

theatre projects with Academy Award winner Bobby Moresco as well as launching multiple world premieres opening this year. He also produces the largest solo theater festival on the West Coast called Solofest where over 60 shows premiere in 60 days. He also founded the famous Itchey Foot Cabaret in downtown LA in the 80's as well as having been a member of the famed South Coast Repertory when they won the Tony for Best Regional theatre in 1985 the famed South Coast Repertory when they won the Tony for Best Regional theatre in 1985. He trained at ACT in San Francisco after receiving his BA in theatre from Cal State Long Beach. Bryan is a proud member of the Actors Gym and is honored to be working with friends Rebecca Robertson and Christopher Vened on this world premiere!

SEAN CAWELTI (*Video and Mask Designer*) Sean Cawelti graduated from the University of California Irvine with honors in Directing and studied puppetry at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. Sean has won awards for his work as a designer, director and playwright, honored with a UNIMA Citation of Excellence and the 2015 Sherwood Award by the Center Theater Group in Los Angeles. He was selected by the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Affairs Department to travel to Brazil for two months to study woodcarving and Candomblé. Sean is the founding Artistic Director of Rogue Artists Ensemble and has designed puppets, masks, props and video for theater, operas, music videos, museums, concerts and arena tours. Sean is a member of USA829. www.seancawelti.com

JEFF GARDNER (*Sound Designer*) Jeff is an Ovation Award winner for his design on *Dry Land* at Center Theatre Group's Block Party. He has designed for Echo Theater (*Cry It Out, Bed, American Falls*), A Noise Within (*Noises Off, The Madwoman Of Chaillot, A Raisin In The Sun*), The Antaeus Company (*Native Son, The Hothouse, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*), Circle X Theatre (*Trevor, ICU*), Rogue Machine (*Les Blancs, Honky*), Boston Court Pasadena (*Her Portmanteau*) and the upcoming *The Cake* at the Geffen Playhouse. Jeff can also be seen performing live sound effects for L.A. Theatre Works and is resident sound designer for the Westridge School in Pasadena. jeffthomasgardner.net

TIFFANY MILLER (*Set Designer/Props*) Tiffany Miller is an artist and designer whose worked both in television and film. Her mosaic art can be seen internationally in private collections, businesses, galleries, and churches. She has been featured on MTV, VH1, ABC, In Touch Magazine, The Los Angeles Times, HGTV and the DIY Network. As a production designer her most recent film, SACRED JOURNEYS, can be streamed on Amazon Prime this fall.

DERRICK MCDANIEL (*Lighting Designer*) Mr. Derrick McDaniel has been working in the live theater arena for over 20 years, both in Los Angeles and New York. From Romeo and Juliet to Guys and Dolls, Derrick has designed lighting for many plays, musicals and events. A few of his lighting credits include, "*Mercy Seat*" (2012 LA Weekly Awards Winner) at the Inside the Ford Theater, "*Red Speedo*" at the Road Theatre on Magnolia, "*Spring Awakening*" at the Whitefire Theatre, "*The Crucible*" at the Madrid Theater; and "*Freud's Last Session*" at the Odyssey Theater.– and many others. For the 2017-18 award season, Derrick has been nominated for an Ovation Award for "*Les Blancs*" at the Rogue Machine Theatre. Derrick also has the honor of being the Resident Lighting Designer for the Whitefire Theater. Thanks to the patrons of live theater. Enjoy

PHOEBE LONGHI (*Costume Designer*) Phoebe Longhi is a costume designer hailing from San Francisco. She has just graduated from UCLA with a bachelors degree in theater. She has designed multiple shows for UCLA's Shakespeare Company including "Taming of the Shrew," "Venus in Fur," and "Twelfth Night." Phoebe plans to stay in Los Angeles and work as a designer for both theater and film. She is honored to be included in the production of Infidel and hopes you enjoy the show.

INFIDEL

Written/Directed by Christopher Vened

CAST

(in order of appearance)

JOHN NORTON.....Ted Monte
 AHMAD/ZAKIR.....Michel Wakim
 BULL OF HEAVEN.....Moses Leon Norton
 AMIR.....Bobak Cyrus Bakhtiari
 JAMIL.....Ronak Gandhi
 KASIM.....Nima Jafari
 MYIESHA.....Aneesha Madhok
 AMBASSADOR COMPTE.....Edwin Scheibner
 KATE/REBECCA VO.....Rebecca Robertson-Szwaja

RUN TIME: Approximately 90 minutes (no intermission)

ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION STAFF

WRITER/DIRECTOR.....Christopher Vened
 PRODUCER.....Rebecca Robertson-Szwaja
 ASSOCIATE PRODUCER.....Bryan Rasmussen
 VIDEO/PUPPET DESIGNER.....Sean Cawelti
 SET DESIGNER/PROPS.....Tiffany Miller
 LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Derrick McDaniel
 SOUND DESIGNER.....Jeff Gardner
 COSTUME DESIGNER.....Phoebe Longhi
 ASSISTANT VIDEO DESIGNER.....Adriana Colón
 BOARD OPERATOR.....Tor Brown
 TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....Brandon Loeser
 STAGE MANAGER.....Dayna Lanier
 POSTER DESIGN.....Leonard Konopelski
 CASTING DIRECTOR.....Raul Staggs
 PUBLICIST.....Lucy Pollak
 PRODUCTION STILLS.....Darrett Sanders

WHO'S WHO in the Production



TED MONTE (John Norton). Feature film work includes direction from: Jonathan Demme, David Mamet, James Ponsoldt and Fred Olen Ray. He has worked in films with Jodie Foster, Alison Janney, Cuba Gooding Jr., Christian Slater, Roddy McDowall, Joe Mantegna, Paul Sorvino, Tom Berringer... Television: J.J. Abrams: *Undercovers*, *The Young & The Restless*, *Melrose Place*, *Homicide: Life in the Streets* and numerous Lifetime TV and Syfy movies including the indie hit *Circus Kane*. Upcoming films include *Ms. Daisy*. Stage: Numerous performances in Los Angeles and NYC. Highlights: LATC, Lincoln Center, The National Theatre in D.C and off-broadway. His wife is actress Priscilla Barnes and his cat is Jimmy Jazz aka The Jazz Kitty.



MICHEL WAKIM (*Ahmad/Zakir*) Coming from the world of movies and tv, I was drawn to take on two opposing characters in the same play and portray them live on-stage as opposed to in front of a lens. There is magic in standing on stage even when rehearsing, and there's magic in performing before a live audience. That is what drew me to take on this challenge and to be part of this play. My name is Michel Wakim. I'm a Lebanese-American actor living here in Los Angeles, pursuing my dream. I am fortunate to be cast in this play, and to be given the opportunity to perform before you.



MOSES LEON NORTON (*Bull of Heaven*) Moses Norton is a physical theatre artist, actor, director, acrobat, theater creator, and community-based arts facilitator. He graduated with an MFA in Ensemble-Based Physical Theatre from Dell'Arte International; practiced Lecoq based mime at Estudios Berty Tovia in Barcelona Spain, and received his BA in Environmental Studies at UC Santa Cruz. Moses has worked professionally with the [LA Opera](#), Fiasco Physical Theatre, Not Man Apart Physical Theatre, Up Lift Physical Theater, The Dell'Arte Company, Tayer, Sacramento City College, The B.R.I.D.G.E. Theatre Project, Lodger Films, and last year won the "Judged Choice Award" for his direction of "Aprender a Caer" at the Stella Adler Short and Sweet Latino Theatre Festival. Moses also likes to make movies with his friend Spencer.



BOBAK CYRUS BAKHTIARI (*Amir*) Bobak Cyrus Bakhtiari is excited make his Whitefire debut as an aggressive lunatic with a gun. Regional Theatre credits include Jesus in India at Magic Theatre, and Betrayed at Aurora Theatre where he received a Critics Circle Nomination, in addition to development pieces at Berkeley Rep, Center Theater Group, A.C.T, and Playwrights Center in Minneapolis. On TV, Bakhtiari can be seen on Silicon Valley, Homeland, NCIS, Madam Secretary and other shows he can't remember right now because it's late and he's sleepy while trying to make the deadline for this bio. He's been in a few award-winning Indie films and starred in a Cannes-selected short. He celebrates aquatics fervently at dawn, is a raw goat milk enthusiast, and fantasizes about returning to his days as a passionate ceramicist.



RONAK GANDHI (*Jamil*) Ronak Gandhi is an Indian American actor. At an early age, Ronak loved to dance and perform for his family and friends. His love of performance quickly grew into acting, which brought him to Los Angeles. Ronak can be seen on 2 Broke Girls, Lucifer, and Idiotsitter.



ANEESHA MADHOK (*Myiesha*) Aneesha Madhok graduated from USC this May 2018 in Theatre and Screenwriting. She does stand up comedy and hosts her own show every Thursday called The Mad Hawk Show. Aneesha started performing on stage when she was four years old. Having lived in India and the United States, she created her own style of fusion dance of Ballet and Kathak and is fluent in English, Hindi, Spanish and Farsi.



NIMA JAFARI (*Kasim*) Nima considers himself lucky to be a part of this creative team to bring forth this insightful story. When (most) everyone has a price tag, it is inevitable that some innocent people will be forced to stand up for, or otherwise explain another's ideology and way of thinking in an effort to expand education and mindfulness. Being born and raised in Iran until 2008, Nima learned this lesson quickly. He wants to thank his family first and foremost for their undying support, as well as his two late uncles who are here with us watching from 'The Balcony'. Other credits include *Romeo&Juliet*, *Titus Andronicus (Theatricum Botanicum)*, *NetNeutrality (director)* and *BURT (Theatre68)* by Henry Sam Kass. May all living beings live Happily, Peacefully and Free. Please connect with him @RealNimalafari - he loves conversations and playing chess (hopefully separately!)



EDWIN SCHEIBNER (*Ambassador Compte*) Edwin is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. His favorite stage performances have been as Fagin in "Oliver," Renfield in Steven Dietz's "Dracula", and The Actor in "Woman in Black." Edwin can also be seen in the movies "Hero" directed by Stephen Frears, and the Oscar winning short film "Ray's Male Heterosexual Dance Hall."

CHRISTOPHER VENED (*Director*) Christopher Vened is originally from Poland, where he had an illustrious career as a leading performer in the Polish Mime Theatre, founded by Henryk Tomaszewski. When martial law was declared in 1981, Vened defected to West Berlin, where he taught movement as well as choreographing and directing for Berlin's Transformtheater. In 1983, he founded Impulse Movement Theater and also produced *Sechs Uhr Morgan*, a choreodrama inspired by Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, at Berlin's Tanzfabrik center for contemporary dance. In 1984, Vened immigrated to the United States. He has rebuilt his career here, teaching acting and movement classes, directing theater and writing. He is the author of the acting book "In Character: An Actor's Workbook for Character Development," which is published by Heinemann Drama and has been in print since 2000. Part I of this book, "Identity," inspired him to create *Human Identity*, a solo performance piece combining words and mime that premiered at the Lounge Theatre in 2014. www.christopherved.com/Infidel/

REBECCA ROBERTSON-SZWAJA (*Producer*) Rebecca is a script supervisor for film and television, whose projects include *Downsizing*, *Nebraska*, *Enough Said*, *Sideways*, *Savages*, *Iron Man*, *The Italian Job*, *Veep* and *Sharp Objects* to name just a few. She met Christopher Vened and Bryan Rasmussen years ago when she and Bryan were performing in *A Voyage to Arcturus* at the Odyssey Theater and Christopher was brought in to choreograph the show. It is with real pleasure that she is working with them again along with this talented cast and group of designers.

BRYAN RASMUSSEN (*Associate Producer*) Bryan, the recipient of the 2016 Valley Theatre Award for Artistic Director Achievement, is now in his 14th year as Artistic Director of the Whitefire Theatre. Directing credits include the 35th anniversary production of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*, *Billie!*, backstage with *Lady Day*, *Firehouse*, *The Bellflower Sessions*, *Stella's Last JDate*, and over 100 more plays and shorts. He is currently developing live streaming

ADRIANA COLÓN (*Assistant Video Designer*) is a bilingual voice actor and stage director based in West Hollywood, California. Hailing from Puerto Rico, Adriana's career began with activist street theatre troupe Jóvenes del 98. Her passion for live performance prospered at Harvard, where she graduated with a Special Concentration in "Performance and the Body" in 2012. She is a proud alumna of the Signet Society and a company member of Sacred Fools Theater.

BRANDON LOESER (*Technical Director*) In addition to being a technical director, Brandon is an actor, stuntman, and comedian. He has appeared in Homecoming, Westworld, Grimm, Scorpion, Superstore, True Blood, Justified, The Dark Knight, Changeling, and numerous appearances on Conan. You can also see him in the critically-acclaimed holiday show "Santasia" at the Whitefire Theatre now in its 19th year!

TOR BROWN (*Board Operator*) Tor Brown is a 99 seat theatre junkie who makes his home next door at the LOFT Ensemble. Tor has been the TD of many theatres around town and has been fortunate enough to make a living creating art for a couple years, at least. Thank you for supporting intimate theatre, and enjoy the show!

DAYNA LUCUS (*Stage Manager*) Dayna Lucas is a theatre Stage Manager and Costume Designer living in LA. Originally from Detroit, MI, she moved to LA and earned her Fashion Design Degree from the FIDM. Previously, she was Stage Manager for the play "Desperately Seeking Love" and the Wardrobe Supervisor for Whitfire's Spring production of "Company Shorts." Dayna continues to explore her passion for costuming and stage managing and is looking forward to more shows in the *future*.

RAUL CLAYTON STAGGS (*Casting Director*) is a freelance casting director working in theatres all across Los Angeles. Recent credits include MAYAKOVSKY AND STALIN (The Lounge Theatre), I GO SOMEWHERE ELSE and TAR (Playwrights' Arena), THE WILLOWS (Bootleg Theatre), LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR (Garry Marshall Theatre), FOREVER BOUND (Atwater Village Theatre), and HOSTAGE, THE MADRES, and ROTTERDAM (Skylight Theatre). Raul is a 2018 recipient of the Lee Melville Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Los Angeles Theater Community

LUCY POLLAK (*Publicist*) Lucy Pollak has been providing publicity services to the L.A. arts community for over 25 years. Previously, she was the production manager 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 (for Master Class), an LA Weekly Award (for 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. www.lucypr.com

LEONARD KONOPELSKI (*Poster Designer*) Leonard Konopelski is a Painter and Graphic Designer. He was born in Poland in 1942. Educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, 1973. Konopelski has designed film and theater posters, theater sets and costumes. Konopelski is Associate Professor at the Art Center in Pasadena, has taught in CalArts, CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, USC Los Angeles, University of Kansas, Universided Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico City, Mexico, University of Ulsan, South Korea and UMCS Lublin, Poland. www.leonardkonopelski.com

*SPECIAL THANKS to Reed Robertson for his promotional video



photo by Darrett Sanders

INFIDEL
by Christopher Vened

a world premiere
Are these the words of God or evil?

Presented by the **WHITEFIRE THEATRE**

Sept 1st - Oct 7th
Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 3:00 pm

13500 Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
www.WhitefireTheatre.com