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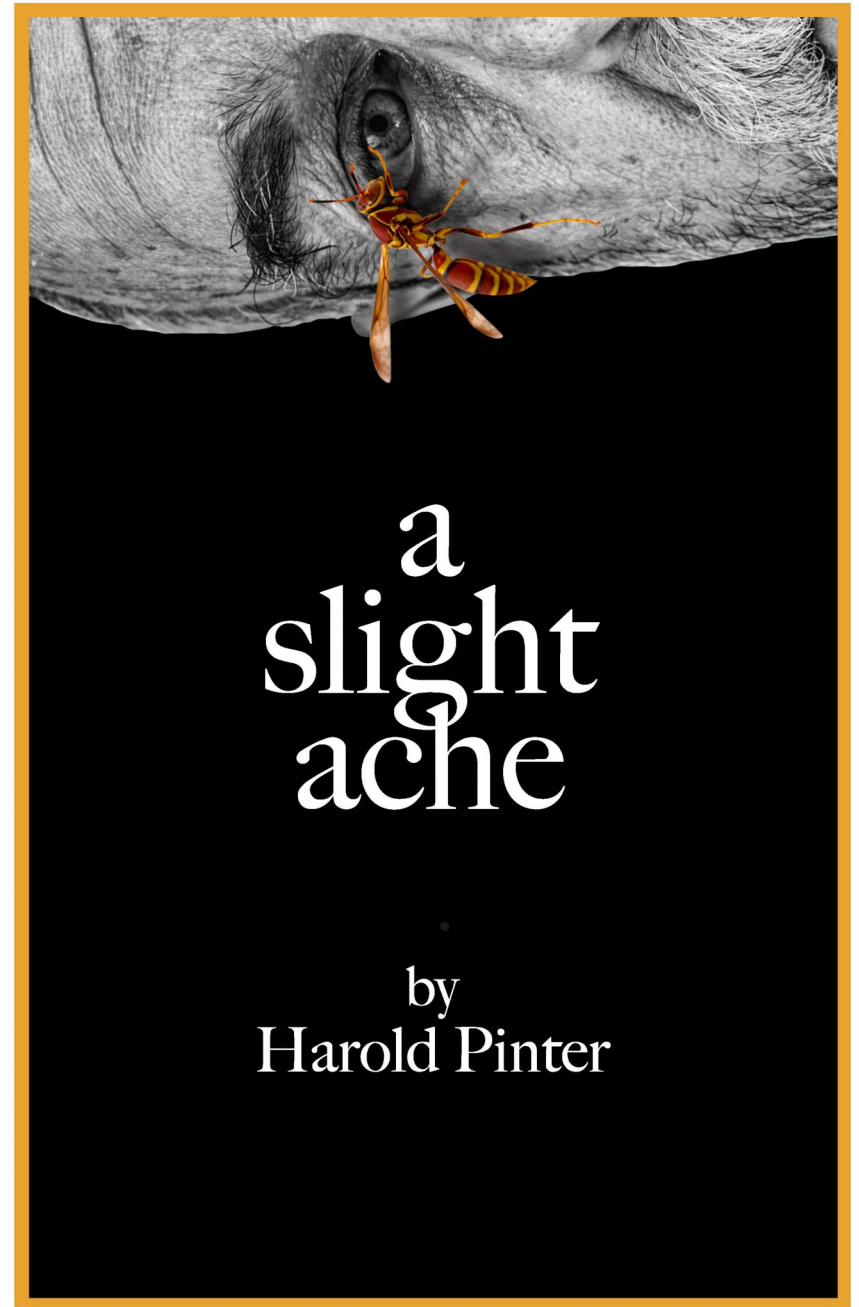
The Odyssey Theatre Box Office

Staff & Crew

**a
slight
ache**

August 26th to October 1st, 2023

odysseytheatre.com



Dance On Productions

in association with Linda Toliver and Gary Guidinger

Present

a slight ache

by Harold Pinter

Directed by Jack Heller

Starring

Susan Priver Henry Olek Shelly Kurtz

TIME/PLACE

Late 50s early 60s
A country house in
a small village outside London

The play is performed without an intermission.

A visiting production at the Odyssey Theatre.

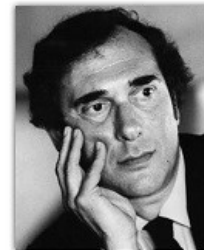
A SLIGHT ACHE is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the
Dramatists Play Service Collection.
(www.dramatists.com)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

I found this passage which represents quite deeply how I feel about the acting process and the dedication of my actors in this production:

"Actors are some of the most courageous people on the face of the earth. They deal with more day-to-day rejection in one year than most people do in an entire lifetime. Every day, actors face the financial challenge of living a freelance lifestyle, the disrespect of people who think they should get real jobs, and their own fears that they'll never work again. Every day they have to ignore the possibility that their vision to which they have dedicated their lives, is a pipe dream. With every role, they stretch themselves emotionally and physically, risking criticism and judgment. With every passing year, many of them watch as other people their age achieve the predictable milestones of normal lives...the car, the family, the house, the nest egg.

But actors stay true to their dreams in spite of sacrifices. Why? Because actors are willing to give their entire lives to the moment – to that line, that laugh, that gesture, or that interpretation that will stir the audience's soul. Actors are beings who have tasted life's nectar in that crystal moment when they poured out their creative spirits and touched another's heart. In that instant, they are as close to magic and perfection as anyone could ever be. And in their own hearts, they know that to dedicate oneself to that moment is worth a thousand lifetimes." – **Jack Heller**



“There are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal, nor between what is true and what is false. A thing is not necessarily either true or false; it can be both true and false.

~ Harold Pinter,
Art, Truth & Politics, The Nobel Lecture

Harold Pinter After studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Central School of Speech and Drama, he worked as an actor under the stage name David Baron. Following his success as a playwright, he continued to act under his own name, on stage and screen. He last acted in 2006 when he appeared in Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* at the Royal Court Theatre, directed by Ian Rickson.

He wrote 29 plays, including *The Birthday Party*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *A Slight Ache*, *The Hothouse*, *The Caretaker*, *The Collection*, *The Lover*, *The Homecoming*, *Old Times*, *No Man's Land*, *Betrayal*, *A Kind of Alaska*, *One For The Road*, *The New World Order*, *Moonlight* and *Ashes to Ashes*. Sketches include *The Black and White*, *Request Stop*, *That's Your Trouble*, *Night*, *Precisely*, *Apart From That* and the recently rediscovered *Umbrellas*.

He directed 27 theatre productions, including James Joyce's *Exiles*, David Mamet's *Oleanna*, seven plays by Simon Gray (one of which was *Butley* in 1971, for which he directed the film adaptation three years later) and many of his own plays, including his last, *Celebration*, paired with his first, *The Room*, at The Almeida Theatre, London in the spring of 2000. He wrote 21 screenplays, including *The Pumpkin Eater*, *The Servant*, *The Go-Between*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *Sleuth*.

In 2005 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. Other awards include the Companion of Honour for services to Literature, the Legion D'Honneur, the European Theatre Prize the Laurence Olivier Award and the Moliere D'Honneur for lifetime achievement. In 1999 he was made a Companion of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature. Harold Pinter was awarded 18 honorary degrees.

He died in 2008 at the age of 78.



CAST

Flora.....Susan Priver
Edward Henry Olek
The Match Seller.....Shelly Kurtz

PRODUCTION

DirectorJack Heller
Stage Manager..... Sarah Dawn Lowry
Scenic DesignJeff Rack
Lighting Design.....Ellen Monocroussos
Costume DesignMichael Mullen
Sound DesignChristopher Moscatiello
Scenic PainterAmanda Sauter
Prop MasterAubrielle Hvolvoll
Graphic DesignKiff Scholl AFK Design
Publicity Lucy Pollak
Social Media..... Tracy Paleo
Photography..... Kyle McConaghy
Electrician Stephanie Rush
Program DesignReparata Mazzola
ProducersLinda Toliver and Gary Guidinger

WHO'S WHO



Susan Priver (Flora) previously starred at the Odyssey as Blanche DuBois in Tennessee William's *A Streetcar Named Desire* and as Myrtle, in William's *Kingdom of Earth*. More recent forays in the theater include Neil Simon's *London Suite*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *The Games Afoot*, all at Group Rep. Other theater credits: Terrence Rattigan's *Separate Tables*, directed by Jules Aaron; *Engaging Shaw*, directed by Melanie McQueen, at Theatre 40; Ferenc Molnar's *The Guardsman*, directed by Lillian Groag; *Diary of Anne Frank*; Harold Pinter's *The Lover* (LA Weekly Best One-Act); and Pinter's *A Slight Ache*, directed by Carol Reis. At the Lillian Theatre: *The Great Sebastians*, directed by Anthony Caldarella, George Bernard Shaw's *Cesar and Cleopatra*, *Idiot's Delight*, and *Twentieth Century*, directed by Rick Sparks. Also, John Patrick Shanley's *Four Dogs and a Bone*, & *Savage In Limbo*, Edward Albee's *American Dream*, David Mamet's two-character, *Reunion* (Drama Logue award, performance), Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*, William Inge's *People in the Wind*, & *Incident at the Standish Arms*, Sidney Kingsley's *Detective Story* (Drama Logue Award, Best Revival, Best Ensemble), *God of Vengeance*, and Bertolt Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, among others.

TV and Film: Susan starred in the acclaimed thriller, *Night Caller*, which has won numerous awards, including the Best Actress award. She also starred in its sequel, *Scalper*. She guest starred on HBO's *Lucky Louie*, and Fox's *Space: Above and Beyond*. Susan starred in the psychological thriller, *Serving Up Richard* AKA, *The Guest Room*, with Jude Ciccolella of *24* and Ross McCall of *White Collar*, written and directed by Henry Olek. She wrote and starred in the LGBT festival favorite, *What's Up, Scarlet?* with Sally Kirkland, Jere Burns and Musetta Vander. Other indies include leads in, *My Brother Jack* and *Mafioso*, and the shorts, *Good*, and *Miss Dixie High*. Susan recently played the lead in *Sisterhood of Secrets* for Lifetime and starred in indie films *Dead Mail* (with theater favorite John Fleck), *Dog Fugitive*, and *Scalper* (with Jake Busey and Bai Ling); Susan began her career as a ballet dancer and trained under George Balanchine at the School of American Ballet in New York City. Her professional career in dance included Eglevsky Ballet in New York City, the Hannover Ballet in Germany, and, finally, the Cleveland Ballet, all of which she toured extensively. Her book "Dancer Interrupted" is available on Amazon. www.susanpriver.com

Women in Theatre Recognition Award. In New York, she publicized off-Broadway premieres of Murray Mednick's *Mayakovsky and Stalin* at the Cherry Lane, Latina Christmas Special at the Soho Playhouse, and *Our Man in Santiago* at the new AMT She has served on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Theatre Alliance, Women in Theatre, and P.A.T.H. (Performing Arts Theatre for the Handicapped).

Linda Toliver and Gary Guidinger (Producers) recently produced at the Odyssey Theatre, *A Streetcar Named Desire* directed by Jack Heller, and the rarely seen Tennessee Williams' classic *Kingdom of Earth*, directed by Michael Arabian. Also at the Odyssey, Gary and Linda produced Justin Tanner's *Day Drinkers*, under Bart DeLorenzo's direction; Elliot Shoenman's *Aftermath*, directed by Mark Taylor, starring Annie Potts; *Assisted Living* starring Winnie Holtzman and Paul Dooley with Larry Biederman directing. They produced *Hunger: In Bed With Roy Cohn* in Los Angeles, and *Ethel Sings* at New York's Soho Rep, Walkerspace, both written by Joan Beber.

They were the producing directors of Los Angeles' Zephyr Theater for 25 years until moving on as independent producers. During that time they developed and produced many award-winning shows, including Justin Tanner's standout hit, *Voice Lessons*, directed by Bart DeLorenzo, starring Laurie Metcalf, French Stewart and Maile Flanagan, later resulting in an Off-Broadway production and Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre production; *Teen Girl*, starring Zoe Perry, directed by Matt Roth; *Space Therapy*, starring Mary Scheer, French Stewart and the Avenue 43 Ensemble. They presented the trio of Del Shores plays *Sordid Lives*, *Southern Baptists Sissies* and *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*, starring Beth Grant, Octavia Spencer, Dale Dickey and Leslie Jordan. They also produced Jim Brochu and Steve Schlaclin's *The Big Voice: God or Merman?* and *The Last Session*, both of which went on to long-running hits Off-Broadway.

"The past is what you remember, imagine you remember, convince yourself you remember, or pretend you remember." - Harold Pinter

Together they founded the puppet collective Freak Nature Puppets where they spend most of their time making and performing with giant pageant puppets. Past projects include props design for the puppet play, Dream Fluff, producing the performance art and concert series Out of Body Expo in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, and puppet performances at the Elysian Theater. They are currently developing their next full-length puppet play, *Nosferatu's Sweet 16*.

Kiff Scholl, AFK DESIGN (Graphic Designer) has a long history of designing original and eye-catching graphics for Los Angeles theatre and film productions. Long-time theatre clients include Theatre Planners, Sierra Madre Playhouse, The Athena Cats, West Coast Jewish Theatre, Indie Chi, KADM Productions, Sacred Fools, Theatre of NOTE, as well as numerous independent productions at the Odyssey, Hudson, Complex, and El Portal theaters. Our design for An Evening with John Wilkes Booth won a special award at the Best of the Fringe 2017. Current designs include Freud on Cocaine and Venus in Fur. In addition to graphics, Kiff is also an award-winning director, actor, and filmmaker, and is about to launch his new board game, Dogville. Like AFK Design on Facebook and follow Kiff on Twitter @afkiff. www.KiffScholl.com

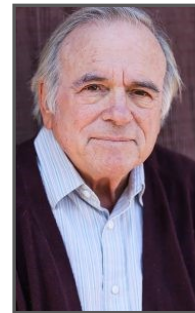
Kyle McConaghy (Photography) is a director and cinematographer from the not-cinematic state of Missouri. His directorial debut *BAB* (written with co-director Joe DeBoer) won Best Feature and Best Cinematography at the Nightmares Film Festival and can be found on entertainment applications. His second feature *Sheep's Clothing* will be released in late 2023 and he and DeBoer's next film *Dead Mail* is currently in post-production. In addition, he has shot 9 feature films, several shorts, and, most notably, a series of hotel employee training videos. He lives in Los Angeles, CA with his son, the more legit creative, Keyon. www.KyleMcConaghy.com

Lucy Pollak (Publicity) has been providing publicity services for intimate and mid-size theater companies in Los Angeles for over 30 years, as well as for independent theater, music and dance productions, and large events and festivals such as the annual Emmy Award-winning L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center. From 1981 to 1990, she was production manager/staff producer at the Odyssey Theatre, where she co-produced over 100 productions with artistic director Ron Sossi. She repped the debut production of Deaf West Theatre's *Spring Awakening*, which went on to a Tony-nominated Broadway run. For the 1993 Los Angeles Festival, she line-produced Reza Abdoh's controversial *Quotations From A Ruined City*. She is the recipient of a Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award (Master Class), an LA Weekly Award (Mary Barnes), four Drama-Logue Awards (*Mary Barnes*, *Idioglossia*, *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, *It's A Girl!*), and a



Henry Olek (Edward) Henry's early acting highlights include playing opposite Paul Winfield in *Othello* and in the lead role in *Rhinoceros* at UCLA professional series with Eugene Ionesco participating in residence. More recent theater leads: John Patrick Shanley's *Four Dogs and A Bone*; the LA Weekly award-winning *The Lover* and the *Collection* by Harold Pinter; *Idiot's Delight*; GW Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*; *Twentieth Century*; *The Great Sebastians*; and the unanimously acclaimed *A Slight Ache* by Pinter. Henry has guest starred in over 30 classic TV series *McCloud*, *S.W.A.T.*, and *Gunsmoke* among others, and in major films including Neil

Simon's *Only When I Laugh*, Jack Lemon's directed *Kotch* with Walter Matthau, *Rollercoaster* with George Segal, and *Meteor* with Sean Connery. Henry's writing career began with his first feature *A Different Story* with Perry King, followed by the comedy *Tulips* with Bernadette Peters and Gabe Kaplan; *All of Me* starring Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin, and Dana Carvey's starrer *Opportunity Knocks*. As writer-producer at Warner Bros and Universal, Henry developed *Scene of the Crime*, a primetime NBC mystery series starring Orson Welles; *Spraggue*, an ABC TV movie pilot with James Cromwell; *Ladies on Sweet Street* starring Doris Roberts and *Devil's Food*, a Lifetime film with Dabney Coleman. In 2012 Henry made his film directorial debut with *Serving Up Richard*, a cannibal tale distributed worldwide by Screen Media. www.ServingUpRichard.com



Shelly Kurtz (The Match Seller) Shelly is happy to reunite with Henry and Susan following previous productions of *The Great Sebastians*, *Caesar and Cleopatra*, and *Twentieth Century*. Shelly began his acting career in New York and, after working there for ten years, came to California. He has acted in over 150 stage plays including *Walking the Tightrope* written by Mike Kenny and directed by Debbie Divine for the 24th Street Theater, *Don't Forget to Remember*, written by Patricia Parker and directed by Kiff Scholl, *The Exercise* written by Lou Carlino and directed by Alex Bruhanski, and *Broadway Bound*, written by Neil Simon and directed by Howard Teichman for the West Coast Jewish Theater. Some of Shelly's 40-plus films include *The Impossible Joy* (short) *I Look Out for Ed Wole* (short), *Bartime* (short), *Top Dogs* (short). HI feather roles include: *The Darkling*, *A Dark Foe*, *Adopted in Danger*, *Batteries Not Included*, *Dating Daisy* and *Miriam*. He has co-starred and guest-starred on television in *Hill Street Blues*, *Hunter*, *American Family*, *Dallas*, *Knots Landing*, *The Oldest Rookie*, *The Goldbergs*, and *Better Things*. His festival film-winning films are *The Last Day* (Buffalo Film Festival), *Jumping for Joy* (Newport Beach Film Festival), *The Lepidopter* (Hamptons International Film Festival), *Hedgehog* (Best Actor) Lady Filmmakers Festival 2023) and *Forgive Me, Father* (Best actor Phoenix Film Festival 2023). Shelly will soon be seen in *Disco Inferno*, a Netflix short film, *High Desert*, a new series on Apple TV, and *How To Be A Bookie*, a new series on MAX.

Jack Heller (Director) most recently directed *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Odyssey in a production Cultural Weekly called “exceptional.” As an award-winning director, he has staged sixty productions throughout the U.S. and Canada. He was the founder and director of the Laurelgrove Theatre Company, receiving four Ovation nominations in its first three seasons. As an actor, he appeared on Broadway in *One by One* and *LUV*, and in the national company of *LUV*. Heller appeared in Henry Jaglom’s *Queen of the Lot* and also in Jaglom’s long-running play, *Just 45 Minutes from Broadway*. He received critical acclaim for creating the role of Tennessee in *Tennessee in the Summer* at the Egyptian Arena in Hollywood. Heller won a Drama-Logue Award in the one-man show *Dr. Galley* at Theater East. He starred in two long-running shows in Los Angeles: *Nuts* and *Tamara*, touring Italy with the latter. He has directed and acted in numerous “Critic’s Choice” and “Critic’s Pick” theater productions as well as in numerous television episodes. Jack studied at NYU and with Harold Clurman and Robert Lewis of the Group Theatre. He has taught at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio in the directing and acting units. Jack Heller would like to thank Sarah Dawn, his indispensable stage manager.

Sarah Dawn Lowry (Stage Manager) is a California transplant originally from northern Utah. She got her Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre and Business from Weber State University. As a young child, Sarah Dawn enjoyed performing, but she found her true calling when, as a favor for a friend right after high school, she signed up for her first stage manager position. Over the past 23 years, she has stage managed in Utah, South Korea, and California. A few of her California stage management highlights include *For the Love of a Glove* 2020 and 2023, *Carmen Jones*, *Valley Song*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *HYPE MAN*, *Cult of Love*, and *Cabaret*. Spread love, not hate.

Jeff G. Rack (Scenic Designer) is happy to be a part of this production, being a big Pinter fan. It is also nice to be back at the Odyssey and designing for this particular, unique, space for the first time. Jeff has won or been nominated for multiple Ovation Awards. He has designed over 400 shows and is the resident set designer at Theatre 40 and Theatre West. He is the co-creator of Unbound Productions and their popular, immersive Halloween show, *Wicked Lit*. Jeff is also a director and will be helming the premiere of a new play about Tesla and Edison called *Power and Light* at Theatre 40 in March. Other premiere plays Jeff has directed include *Martians: An Evening with Ray Bradbury*, which he also co-wrote with Charlie Mount, and *Villainy*, about serial killer H.H. Holmes. Jeff also does Production Design, Sculpting, and EFX work for the film industry, having worked on *Planet of the Apes*, *Armageddon*, *Flubber*, *Con-Air*, and Universal Studios’ *Back to the Future* ride. He also teaches set and film production design at FIDM and other film schools in LA.

Ellen Monocroussos (Lighting Designer) has designed the lighting for hundreds of productions nationwide. Shows in the L.A. area include *deLearious* with Open Fist Theatre Company, *The Whipping Man* with West Coast Jewish Theatre, *Holy Days* at Theatre 40, *The Exonerated* with The Actors’ Gang, *Wicked Lit* with Unbound Productions, *Grendel* with Circle X, and *Hotel C’est L’Amour* with Blank Theatre Company. She also was the Assistant Lighting Designer on the Tokyo DisneySea theme park for Walt Disney Imagineering, and for numerous productions at the Mark Taper Forum and Ahmanson Theatre. Her awards include LA Weekly and Stage Scene LA. Nominations include Ovation, NAACP, Broadway World, and Lester Horton Dance Awards. www.ellendesign.net.

Christopher Moscatiello (Sound Design) is an award-winning sound designer, composer, music editor, and music director for theater, television, and film. He is the Resident Sound Designer at Rogue Machine Theatre. TV highlights include *The Walking Dead*, *Human Target*, *Eureka*, *Psych*, *Caprica*, *The Cape*, and *Trauma*. He has scored series and specials for National Geographic and The Discovery Channel, ZDF Germany, and specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Animal Planet, MSNBC, and The History Channel. Theater highlights include The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Rogue Machine, A Noise Within, Antaeus, Odyssey Theater, Skylight Theatre, Fountain Theatre, Road Theatre, Pacific Resident Theater, and he served as assistant conductor for the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. www.moscatiello.com

Michael Mullen (Costume Design) is an actor and costume designer. He is thrilled to be a part of this show! Among his theatrical design credits are *Dreamgirls*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Siamese Sex Show*, *Fugue*, *When Jazz Had The Blues*, *Burners*, *Cabaret*, *Year Of The Rooster*, *Fixed*, *Sweeney Todd*, *American Idiot*, *The Legend Of Georgia McBride*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Wild Party*, *Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner*, and *L.A. Now And Then*. He has received several awards and nominations for his work both onstage and off from such organizations as L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation, L.A. Drama Critics Circle, L.A. Weekly, N.A.A.C.P., StageSceneLA, Stage Raw, Robby, Broadway World, Ticket Holder, Eddon, and Desert Theatre League.

Aubrielle Hvolvoll (Prop Master) and **Deanna Anderson** are creative collaborators and prop/set designers based in LA. They met as teenagers at summer camp and later reconnected as counselors. ‘Camp’ could be used to describe their style, others have said ‘dream logic’ and ‘beautiful chaos.’ Their mission is to make people believe in everyday magic.