

I N T E R N A T I O N A L **C** I T Y **T** H E A T R E

Your Award-Winning Professional Regional Theatre

caryn desai, Artistic Director/Producer



38th Anniversary Season

A World Premiere

EXIT WOUNDS

by **Wendy Graf**

Directed by

caryn desai

2023 Season, Honorary Producers:
The Ackerman Family/Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation

Previews: August 23 & 24; Opening Night: August 25

Performances through September 10

Thurs-Sat and Previews at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

Beverly O'Neill Theater - 330 E. Seaside Way

562-436-4610 InternationalCityTheatre.org

*A Note from the
Artistic Director/Producer, caryn desai*



I recently received a letter from a dear friend of mine on the East Coast. As she read “Team of Rivals, the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln” by Doris Kearns Goodwin, my friend wrote:

“When I read how much the theater did for Lincoln, my heart went immediately to you.”

Interestingly enough, I started reading Lincoln’s biography years ago and still haven’t finished it because most of my time is spent reading plays now. But my friend shared with me a section from the book:

“Lincoln’s ability to retain his emotional balance in such difficult situations was rooted in an acute self-awareness and an enormous capacity to dispel anxiety in constructive ways. In the most difficult moments of his presidency, nothing provided Lincoln greater respite and renewal than to immerse himself in a play at either Grover’s or Ford’s. Leonard Grover estimated that Lincoln had visited his theater ‘more than a hundred times’ during his four years as president. . .

It gave him an hour or two from worry. The drama drew his mind into other channels of thought, afforded him the most entire relief . . . he was transported into a realm far from the troubling events that filled the rest of his waking hours . . .

Lincoln seated in his presidential box could enjoy the communal experience which allowed him to feel the pulse of the people.”

Here is to all of us finding that respite and renewal through our shared communal experience of live theatre.

Caryn Desai

P. S. Please take a moment to review our exciting lineup for 2024, our 39th year, outlined in this program and join us for our season of *Plays that are personal, passionate, and playful*. Thank you!



Tribute to Anne Cook

It is with great sadness that International City Theatre said goodbye this year to a longtime supporter and friend. Anne served on the ICT Board for many years and was our first female president! She spent a lifetime in education as an educator and administrator and retired from the Long Beach Unified School

District. Anne was a passionate volunteer at Long Beach Assistance League and a fervent theater goer. She was steadfast in her support of International City Theatre from the time we were founded on the Long Beach City College campus and when we moved downtown until her health prevented her participation. She was special and is missed.

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International City Theatre

Your Award-winning Professional Regional Theatre presents the World Premiere of

EXIT WOUNDS

By Wendy Graf

Directed by caryn desai

PRODUCTION

Director/Producer:	caryn desai
Scenic Designer:	Yuri Okahana-Benson
Lighting Designer:	Donna Ruzika
Resident Costume Designer:	Kimberly DeShazo
Sound Designer:	Dave Mickey
Resident Property Designers:	Patty and Gordon Briles
Resident Hair and Wig Designer:	Anthony Gagliardi
Production Stage Manager:	Letitia Chang *
Assistant Stage Manager:	Sarai Sarmiento
Resident Casting Director:	Michael Donovan, CSA
Resident Casting Director:	Richie Ferris, CSA
Set Builder:	Robert Young
Wardrobe Crew:	Amber Pegler
Sound Crew:	Kayla Arnwine
Master Electrician:	Daniel Moorefield
Photographer:	Kayte Deioma
House Manager:	Linda Miller

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Danny:	Hayden Kharrazi
Matt:	Michael Polak *
Linda:	Suanne Spoke

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

Place: Connecticut **Time:** 2017

Running Time: Approx. 100 minutes (No Intermission)

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. As a courtesy to the actors onstage and your fellow audience members, please turn off your cell phone, beeper or any electronic device that might make noise during the performance. Also, if you use your cell phone during intermission, please ensure that your phone is turned off before you re-enter the auditorium. Thank you for your cooperation!

Wendy Graf (Playwright) is an award winning playwright whose plays have been produced throughout the country and internationally. Recent plays include: *Wednesday's Child*; *Exit Wounds* (Gold Medallion 1st place winner Moss Hart and Kitty Carlisle New Play Initiative); *Unemployed Elephants – A Love Story* (Stage Raw Recommended Top Ten; L.A. Times Pick of the Week, multiple Critics Choice) *Please Don't Ask About Becket* (prod 7-9/16 “Graf’s emotionally astute drama peels away layers of pathology with surgical skill”-Los Angeles Times); *All American Girl* (Stage Raw Recommended Top Ten/2015 nom Playwriting and Solo performance; LA Times Pick of the Week; LA Weekly “GO!” StageSceneLA 2015 Outstanding Solo Performance Production; Bitter Lemons 2015 Ten Best); *Closely Related Keys* Best World Premiere Plays of 2013/14; Best Production Drama/Intimate Theater 2013/14 StageSceneLA; NAACP win/nominations); *No Word in Guyanese For Me* (2012 GLAAD Award Outstanding L.A. Theater, HELEN HAYES AWARDS Recommended); *Behind the Gates*; *Lessons* (L.A. production dir by Gordon Davidson); *Leipzig* (LADCC nomination; Garland award/Playwriting; Dorothy Silver finalist); *The Book of Esther* (San Fernando Valley Artistic Directors nominations including Best Play; ASK Theater Projects Grant Award); *Bethany/Bakol* (Attic Theater One Act Winner, produced September 2009) and her newest, *A Shonda* and *The Cross and the Saber*.

caryn desai (Director/Producer) is an award-winning director with awards and nominations from LA Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly, Drama-Logue, Robby, Ovation and NAACP for her productions. Recent directing: *Under, the Skin*, *Valley Song*, *Art*, *Daisy*, *Beast on the Moon*, *Cardboard Piano*, *Uncanny Valley*, and *Doubt*. Selected credits: *Other Desert Cities*, *Red*, *God of Carnage*, *Backwards in High Heels*, *Dinah Was* (most L.A. Ovation award nominations) “*Master Harold*” ... *and the boys*, *A Shayna Maidel*, *Shakuntala* (also adapted by her), *Rashomon*, *Our Town*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Contradictions* (her original work), *Antigone*, and *Oedipus*. Selected musicals: *Raisin* (LADCC “Best Production”), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Once on This Island*, and *Tapestry*. caryn is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. She has an MFA in directing from UC Irvine, a BA from CSU, Long Beach in acting and directing, an AA from LBCC, and a certificate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London. She has certificates in Arts Administration, Marketing and Fundraising. With a full Fellowship, she completed an Executive Program at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business as one of 50 arts leaders in the nation selected for the initial program. Additionally, she completed an Executive Coaching Program through the Hudson Institute, Santa Barbara. She has served on grant panels for the county and city and as a speaker/panelist for the SRO Theatre Conference at USC on Best Practices, the Technical Theatre Conference about the role of a director, and more. She represented ICT as a National Participant for the Listening Post Project with Johns Hopkins University and was named “Enterprising Woman in the Arts” in Long Beach. caryn was honored with the “We Can Do It” Award

from the Long Beach Rosie the Riveter Foundation and nominated as an Amazing Woman in the Arts. She taught college for more than 25 years and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Long Beach City College. She served as a Dramaturgical Responder for the graduate playwriting students at USC and served as Vice Chair for the LA Producers League for Large Theatres. In 2016 she was the keynote speaker at the Disneyland Hotel for INTIX. That same year she accepted the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Season and was recognized as a 2016 Community Hero by the African American History & Culture Foundation. In 2018 caryn was named Distinguished Alumna from the College of the Arts at California State University, Long Beach. Prior to the pandemic, she returned to teaching Nonprofit Arts Management at CSU, Fullerton. Recently she was honored to be included on the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame and to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Long Beach NAACP. Most recently it was a privilege to serve as Mace Marshall for UC Irvine's graduates from the School of Arts, School of Education, and School of Physical Sciences.



Hayden Kharrazi (Danny) is honored to be making his International City Theatre debut in this groundbreaking world premiere of *Exit Wounds* at the Beverly O'Neill Theater. Previous credits include: *Cindy and the Disco Ball* at The Garry Marshall Theatre (Tom), *Grease* (Danny), *Footloose* (Ren), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom). He thanks caryn desai, Wendy Graf, and Michael Donovan Casting for this wonderful

opportunity and experience. He also thanks his agent, Steven, as well as his teachers Sean Alexander Bart and the faculty at LAMTS. Finally he wants to send his love to his Mom, Baba, Mischa, Baba Joon, Grandma Janet, Co Co, and Trouble. He hopes this play will ignite conversations amongst family, friends, and peers about the current crises our country is facing involving mental health and gun control. Don't be afraid of conversation. Conversation is the first step to progress. @haydenkharrazi



Michael Polak (Matt) is thrilled to be back at ICT having appeared as Father Flynn in *Doubt*. His New York credits include *Soldier's Wife* at the Mint Theatre. Regionally he has appeared at The Rubicon Theatre, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Ensemble Theatre Company, La Mirada Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, Northern Stage, Delaware Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare, Philadelphia Theater

Company, Caldwell Theatre Company – *New Times Award* winner and *Carbonell Award* nominee for the role of Shane Mungitt in *Take Me Out*, The Shakespeare Theatre, Hartford Stage, Playmaker's Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Cape Playhouse, PCPA, San Jose Stage Company and the California, San Francisco, and Texas Shakespeare Festivals among others. T.V & Film Credits: *Bel-Air*, *Mid-Century*, *86 Melrose Ave*, and numerous soaps,

web series, and shorts. Michael received his M.F.A. from Pennsylvania State University and his B.A. from California State University, Fullerton. <https://www.michaelpolakactorfd.com>



Suanne Spoke (Linda) 2022 Emmy Shortlisted Series Regular on NBC's *The Thing About Pam* opposite Renee Zellweger, Suanne is a long-working award-winning actress who is thrilled to be making her debut @ICT. Feature films include Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash*, Christopher Guest's *Mascots*, and Stephen Spielberg's *War of the Worlds*. Recurring television guest stars on *Famous in Love*, *General Hospital*, *Switched at Birth*, and so many more, going all the way back to *Step by Step*. Recent guest stars on *Station 19* and *Criminal Minds*, with the list of great guests cascading back to *Seinfeld*, *Larry Sanders*, *3rd Rock*, *X-Files*, you name it. Multiple Ovation Award winner, starred as Blanche in Deaf West's production of *Streetcar* opposite Academy Award winner Troy Kotsur as Stanley, and they subsequently starred together in the award-winning Feature Film *Wild Prairie Rose*. Suanne serves on the faculty at the California Institute of the Arts and is currently represented by www.calliope-west.com

Yuri Okahana-Beson (Scenic Design) is a scenographer based in Los Angeles, CA. Originally from Tokyo, Japan, she has been working both nationally and internationally. Her work has also been shown in a book "SCENE SHIFT : US Set Designers In Conversation", published from Rotledge. Recent theatrical design credit includes; *Sense and Sensibility* at Costa Mesa Playhouse, *SMILE* at IAMA Theater Company, *The Curious Incident of a Dog* in the Nighttime at Saddleback College, and many more. She also has been teaching and mentoring both BFA and MFA students at various universities around the greater L.A. area. MFA in Scenic Design from CSULB. More info available at www.yuriokahana.com and IG @11URI30

Donna Ruzika (Lighting Designer) has had the pleasure of designing for ICT since 1999. Favorite productions include *Into the Breeches*, *Lady Day at the Emerson Bar and Grill*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Shipwrecked!* and *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. Donna has also created lighting for the Utah Shakespeare Festival (22 years), South Coast Repertory, Kansas City Repertory, Laguna Playhouse, Ebony Repertory Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, The Colony Theatre, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and FCLO, where she designed over 100 musicals as Resident Designer. Donna has been the associate lighting designer for sixteen productions for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's summer musicals at the Hollywood Bowl, also for the 2023 *Everybody Rise! A Sondheim Celebration*, 2013 *The Simpson's Take the Bowl* and the 2017 *The Muppets Take the Bowl*. Her award-winning lighting has also been seen in Barcelona, Spain; Bogota, Columbia; and Cairo, Egypt. Donna would like to thank Tom for a joy-filled 50 years of marriage!

Kim DeShazo (Resident Costume Designer) is Costume Instructor for the Theatre and Dance at El Camino College as well as resident costume designer for International City Theatre. Other theatres that have showcased her skills include Pasadena Dance Theatre, L.A. Opera, Long Beach Opera, Shakespeare Festival/LA, the Gary Marshall Theatre, the Odyssey Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, PCPA and Ebony Rep. College collaborations include designing for the Theatre as well as the Dance Department at Chapman University, and at UCI, Cal State Dominguez Hills, College of the Canyons, LB City College, and Mt. San Antonio College. Her work has been seen at industrial shows for Nike, Adidas, Skechers, Cherokee and Diesel clothing. Commercials include AFLAC, Target, Disney, McDonald's, and Mattel. Television credits range from The Real, The Price is Right, and an Ozzy Osbourne's Variety show, to work for the Academy Awards, Nickelodeon, and the Disney Channel.

Dave Mickey (Sound Designer) has designed sound, video, interactive, and lighting for theatre productions at Off-Broadway's Theatre Row, 59E59 NYC, Virginia Stage Company, International City Theatre, The Colony Theatre, The Rubicon Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, the Chance Theatre, the Blank Theatre, and Syzygy theatre. Mr. Mickey received the 2023 Stage Scene LA "Scenie" Award for OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN (Multiple Productions). He also received the 2014 NAACP Best Sound Design for BREATH & IMAGINATION, the Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award, a national award in sound design sponsored by USITT, three Editor Choice Awards from the Maker Faire, Honorable Mentions for the Garland Awards, Outstanding Achievements by StageSceneLA.com and nominations for the LA Weekly Theater Awards. Mr. Mickey holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and is the Associate Dean for the College of the Arts at CSUF.

Patty and Gordon Briles (Resident Property Designers) have joined their artistic skills as Property Designers for ICT. Gordon's three-dimensional work in ceramics and fine arts and Patty's work in theatre, design and illustration have enabled them to collaborate on both property and set dressing. With the assistance of their son, Christopher, it has been an ongoing family production. Their work has included award-winning designs and Ovation nominations as producers as well as designers for theatre and Emmy nominations for television. Their theatre work has been seen at (Inside) The Ford Theatre, John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, the Odyssey, the Edgemar and The Matrix. Both work with young artists at Loyola and El Camino College.

Leticia D Chang (Production Stage Manager) is a California convert transplanted from New York & Virginia, respectively. She has a Bachelor's in general theatre with Pitzer College, is a contracted Stage Manager with the Aratani Theatre space in Little Tokyo, has worked with East West Players in the past, Playwrights' Arena, Boston Court Pasadena, Hero Theatre Co & hereandnow theatre co. She's grateful to John Freeland, Jr. for dropping her

name to the decision makers at ICT – specifically to caryn desai (Thank you for hiring me!!). Thank you, audiences! Cheers!

Lucy Pollak (Publicist) has been providing publicity services to the Los Angeles performing arts community for the past 28 years – and her very first client was International City Theatre, with which she has proudly continued to work to this day! Prior to that, she was production manager/staff producer at the Odyssey Theatre, where she co-produced over 100 productions with artistic director Ron Sossi. She is the recipient of a Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award (*Master Class*), an L.A. Weekly Award (*Mary Barnes*), four Drama-Logue Awards (*Mary Barnes*, *Idioglossia*, *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, *It's A Girl!*), and a Women in Theatre Recognition Award. She has served on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Theatre Alliance (L.A. Stage Alliance), Women in Theatre.

Michael Donovan Casting (Casting Directors) has cast over 125 shows here at ICT. Michael Donovan is the recipient of 9 Artios awards, presented by the Casting Society of America for Outstanding Achievement in casting. Richie Ferris has 3 Artios awards. The company's credits include shows produced at the Ahmanson Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, the Hollywood Bowl, the Wallis Annenberg, Pasadena Playhouse, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Geffen Playhouse, the Getty Villa, the Soraya, Laguna Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, the Garry Marshall Theatre, Ebony Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Symphony, Arizona Theatre Company, Arkansas Rep, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Rep, the Totem Pole Playhouse, and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Other credits include numerous films, TV shows and commercials. Michael is President of the Board for the Foundation for New American Musicals, and serves on the Board for Camp Bravo.

Shashin Desai (Founding Artistic Director/Producer) led ICT throughout its first 25 seasons, guiding over 120 productions to its stage and winning over 200 awards for himself and the theatre while running the company in the black for 22 out of 25 years. After ICT's Silver Jubilee Season, in March 2011, Shashin stepped down passing the baton to the new generation of leadership. Since 2011, the same skills he used to visualize stories on stage with trained actors, physical compositions, and use of color and light are the same skills he is now applying to his singular focus - Photography, devoting his time to an art book project, ASIA CONNECTIONS: COMPELLING FACES AND IMAGES IN SEARCH FOR STORIES. To that end, the past years have involved extensive travel to India, Thailand, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Turkey, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Japan, Sri Lanka, Morocco, and South Africa. According to him, "Many more countries to travel, many more moments to capture." The journey continues. To see his captivating work please go to his website below and share your thoughts on his work: www.shashindesaiconnections.com. Also, see him on Instagram: @shashindesai

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WEEK 1

Wednesday Preview (8 pm)	Feb 14	May 1	Jun 12	Aug 21	Oct 16	... \$ 154
Thursday Preview (8 pm)	Feb 15	May 2	Jun 13	Aug 22	Oct 17	... \$ 154
Opening Night* (8 pm)	Feb 16	May 3	Jun 14	Aug 23	Oct 18	... \$ 210
Saturday (8 pm)	Feb 17	May 4	Jun 15	Aug 24	Oct 19	... \$ 195
Sunday (2 pm)	Feb 18	May 5	Jun 16	Aug 25	Oct 20	... \$ 205

WEEK 2

Thursday (8 pm)	Feb 22	May 9	Jun 20	Aug 29	Oct 24	... \$ 195
Friday (8 pm)	Feb 23	May 10	Jun 21	Aug 30	Oct 25	... \$ 195
Saturday (8 pm)	Feb 24	May 11	Jun 22	Aug 31	Oct 26	... \$ 195
Sunday** (2 pm)	Feb 25	May 12	Jun 23	Sep 1	Oct 27	... \$ 205

WEEK 3

Thursday (8 pm)	Feb 29	May 16	Jun 27	Sep 5	Oct 31	... \$ 195
Friday (8 pm)	Mar 1	May 17	Jun 28	Sep 6	Nov 1	... \$ 195
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Sunday (2 pm)	Mar 3	May 19	Jun 30	Sep 8	Nov 3	... \$ 205

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*Opening Night includes after-show
cast party

**Week 2, Sunday - Post-Show
Talkback with cast

***Like all non-profit theatres, ticket
sales cover only a portion of our costs.

Your e-mail address remains confidential at ICT as we do
not share or trade your information with other organizations.

CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

2024 - ICT's 39th Anniversary Season

A season of plays that are personal, passionate and playful

MARILYN, MOM & ME by Luke Yankee (A World Premiere!) February 14 — March 3

A true story written and directed by Long Beach resident Luke Yankee, whose mother was a well-known, Oscar and Tony-winning character actress named Eileen Heckart. In 1956, when Heckart was cast as Marilyn Monroe's best friend in the film, BUS STOP, Monroe, the ultimate "method actress", set out to make Heckart her best friend in real life. 40 years later, Luke tries to unravel his complex, often volatile relationship with his mother by better understanding her intense friendship with one of the biggest movie stars of all time. *"A truly wonderful piece of work which reveals the playwright's extraordinary talent at creating characters and storytelling ... I was riveted and quite moved by it ... a touching and thoughtful personal narrative that has a lot of important things to say to everyone."* — Larry King

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME by Heidi Schreck May 1 — May 19

Obie Award for Best New American Play

New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play

Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony Award nominee for Best Play

Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play breathes new life into our Constitution and imagines how it will shape the next generation of Americans. Fifteen-year-old Heidi earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the United States. In this hilarious, hopeful, and achingly human play, she resurrects her teenage self in order to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives.

"A highly entertaining, deeply informative and ultimately hopeful examination of the document that impacts every single one of us, every single day of our lives." — Chicago Sun Times

THE OUTSIDER by Paul Slade Smith June 12 — June 30

Ned Newley doesn't even want to be governor. He's terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for... the worst candidate to ever run for office. A timely and hilarious comedy that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.

"Funny, timely, and dare we say, entirely possible. The Outsider is a wonderfully crafted, superbly presented show...It is an insightful, witty satire about modern American politics that will appeal to a vast audience." — Broadway World

THE DOUBLE V by Carole Eglash-Kosoff August 21 — September 8

This is a story about activism, a dramatization of true events during the early years of World War II. After trying to enlist in the army, Jimmy Thompson becomes distraught by the way he has been treated. He writes a letter to the then largest African-American newspaper in the United States, The Pittsburgh Courier, which goes on to champion the Double V campaign — V for victory in the war and a V for victory in racial equality at home. The Double V is an amazing true story about the nation's first black civil rights movement and how one young man's focus and persistence initiated societal changes through a simple letter to a newspaper.

"This thought-provoking play is both intriguing and riveting as it traces the evolution of a movement which will eventually have a major impact on American society." — Splash Magazines

MURDER ON THE LINKS a comic mystery for the stage by Steven Dietz October 16 — November 3

From the novel by Agatha Christie

Something's afoot on the private golf course at Merlinsville-Sur-Mer, namely the body of Hercule Poirot's newest client! Acclaimed playwright Steven Dietz brings the famed Belgian detective to life to solve one of Agatha Christie's most intricate whodunits with the host of usual and unusual suspects. A cast of six versatile actors embody myriad characters as they navigate the twists and turns of this lively and fun new adaptation

"...often laugh-out-loud funny in these ways—to the point where one might sometimes forget it's a convoluted murder-mystery..." — LA Theatrical

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