



# FAITH HEALER

Written by **Brian Friel**

Directed by **Ron Sossi**

STARRING

**Ron Bottitta, Diana Cignoni, Paul Norwood**

SCENIC & PROP DESIGNER

**Stephanie Kerley Schwartz**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**Denise Blasor**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Rose Malone**

SOUND DESIGNER

**Christopher Moscattiello**

STAGE MANAGER

**Owen Panno**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Anna Mader**

*Faith Healer* runs from March 23 through May 12, 2019

*Faith Healer* is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



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

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.





## CAST

(listed in order of appearance)

Frank.....Paul Norwood  
Grace..... Diana Cignoni  
Teddy ..... Ron Bottitta

Setting:

Various locations in Wales, Scotland, England and Ireland

Time:

1970's

Play running time is approximately two hours and ten minutes.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, beginning in June of this year, we'll be producing and presenting a retrospective season of plays that were seminal at the time we began the Odyssey Theatre in 1969. Look for names like Sam Shepard, Maria Irene Fornes, La Mama, Jean-Claude Van Italie, Joe Chaikin, Peter Brook, David Rabe, The Open Theatre, Peter Nichols, Joe Orton, Leroi Jones, Anthol Fugard, Peter Weiss and numerous others to be explored in the course of a massive eighteen-month season. Additionally, watch for seminars, workshops, performances etc. with original creators, playwrights, actors and directors, who were part of this most adventurous time in American theater.

So you say, "what does this have to do with *Faith Healer*?" Well, actually it seems a most apt prelude to the retrospective project. Though it didn't open until the late 70s, Brian Friel's international hit was indeed seminal, as it pioneered the concept of a "monologue play" and its Roshomon-like structure is unique. Friel's play explores aspects of reality... the truth or fiction of one's place in the world, one's true character versus that which is concocted for public view, and the shaky reference point of subjective memory. The play is at once very mythic, very magical and very rich in language... in other words, "very Irish."

Amid raw lumber and sheetrock dust, *Faith Healer* opened this building thirty years ago. Directed by Jack Rowe and starring Neil Hunt who was later replaced by J.T. Walsh, Judy Geeson and John Horn, we were intrigued by it then and we continue to be intrigued by it now. Hope the feeling is mutual.

—Ron Sossi, March, 23, 2019

P.S. Also, watch for our super gala 50th birthday party in September!

## **WHO'S WHO**

### **BRIAN FRIEL**

*Playwright* (1929- 2015)

Brian Friel was born in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, and moved with his family to Derry in 1939. Friel was educated at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and St. Mary's Training College, Belfast (1949–50), he then taught school in Londonderry (Derry) for 10 years. In 1960, after the New Yorker began regularly published his short stories he turned to writing full time. In 1963 his play *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* was a success in Dublin and went on to be produced in London and New York, winning a Tony Award in 1966. After writing *The Loves of Cass McGuire* (1966), the Tony-nominated *Lovers* (1967), *Crystal and Fox* (1968), and *The Mundy Scheme* (1969) Friel turned to more political themes, relating the dilemmas of Irish

life and the Troubles in Northern Ireland in such plays as *The Freedom of the City* (1973), *Volunteers* (1975), *Living Quarters* (1977), and *Making History* (1988). Other notable plays include *Aristocrats* (1979), *Translations* (1980), and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1990; film adaptation, 1998). From 1980 he also adapted Chekhov's plays including *Uncle Vanya* (1998), *The Yalta Game* (2001, based on Chekhov's story "The Lady with a Lapdog"), and *The Bear* (2002).

In 1980, Brian Friel co-founded the Field Day Theatre Company with actor/director Stephen Rea in Derry. His numerous awards include the London Evening Standard Award for 'Aristocrats' (1988) and again for 'The Home Place' (2005), a Tony Award (1992) and Laurence Olivier Award (1991) for the massively successful 'Dancing at Lughnasa' and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Irish Times (1999). Friel was elected Saoi of Aosdána, Ireland's highest artistic honour, in 2006, and in 2009 Queen's University, Belfast, inaugurated the Brian Friel Theatre and Centre for Theatre Research



## **RON BOTTITTA**

*Teddy*

Ron was seen here most recently in *Hir*. Other appearances at the Odyssey: *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Rank*, *The Arsonists* and *Theatre in the Dark*, *Chekhov and Maria*, among others. He is a company member at Rogue Machine Theatre, where credits include *Oppenheimer*, *Honky*, *The Sunset Limited*, *Monkey Adored* and *Razorback*. He's the regular host of Rogue Machine Theatre's spoken word *Rant and Rave*, now in its eleventh year. Recent stage credits include, at LATV: *Sisters Matsumoto*, *I Love Lucy...*, and two National tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg*. Other LA credits include John Pollono's *Rules of Seconds* at IATC, *Superior Donuts* and *Yes, Prime Minister* at The Geffen. Recent TV: *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Get Shorty*, *Elementary*, *Supergirl* and *Grey's Anatomy*. Recent Film: *Avengers: Endgame*, *Black Panther*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *The Mountain Between Us* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*, and not so recent: *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. Dad, Professional Motorcyclist, Aviator. Full Industry deets on IMDb.com.



## **DIANA CIGNONI**

*Grace*

Diana modeled in Europe and the USA for many years before she started acting and directing. She has a unique educational background, having been taught by Charlie Laughton (friend and mentor to Al Pacino), Penelope Allen, Mark Rydell and Martin Landau at The Actors Studio and The HB Studio NYC. Diana also won multiple awards as a KOAN member of the Odyssey Theatre under the direction of Ron Sossi, and is a board member of the Odyssey Theatre. Born and raised in Germany, she now resides in Santa Monica and her directorial work can be viewed at [www.groundherofilm.org](http://www.groundherofilm.org)



## **PAUL NORWOOD**

*Frank*

Paul began his acting career as a company member at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC. Regional theatre appearances include DC's Kennedy Center and Ford's Theatre, and the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. In Los Angeles he played the title role in *Edward II* at the Globe Playhouse, and has taught workshops and directed for the Young Playwright's Festival at Harvard-Westlake School. Television: *The West Wing*, *Judging Amy*, *Criminal Minds*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *ER*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Scandal*, *Southland*, *Rosewood* and many more. He is thrilled to be making his debut with the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble.

## **RON SOSSI**

**Director/Artistic Director/Founder of the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble**

Ron received the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award in 2013. He has also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in the process of theatre" and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." Recent OTE directing projects include *Steambath*, *The Dance of Death*, *Beckett's*, *My Sister*, *Oedipus Machina*, *Theatre in the Dark* (LA Weekly nomination Best Production of the Year), *Way to Heaven* (LA Weekly and LADCC nomination for Best Production of the Year), *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *The Arsonists* (LA Weekly nomination for Best Direction) *Sliding Into Hades* (Best Production of the Year, LA Weekly), *Kafka Thing!*, *Far Away* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Ron has led the Odyssey throughout its 50-year history.

## **STEPHANIE KERLEY SCHWARTZ**

*Scenic and Prop Designer*

Previously for the Odyssey Stephanie designed scenery and costumes for Rank. She recently designed the set for *Twelve Angry Men* at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC. Other credits include Artist's Repertory Theatre; *Magellanica*, Geffen; *The Untranslatable Secrets of Nikki Corona* (costumes), Center Theatre Group, Kirk Douglas Theatre, *Good Grief* (scenery). At CTG- The Mark Taper Forum she designed costumes for *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and Randy Newman's *Harps and Angels*. For Pasadena Playhouse; scenery for *Twelve Angry Men* and *Pygmalion*. She designed the scenery for *A Raisin in the Sun* at A Noise Within. Other theatres include South Coast Repertory, East West Players and Boston Court Pasadena, among many others. As resident designer at Rogue Machine Theatre notable productions include *Treefall*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *Oppenheimer*, *Finks*, *Blackbird*, *Penelope*, *Falling*, *New Electric Ballroom* and many others. Multiple awards and nominations, including the 2017 L.A. Drama Critics Circle Kinetic Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theatrical Design. [www.kerleydesign.com](http://www.kerleydesign.com)

## **DENISE BLASOR**

*Costume Designer*

Denise is a Puerto Rican director, actress, artist and designer. She was artistic director of the multi-cultural theatre alliance, LADiversified Theater Company, where she served as executive producer, director, designer, adapter and performer. She was a founding member of Latin Actors and a Few Others, KOAN and East Los Angeles Theater, and is now associate artistic director of Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Plays she has designed include *Lysistrata Unbound*, *MACBETHX5*, *Cristo Vive*, *A Taste of Honey*, *Tempest Redux*, *Jacques Brell*, *Life Is A Dream*, *Pedro Infante y La Viuda Triunfante*, *The Greeks*, *La Posada Magica*, *Princess Of Burgundia*, *Faust*, *Wild in Wichita*, *Good Woman Of Setzuan*, *Cumbia De Mi Corazon*, *The Wide Wide Sea*, *No Exit*. She's appeared extensively on stage as an actress, recently in *The Madres* at Skylight Theatre and in Chicago at the Victory Theatre. In TV she plays Doña Rosa in *SNOWFALL* and she's directing the Passion play, *Cristo Vive*, with original music by Laurent Eyquem at the historic United Artists Theater in downtown Los Angeles this spring.

## **ROSE MALONE**

*Lighting Designer*

Rose received an MFA in Lighting Design from CalArts. Some recent productions include *For the Love of* at The Kirk Douglas Theatre, *An Undivided Heart* at Echo Theatre, *With Love and a Major Organ* at Boston Court and *Rachel Calof* at the Pico Union Project. Additionally she has designed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and assisted with Deaf West Theatre's production of *Spring Awakening* on Broadway

## **CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO**

*Sound Designer*

Recipient of the 2018 L.A. Drama Critics Circle and 2015 Stage Raw awards for sound design, Christopher Moscatiello is also a composer, sound editor/mixer and music director for theater, television and film. TV credits include *The Walking Dead* (AMC), *Psych* (USA), *Eureka* (Syfy), *Human Target* (Fox), *The Cape* (NBC), *Caprica* (Syfy) and *Trauma* (NBC). Chris has also scored full series, specials and promos for HBO, BBC, NBC, Discovery, National Geographic and others. Theater highlights include The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Rogue Machine, The Wallis Annenberg, The Ahmanson Theatre, Antaeus, Skylight Theatre, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble and The Fountain Theatre. He served as assistant conductor on the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Before residing in LA, Chris was the associate artistic director and conductor of the Boston Chamber Ensemble, and wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premiere in Washington, DC.

## **ANNA MADER**

*Assistant Director*

Originally from the Appalachian mountains of Tennessee, Anna moved to Los Angeles to pursue her education in storytelling. She recently graduated from the directing track at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, and studied at Trinity College Dublin's drama program for a quarter. Her credits most recently include directing *Church & State* as part of New York Rep's staged reading series with UCLA's theater department, serving as dramaturg for *The Mineola Twins* directed by Judy Moreland, directing *Dead Man's Cell Phone* for Act III Theater Ensemble, and writing and directing *Ship*, a play about

human relationships and artificial intelligence. This past summer Anna took her devised piece, *Witch*, to the Edinburgh Free Fringe Festival. She is excited to be part of the team for her first production with the Odyssey!

**OWEN PANNO**

*Stage Manager*

Owen is excited to be working again at the Odyssey Theater, where he previously stage-managed *Smoke and Mirrors*. He is the resident stage manager for the Red Brick Road Theater Company in North Hollywood, and has worked as a stage manager with the Teenage Drama Workshop in Northridge. He was also stage manager and musical director for the St. Mel Drama Club in Woodland Hills. Music director credits include *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* at the Costa Mesa Playhouse.



**FAITH HEALER IMPORTANT DATES**

Every Friday & Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm

Wednesday at 8pm on April 10 & May 8

Thursday at 8pm on Thursday, April 18

Tix for \$10 available at 6pm on these performances

March 29, April 10, April 25

Wine Night April 12

FREE wine with cast after the performance

College Night - April 26, \$10 tix for college students w/ ID

\$10 Tix for Teachers April 5

**PRODUCTION STAFF**

- Assistant Lighting Designer ..... Josh La Cour
- Scenic Artist ..... Jacquelyn Gutierrez
- Scenic Carpenter ..... Danny Felix
- Lighting Technicians..... Michael Blendermann, Danny Felix, Josh La Cour
- Publicist ..... Lucy Pollak
- Photography ..... Enci
- Graphic Designer ..... Peter Simpson Cook
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- Special Thanks ..... Center Theatre Group, Dan Fishbach, Jeremy Cibert, Inna Gottman, Kinetic Lighting, Severine Larue, Andrew Lynford, Paula Malcomson, Marjie Mautner, UCLA Theatre Department

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Thank you!

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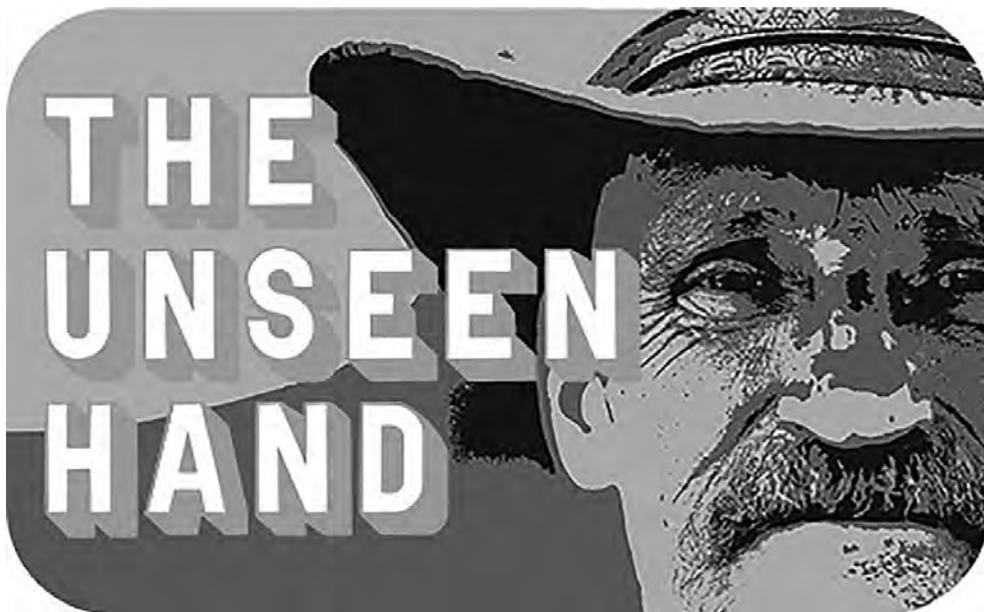
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## ***THE UNSEEN HAND***

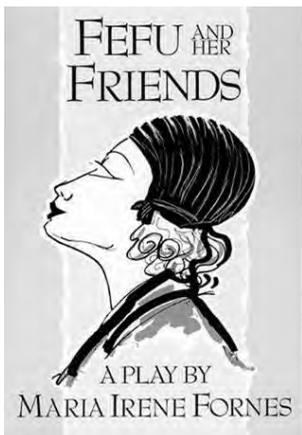
Written by Sam Shepard

Directed by Darrell Larson

June 8 - August 4, 2019

A science fiction-Western-pop culture melodrama/fantasy that all happens just down the 210 Freeway in Azusa, the town that has "everything from A to Z in the USA."

The evening will include a short companion piece *THE KILLER'S HEAD* also by Sam Shepard.



## ***FEFU AND HER FRIENDS***

Written by Maria Irene Fornes

Directed by Dana Resnick

August 10 - October 6

A splendidly surreal comedy-drama about eight women who gather to rehearse for a charity presentation on a spring New England day but end up exploring what it means to be a feminist in the mid-1930's.

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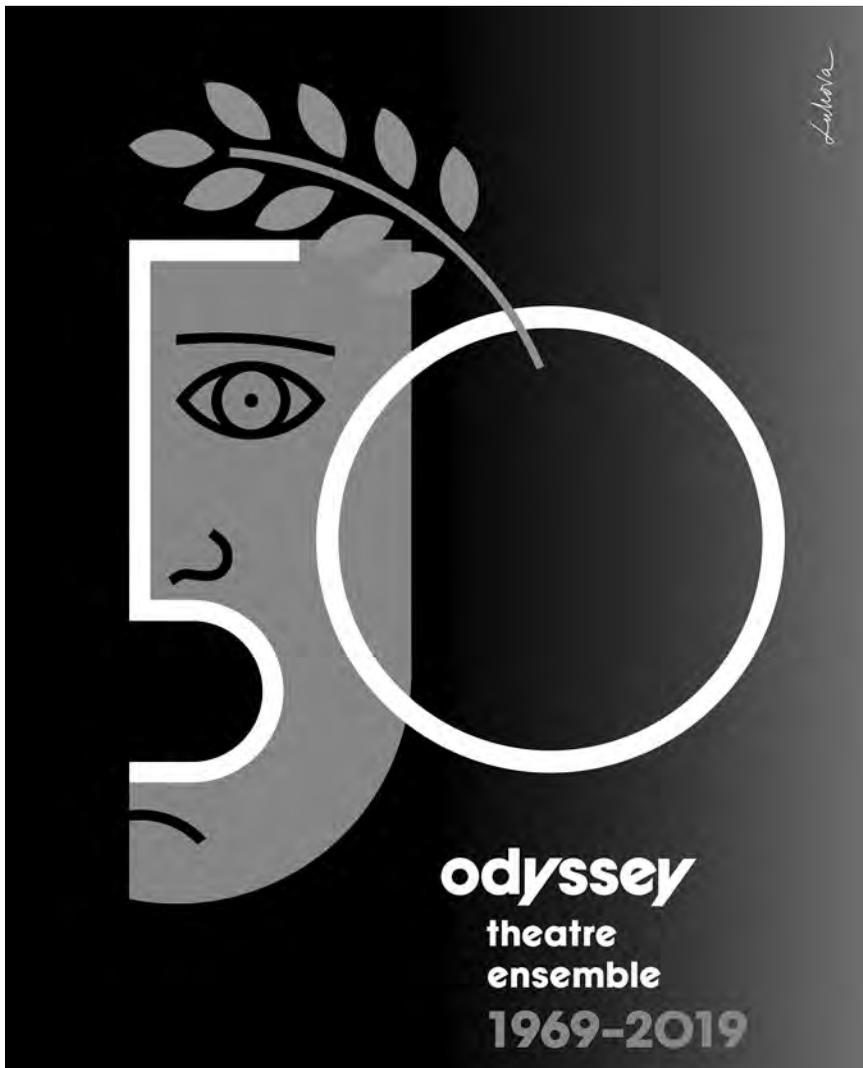
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2019-2020 marks our 50th birthday celebration.

It's been a lifetime quest for many of us, creating unique experiences between artists and audiences for the past 50 years And we're so grateful for all who have shared and supported the journey! Starting in June we're planning an exciting year-long retrospective of seminal theatre works which inspired the Odyssey at the time of its inception. Titles include Sam Shepard's *The Unseen Hand*, Maria Irene Fornes' *Fefu and Her Friends*, *The Serpent* by Jean-Claude van Itallie, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* by Peter Nichols and Gertrude Stein and Al Carmines' *In Circles*.

Please become an Odyssey Member or Contributor and help us make our Golden year the best ever!  
For information call us at 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or go to our website at [odysseytheatre.com](http://odysseytheatre.com)  
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# SEASON OF PLAYS

As a center of the Los Angeles theater community, the Odyssey Theatre has been attracting first-class actors, directors, writers and designers to its stages for 50 years. The Odyssey continues to be a place for all people to meet up and experience the magic of live theatre! This season's upcoming productions demonstrate the Odyssey's passion for diverse, maverick work.

## • **HIR**

Los Angeles's premiere of Taylor Mac's  
Directed by Bart DeLorenzo  
January 19 - March 17, 2019

## • **THE UNSEEN HAND & KILLER'S HEAD**

Written by Sam Shepard  
Directed by Darrell Larson  
June 8 - August 4, 2019

## • **FEFU AND HER FRIENDS**

Written by Maria Irene Fornes  
Directed by Dana Resnick  
August 10 - October 6

## • **IN CIRCLES**

Adapted from A Circular Play by Gerturde Stein  
Adaptation & Composer Al Carmines  
Directed by David Schweitzer  
September 7 - October 27, 2019

## **BEFORE**

Written by and Starring Pat Kinevane  
Directed by Jim Cullerton  
Produced in Association with Fishamble and  
Georganne Aldrich Heller  
November 11 - December 8, 2019

## **2020 DANCE FESTIVAL**

L.A. Companies include:  
String Theory  
L.A. Contemporary Dance Company  
JA Collective  
Rebecca Lemme & Acts of Matter  
Plus artists from Berlin, New York and Atlanta  
January 4 - February 9

## • **A DAY in the DEATH OF JOE EGG**

Written by Peter Nichols  
Directed by Robin Larsen  
January 18 - March 15, 2020

## • **THE SERPENT**

Written by Jean-Claude van Itallie  
Directed by Ron Sossi  
March 7 - April 26, 2020

## • **FABULATION**

**or the Re-Education of Undine**  
Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright  
Lynn Nottage

## **STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM**

A collaboration with the Los Angeles City College  
Theatre Department and Tony Award-winning playwright Tom Bryant.

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