



presents

# THE GARY PLAYS

*Tirade for Three • Girl On A Bed • Gary's Walk  
Out of the Blue • DaddyO Dies Well • Charles' Story*

Written by **Murray Mednick**

Directed by **Guy Zimmerman**

Starring **Peggy Ann Blow\*** • **Sandra Kate Burck** • **Phillip C. Curry**

**Carl J. Johnson\*** • **Elizabeth Lande\*** • **Darrell Larson\*** • **Jeff LeBeau\*** • **Laura Liguori**

**Derek Manson\*** • **Roderick Menzies\*** • **Laura Richardson** • **Barbara Schofield\***

**Josh Trant** • **Kelly Van Kirk** • **Amanda Weier** • **Norbert Weisser\***

Scenic Design  
**Jeff G. Rack**

Costume Design  
**Kharen Zeunert**

Lighting Design  
**Dan Reed**

Sound Design  
**John Zalewski**

Projection Design  
**Hana S. Kim**

Properties  
**Bruce Dickinson &  
Ina Shumaker**

Publicity  
**Lucy Pollak**

Stage Manager  
**Jennifer Palumbo**

Graphic Design  
**LiamCarl.com**

Assistant Director | Production Manager | Associate Producer **Gabrieal Griego**

Produced by **Martha Demson & Laura Hill**

Opening Weekend | May 5-7, 2017  
Atwater Village Theatre | Los Angeles, CA

First developed at Padua Playwrights from the eight original **THE GARY PLAYS** by Murray Mednick.



\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.



THE GARY PLAYS is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Arts Commission.



THE GARY PLAYS is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs.

## Director's Note

*THE GARY PLAYS* are part of the flood tide of new plays, including *Joe & Betty*, *Mrs. Feuerstein*, *16 Routines* and *Clown Show for Bruno*, *Borderline*, *Villon* and *The Destruction of the Fourth World* that Murray wrote after stepping down as the artistic director of the Padua Hills Playwrights Workshop/Festival in 1996. *THE GARY PLAYS* were inspired by a friend of the playwright whose son died in a drug deal gone wrong under the "dusty trees" of the San Fernando Valley. I first read *Tirade for Three* in 1999 when the play arrived in the form of staccato dialogue lines without character attributions. Murray thought the ideal way to mount the play was to have the actors memorize the entire text and speak different lines according to the specific chemistry of each evening (a remarkable approach that no one has yet attempted.) The rest of *THE GARY PLAYS* followed at regular intervals over the next decade, each evolving on a formal level in unexpected directions. In Murray's plays, death is always present somewhere, but *Eros*, the life-force, ultimately reigns. These plays can be considered full-length dramatic poems; they are powered by an iambic meter as strong as a heartbeat. What is remarkable to me is the restraint Murray shows in his poetic effects, which he conceals inside the casual sound of everyday speech. A fierce and exact listener, Murray picks up the poetry inside the banal, self-serving, and occasionally exalted things we say while getting through the day. Given life by actors as adept as the ones we are blessed with in this Open Fist production, the result is a simple, direct compassion infusing the stage.

Perhaps the most striking thing about seeing the entire *THE GARY PLAYS* series together is the remarkable scope of this effort to track the wanderings of a single character across Los Angeles. A vast literary cathedral, *THE GARY PLAYS* underscore Murray's uniquely musical gifts, combining his trademark lyricism with a stripped-down, street-wise patter. For the first time themes can be tracked as they arc across the various plays – the cruelty of our winner-take-all culture, for example, and the uncanny aspects of our relationship to film and the photographic image. The chorus figures evolve and change their shape as the series progresses; familiar characters age and attain wisdom...or not. The presence in this remarkable cast of Darrell Larson and Norbert Weisser also underscores the continuity of this project with Murray's celebrated *Coyote Cycle*, which was a landmark of post-1960s American counterculture. In *THE GARY PLAYS*, Murray has managed to carry the same values forward even while our culture has travelled so far to the right you can hear the rivets popping.

The second thing I find striking as we remount the series in a single production is how prescient the writing feels. Each of *THE GARY PLAYS* seemed dark when we first put them on—uncharitable, even, toward the mindless culture that leans in on these characters, adding to their troubles. In 2017 this is no longer the case—our world in America has darkened considerably. In Gary, for example, we encounter the incoherent anger and rage that delivered such an unpleasant shock in the 2016 election as it is slowly transmuted into wisdom and acceptance. Launching himself into the secret nightmare of every middle-class American, Gary finds in his homeless wanderings a cultural landscape scarred by hatred and cruelty, but also revelation, connection and the possibility of authentic healing. Wisdom in these plays arrives in the voices of charismatic and transgressive outsiders – Antonio and Rondell, for example embody the historical debts of white America, the original evils of slavery and genocide returning now for an accounting. Laura, too, the fearless teen American beauty, rebels against a paternalistic middle-class morality that has lost all bearing in a world defined by oligarchy and apocalyptic environmental degradation. Gary takes all this in, not looking for answers so much as moving closer to a poignant mystery concealed beneath the dusty trees of Los Angeles, and within the city's monumental emptiness.

**Guy Zimmerman**

Director

**SETTING** L.A. in the recent past

**PART I: Tirade For Three**

**GARY** Jeff LeBeau  
**CHORUS** Derek Manson  
**CHORUS** Amanda Weier

with intermission

**Girl On A Bed**

**GARY** Jeff LeBeau  
**ANTONIO/MRS. WILLIAMS** Peggy Ann Blow  
**RONDELL** Phillip C. Curry  
**CHARLES** Carl J. Johnson  
**LAURA** Laura Liguori  
**CHORUS/DR. JONES** Derek Manson  
**GLORIA** Laura Richardson  
**DANNY** Josh Trant  
**MONICA** Barbara Schofield  
**RENA** Sandra Kate Burck  
**CHORUS/MARCIA** Amanda Weier

**PART II: Gary's Walk**

**GARY** Jeff LeBeau  
**CHORUS/TODD** Derek Manson  
**CHORUS/MARCIA** Amanda Weier  
**ANTONIO** Peggy Ann Blow  
**GLORIA** Laura Richardson  
**MONICA** Barbara Schofield  
**DANNY** Josh Trant

with intermission

**Out Of The Blue**

**GARY** Kelly Van Kirk  
**MAMA BEAN** Elizabeth Lande  
**DADDYO** Roderick Menzies  
**ANTONIO/CHAUNCEY** Peggy Ann Blow  
**DANNY** Josh Trant  
**GLORIA** Laura Richardson  
**LAURA** Laura Liguori  
**CHARLES** Carl J. Johnson  
**MONICA** Barbara Schofield  
**DR. JONES/CHORUS** Derek Manson  
**CHORUS** Amanda Weier

**PART III: DaddyO Dies Well**

**GARY** Kelly Van Kirk  
**MAMA BEAN** Elizabeth Lande  
**DADDYO** Roderick Menzies  
**ANTONIO** Peggy Ann Blow  
**MARCIA/CHORUS** Amanda Weier  
**DR. JONES/CHORUS** Derek Manson  
**GLORIA** Laura Richardson

with intermission

**Charles' Story**

**GARY** Darrell Larson  
**Dr. NIN** Amanda Weier  
**ANTONIO** Peggy Ann Blow  
**ANGELA** Laura Liguori  
**CHARLES** Carl J. Johnson  
**MONICA** Barbara Schofield  
**TODD** Norbert Weisser  
**JOHN SHIRLEY** Derek Manson

<p><b>Thank you for coming today.</b></p> <p><b>Please return to see all 3 Parts!</b></p>	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
	<b>April 27</b>	Part I 8pm Preview	<b>28</b>	Part II 8pm Preview	<b>29</b>	Part III 8pm Preview	<b>30</b>	Part I 12Noon Part II 3pm Part III 7pm
	<b>May 4</b>	Part I 8pm Opening	<b>5</b>	Part II 8pm Opening	<b>6</b>	Part III 8pm Opening	<b>7</b>	Part I 12Noon Part II 3pm Part III 7pm
	<b>May 11</b>	Part II 8pm	<b>12</b>	Part III 8pm	<b>13</b>	Part I 8pm	<b>14</b>	Part I 12Noon Part II 3pm Part III 7pm
	<b>May 18</b>	Part III 8pm	<b>19</b>	Part I 8pm	<b>20</b>	Part II 8pm	<b>21</b>	Part I 12Noon Part II 3pm Part III 7pm
	<b>May 25</b>	Part I 8pm	<b>26</b>	Part II 8pm	<b>27</b>	Part III 8pm	<b>28</b>	Part I 12Noon Part II 3pm Part III 7pm
	<b>June 1</b>	Part I 8pm	<b>2</b>	Part II 8pm	<b>3</b>	Part III 8pm	<b>4</b>	Part I 12Noon Part II 3pm Part III 7pm

## CAST OF CHARACTERS



**PEGGY ANN BLOW (Antonio, Mrs. Williams, Chauncey)** recurs in these roles, joyfully, for the "umpteenth" time, having worked with Padua on **THE GARY PLAYS** for over ten years. She most recently played Mariah in Susan Lori Park's *The Gershwin's PORGY & BESS* at Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara. Ms. Blow enjoys a career of great variety; moving seamlessly through drama, comedy, musical theatre and so on. She has performed coast-to-coast garnering numerous awards and nominations along the way. You've seen her on television guest starring in many primetime favorites, last in "The People v. OJ Simpson", playing Rosa Lopez, OJ's neighbor, Showtime's "I'm Dying Up Here" as Agnes, and FX's "Snowfall" as the Honduran Granny Coca. Peggy is represented by Smith & Hervey/Grimes Talent Agency.



**SANDRA KATE BURCK (Rena)** is ecstatic to be back working with the Open Fist Theatre Company after taking time off to obtain her Masters degree in addition to participating in UCLA's inaugural Professional Program for Acting for the Camera. Her most recent theatrical credits include co-starring on "The Middle" (ABC) and "Rush Hour" (CBS) and her favorite experiences on the stage include performing in *THE MIRACLE WORKER* (Annie Sullivan), *LITTLE WOMEN* (Jo March) and *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES* (Anne Shirley). Sandra would like to thank Martha Demson and Guy Zimmerman for this opportunity and you for coming to the show!!!

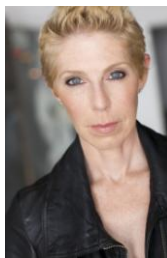


**PHILIP C. CURRY (Rondell)** This is Phillip's debut production with Open Fist Theatre Company and he wishes to thank the production crew for all of their hard work and his fellow actors for a wonderful rehearsal process filled with exciting discoveries. Mr. Curry has been nominated twice for the coveted "Golden Betty" award. He is presently seeking franchised representation. [dressageboy@hotmail.com](mailto:dressageboy@hotmail.com)



**CARL J. JOHNSON (Charles)** Theatre highlights include *JOHN IS A FATHER*, *WOMAN IN BLACK*, *DIRK*, *MERLIN* (The Road), *WHISKEY MAIDEN*, *FILM*, *WONDERLUST*, *WRECK OF THE UNFATHOMABLE* (NOTE), *LARAMIE PROJECT 10 YEARS LATER*, *DEATHTRAP* (LAGLC), *ANGELS FALL* (The Prod. Co.), *VILLON*, *BREMEN FREEDOM* (Odyssey). Notable screen credits include recently guest starring on SyFy's "Znation" as a demented mailman. Carl is thankful to Guy, Martha, Open Fist and everyone who worked tirelessly to make these plays a reality. Deepest gratitude to Murray for his brave words and vision.

**ELIZABETH LANDE (Mama Bean)** was last seen as Professor Vivian Bearing in *WIT* at Playhouse on Park in Hartford, Ct., for which she received a Connecticut Theater Critic's



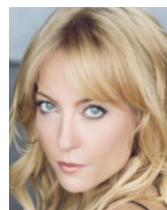
nomination for Best Actress. Several favorite performances include Phoebe in *AS YOU LIKE IT* at The Yale Repertory Theatre, works by Maria Irene Fornes at The Trinity Rep, *A KNIFE IN THE HEART* at New Dramatists, *LOOK BACK IN ANGER* at Williamstown Theater Festival, Lady Percy in *KING HENRY IV Part 2* at New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, Luz in *UNMERCIFUL GOOD FORTUNE* and Natalya in *THE THREE SISTERS* at Yale School of Drama. Elizabeth attended the University of Texas at Austin on a Morton Brown Scholarship in Acting and received her MFA in Acting from The Yale School of Drama.



**DARRELL LARSON (Gary: CS)** is an actor, director, writer and teacher. As an actor he may be best known for the role of Coyote in Mednick's *COYOTE CYCLE*, at Padua Playwright's Festival (opposite Norbert Weisser's *Trickster*). He has appeared in *ACTION* (LA) and *CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS* (NYC) by Shepard; Shakespeare's *COMEDY OF ERRORS* at the Vineyard Playhouse, also directing; a one-man show, *THE CONFESSIONS OF DOC HOLLIDAY* (LA and NYC). Film credits: *MIKE'S MURDER*, *TWICE IN A LIFETIME*, *STEPMOM*, *FRANCES*, *RACHEL GETTING MARRIED*. TV: *LAW AND ORDER*, *LAW AND ORDER: SVU*, *GUNSMOKE*, *BONANZA*, *LA LAW*. He recently appeared in *PATERNUS* at Rogue Machine, *THE HILLARY GAME* for Padua, *SHADES OF DISCLOSURE* at Skylight, *LIANA & BEN* at Circle X and *CRAZY UNDERNEATH THE TREES*, a collaboration written and performed w/ Rob Sullivan, Paul Lacques & Mike Tempo.



**JEFF LEBEAU (Gary: TF3, GOAB, GW)** is a member of The Open Fist, The Road, Skylight Theatre Companies, and D-Street Films Production Co. His recent stage work includes: *WAITING FOR GRACE* at The Odyssey, *PERIPHERY* at The Hudson Guild, and *SKYLIGHT* Theatre Company's *YEARS TO THE DAY* (LA Weekly-Best Actor Nomination) and *THE SEAFARER* (Schoolhouse Theatre, NY). Jeff's recent TV and Film work includes a stint on "Masters of Sex", voicing projects for Dreamworks, Discovery, U of Miami-The Great Storm, for which he won an Emmy, Jeff is an Alumnus of Cal Arts. Happy to be returning once again to **THE GARY PLAYS**.

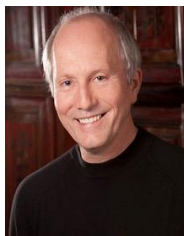


**LAURA LIGUORI (Laura, Angela)** is thrilled to return to **THE GARY PLAYS** series having starred as Laura in all of the workshop installments and playing the roles of "Angela" and "Laura" in *CHARLES' STORY* (2014). Recent stage credits include "Marilyn Monroe" in *MARILYN MADNESS AND ME* which premiered at the El Portal Theatre. Liguori also starred in the world premiere play entitled *BETWEEN PRETTY PLACES* which premiered in LA and NY. Liguori classically trained at the Oxford School of Drama in Oxford, England and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Recent TV and film

credits include: "Hollywood Girl: The Peg Entwistle Story" (stars as Peg Entwistle), "Suburgatory", "Growing Up Fisher", "Ugly Betty", "Love Lust, and A Room Key" and the comedy webseries "The Boogie Dilemma."



**DEREK MANSON (Chorus, Dr. Jones, John Shirley)** tours with the acclaimed musical comedy *THE BICYCLE MEN*, and has appeared in Second City Hollywood's *QUICK & DIRTY* and *SECOND CITY THIS WEEK*. LA credits include *LIFE EXPECTANCY* and *THE 39 STEPS* with Malibu Playhouse, *ROOM SERVICE* with Open Fist, *MAKING PARADISE* with Cornerstone Theater, 1984 and *THE BEWILDERED HERD* at Greenway Court. Regional stage includes *JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH* with South Coast Repertory, *ARCADIA* and *PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE* with Alliance Theatre and *AMADEUS* with Sacramento Theatre. As a vocalist, Derek has appeared in several editions of *FOR THE RECORD* and *THE EXISTENTS*. Film: "Reflect", "Proposal Evacuation Plan", "Mend", "A Gift", "The Beginning". TV/VO: "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", "Perfect Couples", and SNL's "Best Of TV Funhouse."



**RODERICK MENZIES (DaddyO)** Actor, director, producer, and Co-Artistic Director of EST/LA, Rod is happy to debut as an OFTC company member playing DaddyO. A Noise Within: *MUCH ADO, CYRANO, OEDIPUS* (Creon). EST/LA: *TAG, HOUSE OF THE RISING SON*, LA: *NORA* (Pico Playhouse), *GALLERY SECRETS* (Chalk Rep), *CIRCUS VERONA* (Deaf West/Odyssey). Regional: *SEAGULL* (Trigorin), *TWELFTH NIGHT* (Aguecheek), *HENRY V* (Henry), *ROMEO & JULIET* (Mercutio), *TIMON OF ATHENS* (Senator), *TAMING OF THE SHREW* (Hortensio), *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* (Lysander), and Morris in *PRESENT LAUGHTER*, with Peter O'Toole (National Tour). Veteran of the Stratford Festival. Diploma in Acting, Bristol Old Vic; MFA, York University.



**LAURA RICHARDSON (Gloria)** A few of Richardson's credits: Film: "The Black String", "The Boarder", "Give up the Ghost", "Go North" and "Shattered Illusions." Television: "Monday Mornings", "Criminal Minds", "Law and Order", "The Event", "Desperate Housewives." Stage: Critic's Picks *THE ROADS TO HOME* and *HARRISON, TEXAS* (The Lost Studios), *THE LAST PITCH* (NoHo Arts Center) and *CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS* (The Open Fist Theatre Company). Writer/ producer/actor in the award-winning webseries 'Namaste Bitches', watchnamastebitches.com. Her newest series *ineffable* can be seen at ineffabletheseries.com.

**BARBARA SCHOFIELD (Monica)** is thrilled to be returning as "Monica" in *THE GARY PLAYS*, having starred in the first, second and third workshops installments last year. She has worked as an actress and/or director at Roundabout's Susan Bloch Theatre, The Kitchen, Westbeth Theatre Center, The Producers Club, Boston Lyric Stage, Missouri Rep, Kansas City Opera, Open Fist Theatre Co, Sierra



Madre Playhouse, among others. Ms. Schofield has her PhD in Theatre from Tufts University and oversees the upper division BFA acting for AMDA/Hollywood. She is a proud member of Open Fist Theatre Company, AEA, and SAG/AFTRA.



**JOSH TRANT (Danny)** received his professional training from the prestigious Actors Studio Drama School in New York, which continues to help launch the careers of award-winning actors. After his training, Josh moved to LA, where he now studies as a finalist at The Actors Studio West, the Groundlings Theatre School, and is a member of the The Open Fist Theatre Company. Josh has appeared in several short and feature films that have and continue to tour festival circuits. Originally from Texas, Josh pursues opportunities to act uniquely diverse roles.



**KELLY VAN KIRK (Gary: OOTB, DDW)** is thrilled to be a part of *THE GARY PLAYS*. His previous Mednick work was as Coyote in *THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FOURTH WORLD*; a Padua and Zoo District production. Kelly's last stage appearance was the Uranium Madhouse production of *BRECHT'S A MAN'S A MAN*. Prior to that, *MERCURY FUR*, produced by Need Theatre. He's done extensive theatre work in Chicago and LA/SoCal with a dash of indie film and TV to add a little spice. Thanks to Open Fist for the opportunity to be a part of *THE GARY PLAYS'* history.



**AMANDA WEIER (Chorus, Marcia)** is an actor, writer, director & longtime OFTC member. She is excited to return to the full installment of *THE GARY PLAYS* series. Stage credits include: *STAGE DOOR* (LA Weekly "Best Actress" nominee), *ROOM SERVICE* (LA Weekly "Best Actress" nominee), *A WOLF INSIDE THE FENCE*, *THE NORMAL CHILD* ("Best of Fringe" finalist), *REASONS TO LIVE & THE :NV:S:BLE PLAY* (director). Film/TV credits include *SCARE TACTICS* (recurring), *ALIEN ABDUCTION & HELD* (writer/director). Amanda thanks Guy, Murray, Martha & Laura for this opportunity.



**NORBERT WEISSER (Todd)** is a founding member of the Odyssey Theatre, the ProVisional Theatre and the Padua Hills Playwrights Festival. He has performed in theatres throughout Europe and the US, including on Broadway where he played Rode in Ronald Harwood's *TAKING SIDES*. He has directed Murray Mednick plays at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco and the Mark Taper Forum's New Playwrights Festival. For his work in theatre he has received LA Weekly, Ovation and Drama Logue Awards and LA Drama Critics nominations. He has acted in over ninety Motion Picture and Television productions. [www.norbertweisser.com](http://www.norbertweisser.com)

## THE CREATIVES

**MURRAY MEDNICK (Playwright)** is a pioneer of the Off and Off-Off Broadway movements in the '60s and '70s and was playwright-in-residence for Theater Genesis. He wrote such ground-breaking works as *THE HAWK*, *THE HUNTER*, *SAND*, *ARE YOU LOOKIN'* and *THE DEER KILL* (1970 OBIE Award for Outstanding Play), and was the founder/artistic director of the Padua Hills Playwrights Workshop/Festival in Los Angeles from 1978 to 1995. Murray is the recipient of two Rockefeller Foundation grants and a Guggenheim Fellowship, an American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play citation (for *Joe and Betty*), a Career Achievement Award from the LA Weekly, an Ovation Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Los Angeles Theater from the LA Stage Alliance, a Local Hero Award from Backstage West, and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle's Margaret Harford Award for Sustained Excellence in Theater. "As Murray Mednick experiments with language... he is emblematic of a Los Angeles dramatic tradition in much the same way that Clifford Odets is identifiable with Gotham or David Mamet with Chicago," wrote Bob Verini in Variety.

**GUY ZIMMERMAN (Director)** An award-winning writer, director, and producer, Zimmerman has served as artistic director of Padua Playwrights since 2001, staging over forty productions of new plays, and moving several to stages in Atlanta, New York City, Edinburgh, Prague, and Berlin. In 2015 he completed a doctoral degree in Theater and Dramatic Arts in the joint UC Irvine/UC San Diego program. His articles and essays about film, theater, art, science and politics have been published in *Theatre Journal*, *SubStance*, *Shakespeare Bulletin*, the critical anthology, *Architecture in the Anthropocene* (Open Humanities, 2013), *Theater Forum*, *LA Weekly*, *LA Theater Magazine*, the *LA Citizen*, *Cyrano's Journal*, and the arts and culture website *Times Quotidian*. Among his directing credits are his play *THE BLACK GLASS* at Ballhaus Ost in Berlin in 2013, and a production of *Fractalicious!* by Bryan Reynolds that toured venues in Europe and the Middle East and was featured at the Interferences Festival in Cluj, Romania in 2015. His own plays include *LA CLARITA*, *THE INSIDE JOB*, *VAGRANT*, *THE BLACK GLASS*, *THE HILLARY GAME* and *THE ROYAL*.

**JEFF G. RACK (Scenic Designer)** has worked in many different areas of the entertainment industry over the last thirty years and approaches all of his work as a storyteller, always to serve the story. As an Art Director for films and commercials, and an EFX artist, Jeff's work can be seen in: "Armageddon", "Con-Air", "Flubber", "Mighty Joe Young", "Kundun", "Cyxork" and "Planet of the Apes." Probably best known to LA theater for his award-winning designs, Jeff has designed and built over 200 productions from Santa Barbara to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he designed and built the set for *HOW TO EXPLAIN THE HISTORY OF COMMUNISM TO MENTAL PATIENTS* for Open Fist. Other noteworthy sets for the Fist include his Ovation Award winning set for *PAPA* and *Frank Zappa's JOE'S GARAGE*, where he received an L.A. Weekly Award. Jeff is also the Producing Artistic Director of *Unbound Productions*, which won three Ovation Awards this past year for its flagship production, *WICKED LIT*, which presents classic horror literature in alternative venues. He would like to thank

Amanda Sauter and Kurtis Bedford for their invaluable assistance on this project, as well as his wife Christine for all her support.

**KHAREN ZEUNERT (Costume Design)** Recent productions include, *WRINKLE IN TIME*, *TEMPEST*, *STEEL MAGNOLIAS*, *MR. BURNS: A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY*, *IT'S A GIRL*, *INTO THE WOODS*, *PINOCCHIO*, *BFG* with Marlborough School. A *NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN* and *UNDER MY SKIN* with Pasadena Playhouse. Film/ TV credits include "What About Dick", "Jimmy Kimmel Live", "Wipe Out" and "Top Chef."

**DAN REED (Lighting Designer)** Recent theatrical designs include *BOTH*, *JAMES JOYCE'S THE DEAD*, and the *BLACK GLASS* for Open Fist, *BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO* and *ABIGAIL'S PARTY* at San Francisco Playhouse, Overtone Industries' *SONG AND DANCES OF IMAGINARY LANDS* and *ICELAND* at REDCAT. Theme park credits include the *IMG Worlds of Adventure* in Dubai, *Marvel Avengers S.T.A.T.I.O.N.*, *Legoland Malaysia*, and *The Happy Magic Water Cube Olympic Swim Pavilion* in Beijing, China. Dan earned his first Broadway credit with *IL DIVO*: A *MUSICAL AFFAIR* at the Marquis Theatre NYC and recently opened the *Ricky Martin* residency in Las Vegas as a lighting director. Over the years Dan has prepared the lighting blueprints for six Emmy winning productions for Outstanding Lighting Design- *75th Academy Awards*, the *46th*, *49th* & *50th Grammy Awards*, and the *2002 and 2004 Olympic Opening Ceremonies in Salt Lake and Athens*.

**JOHN ZALEWSKI (Sound Design & Original Music)** has designed for live performance since his experience with Reza Abdoh in the early 1990s. His work has been seen at LATC, Wallis, Getty Villa, Disney Hall, Geffen, CTG, Evidence Room, SOSE, Bootleg, Boston Court in Los Angeles and Arena Stage (DC), Guthrie (MN), Portland Center Stage (OR), Alliance (GA), SCR (CA), Humana (KY), Rattlestick, Baryshnikov Center (NYC), Perseverance (AK). He has received seven LA Stage Alliance Ovation awards, twenty-six nominations, seven LA Weekly Awards, including Career Achievement, two Stage Raw awards, three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards and ten Backstage Garland Awards. He composed and designed the aural dimension of *THE DAY SHALL DECLARE IT*, an immersive performance with Wilderness in London and LA (Ovation Award 2015, Stage Raw nom 2016). Recently, *DESTINY OF DESIRE* at Goodman in Chicago and upcoming *HOLD THESE TRUTHS* at Pasadena Playhouse and Arena Stage. Zalewski is honored to be collaborating again on Mednick's master works with this outstanding group.

**HANA S. KIM (Projection Design)** Recent design credits; projection for *SOUNDBOX BELL CURVE* with SF Symphony, projection for *COLLECTIVE RAGE* directed by Lindsay Allbaugh (Theater@BostonCourt), set and projection for *WHITE SNAKE* directed by Natsu Onoda Power (Baltimore Center Stage), projection for *WONDERFUL TOWN* directed by David Lee (Los Angeles Opera), projection for *THE CITY OF CONVERSATION* directed by Michael Wilson (Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts), projection for *FALLUJAH* directed by Andreas Mitisek (New York City Opera) and set and projection for *DOGEATERS* directed by Loretta Greco (The Magic Theatre). She is a member of

United Scenic Artists Local 829 and recipient of Princess Grace Award in Theater Design. Her designs have won Stage Raw Awards, StageSceneLA Awards and Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Awards. Her designs also received nomination from Ovation Awards, Theater Bay Area Awards and Helen Hayes Award.

**BRUCE DICKINSON & INA SHUMAKER (Properties)** began their collaboration over 10 years ago designing props and set pieces for the Open Fist Theatre Company. Specializing in creating realistic fake foods and period set dressings, some of their favorite past shows include *JAMES JOYCE'S THE DEAD*, *B. FRANKLIN*, *KING HEDLEY II* and *THE MOUNTAINTOP*.

**JENNIFER PALUMBO (Stage Manager)** is happy to be working with Padua Playwrights and Open Fist Theatre Company to bring **THE GARY PLAYS** to Atwater Village Theatre! Jennifer previously worked with Open Fist on *MAD FOREST*. Other favorites include the Los Angeles Premiere of *THE MOUNTAINTOP* (Matrix Theatre), *A STEADY RAIN* (Alliance Theatre/Odyssey Theatre), *ANNA CHRISTIE, AWAKE & SING!*, *BROADWAY BOUND*, *DAY DRINKERS* (Odyssey Theatre), *JULIA (PRT)*, *LAND OF THE TIGERS* (Burglars of Hamm/Sacred Fools Theatre). Also passionate about music, Jennifer has played flute in several chamber music and wind ensembles, and in the orchestra pit for productions including *MOZART'S THE MAGIC FLUTE*, *INTO THE WOODS*, *1776*, *SOUTH PACIFIC*, *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS*, *CANDIDE*. Thank you for supporting intimate theater in LA, and enjoy **THE GARY PLAYS!**

**GABRIEL GRIEGO (Assistant Director | Production Manager Associate Producer)** has been a part of **THE GARY PLAYS** since 2015 and is so excited to be a part of the full production! This past March she made her debut as a playwright with *A THIN WHITE LINE* @ The Hudson Backstage, produced by 2Cents Theater Company's INK Fest, which she also served as Festival Manager. Other production highlights: associate producer for *1984* @ Greenway Court, co-director for *THE HILLARY GAME* & *THE ROYAL* w/ director Guy Zimmerman; assistant director and production manager for DOMA Theatre Company's multi award-winning *AMERICAN IDIOT*, w/ director Marco Gomez; assistant director for Ovation Recommended and LA Pick of the Week *GIDION'S KNOT* w/ director Darin Anthony. Directing credits include: *A THIN WHITE LINE* & *SUCKERS* for 2Cent's Theatre Company's INK Fest, *THE WOMAN IN BLACK*, *VADA* nominated for Best Play Revival, and Hollywood Fringe favorites: *N8 ZWANG*, *DOWN IN FRONT*, *GAYBY'S PLAYDATE*, and *A FEW GOOD PB&Js*. Gabriel also enjoys directing film, "puppeteering" and playing with her awesome 3 yr old niece Rosalind. Gabriel thanks her friends and family for their continuing support and the incomparable Sloe, for his amazing love, wisdom and all round awesomeness.

**LAURA HILL (Producer)** has been working in many capacities with Padua Playwrights since 2014 and is excited about this project. As a long-time arts administrator in Los Angeles, Laura has produced over 25 shows including favorites...for Rogue Machine: *DYING CITY* (Best Production Ovation winner), *COCK, NICE THINGS*; Deaf West: *CYRANO* (LADCC Best Production), *FLOWERS*

*FOR ALGERNON*, *CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD*, *EST/LA: YEAR OF THE RABBIT*, *THE BELLE OF BELFAST*. Laura has served as Managing Director for esteemed theaters like Deaf West, Antaeus Company and Rogue Machine. Laura is on staff at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (2015 Ovation Season winner).

**MARTHA DEMSON (Producer | Artistic Director of the Open Fist Theatre)** believes passionately in the voice and role of theatre in our communities. In addition to her work with OFTC, Demson serves on the Boards of the Hollywood Media District Business Improvement District (Arts Committee Chair) and Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles (Union Committee Chair). Highlights of Demson's award-winning career with the Open Fist Theatre include: As a producer: **THE GARY PLAYS** (Mednick), *THE COSMONAUT'S LAST MESSAGE TO THE WOMAN HE ONCE LOVED IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION* (Greig) LA Weekly Production of the Year, *HOW TO EXPLAIN THE HISTORY OF COMMUNISM TO MENTAL PATIENTS* (Visniec) which was also presented in New York and Edinburgh, *FOOTE NOTES* (Foote), *TRAVESTIES* (Stoppard), *THE DEVIL WITH BOOBS* (Fo). As a director: *PAPA* (deGroot) which was also presented in San Francisco and Istanbul, *CASANOVA* (Congden), *ABINGDON SQUARE* (Fornes), *ESCAPE FROM HAPPINESS* (Walker), *FLIGHT OF THE EARLS* (Humble), *DEAR JOHN MAYER* (Shoshana Bean / Eydie Faye). Education: Yale University and Sanford Meisner's 2-year master class.

**ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF**

- Company Production Manager.....**Amanda Weier**
- Assistant Stage Manager.....**Emily Tuñon**
- Assistant Set Designer.....**Amanda Sauter**
- Set Engineer and Fabricator.....**Kurtis Bedford**
- Assistant Lighting Designer.....**Andrea Fiorentini**
- Projection Design Assistant.....**Ryan Tirrell**
- Social Media.....**Caitlin Thompson, Jordana Berliner**
- House Managers.....
- .....**Dylan Maddalena, Stefania Spampinato**

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Gray Palmer                      John Searles                      Jason H. Thompson

...and the many volunteer company members of the *Open Fist Theatre Company!*



## A BRIEF "GARY" HISTORY

With Padua Playwrights:

1999: **Tirade for Three** at Glaxa, Los Angeles  
2005: **Tirade for Three - Gary's Walk - Girl on a Bed** at The Electric Lodge, Venice  
2007: **Out of the Blue** at The Lost Studio, Los Angeles  
2011: **DaddyO Dies Well** at The Electric Lodge, Venice  
2012: **The Nightmare Audition - The Fool and the Red Queen** at Lounge Theatre, Los Angeles  
2015: **Charles' Story** at Chromolume, Los Angeles

With Open Fist Theatre Company:

2015: **Tirade for Three - Gary's Walk - Girl On A Bed** at Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles  
2016: **Out of the Blue - Gary's Walk** at Greenway Court, Los Angeles  
2016: **Charles' Story** at Atwater Village Theatre, Los Angeles

**Thank you to all the actors and designers who contributed their time and talent to the development of these plays over the past two decades:**

Jason Adams • Christopher Allport • Matt Aston  
Jeff Atherton • Donald Berman • Peggy Ann Blow  
Straun Bovee • John Bozeman • Hank Bunker  
Andrea Beruatto David Carrera • Devon Carson  
Shawna Casey • Bill Celentano • Brooke Clendenen • Ann Closs-Farley • Hugh Dane Bruce Dickinson • John Diehl • Kimberly Freed Mary Greening • Elizabeth Greer • Tim Habeger • Carl J. Johnson • Noel Kachaturian • Jack Kehler Hana S Kim Lee Kissman Shelby Hofer • Alicia Hoge • Shannon Holt Andy Hopper • Jeff LeBeau Barbara Lempel • Laura Liguori • Tom McCleister Niamh McCormally • Derek Manson • Ellen Monocrousos • Kathi O'Donohue • Melissa Paladino • Gray Palmer • Jeffrey Porter • Julia Prudhomme • Don Preston • Tina Preston • Jeff Rack Laura Richardson • Mark Adair Rios Christopher Rivas Barbara Schofield • Ina Shumaker • Gwendolyn Stukely Casey Sullivan Mickey Swenson • Caitlin Thompson Amanda Weier • Dana Weiluns • Norbert Weisser John Zalewski • Kharen Zeunert



### Our Mission

The Open Fist Theatre Company is a community of actors, playwrights, designers and directors who believe that to realize the force and potential of a relevant, contemporary theatre it is necessary to establish a Company founded on the pursuit of artistic excellence. We seek through diverse styles and forms to illuminate the essential relationships that connect individuals and their societies, as we nurture empathy and forge identity through our work.

### Board of Directors

Jordana Berliner, Martha Demson, Christopher Lore, Malhar Pagay, Richard Polak, Charles Otte, Catie Saralegui

### Company Staff

Artistic Director.....**Martha Demson**  
Associate Artistic Director .....**Amanda Weier**  
Financial Director.....**Richard Michael Knolla**  
Literary Manager.....**Barbara Schofield**  
Membership Manager.....**Lane Allison**  
Marketing/Social Media Managers  
.....**Caitlin Thompson, Evan Silverman**  
Education Director ..... **Laura Richardson**  
Facilities Manager .....**Jordana Berliner**

### Our Members

Lane Allison, Dennis Baker, Jordana Berliner, Andrea Beruatto, Peggy Ann Blow, John Bozeman, Sandra Kate Burck, Benjamin Burdick, Tom Burruss, Caitlin Renée Campbell, Christopher Cappiello, Challen Cates, Charlotte Chanler, Brooke Clendenen, Jacque Lynn Colton, Cassandra Crandall, Martha Demson, Bruce Dickinson, Bill Jackson, Carl J. Johnson, Noel Kachaturian, Carol Kline, Rick Knolla, Elizabeth Lande, Darrell Larson, Monica Lawson, Jeff LeBeau, Laetitia Leon, Robert Lesko, Laura Liguori, Dylan Maddalena, Derek Manson, Ben Martin, Kevin McCorkle, Roderick Menzies, Amy Moorman, Jessica Morris, Paul Myrvold, Scott Paulin, Vince Peagler III, Rebecca Rosenak Phelps, Mary Linda Phillips, Sarah Phillips, Wendy Phillips, Laura Richardson, Beth Robbins, Scott Roberts, Judith Scarpone, Jennifer Schoch, Barbara Schofield, Efrain Schunior, Rod Sell, Evan Silverman, Ina Shumaker, Stefania Spampinato, Melissa Sullivan, Kim Swennen, Caitlin Thompson, Josh Trant, Emily Tuñon, Kelly Van Kirk, Byron Vasquez, Amanda Weier, Norbert Weisser