

Produced by **Z Space** and **piece by piece productions**

WEIGHTLESS

A ROCK OPERA BY THE KILBANES



A.C.T.

**AMERICAN
CONSERVATORY
THEATER**

APR 30-MAY 12, 2019 | A.C.T.'S STRAND THEATER

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A

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DIRECTED BY
TAMILLA WOODARD



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DIRECTED BY PETER J. KUO
BASED ON THE ORIGINAL DIRECTION BY
CAREY PERLOFF



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TONY HALE



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minutes left to live?*

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Come explore the

Rules of *play*

8

GLORIA

BY

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TONI STONE

BY

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BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY

RICHARD O'BRIEN

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY

SAM PINKLETON



*Here we go, San Francisco, "Let's do the
Time Warp again!"*

THE GEARY THEATER

POOR YELLA REDNECKS: VIETGONE PART 2

BY

QUI NGUYEN

DIRECTED BY

JAIME CASTAÑEDA



*The next chapter in Qui Nguyen's
rollicking Vietgone trilogy*

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MAY 16–19

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LUIS ALFARO · DANIEL AUKIN · VINNY DEPONTO
EMILY FELDMAN · JESSICA HOLT · THE KILBANES
JOSH KOENIGSBERG · PETER J. KUO · ANDREW NEISLER
ROBERT O'HARA · JIEHAE PARK · ERIC TING

WELCOME TO WEIGHTLESS!

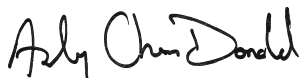
Ever since A.C.T. Associate Producer Ken Savage introduced us three years ago to Kate and Dan—the Kilbanes—we’ve been rabid fans. Their lyrical storytelling and chest-thumping, propulsive sound has been reverberating in local clubs for years, but with the sold-out premiere last season of *Weightless* at Z Space, they became bona fide Bay Area superstars.

We are thrilled to welcome them home after this rock opera’s smash run in New York as part of The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival. Inspired by the story of Procne and Philomela from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, *Weightless* weaves together myth with the Kilbanes’ celebrated indie sound to tell a story of sisterhood, love, betrayal, and rebirth. Part concert, part play, part dream, *Weightless* is equal parts blistering rock show and bleeding-edge experimental theater.

This copresentation is an expansion of our relationship with Z Space, an invaluable local incubator and artistic home celebrating its 25th anniversary. In addition to commissioning new works together and growing collaborative community partnerships, *Weightless* highlights our creative union with Z Space. We’re also overjoyed to work again with the peerless Wendy vanden Heuvel and piece by piece productions, after successfully cohosting Martin Moran’s *The Tricky Part* and *All the Rage* in 2016.

You’re in for a treat. The Kilbanes and their intrepid troupe of collaborators have beautifully reimaged this work specifically for our Strand Theater. I know the spirits of this once-storied movie palace—as well as those of Janis Joplin, Jerry Garcia, Sly Stone, and so many other local music legends—will be watching over this house tonight.

Rock on,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Chan Donald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andy" being the most prominent.

Andy Chan Donald, A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director

P.S. Our work with the Kilbanes doesn’t end tonight. In addition to *Weightless*, Kate and Dan are currently under commission by A.C.T.’s Young Conservatory to create a new musical for young actors. A glimpse of it—plus a Kilbanes-led musical writing workshop—will be part of A.C.T.’s 2019 New Strands Festival (May 16–19). All events are free and open to the public:

act-sf.org/newstrands.



SONG LIST

Hollow Bone
Breath and Your Bones
Diana and Acteon
Awake
Morning on the Water
Heaven
Down
Philomela's Incantation
Mockingbird
One You Love
Cry
Reaper
Weaving Song
Weightless
Dry
Drag You Down
Lift Me Up

Pam MacKinnon, Artistic Director | **Jennifer Bielstein**, Executive Director

American Conservatory Theater

presents

In association with **Z Space** and **piece by piece productions**

WEIGHTLESS

A ROCK OPERA BY THE KILBANES

Featuring

Lila Blue, Julia Brothers*, Dan Harris,
Kate Kilbane, Dan Moses, and Josh Pollock

Directed by

Becca Wolff

Scenic Designer **Angrette McCloskey**

Costume Designer **Christine Crook**

Lighting Designer **Ray Oppenheimer**

Sound Designer **Gregory T. Kuhn**

Projection Designer **Hana S. Kim**

Choreographer **Sarah Bush**

Music Director **Dan Moses**

Production Stage Managers **Jessica Barker*** (Apr 30–May 5)

Christina Hogan* (May 7–12)

Production Manager **Colm McNally**

piece by piece

Executive Producer **Kendra Bator**

Z Space Executive

Artistic Director **Lisa Steindler**

Additional development of *Weightless* was done by **Encore Theatre Company**

A.C.T. Producing Team

Associate Artistic Director **ANDY CHAN DONALD**

General Manager **LOUISA BALCH**

Director of Production **MARTIN BARRON**

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

ARTIST BIOS

THE KILBANES (Authors, Performers) are a theatrical rock band led by married songwriting duo Kate Kilbane and Dan Moses. *Weightless* was featured at The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival in 2019 and had its world premiere at Z Space in 2018, where it received the highest rating from the *San Francisco Chronicle* and a Bay Area Critics Circle Award nomination for Best New Music. Another piece—*Eddie the Marvelous, Who Will Save the World*—was selected for the Eugene O'Neill National Music Theater Conference in 2018. *Eddie* originated at Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor and was featured at TheatreWorks's 2016 New Works Festival. The Kilbanes are collaborating with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival on a musical version of *As You Like It* to play in Bay Area parks this summer. Their upcoming work includes a new piece (with playwright Lynn Rosen) for TheatreWorks and a new work (with playwright Lauren Gunderson) at Marin Theatre Company. They have toured as a rock band in over 30 cities throughout the US.

LILA BLUE (Performer) is a singer-songwriter from New York who moved to San Francisco in 2011. At 19 years old, she has proven herself an accomplished recording artist, theatrical composer, and multi-instrumentalist. She has released two full-length albums (*Lucille* and *The Hollows Hold the Healing*), an EP (*Have a Look*), and recently completed an LP for release in the fall. Her song "Kill All the Witnesses" was featured in the Lifetime movie *Story of a Girl*. Blue has played at Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, opened for The Bacon Brothers, and worked with Noche Flamenca and the Joe Goode Performance Group. This summer, a full-length score for *The Cherry Orchard* (written by Blue and Phillip Roebuck) will be performed in New York with the Lake Lucille Chekhov Project. She has been a part of *Weightless* since 2016, and is so grateful to be working with the Kilbanes again, and to have the honor of playing the resilient soul that is Philomela.

JULIA BROTHERS* (Performer) is happy to be back in divinity, after performing in *Weightless* at Z Space and at The Public Theater's Under The Radar Festival. Recently, Brothers appeared as Arthur Miller in Jeremy Tiang's *Salesman* in the Rough Cut Festival at Laguardia Performing Arts Center and as Colonel Sandra Eden in the world premiere of Walter Anderson's *Trial of Donna Caine* at George Street Playhouse. Brothers has worked at A.C.T., San Francisco Playhouse, TheatreWorks, Aurora Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, B Street Theatre, and SF Playground. Regional theater credits include work at Merrimack Repertory Theatre (where she's an artistic associate), Arizona Theatre Company, Geva Theatre Center, the Cape Playhouse, and the Heritage Theatre Festival. She appeared in *Relatively Speaking* on Broadway and *Clever Little Lies* off-Broadway. A recipient of several Bay Area theater awards, she was also named Theater MVP by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

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DAN HARRIS (Performer) is a drummer, producer, and audio technology professional who has been playing drums with the Kilbanes for the past nine years. Prior to that, Harris worked on various hip-hop, jazz, and rock projects in California and the Midwest. As an engineer, he leverages his musical roots to develop new digital audio technologies for consumer and professional audio products.

JOSH POLLOCK (Performer) is an actor, composer, and musician who has performed throughout the world in about 4,000 bands and in collaborations with the likes of John Cale, Flea, Acid Mothers Temple, Van Dyke Parks, and Jandek, among others. He was last seen in California Shakespeare Theater's *War of the Roses*, and last heard on the latest albums by Emily Jane White, Rabbit Quinn, Foxtails Brigade, Kilbanes, Heat Vision & Jack, 3 Leaflets, The Lake Millions, and his turntablist alter ego, DJ Female Convict Scorpion. He can also be heard narrating the audiobook of *I'm Your Man: The Life Of Leonard Cohen*, by Sylvie Simmons. joshpollockinc.com

BECCA WOLFF (Director) is a California-based director and co-founder of Tilted Field Productions and SCOTUS Theater. She explores the intersection of theatrical and confessional, collaborating with virtuosic performer/creators to explore deeply personal material in bold new ways. Her work has been seen nationwide at The Getty Villa, New York Stage & Film, and The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival; and locally at New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco Playhouse, TheatreWorks, and Z Space. *Our Country: The Antigone Project*, her collaboration with Annie Saunders, tours in 2019 to the Sibiu Festival in Romania and the Broad Stage in Santa Monica. She directed Giovanni Adams's critically acclaimed solo show, *Love Is a Dirty Word*, which will tour in 2020. Upcoming projects include premieres by Clare Barron and Chris Chen. She is developing work with Atosa Babaoiff (*The Ego Never Rests, My Beloveds*), Julia Brothers (*Untitled RFK Project*), and Ken Robinson (*Flying Easy*). beccawolff.net

SARAH BUSH (Choreographer) has been commissioned for devised dance-theater work by The Ground Floor at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Art Center, Axis Dance Company, Destiny Arts Center, and SF Movement Arts Festival at Grace Cathedral. Her work has been produced by National Queer Arts Festival, Global Women's Rights Forum, West Wave Dance Festival, and at the Wilsey Center for Opera and Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts. Sarah Bush Dance Project has performed in theaters, churches, nightclubs, cruise ships, art museums, and outdoor landscapes around the world. Bush is the recipient of the 2019 Della Davidson Prize, a Dance Europe Critic's Choice selection, and awards from *Curve* magazine and Bay Area Dance Watch.

SPRING FL!NG

A.C.T.'S

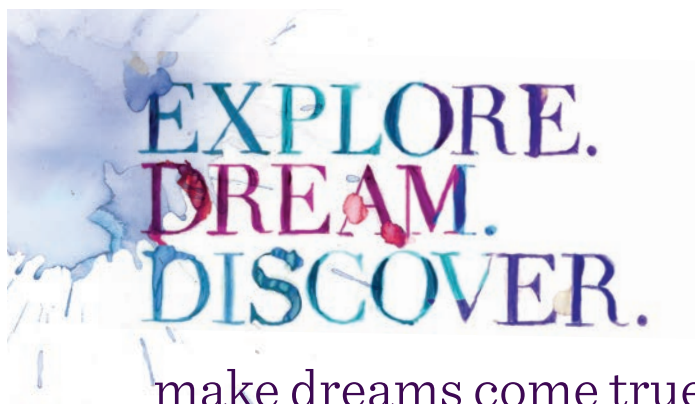
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ANGRETTE MCCLOSKEY (Set Design) is a San Francisco-based scenic designer working in theater, live events, and public spaces. Recent Bay Area theater credits include *Creditors* (Aurora Theatre Company), *You Mean to Do Me Harm* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Dry Land* (Shotgun Players), *For You* (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Ray of Light Theatre). Public space credits include the recent redesign of the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre lobby and a scenic installation in New York's Federal Hall titled *Eureka!*, by artist Brian Tolle. She also works as a lead production manager for New York fashion events (Dolce & Gabbana, Cartier, and Ralph Lauren). McCloskey holds a PhD in theater and performance studies from Stanford University and is a lecturer in performance studies at San Jose State University. angrette.com

CHRISTINE CROOK (Costume Design) designs costumes for theater, dance, opera, and wildly strange performance art. Recent credits include *Weightless* (BRIC & Z Space), *Bernstein's Mass* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Quartett* (West Edge Opera), *The Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets* (Shotgun Players), and *Pancho Villa from a Safe Distance* (Ballroom Marfa). Her upcoming work includes *Abraham In Flames* (Z Space). Crook independently presents abstract, design-driven, live art and was awarded a Bridging the Gap grant for continued experimentation with costume design during a residency in Berlin with the Institut für Alles Mögliche in 2016. She has an MFA in costume design from UC San Diego and teaches costume design at University of San Francisco and Academy of Art University.

RAY OPPENHEIMER (Lighting Design) is a Bay Area-based lighting designer, educator, and creator who has been bringing his boundless curiosity, chimerical aesthetic, and a sisyphian perseverance to lighting design and education since 2005. He graduated with an MFA in theater arts with an emphasis in lighting design from San Francisco State University in 2017. He is also an active company member with Mugwumpin and Shotgun Players. Locally, he has designed for Z Space, Magic Theatre, Mugwumpin, Center REPeritory Company, New Conservatory Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theater, and Santa Cruz Shakespeare.

GREGORY T. KUHN (Sound Design) is a multidisciplinary collaborator in the performing and fine arts with decades of production, composition, sound, and visual design credits. He collaborates on diverse projects for opera, theater, dance, multimedia, and contemporary music performances. Recognition includes the Isadora Duncan Award for SF Ballet's *Ballet Mori* and the Lucille Lortel Award for Rinde Eckert's *Horizon*. He also served as production manager for SFJAZZ and director of production for Kronos Quartet. Recent premieres include *World's on Fire* at ODC and *Iron Shoes* at Kitka Women's Vocal Collective/Shotgun Players.

HANA S. KIM (Projection Design) is a theater-maker whose recent projection design credits include *The Great Leap* (A.C.T.), *Fun Home* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Eve's Song* (The Public Theater), *The Untranslatable Secrets of Nikki Corona* (Geffen Playhouse), and *Ragtime* (Pasadena Playhouse). Her video art installations have been shown at the Annenberg Space of Photography and Baryshnikov Arts Center. She is a recipient of the 2018 Richard E. Sherwood Award from Center Theatre Group and the Princess Grace Award for theater design. Her designs have won San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, a Helen Hayes Award, Stage Raw Theater Awards, and StageSceneLA Awards. hananow.com

JESSICA BARKER* (Production Stage Manager) is a stage manager with diverse experience in theater, dance, opera, events, and international touring. Currently based in the Bay Area, she is proud to have been with *Weightless* since the world premiere in 2018. Locally, she's worked with San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, and SFDanceworks. Her New York credits include Lincoln Center Theater, Atlantic Theater Company, Playwrights Realm, Theatre for a New Audience, and Gotham Chamber Opera. She also toured with LA Dance Project and worked at Yale Repertory Theatre. She is a member of Actors' Equity Association and American Guild of Music Artists. She has a BFA from University of Central Missouri and an MFA from Yale School of Drama.

CHRISTINA HOGAN* (Production Stage Manager) returns to A.C.T. after working on Edward Albee's *Seascape*, *Men on Boats*, *Father Comes Home from the Wars* (Parts 1, 2 & 3), *Hamlet*, *Monstress*, and *Love and Information*. Her other theater credits include *The Baltimore Waltz*, *runboyrun*, *And I and Silence*, *Hir*, *Arlington*, *Terminus*, *Se Llama Cristina*, and *Any Given Day* (Magic Theatre); *It Can't Happen Here* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *Skeleton Crew* and *The Wolves* (Marin Theatre Company); *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *The Pastures of Heaven* (California Shakespeare Theater); and *very still & hard to see* (A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program). Hogan has a BA in theater arts from Saint Mary's College of California.

COLM MCNALLY (Z Space Production Manager) is an award-winning lighting and set designer, recently relocated from Ireland to the Bay Area, where he joined the team at Z Space. A graduate of the MFA in stage design program at The Lir, Dublin, McNally is a founder member and lead designer of Sugarglass Theatre. He also works with other artists and companies in varying design roles, with collaborators including Collapsing Horse Theatre Company, Maria Nillson-Waller, and Gúna Nua Theatre Company. He also works in a technical capacity, with experience as chief electrician at the Gate Theatre in Dublin, production manager at Dublin Arts Festival, and master site carpenter for Underbelly at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

PIECE BY PIECE PRODUCTIONS (Producer) Wendy vanden Heuvel is the artistic director of piece by piece productions. Credits include *Medea*, directed by Deborah Warner with Fiona Shaw on Broadway (associate producer); Martin Moran's *The Tricky Part* (2004 Obie Award) and *All The Rage* (Lucille Lortel Award), produced with Rising Phoenix Repertory and The Barrow Group; *The Walworth Farce*, by Enda Walsh; *Mabou Mines Doll House*, Emma Rice's *Brief Encounter*, and *Let the Right One In*, in association with St. Ann's Warehouse; *My Name Is Rachel Corrie*, in association with The Royal Court Theatre; *Slipping*, in association with Rising Phoenix Repertory and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater; *Elective Affinities*, starring Zoe Caldwell, co-produced with Rising Phoenix Repertory and Soho Rep.; and *Hundred Days* by The Bengsons and Kate E. Ryan, co-produced with Z Space. Since 2010, piece by piece productions has been a producer on Lake Lucille Chekhov Project.

Z SPACE (Producer) empowers artistic risk, collaboration, and camaraderie amongst artists, audience, and staff in creating, developing, and presenting new work. Operating out of a repurposed can factory in the Mission District, Z Space activates two performance spaces, an 85-seat black box and a 244-seat mainstage, with a warehouse aesthetic and an adventurous edge. Eschewing traditional theater models with fixed seasons and a singular artistic vision, Z Space reaches 22,000 audience members, 700 youth and children through our Youth Arts education program, and 50 small and mid-size arts organizations. Z Space develops and produces its own new work and is home to resident theater company Word for Word Performing Arts Company. Z Space has built a national reputation for developing and producing large-scale new works that reimagine the traditional "musical theater" form, receiving critical acclaim for *Hundred Days* (The Bengsons), *The Lucky Ones* (The Bengsons), and *Weightless* (The Kilbanes).

LISA STEINDLER (Z Space Executive Artistic Director) joined Z Space in 2007 and has been at the helm since 2008. Under her leadership, Z Space has become a multifaceted venue that supports risky new work by local and international artists. In 2009, she engineered a long-term lease on Z Space's first venue, the 244-seat Theater Artaud, and guided the expansion in 2014 to encompass the 85-seat Z Below. Steindler has commissioned and developed new works including *Hundred Days* (The Bengsons), *The Lucky Ones* (The Bengsons), *House Tour* (Peter Sinn Nachtrieb), *Hookman* (Lauren Yee), and *Weightless* (The Kilbanes). She is a graduate of A.C.T.'s M.F.A. Program, after which she joined the company and started the ArtReach program, which she ran for 17 years. She went on to serve as artistic director of Encore Theatre Company. Through her artistic direction with Z Space and Encore, she's produced more than 45 world-premiere productions.

KENDRA BATOR (piece by piece Executive Producer) manages and produces live theater and entertainment in Toronto, New York, and San Francisco. Her favorite credits include *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Crawlspace*, *Soulpepper on 42nd Street*, and *Matilda* in Toronto; *Weightless*, *Birdheart* (Julian Crouch and Saskia Lane), *The Town Hall Affair* and *Early Shaker Spirituals* (The Wooster Group), *Hundred Days* (The Bengsons), and in San Francisco; and *The Convent*, *Piece of My Heart: The Bert Berns Story*, *Murder for Two*, Martin Moran's *All The Rage* (Lucille Lortel Award), Eve Ensler's *Emotional Creature*, *3C*, *Elective Affinities* (starring Zoe Caldwell), *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and *Almost, Maine*. Her other credits include *Season of Cambodia* (Cambodian Arts Festival, produced by Cambodian Living Arts) and *Everybody Rise! A Tribute to Elaine Stritch*.

TOM CASSERLY (Associate Producer) is a New York-based, independent theater producer. He spent the last six years as an associate at Barbara Whitman Productions, where he was on the producing team for *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award for Best Musical), *Fully Committed*, *Murder for Two*, and *Oh, Hello on Broadway*, as well as supporting Broadway productions such as *If/Then*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Casserly was a co-producer on *Peter and the Starcatcher* and is the co-founder of Borderline Theatre Project (BTP), a theater and media partnership promoting transnational collaboration in the performing arts with projects across the Middle East and North Africa. With BTP, he produces the annual Youmein Creative Media Festival in Tangier, Morocco, as well as the Creative Media Festival at Northwestern University in Qatar.

ENCORE THEATRE COMPANY (Development Producer) was founded in 1986 in the Bay Area, where it claims a distinct identity. Originally, Encore was a showcase for experimental work by alumni and associates of A.C.T. Encore has focused on bringing new works to the Bay Area and forging relationships between San Francisco's best actors, designers, directors, and some of the best new playwrights in North America. Encore has produced numerous world and West Coast premieres by such writers as Adam Bock, Mark Jackson, Leigh Fondakowski, Sam Shepard, Claire Chafee, Adam Rapp, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Terry Tarnoff, Steve Yockey, Daniel MacIvor, and Lynne Alvarez. Encore is committed to producing new plays that foster social awareness and examine contemporary ethics, encouraging a sense of community in both ourselves and our audience.

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER San Francisco's Tony Award-winning nonprofit theater nurtures the art of live theater through dynamic productions, intensive actor training in its conservatory, and ongoing community engagement. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon and Executive Director Jennifer Bielstein, A.C.T. embraces its responsibility to

conserve, renew, and reinvent its relationship to the rich theatrical traditions and literatures that are our collective legacy, while exploring new artistic forms and new communities. A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of A.C.T.'s creative work. A.C.T.'s conservatory has moved to the forefront of America's actor training programs, while serving as the creative engine of the company at large. Founded in 1965, A.C.T. opened its first San Francisco season at the historic Geary Theater in 1967. We have since performed more than 400 productions to a combined audience of more than seven million people.

Additional Credits

Tom Casserly, *Associate Producer*

Robert Hand, *A.C.T. Production Manager*

Marlena Schwartz, *A.C.T. Assistant Production Manager*

Jackquelin Pedota, *Wardrobe Supervisor*

Guy Brenner, *Head Sound*

Thomas Scharff, *Audio Assistant*

Karen Cohen, *Head Electrician*

Please note:

Photos are strictly prohibited during the performance. Photos of the stage are not permitted if an actor is present. Video recording is not permitted in the theater at any time.

The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

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Translated by **Derek Prouse**

Directed by **Frank Galati**



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