





# **FEFU AND HER FRIENDS**

# Written by María Irene Fornés Directed by Denise Blasor

STARRING

Tiffany Cole, Dominique Corona, Sandy Duarte, Tanya Gorlow, Jennifer Lee Laks, Sydney A. Mason, Alexis Santiago, Cynthia Yelle, Zaire Martinez Roldan

SCENIC DESIGNER
Frederica Nascimento

COSTUME DESIGNERS
Denise Blasor & Josh LaCour

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Katelan Braymer

SOUND DESIGNER
Christopher Moscatiello

Prop Designer Mateo Rudich

Stage Manager Jacob Price

PRODUCER Ron Sossi

Produced in association with Gloria Levy

FEFU AND HER FRIENDS runs from August 10, 2019 to September 29, 2019

Play running time is approximately two hours. There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

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FEFU AND HER FRIENDS is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc. NYC.



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.



ODYSSEY THEATRE ENSEMBLE: 2055 South Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025 Administration and Box Office: 310-477-2055 ext 2 FAX: 310-444-0455 boxoffice@odysseytheatre.com www.odysseytheatre.com



#### CAST

(listed in order of appearance

| FEFU                    | Tiffany Cole          |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| CINDY                   | Tanya Gorlow          |
| CHRISTINA               | Dominique Corona      |
| JULIA                   | Sandy Duarte          |
| EMMA                    | Sydney A. Mason       |
| PAULA                   | Cynthia Yelle         |
| SUE & (Emma understudy) | Alexis Santiago       |
| CECILIA                 | Jennifer lee Laks     |
| SUE (understudy)        | Zaire Martinez Roldan |

#### **SETTING**

New England, 1935

Part I: Noon. The living room.

Part II: Afternoon. The lawn, the study, the bedroom, the kitchen. The audience is divided into four groups. Each group is led to the spaces.

Part III: Evening. The living room. The entire audience returns to the main theatre space.

#### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Maria Irene Fornés was silenced for many years by Alzheimer's. She died last year at the age of 88, but the "Fornes magic," her legacy and influence on Latinx theater and the body of work created, flowing with feminist perceptive understanding, sharp and poetic profound language, crafty and clever humor and a special kind of joy, will live with us forever. Fornés' gift was her storytelling; often focused on character evolution rather than plot development; her path was that of showing women's relationships in an unconventional, theatrical way. Fefu and Her Friends has been compared to a slightly mystical "bacchanal of the maenads, in that both involve bands of lusty women who stand apart from patriarchal society." Written in 1977 about women in 1935 and performed today in 2019, the play invites the audience into a woman's home to share the joys and pains of female friendships, spirituality, sexuality and strength and patriarchal repression and inferiority. Fornés explores the multiple realities and "constant pain of women defining their roles in the logical world of men." It's a story that we seem to continue to experience even in today's reality, where the patriarchal society still wants to repress women. Today we celebrate Fornés' work, and I am thankful for this beautiful summer surrounded by incredible, inspiring artists doing what we love most. "Life is Theatre...Theatre is Life."

-Denise Blasor, August 7, 2019

# WHO'S WHO

# **MARÍA IRENE FORNÉS**

Playwriaht

María Irene Fornés, born on May 14, 1930, in Havana, Cuba, initially studied to become a painter. However, after attending a production of Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot, Fornés decided to devote her creative energies toward playwriting. Her first professionally produced play, The Widow, was staged in 1961. Fornés acted as the director for many of her subsequent works, including There! You Died (1963; later retitled Tango Palace, 1964), The Successful Life Of 3: A Skit In Vaudeville (1965), and Molly's Dream (1968), among others. In 1973 she founded the New York Theatre Strategy, which was devoted to the production of stylistically innovative theatrical works. Fornés received eight Obie awards in such categories as distinguished playwriting and direction and best new play for Promenade (1965), The Successful Life Of 3, Fefu and Her Friends, The Danube (1982), Mud, Sarita (1984), The Conduct Of Life and Abingdon Square (1987). Fornés' plays ex-

plore women's role in society, examining power relations inherent in sexuality, households, and in all human relationships. Her innovative dramas made her one of the most successful and frequently produced of Off-Broadway playwrights. She received numerous awards and grants for her oeuvre, including Rockefeller Foundation grants in 1971 and 1984, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1972, National Endowments for the Arts grants in 1974, 1984 and 1985, an American Academy and Institute of Letters and Arts Award in Literature in 1986 and a Playwrights U.S.A. Award in 1986. She also produced several original translations and adaptations of such plays as Federico Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding* (1980), Pedro Calderón de la Barca's *Life Is A Dream* (1981), Virgilio Piñera's *Cold Air* (1985), and Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* (1987).



#### **TIFFANY COLE**

Fefu

Grateful to Denise and the entire team for this amazingly smart, vivacious and female-empowering production, Tiffany is excited to perform with the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble for the first time. Memorable plays include the award-winning productions of *Punch & Judy* (LA Drama Critics Circle) and *Very Still & Hard to See* (LA Weekly Award), as well as the "perfectly enraged" titular role in *Electra*. Notable film-work includes

Sharknado (you read that correctly!), True Blue, The Fifth Dimension, The Eighty-Five Percent, the recent drama The Last Girl, currently in the festival circuit, and the comedy short The Reunion. A faculty member at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, Tiffany splits her time between Los Angeles and Albuquerque, is rediscovering how great her body felt practicing martial arts, and hopes to one day fuel her feminist drive with an official coffee sponsorship.



#### **DOMINIQUE CORONA**

Christina

Dominique is an actress and recent graduate of the USC School of Dramatic Arts. Her stage credits include *The Kentucky Cycle, Henry IV Part I*, and A Raisin in the Sun. She has also performed in and helped to produce the devised theatre projects *A Seat at the Table* and *Upspoken Woman* commissioned by the USC Institute for Theatre and Social Change and The California Wellness Foundation, respectively. She is incredibly honored to be able to watch and learn from this group of powerful women.



#### **SANDY DUARTE**

Julia

Sandy, a Dora Award-winner, is best known for her portrayal as Noelle in Tom Walmsley's iconic play *Blood*, a role the playwright specifically asked her to perform. *Blood* also garnered three nominations for Duarte, a production she not only starred in but also produced. She also received critical acclaim in *Something Red* and the debut of *The Nun's Vacation* also written by Tom Walmsley. She is now thrilled to be a part of Odyssey

Theatre's Fefu And Her Friends. Sandy currently resides in Los Ángeles.



#### **TANYA GORLOW**

Cindy

A UC-Berkeley graduate, Tanya's favorite roles include *Hamlet* with Inner Circle Theatre, Angelica (*Wounded*), Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Olivia (Twelfth *Night*), and now Cindy in *Fefu And Her Friends*! Thank you to Denise for having faith in me and letting me come on this adventure. Huge thanks to Kerry Kazmierowicztrimm, the Gorlows, Juliette, Ivana, Jeffery, ICT and the entire cast and crew of *FEFU*. You can

follow her creative endeavors @tanyagorlow and @tigerhaus.



# **JENNIFER LEE LAKS**

Cecilio

Jennifer is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in NY. LA Theatre: Nicole in Homeward LA 2019 (Moveable Theatre & Theatre 40), Jenn/Carla in 26 Pebbles (Theatre 40), Sara in The Super Sabado Show (Hero Theatre), Gwen in The Liar's Punishment (2017 Hollywood Fringe Festival), April in April, May & June (Theatre 40), Madeline in The Armadillo Necktie (The Group Rep), Nancy in Another Washington Affair (The Avery Schreiber Playhouse), Suzette in Don't Dress for Dinner (The Group Rep), Justine in The Love List (Theatre 40),

Elaine in Night Watch (Theatre 40), Jen/Rachel in 7 Stories (Theatre 40). TV / Film: Crown Lake, Shameless, Astrid Clover (Pilot '17), Cry Wolfe, American Playhouse, Young Love, ReWrite, Elvis Lives!, Beverly H., The Goat Shearing. Thank you to my husband, my mother, Denise, Sally, Ron, the incredible cast and crew, and María Irene Fornés for her immortal energy.



# SYDNEY A. MASON

Emma

Sydney is pleased to be returning to The Odyssey Theatre . She was last seen as Sechita: The Courtesan in last season's production of *Lysistrata Unbound* with her physical theatre family, Not Man Apart (*The Superhero and His Charming Wife* (Waitress), *Ajax In Iraq* (Connie Mangus). A UCLA Theatre Film and Television alumn, Sydney has performed in various theatre projects around Los Angeles including: Will Geer's Theatricum

Botanicum, Playwright's Arena and LATC to name a few. She has since started a water company to bring awareness and resources to sickle cell anemia; an ilnness she was born with. Sydney would like to thank her family, friends and the Odyssey for being an amazing theatre home! Please support Fluids.



## **ALEXIS SANTIAGO**

Sue (Emma Understudy)

Alexis is a Los Angeles based actress originally from Houston, Texas. Her previous credits include *The Tragic Ecstasy of Girlhood, The 39 Steps, Anna in the Tropics, Hecuba, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Legally Blonde the Musical.* She holds a BFA in theatre performance from Baylor University and has performed at several regional theatre companies including A.D. Players, Casa Mañana Theatre and Dallas Theatre Company. She has been actively involved in the theatre and film industry in Los Angeles and is

very excited to be making her debut with Odyssey Theatre Ensemble!



### **CYNTHIA YELLE**

Paula

Cynthia is a French/Lebanese actor born in Beirut, Lebanon. She grew up in France and at sixteen joined Caracalla Dance Theatre Company in Lebanon. After high school, she went back to Paris to study dramatic arts. She's been in productions of Sartre's No Exit, Molière's Tartuffe, Chekhov's Uncle Vanya, and Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet. She moved to Los Angeles to pursue film acting, where she also performed in productions of KISS directed by Bart Delorenzo and Lysistrata Unbound directed

by John Farmanesh-Bocca at the Odyssey Theatre. She recently did a dance video for Smashing Pumpkins' new album, Shiny and Oh So Bright, which is now screening at their 2019 international concert tour. She is currently filming *Band-Aid Throat*, a feature about a Muslim boxer, and is writing/producing/acting in *My Darling Juliet*, a short about the psychological journey of a woman with an eating disorder.



#### **ZAIRE MARTINEZ RODAN**

Sue Understudy

Zaire was born and raised in Puerto Rico. She started taking acting classes when she was eight years old at The School of Fine Arts in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, where she performed in her first play. Zaire continued taking acting and improvisation classes during her adolescence, and has a BA with emphasis in acting from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus, her alma mater, where she developed her craft by forming part

of the "Teatro Rodante." As part of a troupe of Commedia dell'arte, she also performed in the Scottish play, *The Just Assasins*, *The Phoenician Women* and others. She recently graduated from USC School of Dramatic Arts with an MFA in acting, and has performed in *Eurydice*, the Scottish play, *Children of the Sun*, *Swimmers* and others. She's grateful to be part of this amazing production and to perform for her first time at the Odyssey Theatre.

# **DENISE BLASOR**

Director

Denise is a Puerto Rican director, actress and designer who initially moved to Chicago to be part of Steven Schacter, William H. Macy and David Mamet's St. Nicholas Resident Theater Company. In 1995 she became 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 LAAFO, KOAN and ELAC theater and is now associate artistic director of Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Plays she has directed include The House of Bernarda Alba, Blood Wedding, Blade of Jealousy, Life is a Dream, No Exit, Anna in the Tropics, Marisol, Ghost of Lote Bravo, Pedro Infante y la Viuda Triunfante, Wild in Wichita, The Lost Child, Three Sisters, the Passion play Cristo Vive and the multi-media piece Tormenta Omnia, in collaboration with artist Gronk. You can see her perform this fall in The Abuelas, by Stephanie Alison Walker at the Antaeus Theatre Company, and in the FX series Snowfall as Doña Rosa.

#### FREDERICA NASCIMENTO

Scenic Designer

Frederica works in theatre, opera, dance and film. Directors she has worded with include Pina Bausch, Robert Wilson, Wim Wenders, José Álvaro Morais, Manoel de Oliveira, Rogério de Carvalho, Ruben Polendo, Bart DeLorenzo, Ron Sossi, Simon Levy, Laurie Woolery, Johannes Wieland, Larry Biederman, Steven Robman and Shirley Jo Finney among others. Frederica ollaborates with several theatre companies and is a resident artist at A Noise Within (Argonautika, Othello, Henry V, The Maids, Arcadia, All My Sons, The Threepenny Opera and others). Next projects: The Caucasian Chalk Circle, directed by Stephanie Shroyer at Antaeus Theatre, The Winter's Tale directed by Geoff Elliott and Sweeney Todd, directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott at A Noise Within. Frederica is an architect, faculty at Los Angeles Pierce College, guest designer (scenic and costume) at CSUN, Usual Suspect at NYTW and member of USA 829, IATSE. She earned her MFA at NYU with a Tisch Scholarship, and was awarded the Seidman Graduating Award for Excellence in Design. Nominated for NAACP and Ovation Awards

#### **JOSH LACOUR**

Costume Designer

Josh has been the Odyssey Theatre's production manager and received his BFA in Theatre Arts and BBA in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University. Recent outside projects include scenic and costume design for As You Like It and scenography for Bright Half Life, as well as lighting design for the Cirque School LA Student Showcase. Recent Odyssey projects include property design for Loot, property design for Hir. He will be designing set and costume of the second Summer Shakespeare Festival show, Pericles, at Loyola Marymount University and Playa Vista Park this summer. He is very excited to be a part of the Fefu and Her Friends design team and hopes you enjoy the show!

#### **DENISE BLASOR**

Costume Designer

Denise has designer costumes for the Odyssey productions of Faith Healer, Lysistrata Unbound, Taste of Honey, Tempest Redux, Jacques Brel, The Greeks, La Posada Magica, The Princess of Burgundia, Faust and The Good Woman Of Setzuan. Other design credits include MACBETHX5, Cristo Vive, Life Is A Dream, Pedro Infante y La Viuda Triunfante, Wild in Wichita, Cumbia De Mi Corazon, The Wide Wide Sea and No Exit.

## KATELAN BRAYMER

Lighting Designer

Katelan is a lighting designer and technical director for theatre, dance and opera. Recent designs include Hir, Underneath, Silent, Forgotten, Kiss, A Taste of Honey, *The Hairy Ape* (Odyssey Theatre), *Blood Rock* (Berns & Rich), You In Midair (Danna Schaeffer), MEAT (Emma Zakes Green), TIM (Brandon Baruch), Jocasta Project (Ghost Road), *notes on change\_* (Erica Sobol), *Free Outgoing* (East West Players), *K-A-D-VER* (LAPP), *Rosewood* (Michaela Taylor), *Jack* (Taylor, Berg, Whyte), Excerpts (Samantha Goodman), and Bi and Lydia (Milagro). Technical director on tour: Halfway to Dawn, Stardust (David Rousseve), Inflatable Trio, Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore (Lionel Popkin), PANG! (Dan Froot) and Object Lesson (Geoffe Sobelle). She has worked at BAM, Jacobs Pillow, Kirk Douglas Theatre, 59E59, MCA Chicago, On the Boards, SFMoMA and Bootleg Theater. Katelan is the director of production and lighting for the Los Angeles Exchange Festival (LAX), and has been a lighting assistant at the LA Opera since 2011. www.KatelanBraymer.com

# **CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO**

Sound Designer

Chris is an award-winning sound designer, composer, music editor and music director for theater, television and film. TV highlights include *The Walking Dead* (AMC), *Human Target* (Fox), *Eureka* (SyFy), *Psych* (USA), *Caprica* (SyFy), *The Cape* (NBC), *Trauma* (NBC). He has scored full series and specials for National Geographic and The Discovery Channel, as well as specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Animal Planet, MSNBC, The History Channel and ZDF Germany. Theater highlights include The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, The Folger Shakespeare Theater, Rogue Machine, Antaeus, Skylight Theatre, The Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theater Ensemble, The Road Theatre and Pacific Resident Theater; and he served as assistant conductor for 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.

#### **MATEO RUDICH**

Prop Designer

Mateo is a theatrical designer and technician, who worked as the Odyssey Theatre's production intern. He received his BFA in theatre arts from Loyola Marymount University and recent works include scenic design, property design, and set decoration for the musical Next To Normal at the Del Rey Players Theatre, as well as lighting and sound design for LMU's New Works Festival. He has also worked as the technical director for the Del Rey Players Theatre, and for the play Andy Warhol's Tomato at the Pacific Resident Theatre.

#### JULIETTE BLASOR

Original Music

Juliette is an artist, therapeutic arts program workshop designer and thanatologist certified counselor in trauma, death and bereavement. She started composing music as a teenager, and her first professional job was composing the score for the play He Who Gets Slapped, starring Bud Cort for LADiversified Theatre Company. Other theatre productions include Three Sisters, Cooking, No Exit, Cristo Vive, Lost Child, Pedro Infante y la Viuda Triunfante, Angels and Wild in Wichita. https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1454027/

#### **RON SOSSI**

Producer/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<sup>5</sup>, 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.

#### **COLLETTE RUTHERFORD**

Assistant Director

Collette is so pleased to be back at the Odyssey. She recently directed Joan for Catworks Productions and This is Not a Drill for SkyPilot Theatre's One-Act Festival. Other local projects include: Lysistrata Unbound (Not Man Apart/Odyssey Theatre Ensemble), Annual Young Playwrights' Festival (The Blank), Plaza Suite (Little Fish Theatre), Dear, Master (Little Fish Theatre), Festival of New One-Acts (New American Theatre) and Almost, Maine (Infinite Jest Theatre Company). Collette holds a BA in Theater from North Carolina State University and has trained with the American Conservatory Theater and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She is a member of New American Theatre Company and executive director of Infinite Jest Theatre Company. ColletteRutherford.com

### **JACOB PRICE**

Stage Manager

Jacob is an Arkansas native and a recent graduate from the University of Arkansas-, Fort Smith, where he studied theatre with a concentration in stage management. Jacob received a stage management award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for his work on *The Night of the Iguana* in 2017. This is Jacob's first show with the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, as well his first in Los Angeles! He wants to thank all of the special people in his life who have supported him.

## **CASEY DEAL**

Assistant Stage Manager

Casey is a recent graduate from Trinity University in San Antonio where she studied technical theatre with an emphasis on stage management. She recently had her Odyssey stage managing debut with *Queenfest* and is excited to be back for this wonderful play.



Two paintings used in *Fefu and Her Friends* are works by local Puerto Rican artist and writer Lorraine Blasor. Lorraine is an artist who loves art, a writer who loves words, but most of all, a concerned citizen of Planet Earth who believes everyone can help make the world a better place.

www.facebook.com/Lorraine-Blasor

# **PRODUCTION STAFF**

|                     | <u></u> -                 |  |  |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Associate Producers |                           | Beth Hogan, Barbara Mueller-Wittman                            |  |
| Assistant Director  |                           |  |  |
| Assistant Stage Man | ager                      | Casey Deal   |  |
| Scenic Artists      |                           | James Lawson, Chris Bell                                       |  |
| Master Carpenters   |                           |  |  |
| Master Electricians |                           | Michael Evans, Danny Felix, Kevin Orellana                     |  |
| Scenic & Paint Crew | Robert                    | Fox, Zack Gearing, Randy Nivens, Andrew O'Connor, Mateo Rudich |  |
| Publicist           |                           | Lucy Pollak  |  |
| Photography         |                           | Enci   |  |
| Graphic Designer    |                           | Peter Simpson Cook   |  |
| Website             |                           | Eric Ekman   |  |
| Promotional Video   |                           |  |  |
| Special Thanks      |                           | Marjie Mautner, Los Angeles City College Theatre Department    |  |
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|                     |                           | Ron Sossi  |  |
|                     |                           | Beth Hogan   |  |
|                     |                           | 3  |  |
|                     | ,                         |  |  |
|                     | Student Outreach Director | Beth Hogan   |  |
|                     | PRODUCTION                |  |  |
|                     | Production Manager        | Josh La Cour   |  |
|                     | Technical Director        | Danny Felix  |  |
|                     |                           | .Danny Felix, Michael Evans, Kevin Orellana                    |  |
|                     |                           | Barbara Mueller-Wittmann                                       |  |
|                     |                           |  |  |
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|                     | ,                         | Meghan O'Brien   |  |
|                     | 0 1                       | Eric Ekman   |  |
|                     |                           | LIIC EKINGII   |  |

OTE Season & Program Graphic Art Designer...... Peter Simpson Cook

| OTE Graphic Designers  | Peter Simpson Cook, Luba Lukova, Dane Martens |
|------------------------|---|
| Volunteer Office Staff | Julie Lebow, Deloris Plevick                  |

The Odyssey would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Fred Pollak, a volunteer staff member for over fifteen years, a donor, subscriber and friend. His humor, intellect and passion for theatre will be deeply missed by all of us here.

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Nicole Barnett, Sharmon Brown, Reginald Wayne Clements, Lauren Craig, Mojdeh Erfani, Robert Ertel, Kara Fengold, Dennis Filimonoff, Marcia Himmelstein, Nicholas Jacobs, Christopher Lasseter, Rachel Lee, Sam Lee, Dr. Bob Karns, Andrew O'Connor, Katrina Pulido, Nazanin Yazhan, Jaime Zeledon

#### THANK YOU

We're so happy that long time supporter GLORIA LEVY has stepped up to the plate as an audience producer on Fefu and Her Friends. Her generous contribution made this show possible. Thanks so much, Gloria!



# Please JOIN US for the Odyssey's

50th birthday celebration! Sunday, September 8 starting at 5pm

The Broad Theatre in Santa Monica

Cocktails, dinner, celebrities, videos, entertainment, special guests, hilarious anecdotes and good cheer with old friends and new!

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