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AS MRS. BRICE

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AS FANNY BRICE

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CENTER THEATRE GROUP
PRESENTS

Alex Edelman
JUST FOR US

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
ALEX EDELMAN

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
BRYAN BAUER

LINE PRODUCER
MC MANGUM

DIRECTED BY
ADAM BRACE

JUST FOR US will be performed with no intermission

Produced on Broadway by Jenny Gersten, Rachel Sussman, Seaview
With Eastern Standard Time, Alex Levy, P3 Productions, Chutzpah Productions, DSD Productions, Rebecca
Gold Productions/Reboot Studios, Be Forward Productions, The Cohn Sisters, Creative Partners Productions,
Cathy Dantchik, Nicole Eisenberg, LD Entertainment, Tailor Made Theatrics, Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch

Originally produced by Mike Birbiglia with Mike Lavoie and Carlee Briglia

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording device,
either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

NOVEMBER 10 – NOVEMBER 26, 2023 **MARK TAPER FORUM**

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Hey you. Yes, you. Thanks for coming to this.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate it. Distinctly unfamous comedians aren't usually afforded the opportunity to perform their solo shows in places surrounded by a moat, so.

Real quick, a little about *Just For Us*. I started writing it in 2018 in a house on Beachwood Canyon. It's based on stuff that happened in 1995, 1996, 2012-2013, 2016, 2021 and, most notably, on a Tuesday night in the winter of 2017. It was conceived as all three of my solo shows have been: over a beer, across from my director Adam Brace.

It incubated at Melbourne Comedy Festival in Australia, the Edinburgh Fringe in Scotland, the Soho Theatre in London, and at Los Angeles comedy/storytelling shows like Uncabaret. Those will sound like just proper nouns, but they represent warm audiences, wonderful staffs, well-made cappuccinos, and folks who took shots on a show that was not yet a Broadway offering.

This is a solo show—but it doesn't belong to me only. Mike Birbiglia, the unquestioned master of the comedy-theatre blend and the original presenter of the show in New York, gave me several loving pushes in the right direction. I owe gratitude to dozens of friends, peers and comedy heroes for their encouragement and thoughts. The conversations I've had with audience members after shows—about identity, community, transgression, civility, empathy and more—have had a very real impact on its content.

Most of all, I am deeply indebted to Brace—a rugby-loving genius equal parts gentle and gruff. And without whom I have no idea what I'll do next. Adam passed away unexpectedly at 43 about six weeks before our Broadway run started. He was my closest collaborator for more than a decade and, most importantly, a friend who understood me better than just about anyone and still somehow liked me.

Adam liked to say that the show was an 85-minute wrestling match with a single question: What is our place in the world?

The events of these past few weeks have made that question feel more urgent. There are long stretches where it takes up my entire field of vision. But I've found comfort in the practice of doing the show, and I like that practice. It's a pursuit of understanding through the two things I love the most: comedy and overpriced downtown parking. It—for me—mirrors the Jewish practices that ask us to grapple with concepts that can be both joyous and painful in service of finding a greater truth.

Adam and I laughed so much making this show. I hope it provides a few moments of comfort in these nightmarish times. I hope it can be both a challenge and an escape. And I hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoy putting it together.

Thank you again for being here. Come say hi after.

—Alex Edelman

WHO'S WHO

ALEX EDELMAN (*Writer/Performer*) is a comedian, actor, and writer. He is known for his TV writing, his love of black-and-white cookies, and his solo shows - all created in collaboration with director Adam Brace and all award-winning, sell-out hits in London's West End and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Alex made his Broadway debut with *Just For Us* in 2023, after sold-out runs Off-Broadway (Obie Award, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations); in Washington, D.C.; Boston (his hometown); Melbourne; Edinburgh (Herald Angel Award); London; and more. His first solo show, *Millennial*, won the 2014 Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Newcomer, the first American show to do so since 1997. He has appeared on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, and *Conan*. He is also the creator of *Peer Group*—a show about young people—on BBC Radio 4. At the start of the pandemic, he served as the head writer and executive producer of *Saturday Night Seder*, a star-studded 70-minute special posted on YouTube that has so far raised \$3.5 million for the CDC Foundation (COVID-19) Emergency Response Fund. He has two differently-sized feet and is very grateful you're here.

ADAM BRACE (*Director*) was Associate Director at Soho Theatre, London where he worked across Comedy, Theatre and Performance Art, and in roles spanning dramaturg, director and writer. In comedy, he developed a varied range of work including eight Edinburgh Comedy Award-nominated shows, two Herald Angel Award-winners, two nominees for the Melbourne Barry Award and two Southbank Sky Arts Awards. Directing credits include all of Alex Edelman's shows, most recently *Just For Us* (2023 Obie Award winner, 2022 Drama Desk & Outer Critics Circle Nominee); Liz Kingman's *One Woman Show* and Leo Reich's *Literally Who Cares?!* Off-Broadway, Haley McGee's *Age is a Feeling* (Fringe First 2022, Soho Theatre); all of Sh!t Theatre's multi-award-winning international shows. Other credits include Ahir Shah's HBO Max special *Dots* and Creative Supervisor on two series of *Soho Theatre Live* on Amazon Prime. Previously, he was a playwright and was produced by Almeida Theatre, The National Theatre, and The Donmar Warehouse; his plays are published by Faber and Faber.

BRYAN BAUER (*Stage Manager, he/him*) Broadway: *Into the Woods*, *A Time to Kill*, *E! Broadway: Just for Us*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Slave Play*. Off-Broadway: *Richard III* (Public); *Tambo & Bones*, *Selling Kabul*, *Dance Nation*, *Miles for Mary* (PHZ); *We're Gonna Die* (2ST); *Hound Dog*, *Mrs. Murray's Menagerie*, *KPOP* (Ars Nova); *Enemy of the People* (Armory); *Slave Play* (NYTW). Regional: *The Black Clown*, *Skeleton Crew*, MASS.

MC MANGUM (*Line Producer, she/they*). Production Manager and Show Caller based in NYC and Los Angeles. Recent events: Made For YouTube, Stand Up for Heroes, and White Cube. Broadway and Off-Broadway credits: *Just For Us*, *Oh God: A Show About Abortion*, *Ramy Youssef Live*, and *Get on Your Knees*. National Tour: *Lucy Loves Desi* (LATW).

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

SNEHAL DESAI (*Artistic Director, he/him*). Prior to being named Center Theatre Group's new Artistic Director, Snehal Desai was the Producing Artistic Director of East West Players, designated an American Cultural Treasure by the Ford Foundation and the nation's largest and oldest Asian American theatre company. A Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Award, Desai was in the Inaugural Class of Theatre Communications Group's (TCG) "Spark" Leadership Program and the Inaugural Recipient of the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship. While at East West Players, Desai produced and directed the three highest grossing and most attended shows in EWP's fifty-seven-year history including the post-Broadway premiere of *Allegiance* starring George Takei. During his tenure at East West Players, Desai led co-productions with Center Theatre Group, Pasadena Playhouse, Rogue Artists Ensemble, the LA LGBT Center, Robey Theater Company, The Fountain Theatre, API Rise, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) and TAIKOPROJECT, to name a few. East West Players' collaboration with singer/songwriter Daniel Ho was nominated for a 2022 Grammy Award. As an artistic leader, Snehal has sought to raise awareness on social issues that affect Angelenos through impactful and empowering storytelling. Desai has served on the boards of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (Caata), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts (LFCSA). He currently serves on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT); is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab; and was a literary fellow with London's Royal Shakespeare Company. Most recently, Snehal was on the

faculty of USC's graduate program in Arts Leadership where he taught Executive Arts Leadership. He is a graduate of Emory University and the Yale School of Drama.

MEGHAN PRESSMAN (*Managing Director/CEO, she/her*) joined Center Theatre Group in 2019. Previously, she served as Managing Director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (D.C.), Director of Development for Signature Theatre (N.Y.), and Associate Managing Director of Berkeley Rep. She is a graduate of Yale School of Drama/ Yale School of Management and serves as a mentor in the Theater Management program. Meghan has served as the Vice-Chair for the Theatre Communications Group Board of Directors and is a member of the Broadway League.

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.

NAUSICA STERGIU (*General Manager*) has worked supporting artists in theatres of all shapes, sizes, and locales including Center Theatre Group as General Manager and, previously, as Audience Development Director. She oversees productions at the Taper and Douglas, as well as new play commissions and developmental productions. Nausica has taught Marketing and Management at USC's School of Dramatic Arts and works with local nonprofits including Hollywood Orchard. BA, Cornell University. MFA, Yale School of Drama.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director, he/him*) joined Center Theatre Group in 1990. Doug is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network (IPN), and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM). In 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the country's leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere

productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group was led by Founding Artistic Director Gordon Davidson until 2005 when Michael Ritchie was the artistic director until his retirement in 2021; Snehal Desai was appointed the organization's next artistic director in 2023. Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as *Zoot Suit*; *Angels in America*; *The Kentucky Cycle*; *Biloxi Blues*; *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*; *Children of a Lesser God*; *Curtains*; *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *9 to 5: The Musical*; and *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. CenterTheatreGroup.org

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR JUST FOR US

Press Representative for Mr. Edelman:
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Broadway Marketing Provided by SpotCo

Sean Jewellyn..... Head Carpenter (Substitute)
at Mark Taper Forum



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The House Managers, Press Agents and Company Managers employed in this production are represented by the Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers.



The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine Operators, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC: Stage Crew Local 33; Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706.

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

SPECIAL THANKS

Cheryl Edelman, Elazer Edelman, AJ Edelman, Austin Edelman, Julian Edelman—my grandpa, not the football player; Julian Edelman—the football player; ATG; Jenny Gersten, Greg Nobile, Rachel Sussman, Emily Bergquist and all of our Broadway co-producers; Mike Birbiglia; Natalie Morales; Hannah Einbinder; Tristan Eaton; Alex Timbers; David Korins; Jenji Kohan; Colleen Reilly; Larry Lucchino; Dr. Charles Steinberg; Benj Pasek; The Saturday Night Seder team; Allysya Mahler; Danielle Esparza; Mike Berkowitz; Michael Finkle; Roger Green; Andreas Valhoul; Jason Hodes; Denis Leary; Dave Rath; Tara Beppel; Stevie Coleman and SpotCo; Catherine Markowitz; Norman Lear, Brent Miller, Mel Brooks, Kevin Salter; Shane Kosakowski; Chloe Ifshin; Josie Long; David Burstein; Steve, Kelly, Mark, Lee and the rest of the Soho Theatre office staff; John Benjamin Hickey; Adam Siegel and Marc Platt; Jill Kargman; Micaela Diamond; Lena Waithe and Cynthia Erivo; Haley Zoller; Sammy Koppelman; Regina Spektor; Paul Muldoon and Jean Korelitz; Megan Battoon; Nick Cuse; Dori Berinstein; Sammi Cannold; Dan Smith, Sophie Foster and everyone at Oswin; Lizzie Tisch; The Litvack family—especially Shelley; Lorraine Nicholson; Sophie Black and David Babani; BriTANick; Milana Vayntrub; Augusta Dayton; Ingrid Haas; Amy Clear, Ellika Heribertson, Emilie Brittain, Ed Smith and everyone at Phil McIntyre Ent.; Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Iso Waller-Bridge; Maria Goyanes and my Woolly Mammoth crew; Beth Lapidés and Uncabaret; Chris Lander and Kate Watson; Jack Whitehall; Stephen Fry; Alfie Brown and Josh Weller. Becca Fuller and the family of Adam Brace. This show is for you. Erin Malon and Alex Kane; Stephen Colbert; Elon and Modi; Hunter Hill and Ashton Whited; Morgan Evans and Danny Jolles; Guy Garvey; Chris Harris—a great boss, re-sponsible for one very useful four-word phrase in the show; Ross

MacDonald, Matty Healy, George Daniel, Adam Hahn, John Waugh, Jamie Osborne; Jake Norwind; Jon Rudnitsky; Aunt Nancy; Akilah Hughes; David Baddiel; Melissa Myers; Liz Lawrence and Rebecca Nicholson; Dan Schreiber; Lucy Moss; Natalie Palamides; Ben Walker; Sarah Hurwitz; Michael Solomonov; Mel Brown and her team at Impressive; Jonathan Greenblatt; Shaina Taub; Jerry Seinfeld, Ste-ve Martin, Billy Crystal, Phil Rosenthal, Judd Apatow, and all the comedy legends that offered notes; Dan Boulger, Tony V, Gary Gulman, Ryan Hamilton, Taylor Tomlinson, Daniel Sloss; Arian Moayed; Sloane Crosley; Derek DelGaudio; Ben Winston; Caitie Delaney; Estee, Noam, Liz, Val, Gina, Steve and everyone at the Comedy Cellar; Ed Kane; Jake Cohen; Judy Gold and Dar; Laraine Newman, Chad Einbinder and Wendy Brazill; Astronaut Brown; Michael Mitnick; Erica Matson; Ben Cavey; Tan France; Darin Strauss, Zadie Smith, Nathan Englander and all my great professors at NYU; Taffy Akner; Adeena Sussman; Rob and Carla Flaherty and their crew; Sharon Horgan and her Merman team; Darren Criss; Josh Harmon; John Barrett; Adrien Finkel; Jill Kargman; Fia and Chiara and Axler; Rabbi Sharon Brous, Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, Rabbi Kendell Pinkney; Asaf Zamir and Maya Wertheimer; Drew Barrymore; Kate Berlant; Mi-chelle Zauner; Chris Fleming; The Freud-Curtis family; Chickie Dumpling; Thomas Kail; Julianna Hough; Josh Groban; PJ Vogt; Ari Shapiro and Mike Gottlieb; Busy Phillips; Sho Bean; Cherry Jones; Courtney Grant; Mike Makowsky; Katherine Ryan, Violet Ryan and Bobby Kootstra; Susan Provan and Rebecca Austin and everyone at MICE; MC Mangum, Bryan Bauer, Rose Bisognio, Rachel Bauder, Taylor Poer, Rachael Albert, Ilana Simon, Mel McSweeney, Adele Traub and my company managers, stage managers and crews all over the world. I love you guys.

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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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ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMISSIONS

As part of our commitment to supporting new plays and playwrights, we foster and develop a broad range of theatrical work from diverse artists locally, nationally, and abroad.

Artists creating new work commissioned by Center Theatre Group this season:

AZIZA BARNES	YOUNG JEAN LEE	CYNTHIA GRACE ROBINSON
LISA D'AMOUR	MATTHEW LOPEZ	SARAH RUHL
LARISSA FASHORSE	ROGER Q. MASON	T.TARA TURK-HAYNES
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LISA KRON	LYNN NOTTAGE	
KIMBER LEE	MARCO RAMIREZ	

LA. WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Since 2005, we have invited local playwrights to spend a year researching and writing a new work with the feedback of their fellow writers and artistic staff as part of our LA. Writers' Workshop.

Learn more at CTGLA.org/Artists.

2023-24 COHORT:

AMY BERRYMAN	CHRISTOPHER OSCAR PEÑA
INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN	RAMIZ MONSEF
ISAC GÓMEZ	JASMINE SHARMA

LA. ARTIST RESIDENCIES

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 LARISSA FASHORSE
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