



Presents

WALKING TO BUCHENWALD

by **Tom Jacobson**

Directed by **Roderick Menzies**

Featuring

**Amielynn Abellera* • Will Bradley* • Christopher Cappiello*
Justin Huen* • Laura James* • Ben Martin* • Mandy Schneider***

Scenic Design
Richard Hoover

Lighting Design
Ellen Monocroussos

Sound Design
Peter Carlstedt

Costume Design
Kharen Zeunert

Properties
**Bruce Dickinson &
Ina Shumaker**

Stage Manager
Deena Tovar

Graphic Design
LiamCarl.com

Publicist
Lucy Pollak

Lighting Assistant
Justin Huen

Produced by **Martha Demson**



*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.



WALKING TO BUCHENWALD is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Arts Commission

& by a generous gift from Maxine Jacobson

The Open Fist Theatre Company is a proud member of



Cast of Characters

Mildred		Laura James *
Roger		Ben Martin *
Others		Will Bradley *
with “Die Damen”		
Schiller		Mandy Schneider *
Arjay		Amielynn Abellera *
or “Die Herren”		
Schiller		Christopher Cappiello *
Arjay		Justin Huen *

Director’s Note

The Buchenwald memorial is within walking distance of the former summer palace of the Dukes of Weimar where both Schiller and Goethe helped shape Weimar Classicism—a cultural movement that established a new humanism by synthesizing Romanticism and Classicism with ideas from the Enlightenment. This movement influenced Western European traditions of art and culture that have been upheld and cherished by generations of educated Americans. Ironically, the wall encircling the concentration camp at Buchenwald was erected along an old hunting lane on the grounds of that hallowed ducal palace. Prisoners were brought from all over Europe and the Soviet Union, and included Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Slavs, religious and political prisoners, the mentally and physically disabled, homosexuals and criminals. Once there, they were exterminated by the thousands through unendurable forced labor in armaments factories and cruel starvation, then brutally buried in open pits. As populist movements reshape global politics, Der Führer’s call for a pure Aryan nation—made great again through racial purging—reverberates once more, with echoes of Hitler’s terrifying rhetoric of racial purity and militarized nationalism. Our humanistic cultural traditions are under attack, and the world is more likely to regard us as a threatening empire than a beacon of freedom and enlightened democracy. Some of us consider this a problem, but what can one person do? Perhaps Mildred’s suggestion to “Assassinate the president” is too radical. But, think about it—If you haven’t already.

Thanks for attending live theatre in Los Angeles and for being intelligent, educated liberals who remember what theatre is about. Special thanks to playwright Tom Jacobson, the talented actors, designers and crew, my colleagues at Open Fist, and to Artistic Director Martha Demson for unstinting support of this production.

-- Roderick Menzies

THE ENSEMBLE



AMIELYNN ABELLERA (Ajay - Damen) is a graduate of USC's MFA in Acting program, and an LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award nominated actress. Recent onstage credits include Liv in *BURNERS* (Moving Arts), Julia in *1984* (Greenway Court), Landy in *CAPTAIN OF THE BIBLE QUIZ TEAM* (Rogue Machine Theatre), and Viola in *TWELFTH NIGHT* (Coeurage Theatre). Her

favorite roles include Sampaguita in *DUSTY DE LOS SANTOS* (Skylight Theatre), and Edith in *EDITH CAN SHOOT THINGS AND HIT THEM* (Artists at Play). Other regional credits with The Odyssey Theatre, Off Square Theatre Wyoming, Shakespeare Center of LA, Theatre at Boston Court, MainStreet Theatre, Chalk Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, and San Jose Stage. TV credits include "Nicky Ricky Dicky & Dawn" (Nickelodeon), "Just Add Magic" (Amazon), and "The 5th Quarter" (Verizon go90). She has also appeared in numerous commercials. Amielynn is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and the Actors Equity Association. For more info, please visit www.amielynnabellera.com.



WILL BRADLEY (Others) Previous LA Credits include *THAT PRETTY PRETTY*; *OR THE RAPE PLAY* (Son of Semele), *Miravel* (Sacred Fools), *ROMEO AND JULIET* (A Noise Within), *FOOL FOR LOVE* (co-director; LGBT Center), *STUPID FUCKING BIRD* (Theatre @ Boston Court), *THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY WAY* (Theatre @ Boston Court); Off Broadway theatre credits include *THE*

TWENTIETH-CENTURY WAY (Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre), *MAN AND SUPERMAN* (The Irish Repertory Theatre); Television/Film credits include "Pretty Little Liars", "The Normal Heart", "Killing Lincoln". Special thanks to his dad Jim Bradley for help with German, and to Martha, Tom, and Rod for the opportunity. Currently seeking representation.



CHRIS CAPIELLO (Schiller - Heren) is delighted to be making his OFTC debut. Recent work includes Sidney Bruhl in *DEATHTRAP* at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, a recurring role in the digital series "Aussie Girl," and numerous projects with the Classical Theatre Lab. Prior work on both coasts includes leading roles in works by Shakespeare, Shaw, Ibsen,

Chekhov, Wilde, Strindberg, Stoppard, Eliot and Pinter. Chris was privileged to work often with playwright Romulus Linney in New York, including *GINT*, Mr. Linney's Appalachian adaptation of *Peer Gynt* that was invited to the National Theatre of Norway. Directing

work includes *THE ROOM*, *CELEBRATION*, *MOONLIGHT*, and *THE HOTHOUSE*, all by Harold Pinter. Television credits include "As the World Turns" and "One Life to Live". A native New Yorker, Chris is a graduate of Brown University and UCLA, and trained at Circle in the Square and HB Studio. Thanks to Tom for his faith, Rod for his wisdom, and the glorious cast for their generosity of spirit in this uncommon collaboration.



JUSTIN HUEN (Ajay - Herren) is an award-nominated actor / director / designer who has worked in intimate and regional theaters across the country. He is thrilled to be making his Open Fist debut. Next year, he can be seen in the world premiere of *ONE HOUSE OVER* at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.



LAURA JAMES (Mildred) Career spans over 35 years. Films: "*Raging Bull*", "*And the Band Played On*", "*Losin' It*". TV: "*General Hospital*", "*Y&R*", "*The Bold and Beautiful* etc.". Italy(film)/England (Peter Cook's Establishment), Hong Kong (theatre/clubs), E. Africa (British Equity theatre)/ Stage: Old Globe, SD, Shakespeare & Co, Shakespeare SF Festival,

Tiffany, El Portal, J Anson Ford Theatre, Theatre West, etc, etc. One-woman shows: G Stein's *M S FURR AND M S SKEENE*, *VIRGINIA WOOLF IN HER OWN WORDS*, Simone Beauvoir's *THE WOMAN DESTROYED*. Actor in numerous LA productions, including M Mednick's *THE DESTRUCTION OF THE 4TH WORLD*. Director: Idyllwild Conservatory, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Theatre 40. Taught AADA, Columbia Film School, TW Associates, Currently SAG Conservatory. Classical Theatre Lab member. Actors Studio Director-member, Open Fist member.



BEN MARTIN (Roger) - Ben Martin has been teaching acting and directing productions in Los Angeles since 1973. Other theaters: Barter Theatre (VA) Cape Playhouse (MA) Cape Cod Melody Tent (MA). A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University - when it was still called Carnegie Tech -- he has been an Open Fist member since

2012, appearing in and directing play readings and several of our "Pop-Up" performances. Currently on the faculty of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, he is thrilled to be in this, his first major FIST role.



MANDY SCHNEIDER (Schiller - Damen) is very excited to be performing her first show with Open Fist Theatre Company, and to be performing with such an awesome cast and crew! Originally from the suburbs of Chicago, Mandy quickly fell in love with theatre. She then decided to go somewhere even colder, Syracuse University, and get her B.F.A. in acting, where

she also performed at Syracuse Stage! Upon returning to Chicago, she studied with Second City, and did many plays. Film credits include getting possessed by a demon child in David Goyer's "The Unborn" and shooting some aliens in "The Avengers!" Now in Los Angeles, Mandy has worked on such shows as "House", NBC's "Awake", and "The Young and the Restless". Theatre credits include the SAG-AFTRA Radio Plays, performing with IO West, Montana Shakespeare, and DARE LA with Some Assembly Required. She's extremely grateful to her family for their ongoing support and love, and hopes you all enjoy the show!

THE CREATIVES



TOM JACOBSON (Playwright) is one of L.A.'s most acclaimed writers. His plays include *THE DEVIL'S WIFE* at Skylight Theatre, *SPERM* at Circle X Theatre Company, *THE ORANGE GROVE* at Playwrights Arena, and the award-winning *BUNBURY*, *TAINED BLOOD*, *OUROBOROS* and *THE FRIENDLY HOUR* at the Road Theatre Company. *THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY WAY* premiered at The Theatre @ Boston Court

and the New York International Fringe Festival (five Ovation Award nominations, four Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle nominations, one GLAAD Award nomination, Fringe Festival Award for Outstanding Production of a Play, PEN Center Award for Drama) and moved off-Broadway to Rat Packer Playwrights Theatre. *MAKING PARADISE: THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUSICAL* was produced by Cornerstone Theatre Company (Back Stage Critic's Pick). Most recent productions include the world premieres of *THE CHINESE MASSACRE* (Annotated) at Circle X and *HOUSE OF THE RISING SON* at Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA (Los Angeles Times "Critic's Choice," winner of two LADCC Awards, GLAAD Award nomination). Rogue Machine Theatre Company produced *CAPTAIN OF THE BIBLE QUIZ TEAM* (LADCC Award, Stage Raw Top Ten). Film: "Prairie Sonata" (based on *THE FRIENDLY HOUR*). Opera: *HOPSCOTCH*, commissioned by The Industry.

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* (Visnic) which was also presented in New York and Edinburgh, *FOOTE NOTES* (Foot), *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* (Fomes), *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.



RODERICK MENZIES (Director) - Roderick Menzies is a proud OFTC member and Producing Co-Artistic Director of EST/LA, where he is dedicated to directing, performing and producing new American plays. In addition to staging dozens of readings of developing scripts, Menzies has helmed more than 60 theatre productions including four world premieres for EST/LA:

TEMPTED, by Jennifer Maisel, *THE MARRIAGE SUITE*, by Susan Merson, *THE MANY MISTRESSES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING*, by Andrew Dolan (Ovation Nomination for Best New Play), and *MICE*, by Schaeffer Nelson, opening October 1st. Menzies is as adept with the classics as he is with new plays. As a guest director with The Shakespeare Theatre's Academy for Classical Acting, in Washington DC, he has directed *THE DUCHESS OF MALFI*, *THE MAID'S TRAGEDY* and *PERICLES*. Additional directing credits include *NORA*, for Pico Playhouse (LA), *TWELFTH NIGHT*, for the Bing Theatre, USC (LA), *WHITE BIRCHES*, for the American Arts Festival (NY), *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIFE RADIO PLAY*, for the Penobscot Theatre Company, in Bangor ME and more than a dozen solo shows in NY and LA, including the comedy hit *BITCH TROUBLE*, written and performed by Alice Johnson, that enjoyed sold out runs at the Atwater Village Theatre (LA) and The Duplex (NYC). As an actor, he has performed leading roles at A Noise Within, Odyssey, Pico Playhouse, Open Fist, Getty Villa, Chalk Rep, and EST/LA. Early in his career, he toured with a repertory company headlined by Peter O'Toole. A veteran of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, he has played many leading Shakespearean roles, including Mercutio, in *ROMEO AND JULIET*, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, in *TWELFTH NIGHT*, Hortensio in *TAMING OF THE SHREW*, Lysander in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, and the title role in *KING HENRY V*.

RICHARD HOOVER (Scenic Design) - LCT: debut. Broadway: *NOT ABOUT NIGHTINGALES* (Tony Award), *AFTER THE FALL*. Off-Broadway: *SMALL ENGINE REPAIR*, *TWILIGHT*, *THINGS OF DRY HOURS*, *SEVEN GUITARS*, *THE SEVEN*, *THING ABOUT MEN*, *SPEAKING IN TONGUES*. Regional: *THE CRUCIBLE*, *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*, *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*, *TWELFTH NIGHT*, *HAMLET* (Guthrie); *THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK* (Steppenwolf); *THE TEM PEST* (McCarter). Film: "McFarland, USA"; "Sisters"; "Top Five"; "42"; "Soul Men"; "North Country"; "Henry Pool Is Here"; "Lakawana Blues"; "Live from Bagdad" (Art Directors Guild Award); "The Mathman Prophecies"; "Girl Interrupted"; "The Cradle Will Rock"; "Dead Man Walking"; "Bob Roberts". TV: "The Newsroom," "Twin Peaks."

KHAREN ZEUNERT (Costume Design) - Recent productions include, *THE GARY PLAYS*, *THE FOOL AND THE RED QUEEN/ACTORS NIGHTMARE* with Open Fist/Padua Playwrights. *WRINKLE IN TIME*, *TEMPEST*, *STEEL MAGNOLIAS*, *M.R. 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".

PETER CARLSTEDT (Sound Design) - A Santa Monica, CA native, Mr. Carlstedt also works as a supervising sound editor and re-recording mixer for film and television. Recent theatrical collaborations include Sophie Treadwell's *MACHINAL*, *CRIMES OF THE HEART* by Beth Henley, *THE ROSE TREE* by Angela Berliner, Conor McPherson's *THE GOOD THIEF* directed by Scott Paulin, Ken Ludwig's *THE THREE MUSKETEERS* at the Cape Fear Regional Theater in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and *DUSK RINGS A BELL* directed by John Hindman at The Lounge. Peter is pleased to be once again collaborating with Rod Menzies and The Open Fist.

ELLEN MONOCROUSSOS (Lighting Design) - Ellen has designed the lighting for hundreds of shows nationwide, and is returning to the Open Fist after lighting *THE GARY PLAYS, PART VII & VIII*, *LIGHT UP THE SKY*, *COMEDY OF ERRORS/deLEARious*, *FIRST LOOK FESTIVAL* and *BLUE NIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE WEST*. Other shows in the L.A. area include: *WHIPPING MAN* with West Coast Jewish Theatre, *THE INVISIBLE PLAY* with Theatre of Note, *THE EXONERATED* with The Actors' Gang, *HOTEL C'EST L'AMOUR* with Blank Theatre Company, *MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN* with Antaeus Company. She was Assistant Lighting Designer on Walt Disney Imagineering's Tokyo DisneySea theme park and Legoland theme park. She has won awards from LA Weekly and Stage Scene LA, and has been nominated for Ovation, NAACP, and Lester Horton Dance Awards.

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*.

DEENA TOVAR (Production Stage Manager) Deena Tovar has spent several years working in the theatre arts and is currently freelancing as a non AEA Stage Manager. She recently finished pursuing her degree in Technical Theater Arts at Santa Monica College and has been the Stage Manager of numerous productions around LA recently including: *BUMPERSTICKER* (Hollywood Fringe 2016), *TWELFTH NIGHT* (SCLA 2016), *MARIELA IN THE DESERT* (Casa0101 2016) and *FEFU AND HER FRIENDS* (Hollyhock House 2017). This is her first time working with Open Fist, it has been a pleasure to step in to work with such a fun and exciting group of people.

SPECIAL THANKS

Nicholas Scott
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at Warner Brothers
Dena Cerino, Jen Skinner
& Kinetic Lighting
Roarke Menzies

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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



@openfist



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**

Our Members

Amielynn Abellera, Christine Avila, Dennis Baker, Tisha Terrasini Banker, Andrea Beruatto, Peggy Blow, John Bozeman, Will Bradley, Sandra Kate Burke, Caitlin Renee Campbell, Colin Campbell, Christopher Cappiello, Christopher Cedeno, Brooke Clendenen, Jacque Lynn Colton, Cassandra Crandall, Martha Demson, Bruce Dickinson, Tom Donaldson, Chris Farah, Ramon Garcia, Art Hall, Justin Huen, Laura James, Caroline Klidonas, Carol Kline, Richard Michael Knolla, Elizabeth Lande, Jeff LeBeau, Laura Liguori, Dylan Maddalena, Derek Manson, Ben Martin, Katie May Porter, Kevin McCorkle, Rod Menzies, Paul Mischeshin, Amy Moorman, Jan Munroe, Paul Myrvold, Jason Paige, Scott Paulin, Vince Peagler III, Mary Linda Phillips, Sarah Phillips, Tina Preston, Laura Richardson, Beth Robbins, Scott Roberts, Kacie Rogers, Ina Russell, Judith Scarpone, Mandy Schneider, Jennifer Schoch, Barbara Schofield, Efrain Schunior, Rod Sell, Evan Silverman, Stefania Spampinato, Chase Studinski, Melissa Sullivan, Kim Swennen, Caitlin Thompson, Emily Tunon, Kelly Van Kirk, Micah Watterson, Amanda Weier, Bryna Weiss, Norbert Weisser, Lisa-Marie Werfel





The Open Fist Theatre Company wishes to thank all of the supporting Angels whose generous contributions have made our 2017 Season possible...

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Murray Mednick,

**Cherubim
(\$2500-\$5000)**

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Malhar Pagay, Phillips Family

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... and to all of You, our patrons, for continuing to support intimate theatre in Los Angeles





Opening in November 2017...

Ron West & Phil Swann's
deLEARious

Directed by Ron West
Music Direction by David Wheatley

Ron and Phil, two composers in Los Angeles, are writing about King James I and Shakespeare, who are writing about the legendary King Lear. Phil gets sick of Ron's laziness and womanizing; King James gets sick of Shakespeare and demotes him to working on the Bible; and King Lear gets sick of everyone and goes crazy. Hilarity ensues.

