

odyssey

THEATRE ENSEMBLE



Odyssey Theatre Ensemble presents
the Los Angeles premiere of



Written by **Anna Ouyang Moench**

Directed by **Peter Richards**

Starring

Arye Gross* **Jacqueline Misaye***

Set Designer **Mark Guirguis**

Costume Designer **Lena Sands**

Lighting Designer **Scott Bolman**

Sound Designer **Costandina J. Daros**

Prop Designer **Jenine MacDonald***

Stage Manager **Beth Mack***

Produced for the Odyssey by **Beth Hogan**

"Birds of North America was developed with assistance from Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, Stephen Weitz, Producing Ensemble Director".

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



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

The Odyssey was recently awarded grant funding through LA County's Creative Recovery LA initiative which includes funding for arts relief and recovery, creative works and jobs for artists, career pathways for youth and marketing.

CAST

JOHN Arye Gross*
CAITLYN Jacqueline Misaye*

THE SETTING

Time: a decade spanning the mid-2000s to the mid-2010s.
One year passes between each scene.
Place: John’s yard. Baltimore County, Maryland.

Running Time: 90 minutes

Birds of North America is performed without an intermission.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



ARYE GROSS

John

After an inexplicable absence, Arye returns to OTE where he performed in Kenneth Robins' play, *Black Box*. Starting sometime during the Carter Administration, he appeared in *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial*, *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H* and *The Love Suicide at Schofield Barracks*, in addition to hanging around / lending a hand behind the scenes on a number of Odyssey productions. Arye has (repeatedly) acted in plays with The Antaeus Company, SCR, Geffen Playhouse, Theatre@Boston Court, Pasadena Playhouse, El Teatro Campesino, and others, as well as MTC, ACT-SF, Baltimore Center Stage, The Wallis, CTG, East/West Players, and Stages Theatre Center, where he also served as an Artistic Director in the early aughts. As a film and TV worker, his credits include *Minority Report*, *Big Eden*, *Castle*, *Ellen*, *House II*, *For the Boys*, *The Rookie*, *Monster*, *911*, *Better Call Saul*, and other stuff. He is open to suggestions.



JACQUELINE MISAYE

Caitlyn

Jacqueline Misaye is ecstatic to be making her Odyssey Theatre debut in this beautiful play. Recent theatre credits include *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Independent Shakespeare Co.); *Bliss, Or Emily Post is Dead* (Moving Arts); *Kentucky* (East West Players); *Reykjavik and At the Table* (The Road Theatre Co.); *Eurydice* (Little Fish Theatre); *Little Women* (Playwrights' Arena); *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare by the Sea). She trained at the British American Drama Academy and the USC School of Dramatic Arts. For more information, please visit www.jacquelinemisaye.com.

ANNA OUYANG MOENCH

Playwright

Anna Ouyang Moench is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays have been produced at Williamstown Theatre Festival, NAATCO/The Public Theater, the Geffen Playhouse, the Playwrights Realm, East West Players, InterAct Theater, Theater Mu, and many other theaters across the country and around the world. She is an alum of UCSD's Playwriting M.F.A. program, the Emerging Writers Group at the Public Theater, Youngblood at Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Jam at New Georges, and writers groups at East West Players and the Echo Theater Company. In television and film, Anna has worked with Apple TV+, HBO, A24, 3000 Pictures, Netflix, Fifth Season, UCP, eOne, PictureStart, and Universal. Anna was a member of the pilot cohort of the WarnerMedia Access Showrunner Program. She currently writes for *Severance* and *Beef*. Anna lives in Los Angeles with her family.

PETER RICHARDS*Director*

Peter is a Santa Monica-based director, actor, and producer. Notable directing credits in Los Angeles: *A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney* (LA Times Best Theater of 2022 Pick) and *Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally* at the Odyssey Theater (visiting productions). *Crime and Punishment* and *Macbeth* at the Edgemar Center for the Arts. Additional credits: *The Seagull*, *The Tempest*, *Julius Caesar*, *Anna Christie*, *Brilliant Traces*, *The Aliens*, *Dying City* and *Elizabeth Rex*. He is a founding member of *Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant*, a Brooklyn-based experimental theater ensemble, and a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. Peter served as the Interim Artistic Director of Opera House Arts in Stonington, ME in 2018. MFA in Acting from the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. AB in Social Studies from Harvard College. www.peterrichardsdirects.com.

MARK GUIRGUIS*Scenic Designer*

Previous credits for the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble include the world premiere of *Lysistrata Unbound*, *In Circles*, and *Beckett 5*. Set design credits for many theatre companies include Playhouse on the Square; Circuit Playhouse; Creede Repertory Theatre; TheatreWorks, CA; Cape Repertory Theatre Company; and San Diego Repertory Theatre. Additional Los Angeles credits include *Four Places* and *Bhutan* produced at Rogue Machine Theatre Company, and *The Four of Us* at Firefly Theatre & Films. Recipient of several design nominations and four Ostrander Awards for excellence in set design. He is currently Head of undergraduate design at the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of California, San Diego.

SCOTT BOLMAN*Lighting Designer*

Scott (he/him) has designed lighting for theatre, dance and opera productions at venues throughout the world including the Athens and Epidaurus Festival (Athens), the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Goodspeed Opera, Judson Church, Lincoln Center, Melkweg (Amsterdam), Radialsystem V (Berlin), the Republican German Theatre (Kazakhstan), Studio Theater, The Wallis Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. His collaborations with Robert Wilson include *Der Sandmann* (Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus), *Zinnias* (Peak Performances), *The Odyssey* (National Theater of Greece) and *KOOL* (Guggenheim NYC). Scott is a founding member of Wingspace Theatrical Design, a professor of lighting design at California State University Fullerton, and a member of the design team for the U.S. National Exhibition at the 2023 Prague Quadrennial.

LENA SANDS

Costume Designer

Lena Sands is an award-winning costume designer for live performance, installation and film. Using a variety of materials and methods to create bold and distinctive visuals, Lena collaborates with ensembles and communities to investigate bodies, histories, and the divine. Lena's notable costume designs include SITI company's *Bacchae* (BAM, Guthrie, Getty Villa); Pat Benatar's *Invincible: The Musical* (The Wallis); and Jennifer Koh and Davóne Tines's *Everything Rises* (Royce Hall, BAM). Next up CMPG's *Mariology* (Mixed Blood Theater). Her work in devised theater with Los Angeles companies Four Larks and Critical Mass Performance Group (including her process and renderings) is highlighted in Routledge's book *Creating Costumes for Devised Theatre* by Kyla Kazuschyk (2023). Her work was also displayed at the State Historical Museum in Moscow as part of the exhibition, "Innovative Costume of the 21st Century: The Next Generation." Lena was a 2021 CTG Sherwood Award finalist. MFA CalArts. www.lenasands.com

COSTANDINA J. DAROS

Sound Designer

Costandina is a sound designer and composer currently based in Southern California. Originally from Michigan, she made the cross-country move to California during the pandemic to earn her MFA in Sound Design at UC Irvine. She is thrilled to join the team at The Odyssey as the sound designer for *Birds of North America*. Some of her favorite past designs include *RENT* (UC Irvine), *The Little Prince* (South Coast Repertory), *The Effect* (UC Irvine), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Western Michigan University). When she's not designing, she loves relaxing with a good book, or watching Marvel and Disney movies.

JENINE MACDONALD

Properties Designer

Jenine is thrilled to be designing props for the Odyssey again. Previous Odyssey productions include: *Picnic, Paradise*, and *Beckett*5. Guest productions include: *A Public Reading of An Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney*, *Remembering the Future*, *God of Carnage*, and *The Death and Life of Mary Jo Kopechne*. Jenine received her B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago. She was honored with a 2021-2022 StageSceneLA Scenie Award for Outstanding Properties Design.

BETH MACK

Stage Manager

Beth has stage-managed many productions around Los Angeles during the last 30 years. Most recently at the Odyssey Theatre, she stage-managed *Ghosts* directed by Bart DeLorenzo and *Wakings!* directed by Ron Sossi. Prior to that, she was the stage manager for Pat Kinevane's West Coast premiere of *Before, Hir, Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Beckett*5, *Go Back to Where You Are*, *Riding the Midnight Express* and *Awake and Sing!*, among others. As an actor Beth appeared in *Passion Play* and *Ivanov*, Evidence Room and Odyssey Theatre co-productions.

CHRIS BELL*Scenic Artist*

Chris is a theater maven who has been designing and building sets and props throughout his life. Scenic artist here at the Odyssey since 2014. A vanguard member of The Actors' Gang. Technical director and set designer at the historic Assistance League Playhouse with the Nine O'Clock Players. Creator of sets and special effects for The Grand Guignolers theater company. Resident set designer and tech director for the theater department at CalTech in Pasadena (TACIT), and he's now on his fifth season of doing sets for the High Street Arts Center in Moorpark. At one time he painted murals for exhibits at the Peterson Auto Museum, and more lately has been designing immersive escape rooms. He has been awarded for his design work by Backstage West, LA Weekly, and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle.

BETH HOGAN*Producer*

Beth is the associate artistic director of the Odyssey, staff producer and has acted in over 30 Odyssey productions.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Managers **Sara "Casey" Padillo, Isabelle Richardson**

Master Carpenters **Leonard Felix, Danny Felix, Diogenes de Prat Gay**

Scenic Artists **Chris Bell, Mark Guirguis**

Master Electrician **Danny Felix**

Light Crew **Rob Fox**

Publicist **Lucy Pollak**

Graphic Artist **Nicole Jaffe**

Photography **Jenny Graham**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

September 23 - November 19

Every Saturday at 8pm

Every Sunday at 2pm

Monday, October 16 & 30 at 8pm

Wednesday, September 27 at 8pm

Friday, September 29, October 6 & 20 at 8pm

Pay-What-You-Will Monday October 16 & October 30 at 8pm

Wine Night Fridays, September 22, October 20, November 17 at 8pm

ALSO PLAYING at the Odyssey



"HEADY MATERIAL...
It's intellectual but also spiritual, and sometimes says more in moments of silence." – Sarah Spitz, *The Canyon Chronicle*

"SOULFUL, SATISFYING...
an experimental experience wrapped in modern day characters... The ending is fascinating... glad I went."

– Joe Straw, *Joe Straw Blogspot*



"A fascinating experience"

– *Splash Magazine*

ELEPHANT SHAVINGS

Written and Directed by Ron Sossi

What makes an empty theatre the perfect setting for spiritual discovery? What happens when an actress stops performing lines and starts performing rituals? How do we define ourselves without our roles or costumes? And above all else, what's the point of it all?

Elephant Shavings evolved out of Sossi's enduring interest in the realm of metaphysics and his lifelong quest to understand the core essence of human consciousness, awareness, and "the meaning of life." Set within the walls of West L.A.'s Odyssey Theatre complex.

August 25 – October 8, 2023



FEAR OF HEIGHTS

Written and Performed by
Kevin Flynn

Fear of Heights is the story of an Irish-American kid who took a different career path from his father and grandfather, who were both New York City ironworkers. His grandfather, Paddy Flynn, was memorialized in the iconic Charles C. Ebbets photograph, "Lunch Atop a Skyscraper"; he is the gentleman sitting on the far right of a beam high above the Manhattan skyline. Kevin was naturally expected to be among the third generation of Flynn men to be a Brooklyn ironworker; however, Kevin had a different plan. Kevin is an actor and stand-up comedian.

An Odyssey Theatre and The Sarah Fulton Group co-production

**October 12 –
October 29, 2023**

**BEFOK (OR THE
DESPERATE
ATTEMPT TO
IMPRESS IÑÁRRITU)**

South African born Lola Luvv swore she'd be a world-renowned actress by the age of forty, but that's in seven days and she's no closer to her goal than when she moved to Hollywood. She still walks dogs and cleans up their monster shits. After catching a glimpse of Academy Award-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu at the Alta Dena WholeFoods, Lola's convinced it's a sign she's destined to play the lead in his new TV show The One Percent. What follows is a manic ride of determination, desperation, ketamine, and chickens, where the only thing at stake...is her life.

**October 20 –
November 5, 2023**



ODYSSEY STAFF

ARTISTIC

Artistic Director **Ron Sossi**
Associate Artistic Director **Beth Hogan**
Literary Manager **Sally Essex-Lopresti**
Dance Festival Curator **Barbara Mueller-Wittmann**
Thresholds of Invention Curator **Tony Abatemarco**
Music Festival Curator **John Snow**
Student Outreach Director **Beth Hogan**

PRODUCTION

Technical Directors **Danny Felix, Leonard Felix**
Master Electrician **Danny Felix**
Production Assistant **Rob Fox**
Production/Box Office/House Management Assistants **Andrew Blahak,**
Rogelio Douglas III, Gabriel E Jimenez Montes

ADMINISTRATIVE

Box Office Manager **Heather Cunningham**
Business Manager **Alyssa Lopez, Ana Sanchez**
Social Media Director **Katy Yates, Jessica Kwen**
Publicist **Lucy Pollak**
Facility Manager **Juana Gomez**
OTE Web Designer **Nicole Jaffe**
OTE Graphic Designers **Peter Simpson Cook, Luba Lukova, Yuri Ogita**

Special Thanks

Anna Ouyang Moench
Benjamin Blake
Naia Cucukov Richards

Volunteer Office Staff: Dolores Plevnik, George Wiedem, Julie Lebow
Volunteers: Tina Azad Pour, Sylvia Chicas, Ginger Christie,
Felicia Lawson, Dr Bob Kerns, Phyllis Soltz, Yun Xiao

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A complete list of our donors can be found on our website.

As a not-for-profit organization, our work is only possible because of charitable donors like you. A gift of any size goes a long way toward supporting the Odyssey's bold and exciting productions.

THANK YOU for helping us sustain our community of inspired audiences and artists. Together we do great things! odysseytheatre.com



310-477-2055 ext. 2, or odysseytheatre.com
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MISSION

With a 53-year history as one of Los Angeles' most adventurous companies and a pioneer in the intimate theatre movement, the Odyssey continues to offer world-class live theatre experiences in its three-theatre complex. Whether it be an original new play, a bold re-envisioned classic, or something hot off the international theatre circuit, the Odyssey strives to be provocative, mind-bending and emotionally potent. As an artist-run venture, this unique company is always multicultural in both intent and practice, serving the wonderfully diverse ethnic mix of the Los Angeles community... both of artists and audiences.

SUPPORT US

We are so grateful to have you in our family. Thank you for supporting the Odyssey and making live theatre part of your life. Give a gift today and help us to continue to produce ambitious work, support daring artists and maintain low ticket prices.

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