



THE DANCE OF DEATH

Written by **August Strindberg**

in a new version by **Conor McPherson**

Directed by **Ron Sossi**

STARRING

Lizzy Kimball, Darrell Larson, Jeff LeBeau

SCENIC DESIGNER

Christopher Scott Murillo

COSTUME DESIGNER

Halei Parker

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chu-Hsuan Chang

SOUND DESIGNER

Christopher Moscatiello

PROP DESIGNER

Misty Carlisle

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Nagham Wehbe

STAGE MANAGER

Josh La Cour

Produced by the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble in association with Isabel and Harvey Kibel

THE DANCE OF DEATH is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc., New York

The Dance of Death runs from September 23 through November 19, 2017



The Odyssey is supported in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, and Los Angeles County Arts Commission

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.





CAST

(in order of appearance)

THE CAPTAIN.....Darrell Larson
ALICELizzy Kimball
KURTJeff LeBeau

SETTING

An Island Fortress near a port in Sweden, Early 20th Century

Running time: Two hours

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

This production is dedicated to Sam Shepard.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Dance of Death has amazing significance to the whole world of contemporary drama. The "trapped" nature of its characters feels like Sartre's No Exit (and its classic line "Hell is other people"). And its foreshadowing of Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf is uncannily prescient, almost as if Albee "channeled" Strindberg in cooking up his own mixture of raucous verbal battle and deadly humor. Then noted Irish playwright Conor McPherson contributes new focus and intensity to this three person battleground by eliminating a few small peripheral characters, further trapping the Captain, Alice and Kurt in their own version of hell... but hell with lot of laughs.

Of course, the great challenge and fun is actually working the piece with three talented and game actors who must carry all of the machinations, emotional levels, bouts of fury, philosophy and humor all on their own. It's been a treat jumping in and delving further with the likes of Darrell Larsen, Lizzy Kimball and Jeff LeBeau. We hope you'll enjoy the ride as much as we did.

—Ron Sossi, September 23, 2017

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT, AUGUST STRINDBERG (1849-1912)

August Strindberg was one of the most influential writers of the late 19th and early 20th century, a key figure in the literary movement of naturalism. He was a prolific writer who often drew directly on his personal experience. Strindberg's career spanned four decades, during which time he wrote over sixty plays and more than thirty works of fiction, autobiography, history, cultural analysis and politics. A bold experimenter, he explored a wide range of dramatic methods and purposes, from naturalistic tragedy, monodrama and history plays, to his anticipations of expressionist and surrealist dramatic techniques. From his earliest work, Strindberg developed innovative forms of dramatic action, language and visual composition, as seen in his acclaimed works for the stage, *The Father*, *Miss Julie*, *Creditors*, *The Stronger*, *To Damascus*, *Easter* and *The Dance of Death*. In his later years he pioneered the "Dream Play Technique", writing *A Dream Play* and *The Ghost Sonata*. He also wrote several celebrated works of fiction and non-fiction, including *The Red Room* and *Inferno*. Born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1849, Strindberg would write his early works in his native land before moving abroad for many years. After a near mental breakdown in Paris, a time in which he had ceased to write almost anything, he returned to Sweden and wrote prolifically, while also founding Stockholm's Intimate Theatre in 1907. Strindberg died in 1912 at the age of 63.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT, CONOR MCPHERSON

Conor McPherson is a playwright and screenwriter who was named by The New York Times as 'the finest playwright of his generation.' McPherson won the George Devine Award in 1997 with his play *St Nicholas* and went on to win an Olivier Award for Best New Play in 1999 with his follow-up, *The Weir*. In 2006 he received a Tony Award nomination for *Shining City* and an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Play for *The Seafarer*. In 2011 he wrote and directed *The Veil* for the National Theatre, and in 2012 he adapted August Strindberg's *The Dance of Death* for the Donmar Trafalgar season. *The Night Alive* premièred at the Donmar in June 2013 and transferred to the Atlantic Theater in New York in November 2013.

WHO'S WHO

LIZZY KIMBALL

Alice

Lizzy is delighted to be working with The Odyssey Theatre, and with such an incredible team! She is a graduate of The Second City, Los Angeles and of The Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA). Most recently in LA, she was seen as Lisa in the other cast of the West Coast premiere of Nicky Silver's *The Lyons* at The Road Theatre, and as well as The Road's Summer Playwrights Festival, where she acted as well as directed. Some of her other favorite credits are Catherine in *Proof*, Sylvia in *Sylvia*, Puck in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, Emma in *Betrayal* and Sally in *Talley's Folly*. Please visit www.LizzyKimball.com for more info.

DARRELL LARSON

The Captain

Darrell has directed and/or acted in many plays by Sam Shepard including in LA: *Cowboy Mouth*, *Mad Dog Blues*, *The Unseen Hand*, *Action*; in NYC: *Action*, *The Sad Lament Of Pecos Bill*, *Killer's Head*, and *Curse of the Starving Class* (all at Signature Theater); and *Simpatico* in Miami. He has also directed two plays of Denis Johnson's: *Psychos Never Dream* at Campo Santo in San Francisco, and *Shoppers Carried By Escalators Into The Flames* in NYC. As an actor, he created the role of Coyote in Murray Mednick's *Coyote Cycle*, at Padua Playwrights Festival; Appeared in Shakespeare's *Comedy Of Errors* at the Vineyard Playhouse (also directing); and a one-man show, *The Confessions Of Doc Holliday*, in LA and NYC. Film credits include *Mike's Murder*, *Twice In A Lifetime*, *Stepmom*, *Frances*, *Rachel Getting Married*, *Manchurian Candidate*, and literally hundreds of television shows going back decades: *Law And Order*; *Law And Order: SVU*; *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, *Heartbeat* (series regular) and so on. Since returning to LA in 2013, he has appeared in *Paternus* at Rogue Machine, *The Hillary Game* for Padua Playwrights; *Shades of Disclosure*, (with QueerWise at the Skylight); *Ben And Liana*, (Circle X); *The Gary Plays* (by Murray Medick, Padua/Open Fist), *Clearwater*, (written and directed by Guy Zimmerman, Padua/Bootleg). He is thrilled to finally be working with Ron Sossi at the Odyssey. Feels like home.

JEFF LEBEAU

Kurt

Jeff is thrilled to be back at the Odyssey, where, last fall, he played all of Grace's loser boyfriends in *Waiting For Grace*. Recent work includes the critically lauded L.A. production of *The Gary Plays*, as Gary, in Parts 1 and 2, of Murray Mednick's epic three-part cycle at The Open Fist. *Years To The Day*, a two-person play, for which he received an LA Weekly/Stage Raw Best Actor award nomination, Skylight Theatre LA, 59e59th NY, Edinburgh Festival UK. Other stage work includes Conor McPherson's *The Seafarer*, SchoolHouse Theatre NY, *Burning in China*, a solo show directed by seven-time Oscar nominee Caleb Deschanel (NY Int'l Fringe, John Drew/Guild Hall, NY); *US* (Off-Broadway); and *Hurlyburly*, (Geffen Playhouse). Jeff's TV and Film work includes many guest-starring roles, as well as voicing projects for Dreamworks and Discovery, and narrating a special Unniversity of Miami short film, for which he won an Emmy. Jeff is an alumnus of Cal Arts, and a member of The Open Fist, The Road and Skylight Theatre companies, as well as Detroit Street films. Many thanks to Darrell, Lizzie, Nagham and Ron.

RON SOSSI

Director/Artistic Director/Founder of the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble

Ron received the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award in 2013. He has also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in the process of theatre" and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." Recent OTE directing projects include *Beckett's My Sister*, *Oedipus Machina*, *Theatre in the Dark* (LA Weekly nomination Best Production of the Year), *Way to Heaven* (LA Weekly and LADCC nomination for Best Production of the Year), *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *The Arsonists* (LA Weekly nomination for Best Direction) *Sliding Into Hades* (Best Production of the Year, LA Weekly), *Kafka Thing!*, *Far Away* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Ron has led the Odyssey throughout its 48-year history.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO

Scenic Designer

Christopher is an artist, designer and educator based in Los Angeles. He is thrilled to be back at the Odyssey this season. His previous Odyssey credits include *The Hairy Ape* and *Tempest Redux*. Most recently, his work has been seen at International City Theatre, Native Voices at The Autry, New Village Arts, The Chance Theater, Deaf West Theatre, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, The Getty Villa and the Hollywood Bowl (to name a few). Currently, he is an associate artist

with Playwrights' Arena, serving as their resident scenic designer. Christopher is a member of the Television Academy and United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Fellowship – Pierre Cardin Award. He holds an MFA from the UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance and a BA from the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. <http://www.christopherscottmurillo.com>

HALEI PARKER

Costume Designer

Halei is excited to return to Odyssey Theater Ensemble for a fourth production! Her work as a costume designer has been seen not just in Los Angeles and her home state of Texas, but on stages in Canada, Mexico and Edinburgh, Scotland. Halei is a 2016 Ovation Award nominee for her costume design of *The Hairy Ape* with Odyssey Theatre. Upcoming and recent credits include *Still Life* at Rogue Machine Theater, *Residence Elsewhere* for East West Players and the Japanese American National Museum, *1984* at Greenway Court Theatre, *Pavilion* at Malibu Playhouse, and Disco Dining Club's immersive dinner theater piece, *Faberge Edition*. Halei lives in Koreatown with her beloved four-year-old pit bull, Sadie. A graduate of the MFA theatre design program at UC San Diego, she is a proud Rogue Machine Theater company member and Chalk Repertory Theatre Artistic Circle member. See more of her work at HaleiParker.com.

CHU-HSUAN CHANG

Lighting Designer

Chu-Hsuan is a Los Angeles-based artist working in theatre, dance, music, performance and installation. As a lighting designer, Chu-hsuan's notable collaborations include Janie Geiser's puppetry production *Fugitive Time* (On Edge Festival, Automata); Maria Hassabi's live performance installation PLASTIC (Hammer Museum); performing artist Takao Tamaguchi's *Touch of the Other* (One Archive, REDCAT); theatre director Becca Wolff's *The Antigone Project* (Getty Villa); and choreographer Meryl Murman's *The Lipstick* (Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans). His latest works include *The Silver, the Black, the Wicked Dance* (LACMA), *Kein Paradiso* (Hammer Museum), and *The Other Side* (Gramercy Studio). Chu-Hsuan has also worked with Lars Jan on *the Institute of Memory* (REDCAT, Portland 5, The Public Theater). In addition to lighting, Chu-hsuan's passions include puppetry, filmmaking and lighting instrument design. www.chuhsuanchang.com

CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO

Sound Designer

Christopher is a composer, music director and music editor/mixer, nominated for numerous Ovation awards and winner of the 2015 Stage Raw Award for Sound Design. Theater highlights: The Kennedy Center, The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, The Smithsonian Institution, Ahmanson Theatre, Antaeus Theatre Company, The Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, Pacific Resident Theatre, Rogue Machine Theatre and Skylight Theatre Company. TV highlights: *The Walking Dead* (AMC), *Psych* (USA), *Human Target* (Fox), *Eureka* and *Caprica* (both Syfy) and *The Cape* and *Trauma*, (both NBC). Christopher was assistant conductor for the national tour of *Phantom of the Opera*, and he has scored numerous series, specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Discovery, and National Geographic channels and others. Other music highlights: Associate artistic director and conductor of the Boston Chamber Ensemble, production music director for the theater program at American University, and supervising composer for the Washington Opera's Create and Produce program.

MISTY CARLISLE

Prop Designer

Misty is delighted to return to the Odyssey Theatre, having first worked on *Tales from Hollywood*. For the Fountain Theatre selected credits include *A House Not Meant to Stand*, The world premiere of *Bakersfield Mist*, *Cyrano*, The west coast premiere of Athol Fugard's *Blue Iris*, Tarrell Alvin McCraney's *In the Red and Brown Water* and *Brothers Size*, *The Normal Heart*, *Broomstick*, *Rebournig*, and *My Name Is Asher Lev*. For Theatre of Note: *I Wanna Hold Your Hand*, *Possum Carcass*, *A Mulholland Christmas Carol*. Independent productions: *Topdog/Underdog* and *Jawbone of an Ass* both at the Lillian Theatre, among others. Misty is also a producer, director and actor.

TELL A FRIEND!

THE DANCE OF DEATH continues its run through November 19!
RESERVATIONS: 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or odysseytheatre.com

JOSH LA COUR

Stage Manager

Josh is a recent graduate of Loyola Marymount University and the former summer intern of the Odyssey Theatre. Favorite LMU productions include *Dogfight* (light design), *This is Our Youth* (set and light design), and *Nine* (hair and makeup design). Recent Odyssey credits include costume assistant for *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well* and *Living In Paris*, and prop design for *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He will be designing costumes for *Emperor of the Moon* for LMU's Spring season and is excited to dust off his stage manager book for *The Dance of Death*.

NAGHAM WEHBE

Assistant Director

Naghm is a Lebanese American producer and performer. She recently adapted and directed *Confessions of an Arab Woman* from the award-winning author, Joumana Haddad. Her production won the Encore! Producer Award at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. She is excited to be part of *The Dance of Death* team and thankful for the opportunity to work with Ron and this talented cast.

AUDIENCE PRODUCER PROGRAM

We're so happy that long-time supporters ISABEL and HARVEY KIBEL have stepped up to the plate to help us produce THE DANCE OF DEATH.

We're hoping that more of our loyal supporters will find it possible to join her ranks, helping to provide additional funding for shows normally not possible to do at the Odyssey, because of budget restraints.

Please kick in some financial support and join this exclusive new Producers' Circle, wherein you are part of the show team and featured in all press, posters and social media.

Thank you to our past audience producers GLORIA LEVY, MARJIE MAUTNER and LAWRENCE N. FIELD

Call me personally at 310-477-2055 ext.108 for more info.

Thanks again so much, Isabel and Harvey.

Ron Sossi

Artistic Director, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble

PRODUCTION STAFF

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Assistant Costume Designer	Taylor Decker
Scenic Artist	Jack James
Master Carpenters	Danny Felix, Gary Guidinger, Joe Behm
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Lighting Technician Danny Felix

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Thank you!

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If you would like information on how to volunteer at the Odyssey, please call 310-477-2055, ext. 107. Thank you!



EMILY GRUNFELD

Photographer and Visual Artist

A selection of Emily's photographs are on display in the Odyssey lobby. Please join her on Sunday, October 8 from 5 - 10 pm at the Odyssey Theatre for her art show and fundraising event. Emily is a photographer and visual artist based in Los Angeles. In 2014, she received her BFA in photography and imaging from Art Center College of Design. For further information please visit her website at www.emilygrunfeldphotography.com or contact her at contact: emilygrunfeldphotography@gmail.com

NOW PLAYING IN ODYSSEY 1

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

Performances continue through October 8!

RESERVATIONS: 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or odysseytheatre.com



"SURPRISES AND OUTRAGEOUS BITS... well-written, with juicy parts for actors... directed with proper zaniness by Elina de Santos." — Dan Berkowitz, *The Los Angeles Post*

"WOW!... DELECTABLY PERFORMED, GORGEOUSLY DESIGNED... As the take-charge Abby and the dithery Martha, Cullen and Colton are nonstop treats in roles the stage vets were clearly born to play, and play them they do, to the hilt." Steven Stanley, *Stage Scene LA*

"TOO, TOO FUNNY!!!!... Cullen and Colton handle their scenes together like pros in a championship tennis match. Cullen zings, Colton returns. Colton zings, Cullen returns... most delightful murderers... Who wouldn't want a pair of caring, problem-solving aunts like them?" — Gil Kaan, *Broadway World*

"A JOY TO WATCH... terrific ensemble casting and a deft hand by director Elina de Santos, who never lets the action flag." — Kelly Hartog, *Westside Today*

"INFECTIOUSLY FUNNY AND FRENETIC... a mix of laugh-out-loud hilarity, family one-upmanship, and macabre mayhem... will keep you laughing from start to finish" — Shari Barrett, *Culver City News*

"FUNNY AND SUSPENSEFUL FROM START TO FINISH... as uproarious as ever... a terrific cast" — Imaan Jalali, *LA Excites*



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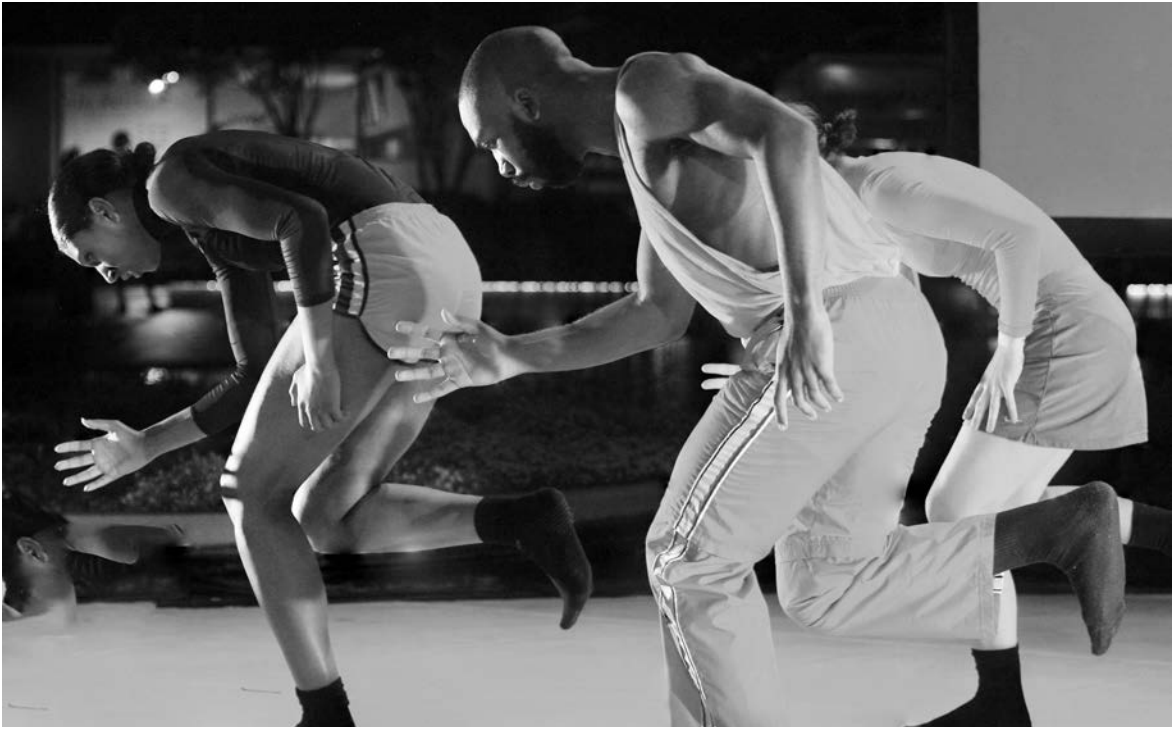
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