [title of show]*, and *Women Behind Bars*. MatthewBrianDenman.com

REBECCA KESSIN (*Sound Design*) is delighted to be back at the Kirk Douglas Theatre! Favorite recent productions include *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Dream Boy, Bootycandy, Revolver* (Celebration), *This Land* (Company of Angels), *Fixed* (The Echo), *A Singular They, Peter Pan: The Boy Who Hated Mothers* (The Blank), *A View From the Bridge, Appropriate, Clybourne Park, The Black Suits* (asst. design, Center Theatre Group). Rebecca is a proud member of USA 829. rebeccakessin.com

MARCEDES L. CLANTON (*Production Stage Manager*) is delighted to work with Center Theatre Group. Selected credits: *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Madwoman of Chaillot, Ah, Wilderness!, Maids, Sons of the Prophet* (West Coast premiere), *Wolves* (L.A. premiere), *Justin Love* (premiere), *The Color Purple, Leslie Jordan's Fruit Fly* (premiere), *What's Wrong with Angry?, Take Me Out!, The Temperamentals* (West Coast premiere), and *[title of show]*.

MAGGIE SWING (*Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group: *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue, Spamilton, Big Night, King of the Yees, Block Party 2017, Vicuña, Throw Me On the Burnpile and Light Me Up*. Geffen Playhouse: *Big Sky, Barcelona, Guards at the Taj, Discord, The Country House, American Buffalo*. Boston Court: *Collective Rage*. European tour: *The Apple Family Plays*. Off-Broadway: *Regular Singing, Sorry, Love's Labour's Lost, Sweet and Sad, Knickerbocker, Compulsion, That Hopyey Changey Thing* (The Public Theater), *Slowgirl* (Lincoln Center), *Blood Knot, The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature Theatre Company).

CELEBRATION THEATRE was founded in 1982 by gay rights pioneer and co-founder of the Mattachine Society Chuck Rowland. It was created to provide a safe and supportive forum for professional and emerging LGBTQIA writers, directors, designers, and performers, giving voice to the full experience of queer culture. After 36 years, Celebration remains the only professional LGBTQ theatre in Los Angeles with this mission—to entertain, inspire, and empower with innovative productions that celebrate the LGBTQ community. Please visit our website at CelebrationTheatre.com.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Fight Director Sondra Mayer
 Video Engineer..... Corwin Evans
 Original Wig Design and Styling Byron Batista

CREDITS

Original Prop Design Michael O'Hara
 Original Video Design Christopher Maikish
 and Andrew Carter
 Originally Produced for Celebration by Erinn Anova.
Die, Mommie, Die! is presented by special arrangement
 with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

CELEBRATION THEATRE STAFF

Executive Director Michael Kricfalusi
 Co-Artistic Director..... Michael Matthews
 Co-Artistic Director..... Michael A. Shepperd
 Managing Director..... Michael O'Hara
 Producing Director Jay Marcus
 Literary Director Nathan Frizzell
 Development Director Christopher Maikish
 Company Manager..... Parnell Damone Marcano
 Digital Director Tracey McAvoy
 Alternative Programming Director Tom DeTrinis

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

MICHAEL RITCHIE (*Artistic Director*) is in his 13TH 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 in 2014 as 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. He currently serves as a trustee of Occidental College, The Ahmanson Foundation, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, and Polytechnic School.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director*) is now in his 28TH 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.

LINDSAY ALLBAUGH (*Associate Producer*) is a member of Center Theatre Group's artistic staff and has served in varying capacities for the past 13 years. Selected producing credits include—Mark Taper Forum: *Archduke*, *Bent*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Steward of Christendom*, *Waiting for Godot*; Kirk Douglas Theatre: *Block Party*, *Big Night*, *Good Grief*, *Vicuña*, *Throw Me On the Burnpile* and *Light Me Up*, *Endgame*, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*, *Chavez Ravine*, *Race*, *different words for the same thing*, *The Nether*. Co-Artistic Director of the Elephant Theatre 2004–2014.

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 mainstage 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 nonprofits including Hollywood Orchard.

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.

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Katie Soff..... Assistant General Manager
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Assistant Lighting Designer Meghan Hong
Assistant Costume Designer Kat Patterson
Prop Artisans.....Eric Babb, Kitty Murphy Youngs
TailorSwantje Tuohino
First Hand Heather Patton
Stitcher.....Bert Henert
Carpentry Crew..... Daniel del Busto, Ryan Fischer, Bo Foxworth,
Curt Gavin, Joe Hallum, Kate Harrow,
Ryan Howard, Marcelo Olivas, Randall Pound
Electrics Crew.....Brittany Cobb, Maggie Darago, Evan Drane,
Daniel del Busto, Lucas Garrity, Brian Guy,
Lunchbox, Alif Marchi, Ed Rehr

CREDITS

Additional costumes, props, and scenery provided by the
Center Theatre Group Shop.

FRONT-OF-HOUSE LEADS

Trevor Algatt, AJ Meijer, Tarah Pollock

FRONT-OF-HOUSE LEAD SWINGS

Chase Anderson-Shaw, Bradford Barnes, Eduardo Fernandez-
Baumann, Stephen Lydic, Adrienne Marquand

CONCIERGES

Olivia Choate, Brandon Cutts, Megan DeHart, David Hunter Jr.,
Eric Eberle, Amber Espinosa-Jones, Angela Garcia,Tara Griffo,
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McVay, Janice Motuapuaka, Nicole Naito, Brenda Phillips,
Daniel Rashid, Denise Reynoso, Leve Ross, Pia Shah, Diana Spieller,
Michayla Van Treeck

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Chase Anderson-Shaw, Candice Clasby, Eduardo Fernandez-
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 The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this
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 The Directors are members of the Stage Directors and
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Center Theatre Group would like to thank its exceptional staff for their ongoing commitment, dedication, and extraordinary efforts.

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