

And If I  
Don't Behave Then What

JAN 28 - MARCH 9



WRITTEN BY IVA BRDAR  
DIRECTED BY BETH F MILLES



presents

# And If I Don't Behave Then What

**Written by Iva Brdar  
and Directed by Beth F. Milles  
Translated by Ana Brdar**

Cynthia Ettinger

Carmella Jenkins • Howard Leder • Debba Rofheart

Assistant Director  
**Taylor Bazos**

Costume Design  
**Mylette Nora**

Lighting Design  
**Russell H. Champa**  
*Lighting Associate*  
**Sean Deuel**

Sound Design  
**Marc Antonio Pritchett**

Properties  
**Ina Shumaker & Bruce Dickinson**

Production Stage Manager  
**John Dimitri**

Production Design  
**Richard Hoover**

*Publicist*  
**Lucy Pollak**

*Projection Design*  
**Gabrieal Griego**



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### **Mission**

Open Fist Theatre Company is a self-governing community of theatre artists who believe in the transformative imperative of inclusive and collaborative theatre. Dedicated to expanding social awareness through art, we seek, through diverse voices and artistic visions, to celebrate difference, nurture empathy and advance social change.

### **Board of Directors**

Martha Demson, Elizabeth Gerberg, Richard Michael Knolla, Christopher Lore, Schuyler Mastain, Charles Otte, Malhar Pagay, Katie May Porter, Ina Shumaker

### **Company Staff**

Artistic Director..... **Martha Demson**  
Co-Associate Artistic Directors..... **James Fowler/Amanda Weier**  
Managing Director..... **Katie May Porter**  
Co-Production Managers ..... **Art Hall/Amanda Weier**  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Associate ..... **Carmella Jenkins**  
Literary Manager..... **Barbara Schofield**  
Marketing & Social Media Manager ..... **Debba Rofheart**  
Membership Manager..... **Beth Robbins**  
Financial Director ..... **Richard Michael Knolla**  
Education Director ..... **Laura Richardson**  
Outreach Director ..... **Dionna Veremis**

### **Our Members**

Hetty Abbott, Lane Allison, Christine Avila, Tisha Terrasini Banker, Bryan Bertone, Phillip William Brock, Timothy Brown, Sandra Kate Burck, Rosie Byrne, Spencer Cantrell, Christopher Cappiello, Edward "Teddy" Chen, Stephanie Crothers, Carolyn Crotty, Martha Demson, Bruce Dickinson, Elle Engelman, James Fowler, David Gironda Jr., Syanne Green, Art Hall, Alex Hogy, Laura James, Carmella Jenkins, Kassie Johnston, Caroline Klidonas, Richard Michael Knolla, Tim Labor, Elizabeth Lande, Sherry Larson, Howard Leder, Dylan Maddalena, Derek Manson, Ben Martin, Schuyler Mastain, Kacey Mayeda, Angel Miguel, Jan Munroe, Jennifer Palumbo, Erica Mae McNeal, Rod Menzies, Heather Mitchell, Amy Moorman, Scott Mosenson, Ethan Niven, Tom Noga, Jason Paige, Stevie-Jean Placek, Katie May Porter, Tina Preston, Laura Richardson, Anna Laurie Rives, Beth Robbins, Scott Roberts, Debba Rofheart, Jade Santana, Judith Scarpone, Barbara Schofield, Jack Sharpe, Michael Sheppard, David Shofner, Ina Shumaker, Casey Sullivan, Janine Venable, Dionna Veremis, Amanda Weier, Alexander Wells, Ann Marie Wilding, Jennifer Zorbalas



# **And If I Don't Behave Then What**

**Woman:** Cynthia Ettinger

with

Carmella Jenkins

Howard Leder

Debba Rofheart

*And If I Don't Behave Then What* was first produced in the English language by the Cherry Artists' Collective, Ithaca, NY, Samuel Buggeln, Artistic Director.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

AND IF I DON'T BEHAVE THEN WHAT- is such a surprise.

It presents a lyrical, brutally raw, exquisitely poetic journey into the life of a woman.

I first met and worked with Iva Brdar in 2018, and found the discovery of her words, and their possibilities, fascinating- provocative and poignant. Unexpected, light, and heavy at the same time. Her work is that of a poet and a realist.

When I first read this play—I thought immediately of the actress/performer Cynthia Ettinger- as the one person I knew could help to reveal the layers- help us to understand and explore the power and the potentiality of this work.

My second thought- (with the aid of designer Richard Hoover, a long-time member of this company) was to approach the collective brain-heart and humanity housed at Open Fist Theatre - to aim and dream to share this piece in Los Angeles- (a place I always lovingly consider my artistic home.)

The play is written as a long tone poem (with no punctuation) to be discovered upon articulation- on coining- this process has enabled us to open up the images to excavate the meaning of the words – but we know -we need you--very much – and this play necessitates the experiential opportunity to share the words with you – to see how they sit with you. As we go.

These moments of fragile humanity- of purpose - of fractures of eloquence- I hope - present an opportunity to come together. To recall the glistening moments in our collective past(s) while sharing a strength- breathing together- in a space again. Inhale and exhale.

Life is as quick as a breath.

These past three years have highlighted the tenuous nature - of everything. Being together -once again- in a theatre—connects us-- to our inner tenacities.

I am so grateful you have come to share this journey with us.

Beth f Milles  
1/26/23

**Special thanks to,** Kristen Lee Kelly, and Jennifer Leigh Warren (for reading the play in Berkeley in 2021) their hearts and voices are much appreciated.

## The Cast



**Cynthia Ettinger** was the Co-Artistic Director of The Actors' Gang. She has been featured in dozens of plays there including *THE SEAGULL*, *MEPHISTO*, *SELF DEFENSE* (Directed by Beth Milles) and *RED NOSES*. She

also directed many productions at The Actors' Gang, and wrote and directed the hit play "I AM NOT A RACIST, BUT . . ." Cynthia has appeared in many films including *SILENCE OF THE LAMBS*, Bill Paxton's *FRAILTY* and *THIRTEEN*. Television credits include *CARNIVALE* and *DEADWOOD*.

She is thrilled to be working with Beth again.



**Howard Leder** is a Los Angeles-based actor as well as one of TV's most respected editors. In 2021, he appeared at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in *The Comedy of Errors* and *Cymbeline*. LA theater credits include *The Nether* (Veil Theatre), *Duet For One* (Beverly Hills Playhouse), and *Our Country's Good* (Actors' Rep

Theatre of Simi). He recently made his TV debut in the acclaimed final season of NBC's *This Is Us*. As an editor, his credits include *This Is Us* (NBC), *The Newsroom*, *Big Love* and *Perry Mason* (HBO), and *The Killing* (AMC). A native of Northern California, he is a graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory and the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He and his husband Patrick share their home with their dogs Gloucester and Sandor. Instagram: @howardleder



**Carmella Jenkins** is extremely happy to find an acting home at Open Fist Theatre Company. She has a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance from Chapman University and has been in many short film and online media productions. She is looking forward to sharing and bringing to life more

stories on stage. Instagram: @Melliemel101



**Debba Rofheart** is an LA-based actor, a proud Open Fist Theatre Company (OFTC) member, and Playground-LA company member. Most recently, she was seen playing Peter Quince in OFTC's acclaimed reimaging of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and as Maggie, in "Anatomy of Gray." Before the plague, Debba was seen on stage at OFTC's

Rorschach Fest, and during quarantine Zoom theatre, she was seen in "The Book of Life," by Judy Klass, and as Jennet Jourdemayne, in 2nd Star to the Right's production of "The Lady's Not for Burning." And you can see her as Judy, in the film, "Emma Rose," now streaming on Amazon. She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Florida. Thank you for coming and keeping live theatre alive.

## The Creatives

**Iva Brdar** (Playwright) is a Berlin-based playwright. Her plays include *Rule of Thumb* (Brücke Berlin Prize; Sterijino Pozorje Prize), *Geraniums Can Survive Anything* (Heartefact Prize), *Tomorrow Is (For Now) Always Here*, and *And If I Don't Behave Then What*. Her plays have been produced with Schauspiel Stuttgart, Schauspiel Köln, Kosmos Theater (Vienna), Cherry Arts (Ithaca) and had staged readings at Deutsches Theater in Berlin, New York Public Library, Thalia Theater in Hamburg... She received her BA in Dramaturgy from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade and her MA in Theatre Studies from the University Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3.

**Beth F. Milles** (Director) Beth is an award-winning director and adapter. Recent pandemic directing work includes *Time Bomb* by Carson Kreitzer (Kitchen Theatre) *FELT SAD POSTED A FROG* (The Cherry Arts) and multiple visual/aural collaborations with the Playwright/Poet/librettist Ruth Margraff. Other recent work includes *Fast Blood* with Civic Ensemble and the world premiere of Iva Brdar's *Rule of Thumb* at The Cherry Arts. Beth has directed at many well-known theatres, including Trinity Rep (*Dead Man's Cell Phone/Importance of Being Earnest*), The Magic Theatre (*Another Golden Rome*), Long Wharf Theatre (*Serial Blackface*), The Actors' Gang (*Imaginary Invalid, Private Battle, Self Defense, Carnage*) Civic Ensemble (*In the Parlour*), on Broadway (*And God Said "Ha"*), Playwrights Horizons, The Sundance Theatre Institute, American Repertory Theatre, Young Playwrights, Inc., New York Stage and Film, The Mark Taper Forum, New York Shakespeare Festival, ASK Theater Projects, and South Coast Repertory Theater and now is simply thrilled to be working with Open Fist. She is currently

developing *HEADING INTO NIGHT*: a clown piece about (forgetting) with longtime collaborator and clown conceptor Daniel Passer. She is a member of the Acting/Directing faculty in the Department of Performing and Media Arts at Cornell University.

**Taylor Bazos** (Assistant Director) is a director, writer, and actress from New York. She was the artistic director for the original production of *Geek the Musical* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland as well as off Broadway. She also helped produce and manage the touring company of *La Furia* in Madrid and throughout Castilla de la Mancha, Spain. She has taught theater and improv in Cuenca, Ecuador, New York, Los Angeles, and Madrid and hopes to continue to bring the joy of theater to the next generation. As an actress, she has studied at the *Stella Adler Acting Studio of Acting*, *New York Film Academy*, and *Michelle Danner Acting Studio* and has made various appearances in film and TV. Taylor would like to thank Beth and the Open Fist Theatre Company for giving her this incredible opportunity!

**Russell H. Champa** (Lighting Design) is excited to be working with Beth Milles at Open Fist. Upcoming and recent projects include *The Diving Bell and The Butterfly* (Dallas Opera), *Romeo Y Juliet* (CalShakes) *Fefu and Her Friends* (ACT), *Wintertime* (Berkeley Rep), *About Alice* (TFANA), *Everest* (Kansas City Opera) and *Thresh|Hold* (Pilobolus). Broadway credits include *China Doll* (Gerald Schoenfeld Theater), *In The Next Room, or the vibrator play* (Lyceum Theatre/Lincoln Center Theater), and *Julia Sweeney's God Said "Ha!"* (Lyceum Theatre).

New York work includes Playwrights Horizons, Lincoln Center Theater, The Public, Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, MCC, Julliard and New York Stage and Film. Regional work includes Steppenwolf, The Old Globe, The Wilma, Trinity Rep, Mark Taper Forum, and The Kennedy Center. Thanks J + J. PEACE.

**Sean Deuel**(Lighting Associate) This is Sean's second time working with OpenFist Theatre Company. He studied lighting design at UC Irvine where he received his BA in 2017. Since graduating he continued his lighting career as a technician working at venues including South Coast Repertory, Santa Monica College PAC, and Universal Studios Halloween Horror Nights.

**Marc Antonio Pritchett** (Sound Design) is a working Actor, Director, Fight Coordinator, and Session Singer in the Los Angeles area. He is also one of the Artistic Directors at Sacred Fools Theatre Company. Recent sound/music credits include *The Mousetrap* at Theatre Palisades, *The Latrell Show* at IAMA Theatre, *The Play You Want* at the Road Theatre, *Sweat and Cry It Out* at the Chance Theatre, *An Octoroon*, *The Children* and *Detained* at the Fountain Theatre. Nucleus Talent Management represents him. For additional info visit: [www.marcantoniopritchett.com](http://www.marcantoniopritchett.com)

**Gabrieal Griego**(Projection Design)is also a producer, writer, and director of theatre and film. She is thrilled to be a part of this incredible show!

**Richard Hoover**(Production Design)has designed major projects for the stage and screen. Films include "Payback", "42", "Soul Men," "Henry Poole is Here," "North Country," "Mothman Prophecies," "Girl, Interrupted," "Cradle Will Rock," "Apt Pupil," "Dead Man Walking", and "Bob Roberts." For the small screen, "Newsroom", "Enlightened" "Live from Baghdad," the HBO biopic "Temple Grandin." His television work includes "Plot Against America", "Lackawanna Blues," "The Hamburg Cell," "Fail Safe," "Heat Wave", "Family of Spies", the pilot of HBO's "Entourage"; and David Lynch's innovative series "Twin Peaks." For the stage, he won Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his work on Trevor Nunn's production of Tennessee Williams' "Not About Nightingales." He received two more Drama Desk Award nominations, for "Bat Boy: The Musical" and the Broadway revival of Arthur Miller's "After the Fall." Hoover has designed more than 75 Theatrical productions, for the stages including The Public Theatre, The Steppenwolf Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, and the Mark Taper Forum.

**Myllette Nora** (Costume Design) "Musical Fools", "Dancing at Lughnasa", "In The Next Room" are a few of her shows that she has the pleasure of doing with OpenFist! Ovation Award and NAACP Theatre Awards for best costumes, listed in the honors edition of The Cambridge Registry of Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women, works worldwide her credits consist of television, film, video, and stage, and was seen nightly on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and now "You Bet Your Life" with Jay Leno and Kevin Eubanks, and weekly on "Jay Leno's Garage". The famed artist Synthia St. James noted Mylette as being the inspiration for her world-renowned painting "Ensemble" which



graced the cover of the best-selling novel "Waiting To Exhale" by Terry McMillan. Mylette's designer lines are, doggie wear, [www.FromTheHeartDoggieWear.com](http://www.FromTheHeartDoggieWear.com), heirloom dolls, "My Mind's Eye", and now face mask by, Mylette!

**Bruce Dickinson & Ina Shumaker** (Props Design) Began designing props and set pieces for the OpenFist Theatre Company over 20 years ago. Specializing in creating realistic fake foods and period set dressings, some of their favorite past shows include: James Joyce's *The Dead*, *Doo Doo Love*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. *Carpe diem*.

**Jennifer Palumbo** (Rehearsal Stage Manager, AEA) is an LA-based Stage Manager and has enjoyed working on several plays with OFTC, as well as with other companies including Rogue Machine, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, Greenway Court, Theatre Planners, MACHA Theatre, and Sacred Fools, and at venues including The Getty Villa, The Matrix, Sierra Madre Playhouse, Edgemar Center for the Arts, the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA and Halloran Centre at The Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, TN. Jennifer recently ran *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with OFTC, and is happy to be back!

**John Dimitri** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage managing this production of *And If I Don't Behave Then What!* He has spent a lifetime in the Arts and has worn many different hats, including Stage Actor, Screen Actor, Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Tech Director, Assistant Tech Director, Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Set Builder, Photographer, Videographer, and Running Crew. In addition to his work with Open Fist, John is an AMDA graduate, an IATSE Local 33 Stagehand, and has lent his skills to various other LA-based theatre companies and programs, including The Sierra Madre Playhouse, Downtown Rep, The Fountain, Vesper, Children's Theatre Experience, Storytailors, Pasadena City College, and Glendale Community College. He would like to thank his mother and fellow Open Fist member Barbara Schofield and all of his family and friends for their constant support over the years!

**Martha Demson** (Artistic Director) Highlights of Demson's award-winning career with the Open Fist Theatre include: As a producer: *Neil Simon's Musical Fools* (Simon, Swann, West); *Anna in the Tropics* (Cruz); *All Night Long* (O'Keefe); *The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union* (Greig); *How to Explain the History of Communism to Mental Patients* (Visniec). As a director: The Ovation Award-winning *PAPA* (deGroot); *Casanova* (Congden), *Abingdon Square* (Fornes), *Escape from Happiness* (Walker), *The Existents* (Taylor); *Dear John Mayer* (Shoshana Bean / Eydie Faye); *BOTH: A Hard Day's Silent Night*. Education: Yale University and Sanford Meisner's 2-year master class.

