# MARKTAPERFORUM | 2021/22 SEASON



FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

# **SLAVE PLAY**

by Jeremy O. Harris Directed by Robert O'Hara

**FEBRUARY 9 – MARCH 13, 2022** 

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION AT THE AHMANSON THEATRE The National Theatre and Neal Street Productions present

# THE LEHMAN TRILOGY

Written by Stefano Massini Adapted by Ben Power Directed by Sam Mendes

MARCH 3 - APRIL 10, 2022

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

# **BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY**

by Pearl Cleage Directed by Phylicia Rashad

**APRIL 6 - MAY 8, 2022** 

FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

World Premiere Production

A Co-Production with Steppenwolf Theatre Company

# KING JAMES

by Rajiv Joseph Directed by Kenny Leon

JUNE 1 - JULY 3, 2022

FIFTH SEASON PRODUCTION

World Premiere

# MIKE BIRBIGLIA: THE OLD MAN AND THE POOL

Written and Performed by Mike Birbiglia Directed by Seth Barrish

**JULY 27 - AUGUST 28, 2022** 

SEASON PRODUCTION ON CTG'S DIGITAL STAGE
World Premiere
Co-commissioned by Center Theatre Group and
Second Stage Theatre

# I'LL BE SEEIN' YA

by Jon Robin Baitz Directed by Robert Egan

MARCH 31-MAY 1, 2022





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CENTER THEATRE GROUP



GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

# MIKE BIRBIGLIA: The Old Man & The Pool

Written and Performed by

# Mike Birbiglia

Scenic Design

Beowulf Borritt

Costume Design

Toni-Leslie James

Lighting Design **Aaron Copp** 

Sound Design Kai Harada

Projection Designer

Hana S. Kim

Production Stage Manager **David S. Franklin** 

Stage Manager
Michelle Blair

CTG Associate Artistic Directors
Neel Keller
Kelley Kirkpatrick

Producer, Secret Public Productions

Joseph Birbiglia

Creative Consultants
Mabel Lewis
Peter Salomone

Directed by

# **Seth Barrish**

The Old Man and the Pool was developed, in part, by Berkeley Repertory Theatre in 2021 and Steppenwolf Theatre Company in 2022.

The Old Man and the Pool will be performed without an intermission.

JULY 27 – AUGUST 28, 2022 MARK TAPER FORUM

# WHO'S WHO



MIKE BIRBIGLIA (Writer and Performer, he/him/his) is a comedian, director, actor, and New York Times bestselling author. He has written and performed a series of awardwinning solo plays, including Sleepwalk with Me, My

Girlfriend's Boyfriend, and Thank God For Jokes. His last show, The New One, was filmed for Netflix during its 99-performance run on Broadway and was staged at the Ahmanson Theatre here at Center Theatre Group. As an actor, he has appeared in Trainwreck, The Fault in Our Stars, Orange is the New Black, Billions, and the forthcoming Marc Forster film, A Man Called Otto starring Tom Hanks. He is also the writer, director, and star of the films Sleepwalk With Me and Don't Think Twice. He is the host of Mike Birbiglia's Working It Out podcast. The Old Man and the Pool marks Birbiglia's fifth solo show collaboration with director Seth Barrish.



SETH BARRISH (Director, he/him/his) Seth Barrish is the Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of The Barrow Group. Directing Credits: (Broadway) The New One; (Off-Broadway) The New One (Outer Critics Circle Award: Outstanding Solo

Performance); The Tricky Part (OBIE Award, Drama Desk Nominations for Best Play and Best Solo Show); All The Rage (Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show); My Girlfriend's Boyfriend, (Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations for Best Solo Show); Sleepwalk With Me; Pentecost (Drama Desk Nomination for Best Play); Old Wicked Songs (Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award); and 17 Minutes among dozens of productions spanning a 40-year career. Film and TV directing credits include numerous Netflix specials. Seth appears regularly in film and on television. Seth is also a composer and most proud of his affiliation with his family, Lee Brock, Phillip and Rachel Barrish.



BEOWULF BORRITT (Scenic Design, he/him/his) Designed Bent at the Mark Taper Forum and The Scottsboro Boys at the Ahmanson. He has designed Mike Birbiglia's The New One, Sleepwalk With Me, My

Girlfriend's Boyfriend, and Thank God For Jokes. His 26 Broadway designs include the Tony Awardwinning set for Act One, the Tony Award-nominated sets for The Scottsboro Boys, Therese Raquin, POTUS, and Flying Over Sunset. Also on Broadway, Come From Away. Freestyle Love Supreme. Be More Chill, The New One, Bernhardt/Hamlet, Meteor Shower, A Bronx Tale, Prince of Broadway, Hand to God, Sondheim on Sondheim, ... Spelling Bee, LoveMusik, Rock of Ages, Chaplin, On the Town, Sunday in the Park... (2017), Bronx Bombers, Grace, and The Two And Only. 100 Off-Broadway shows include The Last Five Years, Fiddler on the Roof (in Yiddish), Sleepwalk With Me. Miss Julie, Shakespeare in the Park's *Much Ado...* and *Merry* Wives. He has designed for The NYC Ballet and the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and around the world in England, Russia, China. Australia, and Japan. 2007 OBIE Award for sustained excellence.



TONI-LESLIE JAMES (Costume Design, she/her/hers). Broadway: Birthday Candles; Paradise Square; Thoughts of a Colored Man; Bernhardt/Hamlet; Come From Away; Jitney; Amazing Grace; Lucky Guy; The Scottsboro Brothers; Finian's

Rainbow; Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life; Ma Rainey's Black Bottom; King Hedley II; One Mo' Time; The Wild Party; Marie Christine; Footloose; The Tempest; Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992; Angels in America; Chronicle of a Death Foretold; and Jelly's Last Jam. Awards: Four Tony nominations, Drama Desk Award, Lucille Lortel Award, and two Hewes Design Awards.



AARON COPP (Lighting Design, he/him/his)'s recent projects include the Broadway production of The New One by Mike Birbiglia, Falling Out Of Time at Carnegie Hall, Red State Blue State for Colin Quinn at the Minetta Lane, Candide at

Tanglewood Music Center, *One Line Drawn* by Brian Brooks for Miami City Ballet, *Newsies* at Village Theater, and *Shahrazad* for The Royal Ballet of Flanders. Music projects include designs for The Silk Road Ensemble, Natalie Merchant, The Goat Rodeo Sessions, SO Percussion, Maya Beiser, and the Bang On A Can All-Stars. Aaron has designed for The Old Globe, The Kennedy Center, Dallas Theater Center, and other major theatres around the country. He has worked extensively in the dance world, and in 2008 received his second Bessie

Award for Jonah Bokaer's The Invention Of Minus One. He had a long association with Merce Cunningham, designing such pieces as *Ground* Level Overlay, Windows, and Biped, for which he also won a Bessie.



KAI HARADA (Sound Design, he/him/his). Sound Designer: Broadway: Mister Saturday Night; Head Over Heels; The Band's Visit (Tony Award, Drama Desk Award); Amélie; Sunday in the Park with George; Allegiance; Gigi; Fun Home;

On the Town; First Date; Follies (Tony, Drama Desk Nominations): and *Million Dollar Quartet*. Other: The Karate Kid The Musical (Stages St. Louis); The Bedwetter (Atlantic): Swept Away (Berkeley Rep): Kimberly Akimbo (Atlantic-Drama Desk Nomination); Merry Wives (co-designer, Delacorte); Hercules (Delacorte); Soft Power (Public, CTG); Kismet (Santa Barbara); Marie: Dancing Still (5th Avenue); The Light in the Piazza, Candide (L.A. Opera); We Live in Cairo, The Black Clown (ART); Silent Night (Washington National Opera); Zorro (Moscow; Atlanta); Hinterm Horizont (Berlin); Sweeney Todd (Portland Opera); assorted musicals at City Center Encores! and The Kennedy Center. Recorded Media: Spandex: The Musical, Row (Audible/WTF). Audio Consultant for the revival of *Hedwig and the Angry* Inch. Education: Yale University.



HANA S. KIM (Projection Design. she/her/hers). Off-Broadway/ New York: The Visitor. Eve's Song (The Public Theater); Magdalene (Beth Morrison Project): Falluiah (New York City Opera); Everything Rises (BAM). Regional: American Conservatory

Theatre, Baltimore Centerstage, Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, Magic Theater, among others. Awards: Princess Grace Award, Sherwood Award from CTG, Helen Hayes Award, LA Drama Critics Circle Distinguished Achievement Award among others. hananow.com IG: @hana.s.kim



JOSEPH BIRBIGLIA (Producer, he/him/his) has run Mike's production company since 2006. Joseph contributed writing and served as executive producer on Sleepwalk With Me off-Broadway and as a screenwriter for the feature film of the same name.

Joseph has also served as a producer and writer on the Netflix specials My Girlfriend's Boyfriend, Thank

God For Jokes, and The New One and was an executive producer on the film Don't Think Twice. Joseph produces comedy specials, jokes, podcasts, houses, and, along with his wife Carolyn, has co-reproduced two sons, Henry and Merritt.



**PETER SALOMONE** (*Creative* Consultant, he/him/his) is a writer and producer. His work has been featured in the humor magazine The American Bystander. He is a producer on Mike Birbiglia's Working It Out podcast and was also a creative consultant on

The New One on Broadway as well as the Netflix special of the same name. For better or worse. Peter may be best known for his series of online videos entitled The Walk of Life Project.



MABEL LEWIS (Creative Consultant, she/her/hers) first worked with Secret Public Productions on *The New One* Off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre in 2018. She has since helped Mike develop The Old Man and the Pool and is an

associate producer on Mike Birbiglia's Working It Out podcast.



**DAVID S. FRANKLIN** (*Production* Stage Manager, he/him/his). Center Theatre Group Highlights: An Enemy of the People, Baz Luhrmann's La Bohème, Art, Romance. The Cherry Orchard. Curtains, Nightingale, The History Boys, Bloody Bloody Andrew

Jackson, Two Unrelated Plays by David Mamet, Ain't Misbehavin', Parade, The Subject Was Roses, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Randy Newman's Harps and Angels, God of Carnage, Vigil, Waiting for Godot, Los Otros, Red, Seminar, Tribes, Humor Abuse, The Steward of Christendom, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Bent, The Christians, Disgraced, A View From The Bridge, Zoot Suit, Archduke, King of the Yees, Head of Passes, Valley of the Heart, Linda Vista, Lackawanna Blues, A Play Is a Poem, A Christmas Carol (Western Tour) King James, and had the pleasure of assisting on Soft Power. Other Los Angeles: Los Angeles Theatre Center in its heyday from 1985–1990, Pasadena Playhouse, and the Geffen Playhouse. Regional: Seattle Rep, Intiman Theatre. New York: Public Theater. Tours: Europe-Quotations from a Ruined City, Law of Remains (with Reza Abdoh's Dar a Luz company).



MICHELLE BLAIR (Stage Manager, she/her/hers) has enjoyed a long history of stage managing in Los Angeles and has worked extensively with Center Theatre Group on over thirty productions at their three theatres. Other favorites include A Christmas

Carol First National Tour, The Pee-wee Herman Show at Club Nokia, A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters with Cornerstone Theater Company, Henry IV with Shakespeare Center Los Angeles, Jersey Boys in Las Vegas, and Eurydice and La Traviata with the Los Angeles Opera. Graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Amsterdam. Mom to fourteen-year-old Liam and ten-year-old Imogen. For Susie Walsh.

# **CENTER THEATRE GROUP**



NEEL KELLER (Associate Artistic Director, he/him/his). For Center Theatre Group, Neel has directed the World premieres of Eliza Clark's Quack, Lucy Alibar's Throw Me On The Burnpile and Light Me Up, Dael Orlandersmith's Forever, Kimber Lee's different

words for the same thing, Jennifer Haley's The Nether, and Jessica Goldberg's Good Thing, as well as productions of Sheila Callaghan's Women Laughing Alone With Salad, David Greig's Pyrenees, Dael Orlandersmith's Until the Flood, and Marie Jones' Stones in His Pockets. He has also directed for New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Long Wharf Theatre, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Goodman Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and several hospitable theatres in the UK and EU. As a producer at Center Theatre Group, Neel has worked closely with dozens of creative teams on the development and production of a wide range of plays and musicals. Neel is a member of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and the Directors Guild of America.



KELLEY KIRKPATRICK (Associate Artistic Director, he/him/his). Since his arrival at CTG in 2005, Kelley has produced over 100 productions, readings, and workshops, many of which have gone on to Broadway, Off-

Broadway, and beyond. He has collaborated with celebrated artists including David Henry Hwang, Phylicia Rashaad, Ruben Santiago Hudson, Michael Friedman, Culture Clash, Lucas Hnath, Roger Guenveur Smith, Les Waters, Leigh Silverman, Lauren Yee, and Danai Gurira.



# **MEGHAN PRESSMAN**

(Managing Director/CEO, she/her/hers) 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.



#### DOUGLAS C. BAKER

(Producing Director, he/him/his) 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.



NAUSICA STERGIOU (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. B.A. Cornell University. M.F.A. Yale School of Drama.

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.



**GORDON DAVIDSON** (Founding Artistic Director) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre—including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence.

Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. The Kentucky Cycle and Angels in America (Part One) won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (Angels in America won). In 1989, Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

#### THE OLD MAN AND THE POOL SPECIAL THANKS

John Buzzetti, Isaac Dunham, David Berlin, Stephen Serulla, Judd Apatow, Atsuko Okatsuka, Ryan Harper Gray, Jimmy Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon, Alex Edelman, Hannah Einbinder, Kate Bilinski, Chuck Staton. The YMCA. Columbus Theatre. Steppenwolf Theatre, Bay Street Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Gina Mazza, Dave Mazza, Carolyn Birbiglia, Irene Tu, Jack Antonoff, The Pizza Social, Tamara Bullock, Patti Birbiglia, Juan Molina Maravilla, Pete and Amanda Docter, Frank Oz, Victoria Labalme, Lee Brock, Nicole Calascibetta and all our friends at WME, The Comedy Cellar NYC Cherry Lane Theatre, Lucille Lortel Theatre, Guild Hall, City Winery NYC, Westport Country Playhouse, CT, Leicester Square Theatre, London, John Mulaney, Derek DelGaudio, Bella Lewis, Natasha Lyonne, Red Hearse, Janet Pierson, Nowhere Comedy Club, Flanny and Largo, Vincent and Mary Jean Birbiglia

And a very special thanks to:

J. Hope Stein and Oona Millay Birbiglia

### **MUSIC CREDITS**

"Red Hearse" by Red Hearse: Sam Dew, Sounwave, and Jack Antonoff. Engineered by Laura Sisk

### ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE OLD MAN AND THE POOL

Assistant Director Elizabeth Bennett
Associate Scenic Designer Alexis Distler
Associate Lighting Designer Marcella Barbeau
Associate Sound DesignerDouglas Graves
Disguise ProgrammerJon Haas
Associate Projections Designer Jared LeClaire
Story ConsultantIra Glass
Music ConsultantAhmir "Questlove" Thompson
Social Media Marketing for
Secret Public ProductionsNick Demetroulakos
and Gary Simons
Key Art by Wendy MacNaughton
Key Art Photo byJ. Hope Stein
Promotional Photos by Kim Newmoney
Production Photos byCraig Schwartz
Mike Birbiglia's Consigliere Mike Berkowitz
Publicity for Mike BirbigliaLewis Kay, Emily Vespa,
Gia Friedberg, and Kovert Creative



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 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; Local Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Makeup Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706. The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



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), LA Stage Alliance, National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) and the Theatre Communications Group (TGG).

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management. Patrons with disabilities: wheelchair seating is available in a variety of theatre locations. When ordering tickets, please indicate any special needs. For our hearing-impaired guests, the theatre is equipped with listening devices; please contact an usher for assistance.



# MEGHAN PRESSMAN Managing Director/CEO | DOUGLAS C. BAKER\* Producing Director

GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

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:

ALESHEA HARRIS STEVE CUIFFO RAJIV JOSEPH LISA D'AMOUR LISA KRON LARISSA FASTHORSE KIMBER LEF JENNIFER HALEY YOUNG JEAN LEE

MATTHEW LOPEZ SARAH RUHL JANINE NABERS LUIS VALDEZ PAULA VOGEL QUI NGUYEN LYNN NOTTAGE KAREN ZACARÍAS MARCO RAMIREZ

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.** Our growing community currently contains more than 100 playwrights. 2021/22 Season members:

JAMI BRANDLI JUNE CARRYL PIA SHAH JUDY SOO HOO JULIE TAIWO ONI LISA RAMIREZ TISHA MARIE REICHLE-AGUILERA DELANNA STUDI JESSICA KO PENELOPE LOWDER

Learn more at CTGLA.org/Artists.