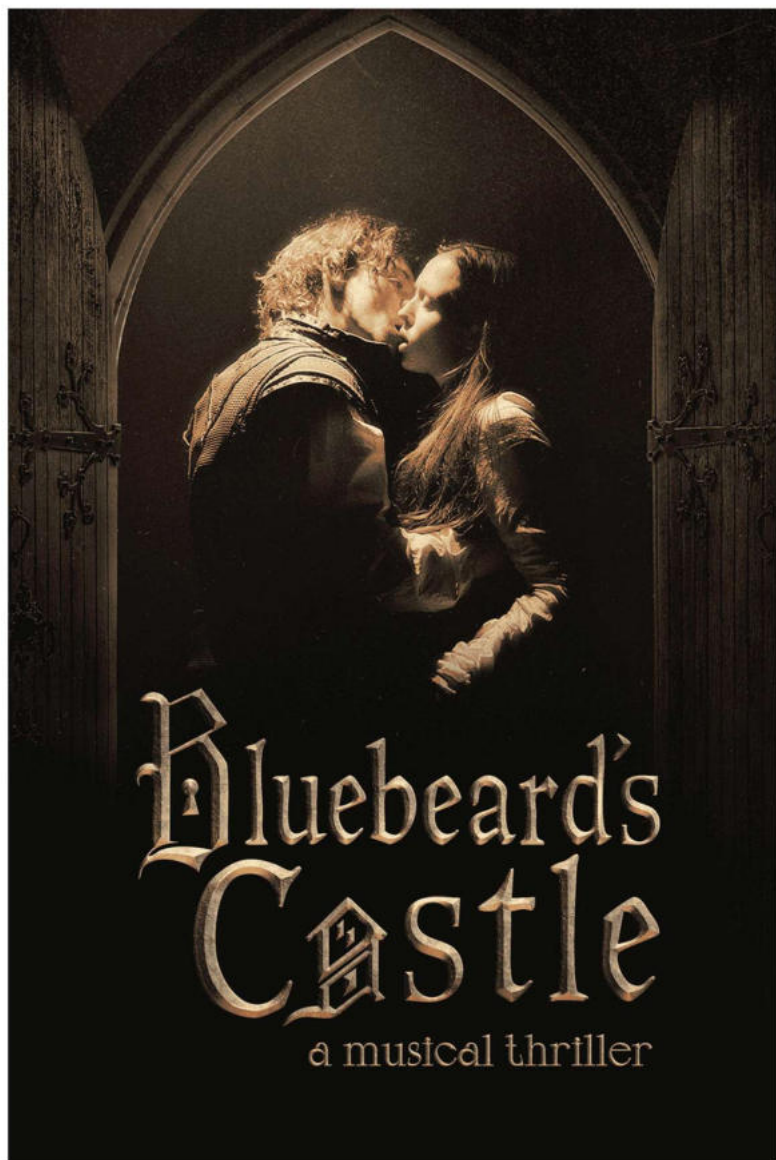


odyssey
THEATRE ENSEMBLE



October 31 - November 23, 2025

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble presents the
American Premiere of

Bluebeard's Castle

a musical thriller

Written and Directed by **Sofia Streisand**

Lyrics by **Elena Hanpira**

Music by **Sergey Rubalsky** and **Artem Petaykin**

Songs adapted for the English production by
Nancy Magarill and **Terra Naomi**

Starring

Casey Burke **Shannon Lee Clair*** **Nathan Mohebbi***
and **William Salyers** as Bluebeard's voice

Scenic Design **Mark Guirguis**

Lighting Design **Leigh Allen**

Choreography by **Irina Lyahovskaya**

Stage Manager **Katie Chabot***

Casting Director **Victoria Hoffman***

Produced by **Sofia Streisand**

Produced for the Odyssey by **Beth Hogan**

*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, LA County's Creative Recovery LA initiative, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and The Shubert Foundation Inc.

CAST

JUDITH Casey Burke
VICTIM Shannon Lee Clair*
HENRY Nathan Mohebbi*
BLUEBEARD'S VOICE ... William Salyers

THE SETTING

Time: Sometime in the past or the future

Place: Somewhere real or imagined

Running time: One hour and twenty minutes

Bluebeard's Castle is performed without an intermission.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the American premiere of *Bluebeard's Castle*, a musical thriller that has captivated audiences across Western and Eastern Europe. The story you're about to see is loosely based on an old French fairy tale well known throughout Europe. It's not surprising that this plot is less familiar on this side of the Atlantic—by its nature, it's one of the darkest and most violent tales in the fairy-tale genre, the kind that even Disney would struggle to make truly child-friendly. Here's a short summary of the original story (it may serve as a useful prelude to this play—and help you appreciate the creative leap this new version takes from the source material):

A wealthy Duke with a mysterious past, Bluebeard forbids his new wife from entering one locked room in his castle. Curiosity gets the better of her, and she visits the forbidden room, where she finds the murdered bodies of his previous wives hanging from hooks. Horrified, she drops the key, which becomes stained with blood that cannot be washed off. The key, which she cannot clean, eventually gives her away. When Bluebeard discovers her disobedience and decides to kill her, her brothers arrive just in time to rescue her and kill Bluebeard. She inherits his fortune and lives happily ever after.

This, however, is not the story you're about to see.

— *Sofia Streisand, October 31, 2025*

THE COMPANY



CASEY BURKE

Judith

Casey is thrilled to be making her return to professional theatre in Los Angeles as part of *Bluebeard's Castle*. Originally from Sydney, Australia. Casey moved to LA at age seven, and found a passion for acting through her community theatre program, which would blossom into a series of notable credits in film and television. Best known for her recurring role as Cindy on ABC's *The Middle*, her most recent credits include the 2024 film *Joker: Folie à Deux* and an upcoming Christmas thriller from Next Chapter Entertainment. And now, she is very excited to finally come back to her roots on the stage. She sends thanks to her family and friends for their endless support, and to Victoria, Sofia, Katie and everyone at the Odyssey for this wonderful opportunity. Instagram: @caseyburkeofficial



SHANNON LEE CLAIR*

Victim

Theatre credits: L.A. Theatre Works, La Mirada Theatre, Will Geer Theatricum, EST/LA, MainStreet Theatre, New Canon Theatre Company (Monterey), Book-It Rep (Seattle), and Harlequin Productions (Olympia), among others. Shannon is also a proud member of the Antaeus Company in Glendale, where her favorite roles have included Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*, Perdita in *The Winter's Tale*, and a trio of roles in Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. Indie film credits include *When You Sleep* (in post-production) and *The Dangle* (Best Short: California International Film Festival). As a writer, Shannon has been a Top 50 List-Semifinalist in the Nicholl Screenwriting Competition and a finalist for fellowships with Stowe Story Labs. Thanks to ample tall ship sailing experience in what seems like a previous life, she also holds a Merchant Marine license from the U.S. Coast Guard. Education: Princeton University and LAMDA.



NATHAN MOHEBBI*

Henry

Nathan is an actor and writer based in LA. His Film/TV credit include NBC's *Bluff City Law* and *Ellen More or Less*; YoutubeRed's *Sideswiped*; Showtime's *Masters of Sex*; ABC Family's *Chasing Life*; *Child of God*; and Universal Studios' *Neighbors*. Stage credits include *A Going Away Party Play* at Boston Court Pasadena; *Afterglow* at Hudson Theatre; *A Splintered Soul* at International City Theatre; *The Boy From Oz* and *Die, Mommie*,

Die! at Celebration Theatre; *Hairspray* at Flat Rock Playhouse; *Funny Girl* at 3-D Theatricals; *'Andy Warhol in Iran'* at Mosaic Theater DC and *Dog Sees God* at The Sherry Theatre. He is represented by Authentic Management and Allegory Talent. @nathanmohebbi

SOFIA STREISAND

Writer/Director

Sofia is a multi-award-winning Russian-born director and producer whose career in theatre began at age fourteen. By 24 she was head of production of one of the prominent opera companies in Russia, the Mikhailovsky theater. Her directing credits include *The Master and Margarita*, one of Russia's longest-running musicals, and an adaptation of *The Queen of Spades*, which has been selling out an 1,800-seat theatre for five seasons. In 2021 she received national nominations for best director and best writer, along with a win of best producer for *The Queen of Spades*. Streisand has directed opera and musicals across Europe and Asia, earning recognition for her interpretations of classical works and her dynamic staging of contemporary repertoire. She is also the founder and artistic leader of theatre companies in Paris, France, and Belgrade, Serbia. *Bluebeard's Castle* marks her U.S. debut, continuing her passion for merging tradition with innovation and creating productions that expand audiences for contemporary theatre.

ELENA KHANPIRA

Co-Writer/Lyrics

Elena is an actress, singer, and songwriter whose work unites music and drama, with a focus on exploring myths. She is the author of the musical *The Last Trial*, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary in the Moscow repertory, as well as other stage productions. An actress of musical theatre, she has participated in multiple independent projects in Russia and Serbia and is a co-founder of an independent musical theatre in Belgrade, Serbia.

SERGEY RUBALSKY

Composer

Sergey is a Russian musical theatre composer best known for his hit shows based on literary masterpieces: *The Master and Margarita* by Bulgakov, *The Idiot* by Dostoevsky and *The Queen of Spades* by Pushkin.

ARTEM PETAIKIN

Composer

Artem was born in Orenburg, Russia, and is known for his versatile musical language. His works include ballets, musicals and musical dramas.

IRINA LYAKHOVSAYA

Choreographer

Irina is an award-winning Russian choreographer and movement director whose work empowers artists to express themselves through body language.

NANCY MAGARILL

Original Songwriter and adaptor for the English Production

ASCAP award winning songwriter and Abe Olman Scholarship winner, Nancy Magarill is a one-of-a-kind artist, producer, composer and performer. Her record, "the Carousel" is an eclectic mix of poetry and pop. Produced by Daniel Mintseris (St. Vincent, David Byrne) and co-produced by Nancy, it's an infusion of vocals, soaring strings, drums, beats and the usual twists and turns from this no-holds-barred lyricist/composer. Nancy has several indie releases under her name; "Down Below the Rodeo" a collaboration with the Sirius String Quartet comprised of Dave Eggar (Evanescence, The Who, Michael Brecker, Josh Groban), Gregor Huebner (Richie Beirach, Randy Brecker, John Patitucci), Ron Lawrence (Kathleen Battle, Renee Fleming, John Zorn, Elliot Sharp) with special guest Lucia Micarelli (from HBO's Treme). She also has a downtempo project "Magic Boys" created with April White (Tiny Machines). www.nancymagarill.com

TERRA NAOMI

Songwriter and adaptor for the English Production

Terra is an American indie folk singer-songwriter who rose to fame with her performance of the song "Say It's Possible" on the video-sharing site YouTube. She went on to win the inaugural YouTube Award for Best Music Video and has released albums both independently and with Universal Music and Island Records. You can learn more at <https://terranaomi.com>.

MARK GUIRGUIS

Scenic Designer

Mark most recently designed sets for *Lear Redux*, presented by the Odyssey Theatre. Previous credits here include *Birds of North America*, *Lysistrata Unbound* (World Premiere), *In Circles* and *Beckett 5*. His set design work has been produced at numerous theatre companies across the country including Playhouse on the Square, Circuit Playhouse, Creede Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks (CA), Cape Repertory Theatre Company and San Diego Repertory Theatre. His set design credits in Los Angeles include *Four Places* and *Bhutan* at Rogue Machine Theatre Company and *The Four of Us*, produced by Firefly Theatre & Films. Mark is the recipient of multiple design nominations and has earned four Ostrander Awards for excellence in set design. He currently serves as the head of undergraduate design in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of California, San Diego.

LEIGH ALLEN

Lighting Designer

Leigh most recently worked on *Seminar* as light designer. Her freelance work in LA and Orange County includes *Rocket to the Moon*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Prince of LA*, *Chekhov x 4*, and *Les Miserables* and *Killer Joe* (in which she was nominated for the 2005 LA Ovation Award); as well as lighting for dance and special events. She received the 2003 LADCC and LA Weekly Awards for the lighting design of Johnny Got His Gun. She has also been involved with The Children's Theatre Program at South Coast Repertory, California Youth Theatre and Musical Theatre West.

KATIE CHABOT*

Stage Manager

Katie Chabot is excited and honored to be back working with the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble on *Bluebeard's Castle*. Katie is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she received degrees in education and theatre. Other stage management credits include Odyssey Theatre Ensemble *Just Another Day*, *The Way of the Peaceful Warrior*, *Heading into Night*, *Three Faces of Steve: Sondheim in Concert*, *Fear of Heights*, *Elephant Shavings*, About Productions include *Adobe Punk* and Florida Studio Theatre *The Last Acorn*, *Babel*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*. Special thanks to the *Bluebeard's Castle* team for all of their amazing hard work, her family's endless and unwavering support, and all at the Odyssey.

VICTORIA HOFFMAN*

Casting Director

Victoria is the resident casting director for Rogue Machine Theatre. Recent credits include Adolescent Salvation, *Corktown 39*, *Bacon*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, and *H*ttler's Tasters* (Stage Raw Award Best Ensemble). For Skylight Theatre: *Hide and Hide* (World Premiere by Roger Q Mason), *The Winter's Tale*; *For the Love of a Glove* at The Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan Theater; *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Othello* at A Noise Within; *Judas Kiss* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Boston Court. Film projects include the AFI Thesis films *Zenaida* (LAAPFF Official Selection) and *The Fishmonger* (Slamdance 2025, College Television Awards Nominee, CAA Moebius); Currently manager of casting at the AFI Conservatory. Directing credits include five seasons of The Blank Theatre's Young Playwright's Festival and Living Room Series, Hollywood Fringe Fest. Acting credits include *Troubles Home Alone*, *Heart's Club Band* and *Julius Weezer*. TV pop-ups on *Abbot Elementary* and *The Shrink Next Door*. www.victoriahoffman.com

RAMIRO HERMOSILLO

Sound Technician

Ramiro is an audio engineer and designer based in Los Angeles. Works include *August 29* by Ramiro Segovia, *Coldwar Picnic* by Tina Kronis, programmer for *Just Another Day* by Dan Lauria, and *Where Did We Sit On The Bus* by Giovanni Ortega. Ramiro is a graduate of LACC technical theatre program.

JASMINE YANG

Costume Assistant

Jasmine is a costume assistant whose creative roots span engineering, design and sustainability. Drawn to the artistry of transformation, she finds deep joy in helping characters come alive through the textures, colors and shapes of their costumes. Her current role focuses on tailoring and supporting the costume design team in realizing their vision with precision and care. When she's not behind the scenes, Jasmine can often be found exploring new forms of creative expression or enjoying live music. She loves how clothing communicates emotion, story and character. This production marks an exciting chapter in her creative journey, and she is grateful to contribute to The Odyssey Theatre's vibrant community of artists and storytellers.

BETH HOGAN

Producer/Acting Artistic Director

Beth is the Odyssey staff producer and has performed in over 30 Odyssey productions.

Bluebeard's Castle

a musical thriller

PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic Artist **Marine Daavid**
Master Carpenter **Danny Felix**
Master Electrician **Kevin Orellana**
Sound Technician **Ramiro Hermosillo**
Semstress/Costume Assistant **Jasmine Yang**
Makeup Artist for Nathan Mohebbi **Christopher Schellenger**
Carpenter **Lenny Felix**
Publicist **Lucy Pollak**
Photography **Cooper Bates**

A DEDICATION

This production is dedicated to the memory of **Mr. Robert M. Delzell**.

SPECIAL THANKS

Patrick Braun, Steven M. Brownson, Paul Coates,
Peter Simpson Cook, Marjie Mautner, Christopher Moscatiello, John Prokey,
John F Strong, Dan Fishbach, CTG prop department

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

October 31 through November 23, 2025

Friday October 31 (preview), November 7, 14, 21 at 8pm

Saturday November 1, 8, 15, 22 at 8pm

Sunday November 2, 9, 16, 23 at 2pm

Post Show Discussion with actors and director Sofia Striesand

Sunday, November 9 and 16th or upon request.

Pay-What-You-Can & Wine Night Fridays

Enjoy complimentary wine and snacks with the cast after the show on
November 7, 14, 21 at 8pm

Thank you for attending *Bluebeard's Castle*.
If you enjoyed the performance please share this
discount code with a friend: **BUYNOW25**
Performances continue through November 23.



IN MEMORY OF RON SOSSI

Odyssey Founder/Artistic Director from 1969 - 2025

In 1969, frustrated and bored by his work in the television industry, Ron founded the Odyssey Theatre in a former storefront church on the seedy end of Hollywood Boulevard. the Odyssey opened its inaugural productions of *A Man's A Man* by Bertolt Brecht, *The Serpent* by Jean Claude van Italie, *The Threepenny Opera* by Brecht and Kurt Weill, and *The Bacchae* by Euripides. In 1973, he moved the Odyssey to a larger venue in West Los Angeles on the corner of Bundy and Ohio where, starting out with one 99-seat performance space, he gradually expanded it into a three-theater complex. During the company's 16-year tenure in that space, Ron produced and directed two thirds of the Bertolt Brecht canon. When the building was sold in 1989, Ron moved the Odyssey to its current home on Sepulveda Boulevard, a city-owned warehouse formerly used to manufacture gas tanks. The new Odyssey opened its doors in 1990 with his production of *Faith Healer*.

Throughout the theater's 56-year history, Ron remained dedicated to presenting edgy, risk-taking live theater experiences, including an eclectic mix of new work and boldly re-envisioned classics. He was always particularly drawn to work by German and Eastern European playwrights, as well as to plays exploring metaphysical and spiritual subject matter — part of a lifelong devotion that included studying and practicing Siddha Yoga, Hinduism, Sufism, Tibetan Buddhism, The Gurdjieff Work and, most recently, Bhakti Yoga and Advaita Vedanta. In 2001, Ron created KOAN, a resident ensemble dedicated to the regular creation of unique, devised works. (In Zen Buddhism, a Koan is a paradoxical anecdote or riddle used to demonstrate the inadequacy of logical reasoning and to provoke enlightenment.) Ron's KOAN productions included *The Faust Projekt*, *Kafka Thing* and *Buddha's Big Nite!*, as well as *Sliding Into Hades*, which received the LA Weekly Award for "Best Production of the Year" and *Theater in the Dark*, an LA Weekly "Best Production" award nominee.

At the helm of the Odyssey for 56 continuous years, Ron was the recipient of numerous awards, including the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award. He was twice honored with the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle prestigious Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in the process of theater," as well as with the circle's Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." According to a 1982 Los Angeles Times article by Lawrence Christon, "When the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle debated Ron's merit as this year's recipient of the Margaret Harford Award—they decided he deserved it—two adjectives that cropped up in discussion were 'exasperating' and 'incorrigible.'" Christon went on to note that Ron "wished they had put 'incorrigible' on the award."

ODYSSEY STAFF

ARTISTIC

Acting Artistic Director **Beth Hogan**
Literary Manager/Staff Producer **Sally Essex-Lopresti**
Dance Festival Curator **Barbara Mueller-Wittmann**
Thresholds of Invention Curator **Tony Abatemarco**
Music Festival Curator **John Snow**
Writers' Odyssey Directors **Velina Hasu Houston, Sally Essex-Lopresti**
Student Outreach Director **Beth Hogan**

PRODUCTION

Technical Director **Danny Felix**
Assistant to the Technical Director **Lenny Felix**
Master Electricians **Danny Felix, Kevin Orellana**
Sound Technician **Ramiro Hermosillo**
Production Assistant **Ethan Fox**

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odyssey
THEATRE ENSEMBLE

THEATRE DANCE MUSIC COMEDY



MISSION

With a 56-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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