

# WESTBILL

THEATRE WEST PROGRAMME

## Garden of Alla

THE ALLA NAZIMOVA STORY



July 7 — July 23, 2023



Theatre West and Georganne Aldrich Heller  
present

## GARDEN OF ALLA: THE ALLA NAZIMOVA STORY

Written and performed by  
**Romy Nordlinger**

July 7–23, 2023

Directed by **Lorca Peress**

Produced by **Anne Leyden** and **Benjamin Scuglia**  
(Behind the Bar Productions)  
in association with **Theatre West** and  
**Georganne Aldrich Heller**

### FEATURING

**Romy Nordlinger** as Alla Nazimova

### SETTING

From Russia to New York City to Hollywood,  
and the Garden of Allah on Sunset Boulevard,  
in the mind of Alla Nazimova.

### RUNNING TIME

*80 minutes with no intermission.*

### PRODUCTION CREW AND STAFF

Video Design & Key Art: **Adam Jesse Burns**  
Score & Sound Design: **Nick T Moore**  
Lighting Design: **Malcolm Wilson**  
Stage Manager: **Liv Denevi**

Technical Consultants: **David P. Johnson, Malcolm Wilson**  
Key Art Photography: **David Wayne Fox**  
Graphic Design: **Doug Haverty**  
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Theatre West Managing Director: **Eugene Hutchins**

Artistic Associate: **Pat Addiss**

"Garden of Alla: The Alla Nazimova Story" was partially developed at Theaterlab in New York City under the artistic direction of Orietta Crispino in June 2022.

Theaterlab has served as a hub for experimental performing arts in its Midtown, Manhattan home since 2013 and has been creating programming for New York's innovative artists since 2007. Its signature white box studios offer a clean and well-kept creative canvas for new work that subverts expectations and defies categorization. Theaterlab produces a number of new work programs, focused on cross-disciplinary experimentation, including Hotel New Work, a short-term residency for ensemble-driven works; [im]permanence, connecting our theater to our street through live-action painting; Mothers, Myths, Monsters, presenting short works-in-progress; Voices Inside, a writing and theater program for incarcerated writers; Round the Block!, bringing together performance venues and business throughout the Garment District; and Celebrate the Artist, introducing New York audiences to international artists. Theaterlab's mission is to serve the Garment District's diverse population of artists and audiences by producing energetic and experimental art that interrogates the nature of live performance.

## NOTE FROM ROMY NORDLINGER

*This production is dedicated to Mari Lyn Henry.*

A fierce and brilliant advocate of theatre and a dear friend. She inspired this play, and my interest in Alla Nazimova, and has inspired so many to look to the legacy of unsung actresses and all theatre history, to have a keener awareness of our present. What gifts she brought to my life and to so many. BRAVA forever my dearest Mari Lyn. You will be greatly missed.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Martin Turnbull, Jon Ponder and the Nazimova Society  
Bill Sehres  
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and the Theatre West Artistic Board.

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## CAST

**ROMY NORDLINGER** (Alla Nazimova) is a New York-based Actor/Writer and Audiobook Narrator. She has performed *Garden Of Alla* regionally at The Kennedy Center (Washington D.C./ Tonic Theatre Co), The Firehouse Theatre (Richmond, Virginia) and internationally at The Edinburgh Fringe. In New York, the show has played to sold-out houses at The Cutting Room, Theaterlab, The Players Club, Dixon Place, HERE Theatre and Theatre 555. Her other plays include *The Feeling Part/ Playwriting Collective*, and live streamed internationally by LoNyLa); *Sex & Sealing Wax* (Estrogenious Festival, MITF); *Broadville* (Source Theatre, Clurman Theatre); *Lipshtick* (New York International Fringe Festival/ Dixon Place); and *Amazing Grace* and *NYSeeing*, both livestreamed at Nuyorican Poets Café. As an actor, she appeared Off-Broadway as Ginger in *Lancelot* by Steven Fechter (*The Woodsman with Kevin Bacon*) at Judson Gym; *Shakespeare's Slave* at the Clurman (Off Bway); and *Caligula* at the Kirk Theatre Row (Off Bway). Other selected regional credits include Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Wilma Theater, Hedgerow and Emelin. Her TV roles include guest and co-starring roles



on *Bull, Manifest, FBI* and *Law & Order* (Officer Talbor). She can be seen in numerous independent films, most recently as Agent Farrow in *The Good Egg*. Recently she wrapped the lead role in the soon-to-be-released short film, *The Feeling Part*, which she adapted from her own stage play of the same name. She is currently the recipient of a 2023 grant by

The Lower Manhattan Culture Center to develop and perform her play *Mother Of All Choices*, a one-woman exploration of the complexities surrounding the external and internal limitations on our bodies and choices. How do they limit us and how do they

set us free? Do we even have a choice? As an award-winning, bestselling audiobook narrator, Romy has recorded over 370 titles. As a teaching artist, she has used theater as a learning tool to teach literacy and self-awareness to underserved communities in every borough of Manhattan for the past 15 years. Romy would like to give special thanks Georganne Aldrich Heller for being a beautiful light in this world and a brilliant producer. Many thanks also to Anne Leyden, Benjamin Scuglia, Eugene Hutchins and the whole wonderful team at Theatre West! Member of Dramatists Guild and League Of Professional Theatre Women. Online: [romynordlinger.com](http://romynordlinger.com).



## PRODUCTION TEAM

**LORCA PERESS (Director)** Lorca is a director, writer and Founding Artistic Director of MultiStages, a multidisciplinary, multicultural theatre company that discovers, develops and produces socially impactful new works that embrace a fusion of art forms, races and cultures. Selected Credits: *SPEAKOUT: Protest Plays and More*, a MultiStages festival she created; *Black Girl You've Been Gentrified* (one-woman show at Joe's Pub/Public Theatre); 24-hour play festivals at the Public, Lucille Lortel, and Signature Theatres; Off Broadway: director, producer and co-book writer for the Puerto Rican/Taino musical *Temple of the Souls* (2017 NYMF Next Link Project/Acorn Theatre at Theatre Row; NYIT Nominations; HOLA Zaldivar Award for outstanding production); numerous Off-Off Broadway premieres with multimedia, and several opera premieres. Other Awards: La Mama Inky Award, Institute of Puerto Rico Extraordinary Award, Taino Areito Award in Drama; LMCC/DCA Creative Engagement Grants and Manhattan Community Arts Funds, National Opera Assoc. Directing Prizes, et al. A founding member of the Creative Network for the NY Regional Office of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, and AEA, SDC; NTC, LPTW (former co-president), and SAG-AFTRA member. She is also a performer, visual artist (scenic/mask design), and graduate of Bennington College (BA in Drama), NTI, and the Strasberg Institute. Faculty: NYU Tisch Strasberg Studio; Strasberg. Online: [lorcaperesdirector.com](http://lorcaperesdirector.com) and [multistages.org](http://multistages.org).

**ADAM JESSE BURNS (Video and Graphic Design)** Adam's artwork, films, screenplays and theater

video designs have been shown internationally, including the Big Apple Film Festival, the New York International Fringe Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe, The Brain (West End, London) and Tribeca Cinemas. Shows include *Lipshtick*, *Broadville*, *Sex & Sealing Wax* and now *Garden of Alla*. Adam brings a lifelong fascination with the 1920s to the show's visuals. Besides working as a designer and animator, Adam is also a novelist. He lived on Greyhound buses for a year writing his first novel *In Like Flynn*, and adapted his second, *The House Made of Wheels* to a feature screenplay. Adam just finished writing his third novel, *The Last Underground*, a dystopian sci-fi about empathy, and humanity's urgent need to evolve. Nonbinary, (he/him). Online: [adamjesseburns.xyz](http://adamjesseburns.xyz).

**NICK T MOORE (Score and Sound Design)** Nick is a New York City-based, seven-time award-nominated theatre and film composer and sound designer. He has been an integral part of the development of the *Garden of Alla* almost since its inception and throughout its many productions in New York, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and regionally. Selected credits: Off-Broadway: *The Drawer* (IT nominee, best sound) - SoHo Playhouse/OberonTheaterEnsemble; *Expatriate* - Culture Project; Summer Shorts 14'-19' - 59E59 & Throughline Artists; *Crazy For The Dog* - Jean Cocteau Rep.; *Defenses Of Prague* - La Mama; *Embraceable Me* - (NY) Rachel Reiner Productions/(NC) Blumenthal PAC; *Broke Wide Open* - Samah Productions. Off-Off-Broadway: 18 Resonance Ensemble productions, including *23 Knives* (IT nominee, best sound/music); seven Oberon Theater Ensemble productions, including *Keep On Truckin' It's War* (MITF nominee outstanding sound) and *The Woodsman*; Peace (IT nominee, best

Musical); *MCTC Monster Literature Episodes 1-5* - Brooklyn Lyceum. Film: *Being Reel* - (Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmaker's Contest winner); *Lily* - Flat Circle Productions, Meggaxp's BB (Winner, Best in Show) and five Selections including NY indie/Calgary Horror Con; *The 7 Men of Hanukkah* - Copathia Productions (Winner, Boston Jewish Film Festival) and 13 selections including NYC Indie/Big Apple/Queens World; *The Ticket Seller*, Laura Archer NFNY/DAMNFest/WAMMFest/Powfest. Dance: Illuminate Equilateral Theater Company; *Out Of Water* - The Turner Project. Member: Dramatists Guild; Resonance Ensemble; Roundabout Theater Company Education Dept. Online: [nicktmoore.com](http://nicktmoore.com)

**DAVID WAYNE FOX (Key Art Photography)** In addition to photography, David wears many other hats, including that of optician ("helping people see things my way"). He is the composer for the 2010 off-off-Broadway production of *Rhoda Heartbreak* starring *RuPaul's Drag Race* alum Mimi Imfurst. In the acting world, he played a snarky blogger in the indie feature *Invisible Ink* (2015) and can be seen in numerous other movies and TV shows. He also paints in acrylics, specializing in portraits, pet portraits and landscapes. Many thanks to Romy and Adam for the opportunity of helping to tell Nazzy's amazing tale. Online: [davidwaynefoxart.weebly.com](http://davidwaynefoxart.weebly.com)

**DAVID P. JOHNSON (Technical Consultant)** David has been a member of Theatre West for over 20 years and has served multiple stints on the Artistic Board, while being a driving force behind Storybook Theatre. A multi-award-winning writer, director and actor, David credits Theatre West as both a huge inspiration and creative home. A winner of the

2018 Valley Theatre Award for Best Director of a Children's Production (*Sleeping Beauty*), David's original musical *Sally Spectre, the Musical* was also a finalist for the prestigious Richard Rodgers Award. SAG/AFTRA. Online: [sallyspectre.com](http://sallyspectre.com)

**MALCOLM WILSON (Lighting Design)** Malcolm is a recent graduate of the UCLA Theater program, where he studied lighting design and concept rendering. Since joining Theatre West in 2022, he has played a key role in updating the theater's technical capabilities and has supervised the technical components of multiple productions, among them *SOLOpalooza 2.022*; *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*; *Winter Wishes: A Holiday Cabaret*; *Barbara Minkus: 18 Minutes of Fame*; and *Moose on the Loose*. Malcolm also designs lights for plays and musicals across Los Angeles, including schools and theaters, and other special projects, such as the filmed production of *Tessa Bell: Men, Money and Madness* at Theatre West. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**LIV DENEVI (Stage Manager)** 25-year-old Angelo Liv is honored to join *Garden of Alla* as Stage Manager. She's incredibly thankful for the cast and crew who make it a pleasure to come to work each day. Recent Theatre West credits include stage managing *Classic Couples Counseling* (last season) and *Moose on the Loose* (current season); Liv served as ASM for both the 2021 L.A. world premiere and 2022 New York Off-Broadway debut of *Our Man in Santiago*. She'll next be seen wearing a different hat as a cast member of in the world premiere of Garry Michael Kluger's *Walking in Space* in September at Theatre West.

**LUCY POLLAK (Publicity)** Lucy has been providing publicity services for intimate and mid-size theater companies in Los Angeles for over 30 years, as well as for independent theater, music and dance productions and large events and festivals such as the annual Emmy Award-winning L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center. She repped the debut production of Deaf West Theatre's *Spring Awakening*, which went on to a Tony-nominated Broadway run. In New York, she publicized off-Broadway premieres of Murray Mednick's *Mayakovsky and Stalin* at the Cherry Lane, *Latina Christmas Special* at the Soho Playhouse and *Our Man in Santiago* at the new AMT Theatre. From 1981 to 1990, she was production manager/staff producer at the Odyssey Theatre, where she co-produced over 100 productions with artistic director Ron Sossi. For the 1993 Los Angeles Festival, she line produced Reza Abdoh's controversial *Quotations From A Ruined City*. She is the recipient of a Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award (*Master Class*), an LA 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, Women in Theatre and P.A.T.H. (Performing Arts Theatre for the Handicapped).

**DOUG HAVERTY (Graphic Design)** Doug has designed for theaters and performing arts worldwide, including creating 500 package designs for Universal, Warner Bros., EMI and Sony, among others, for the likes of James Brown, David Cassidy, Lucie Arnaz, Petula Clark, Amanda McBroom, Tom Wopat, Sam Harris, Melora Hardin, Dixie Carter, Weird

Al Yankovic, Jefferson Starship and many more. Doug has supplied event graphics for the LAJS, ASMAC, Thalians, LAPD, LAFD and Grammy Awards, and co-designed the coffee table book *Ukulele: A Visual History*.

**GEORGANNE ALRICH HELLER (Producer)** Georganne is a veteran New Yorker and a graduate of Finch College, who named her Woman of the Year in 2016. She co-founded Chuck's Composite Jazz Club on E. 52nd Street in New York City and the legendary Ma Maison restaurant in Beverly Hills. She was a model and a motion picture stylist and created her own sportswear line. After rising to partner at Dorchester Public Relations, she founded her own Los Angeles public relations firm. A leader in the art world, she was an original co-founder of Women in Film and on the creative team that started the California Institute of the Arts. She serves on the board of directors at the Irish Arts Center of New York and at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Connecticut. Georganne has produced scores of plays. She was awarded both a proclamation from the Irish Consul General of New York as well as an Olivier Award for her 2018 production of *Forgotten*. She served as Cultural Director for the Borough of Manhattan and is an esteemed collage artist with works in galleries from SoHo to Hollywood. Georganne splits her time between New York's West Village and Beverly Hills.

**ANNE LEYDEN (Producer, Behind the Bar Productions)** Anne is a producer, actor, singer and writer. In 2022 she made her Off-Broadway debut, associate producing Mark Wilding's *Our Man in Santiago* at AMT theater, and formed, with Benjamin Scuglia, theatrical label- Behind the Bar Productions. Anne

has enjoyed a multi-decade career in the arts, performing in original works, children's theater, classic titles, Shakespeare, musicals, cabaret, TV and film. Selected theatrical roles include: Edith in *The Women*, winning a (Steven Stanley) Scenie award and rave reviews for her efforts; Kate in Lloyd Schwartz's *Classic Couples Counseling*; Lesley Caveny's *One Woman Gone Wrong*; solo performer in *Why Me*; Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*; Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Bernadette Devlin in *Freedom of the City*; Solange in *The Maids* and Julie Cavendish in *The Royal Family*. Some favorite TV and web credits include: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Private Practice*, *Gabriel's Fire*, *Quantum Leap*, *Kaplan's Korner*, *Serial Bill*, *Waiting for Moore*. (SAG/AFTRA) **Instagram/ Twitter: @anneleyden5**

**BENJAMIN SCUGLIA (Producer, Behind the Bar Productions)** Benjamin has been a professional writer for over 25 years and has published two books. He is a member of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwright. As a member of Theatre West, he has appeared in virtual productions with the company's Shakespeare troupe, the Blushing Pilgrims. As a playwright, Benjamin was a Top 30 Finalist for the 2015 Samuel French OOB Short Play Festival ("Gay for Pay"), a Top 12 Finalist for the 2020 Playbill Virtual Theatre Live Festival ("Current Resident") and was a three-time winner (2015-17) of the City of West Hollywood Pride Play Reading Festival. He has produced and stage-managed all around Los Angeles, including the world premiere of "Blood," written and directed by Robert Allan Ackerman, with whom he went on to collaborate on workshop productions of the new play "God Looked Away" with Judith Light and Al Pacino. His critically acclaimed drama "The Man Who

Saved Everything" received its world premiere at Theatre West in 2018 and was nominated for six Valley Theatre Awards, winning for Best Sound Design. In 2022, Benjamin made his Off-Broadway debut as a producer with Mark Wilding's "Our Man in Santiago" at AMT Theater, and co-founded theatrical label Behind the Bar Productions with Anne Leyden. **Twitter/Instagram: @500turtles**

**EUGENE HUTCHINS (Theatre West Managing Director)** Previous arts management positions include: Barak Ballet, Los Angeles Master Chorale, MUSE/IQUE, New York City Opera, Chautauqua Opera and The Pearl Theatre Company. Formerly a professional stage director, producer, production stage manager and choreographer for than 100 opera, theatre and dance productions across the United States, including engagements with A Noise Within (Los Angeles), Lyric Opera San Diego, Opera North, Opera San Luis Obispo, Syracuse Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis and many more. He has written and secured more than \$2M in grants for arts organizations. Online: **eugeneh.com**



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## ABOUT THEATRE WEST

Theatre West was established in 1962 and is celebrating its 61st season as the oldest continually running professional theatre company in Los Angeles. It is a membership collective of actors, playwrights, directors and technicians. Theatre West's alumni include **Ray Bradbury, Beau Bridges, Richard Dreyfuss, Sally Field, Betty Garrett, Martin Landau, Lee Meriwether, Jack Nicholson, Carroll O'Connor, Sherwood Schwartz, Joyce Van Patten, Jim Beaver and Paul Winfield.** Theatre West has produced more than 300 plays and musicals. Of these plays, nearly 70% are original works developed on its workshops and many have led to feature films, regional tours and Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, including **'A Bronx Tale' by Chazz Palminteri, 'A Very Brady Musical' by Lloyd J. Schwartz and Hope Juber** and, most recently, **'Our Man in Santiago' by Mark Wilding** that premiered in New York on September 16, 2022.

Our 2023/24 season includes the world-premiere of **Walking in Space** by Garry Michael Kluger; **Sally Spectre** by David P. Johnson; and Storybook Theatre productions of **Hansel and Gretel** by Lloyd J. Schwartz, **Hope & Laurence Juber** (in English and Spanish on tour in July); **Aladdin, The Princess, and The Magic Lamp** by Lloyd J. Schwartz; and **Cinderella** by Lloyd J. Schwartz and Michael Paul.

We welcome you to our theatre and invite you to unplug with us!

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Book, Lyrics, and Music by Lloyd J. Schwartz  
Produced and Directed by Barbara Mallory



Saturdays at 1:00pm



Opening **October 7, 2023** running through **January 13, 2024**

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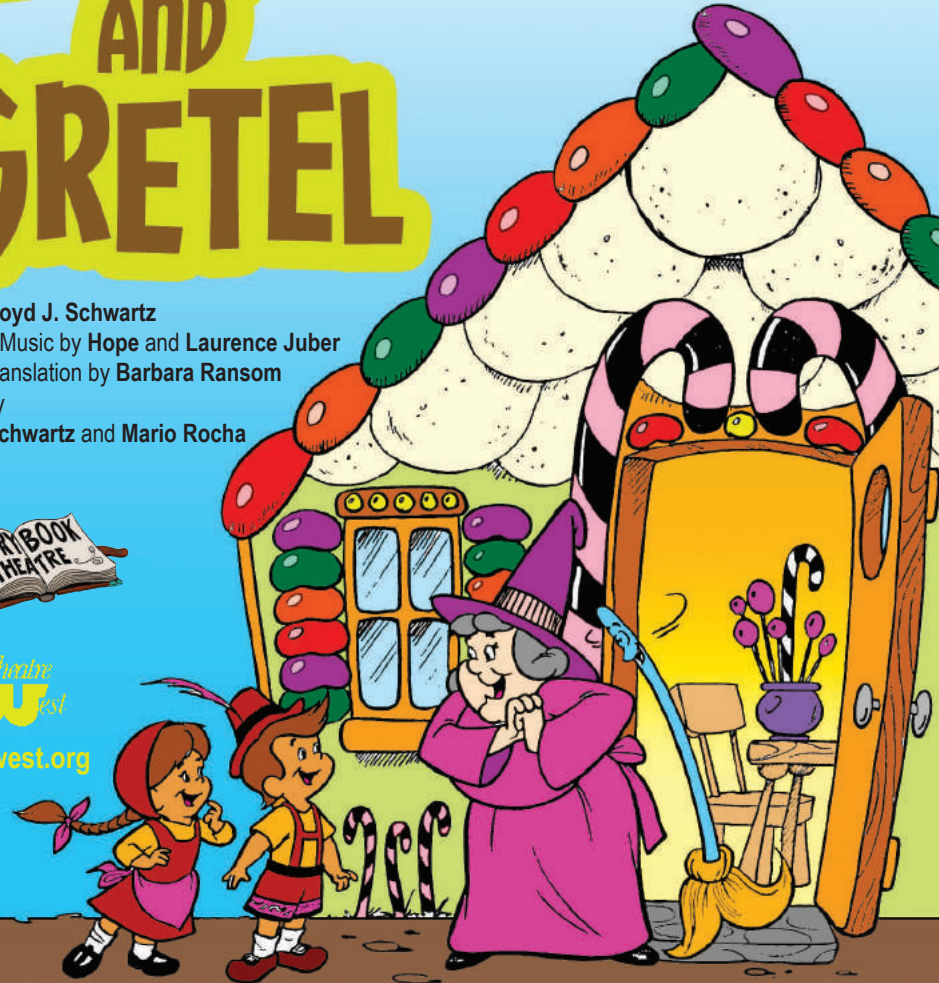
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