

TOOK A CAB PRODUCTIONS AND THE WORLD FAMOUS IMPROV
PROUDLY PRESENT THE WORLD PREMIERE

JEW, CHRISTIANS AND SCREWING STALIN

WRITTEN BY MARK LONOW AND JO ANNE ASTROW

DIRECTED BY MARK LONOW

FEATURING

LAURA JULIAN*, CATHY LADMAN,
SAMMI-JACK MARTINCAK, HUNTER MILANO,
SALLY SCHAUB, MARTY ROSS, TRAVIS YORK*

WITH

JOHN PLESHETTE*

**Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association*

PRODUCED BY

RACQUEL LEHRMAN, THEATRE PLANNERS

SCENIC DESIGNER
JOEL DAAVID

COSTUME DESIGNER
WENDELL C. CARMICHAEL

LIGHTING DESIGNER
DONNY JACKSON

PROPERTY DESIGNER
JENINE MACDONALD

SOUND DESIGNER
JOSEPH "SLOE" SLAWINSKI

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
KIFF SCHOLL,
AFK DESIGN

ASSISTANT PRODUCER
MISHA RILEY,
THEATRE PLANNERS

CASTING DIRECTOR
JAMI RUDOFISKY

PRESS
PHOTOGRAPHER
ED KRIEGER

ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER
SHARON LOGAN

PRODUCTION
STAGE MANAGER
KAREN SCHLEIFER*

PUBLICIST
LUCY POLLAK



CAST

(in Order of Appearance)

JOHN PLESHETTE*.....Murray Grazonsky
HUNTER MILANO.....Joseph Grazonsky
SAMMI-JACK MARTINCAK.....Caitlin McCarthy-Heitler
CATHY LADMAN.....Minka Grazonsky
LAURA JULIAN*.....Lillie Feinstein
MARTY ROSS.....Mister Goldman
TRAVIS YORK*.....David Grazonsky
SALLY SCHAUB.....Miss Koppelson

TIME

September, 1966

PLACE

3057 Brighton 5th Street
Brooklyn, New York

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

There is no photography or recording allowed during the performance.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHTS AND DIRECTOR



*Minnie "Bubby" Lonow, David "Zayda" Lonow,
and Mark Lonow*

Believe it or not, these people were real – maybe a bit exaggerated, but only a bit – blue collar Jews that we felt were underrepresented on the stage. We also wanted to pay homage and write a play highlighting physical comedy, and since we were both raised in chaos, our childhoods gave us that raw material. Sit back, relax, and do whatever Zayda tells you to do.

– Mark Lonow and Jo Anne Astrow

CAST BIOS



LAURA JULIAN* (*Lillie Feinstein*) Laura Julian, a native New Yorker, debuted Off-Broadway as Catherine in the acclaimed, long-running production of *A View from the Bridge*, later coming full-circle with *View*, playing Beatrice at ICT in Long Beach. Other theatre includes: Off-Broadway – *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground* (Sheridan Square Playhouse); *I Am a Camera* (Jewish Repertory Theatre); *God of Vengeance* (New Federal Theatre); L.A. – *Agnes of God* (Coyote Stageworks / Nominee, Outstanding Lead Actress, Desert Theatre League); *The Mystery Plays* (The Lex); *Lovers and Other Strangers* and *Italian American Reconciliation* (Theatre 68); *Looking for Normal* (Theatre Neo); *The Children's Hour* (Celebration Theatre); *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (Canon Theatre); *Stepping Out* (Pasadena Playhouse); *The American Clock* (Theatre Geo); *What's Wrong with This Picture?* (Back Alley Theatre). TV credits include just about all the New York soaps; in L.A., "Rosewood," "Henry Danger," "Dear John," "Major Dad." Laura is a proud, long-time member of Actors' Equity Association.



CATHY LADMAN (*Minka Grazonsky*) One of the country's top comedians, Cathy has appeared on "The Tonight Show" nine times and on a myriad of other late night shows. She's had her own HBO and Showtime specials. She was awarded the American Comedy Award for Best Female Stand-Up Comic. Film credits include: "Charlie Wilson's War," "The Aristocrats," and "White Oleander." Many people remember her from her role in "Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead." TV credits include: "I'm Dying up Here," "Modern Family," "How to Get Away with Murder," "Scandal," "Mad Men," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Everybody Loves Raymond." Theatre credits: *The JAP Show* (Off-Broadway). Cathy is thrilled to be a part of *Jews, Christians and Screwing Stalin*.



SAMMI-JACK MARTINCAK (*Caitlin McCarthy-Heitler*) Sammi-Jack Martincak has been performing since age 6, when she debuted in the Off-Broadway production of *The Sound of Music* as Marta. She then embarked on a musical-theatre career, performing in *Annie* as Molly, followed by the acclaimed play *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh. Her big screen debut was playing Jim Carrey's daughter in "I Love you Phillip Morris" and most recently finished shooting the film "Oh Boy" which will premiere in 2019. She is a recent graduate of Chapman University, with a BFA in Theatre Performance. SJ would like to thank her Mom for always schlepping her to the theater, her Dad, DJ, Justin, Caro, Angelique Dubois for making her a redhead, and mostly her agents at Green and Green Talent Group.



HUNTER MILANO (*Joseph Grazonsky*) Hunter Milano is thrilled to be a part of the world premiere of *Jews, Christians and Screwing Stalin*. A recent graduate from UCLA's Theater Film and Television department, Hunter has been in productions such as *Eurydice*, in which he portrayed Orpheus, and *The Complete History of America - Abridged*. His film work includes "Kings," a short film that he wrote, starred in, and funded through Kickstarter, as well as the independent comedy, "Family Party," in which he played Gary. Hunter would like to thank his incredibly supportive family for allowing him to pursue a career in the arts, as well as his dear friends for their continual inspiration.



JOHN PLESHETTE* (*Murray Grazonsky*) Although John is most familiar to audiences for his work on film and television, his first love was theatre. Before moving to Hollywood in 1975, he spent ten years in New York, appearing Off-Broadway with Marsha Mason in *It's Called the Sugar Plum* by Israel Horovitz; with Stacey Keach and William Devane in *MacBird!*, in *The Revue* at the Manhattan Theatre Club; *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Measure for Measure* and *Richard III* with Shakespeare in the Park, and on Broadway in *The Zulu and the Zayda* with Menasha Skulnik; as Dustin Hoffman's standby in Murray Schisgal's *Jimmy Shine* and a starring role in the ill-fated *Leda Had a Little Swan*. In L.A., John is best-known as Richard Avery in "Knots Landing," but he's most proud of his Oswald in the 4-hour ABC mini-series "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald;" for his Gary Blondo on two seasons of "Murder One," and as Larry's thong-wearing shrink on "Curb Your Enthusiasm," which, as you will see, led to his being cast as Murray Grazonsky in tonight's entertainment.



MARTY ROSS (*Mister Goldman*) Marty Ross was born and raised in New York City. In the late '60s he worked in the clothing business by day and took the stage at night in blackout comedy sketches. He dabbled with open mics in the '80s and '90s and when he turned 65 he joined the stand up comedy circuit full-time. Thirteen years later, he has become a seasoned comedian with a full-blown stand up comedy career. Marty now delights audiences at The Comedy Store, Flappers Comedy Club and The Improv in Los Angeles, as well as headlining at Bonkerz Comedy Club in Las Vegas. Theatre credits include *Yetta's Dead* and *The Road to Baby Jane*. Film/TV credits include "Monte's Grandpa," "Laughter and Health," and "Backup Plan," as well as a pilot for Vin Di Bona productions and commercials for Anthem Blue Cross and Sketchers. Marty is delighted to be performing with such a talented cast in *Jews, Christians and Screwing Stalin*.



SALLY SCHAUB (*Miss Koppelson*) Sally Schaub hails from Pittsburgh, PA. She began acting in San Francisco in movies, commercials and voice over work. She can be seen in “Slums of Beverly Hills,” “Crackers,” “Smooth Talk” and “No Small Affair.” Theatre roles she has done recently...Carol in *The Pain and The Itch* at The Zephyr Theatre, Mrs. Higgins in *Pygmalion*, Volumnia in *Coriolanus* and Teetotal Tessie in *Deadwood Dick*, Martha Murray in *Dracula*, Theocrita in *Oedipus/Antigone*, Lady Britomart in *Major Barbara*, Aunt Lilly in *Postmortem*, Marjory and Martha in *The Frog Prince* and Mrs. Morehead in *The Women* with The Archway Theatre Company. Volunteer work reading to hundreds of children every week keeps her inspired. Thanks to Jo Anne and Mark for including me in this very special play.



TRAVIS YORK* (*David Grazonsky*) Travis York is from Texas. He was last seen in *The View Upstairs* at the Celebration Theatre. He has worked with Soho Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 13P, Salvage Vanguard, The Flea, NYTW, Sacred Fools, & The Echo, among others. TV/Film credits include “Law and Order,” “Six Degrees,” “The Naked Brothers Band,” “All About Eve,” “Miles Underwater” (upcoming). He was the Literary Manager at Theatre of NOTE, as well as a finalist for the O’Neill NPC and a two-time Michener fellow in Playwriting at The University of Texas. He rescues pit bulls in his spare time, and would like to dedicate this show to the memory of his own Bubby, Jeanette ‘Maw-Maw’ Graham (1920-2016).

PRODUCTION BIOS

MARK LONOW (*Director / Playwright*) Mark Lonow has had a long history of entrepreneurship in show business through his lifetime involvement in entertainment as producer, actor, director, teacher, manager and co-owner of the World-Famous Improvisation. Beginning in his teens Mark appeared in New York and on the road in over seventy legitimate productions with New York credits in Equity Library Theater’s production of *You Can Never Tell*, Manhattan Theater Company’s productions of *The Museum* and a live on-stage production of *War of the Worlds*. Mark also toured for the American Shakespeare Festival in a two man show that introduced high school students to Shakespeare. Most recently, for the legitimate stage, Mark produced the cult hit *Love Sucks* in Los Angeles. Mark has also directed *The Club*, *The Little Gentleman* and *The Impossible Years!* Moving to Hollywood, Mark starred in the movie “Thank God, It’s Friday” and the TV series “Husbands, Wives and Lovers” and many, many other TV shows and movies. He co-created and directed the touring show, *The Male Intellect*, which was later sold to Warner Brothers and CBS as a TV sitcom pilot. Partnering with Howard Koch Jr. and Jo Anne Astrow, Mark was instrumental in developing and selling “Motor City,” “Chipmunks Roasting on An Open Fire,” and “Heart and Sole” to New Visions Pictures. For the last thirty-eight years Mark has been the co-owner and general partner of the World-Famous Improvisation, where he was intimately involved with the “Improv’s” growth from a single nightclub on Melrose Avenue in Hollywood to a national chain consisting of some twenty plus nightclubs. Mark has been an Executive Producer on three one-hour comedy specials for HBO for which he was nominated for an Emmy. On the education front, Mark helped develop the Stand-Up Comedy curriculum at UCLA Extension and was honored by the school in 1991 with the “Outstanding Teacher in Acting/Comedy” Award. After helping to create the curriculum Mark taught there for fifteen years. The writing of this play about his family is the culmination of a dream... or a nightmare.

JO ANNE ASTROW (Playwright) Starting in New York in the early '70's, Jo Anne produced the comedy troupe of improvisational actors called Off The Wall, featuring Henry Winkler, Mark Flanagan and herself among others. As an actress, performer and producer, Jo Anne was also instrumental in putting together The Back Room at the Riviera Cafe on Seventh Avenue. From the many years at The Back Room, Astrow took Off The Wall uptown to the Improvisation which she used to turn the troupe into an even greater success, playing up and down the Eastern Seaboard on the nightclub circuit. After coming to California, Astrow became the producer of Bob DuBac's touring show, *The Male Intellect*, which was later sold to Warner Brothers and CBS as a TV sitcom pilot. Partnered with Howard Koch Jr. and Mark Lonow, Jo Anne was instrumental in developing and selling "Motor City," "Chipmunks Roasting on An Open Fire," and "Heart and Sole" to New Visions Pictures. After the partnership at New Visions, her keen eye for talent, her business acumen and her producing abilities turned Jo Anne to personal management where she helped develop such talents as Michael Rapaport, Lewis Black, Andrea Abbate as well as her daughter Claudia Lonow and many others. As a personal manager, Jo Anne has continued to use her producing skills, helping put together sitcom pilots for the talent she handles. "Andrea," "Totally Cool," "52 MacDougal Street" and "Rude Awakening" are just four of the projects she helped bring to fruition. Now, co-writing this play with Mark Lonow, her husband and partner, she finds the process a joy... every other day.

RACQUEL LEHRMAN, THEATRE PLANNERS (Producer) Racquel is the founder and managing director of Theatre Planners, her own theatre production firm which has been serving the Los Angeles theatre scene for over fifteen years. She graduated from NYU-Tisch School of the Arts and lived in NY for many years producing theatre. Theatre Planners has since developed into a very busy and successful outlet for actors, writers, producers and theatre companies. Doing everything from producing, consulting, marketing and more, Racquel loves to make productions a reality and help to keep the theatre scene in LA alive and strong. Racquel is also the owner of The Lounge Theatres and The Lounge Studio and manages The Zephyr Theatre. To learn more about Racquel and Theatre Planners, go to www.theatreplanners.com

JOEL DAAVID (Scenic Designer) Texan/LA resident since 1993. Joel has become an award-winning set designer since attending the American Film Institute for Cinematography. His career accomplishments include cinematography for film work as well as stage directing and design. Joel's most notable awards include the Ovation, LA Weekly, NAACP and LADCC Theater Awards. He directed/designed the award-winning production of *The Miracle Worker* at the Matrix and Edgemar Theatres and the new production of Tennessee Williams' *Baby Doll* at the Lillian Theatre. Joel directed/designed the multi-award winning *Frankenstein* for Theatre Tallahassee and the epic story of *Camille (Caudel)* at the Greenway Arts Alliance. www.jdaavid.com

WENDELL C. CARMICHAEL (Costume Designer) Theater credits: *Vol. 1 A Post Racial America, Violet, Her Portmeanu, Native Son, A Walk in the Woods, Cabaret, West Side Story, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Desdemona A Play about a Handkerchief, The Crucible, An Octoroon, Br'er Cotton, Ball Yards, Waiting for the Parade, The Good War, Les Blanc, Into the Woods, The Great Divorce, The Fertile River, Uncle Vanya, Mockingbird, As You Like It, Godspell, Fraternity's, Low Hanging Fruit, Ferguson, Lend me a Tenor, The Baker's Wife*. He is a 2018 Stage Raw Nominee and a three-time L.A. Ovation Award nominee, 2017 Orange County's Best Costume Designs and a 2015 NAACP Theatre Award winner. Member of Local 768 the Theatrical Wardrobe Union/L.A. Opera.

DONNY JACKSON (Lighting Designer) Career highlights include the West Coast premiere of *In the Heights* (Casa 0101 Theatre), the New York premiere of *Four Clowns* (La MaMa), the workshop production of *God Looked Away*, starring Al Pacino and Judith Light (Macha Theatre), and *A Singular They* (Blank Theatre), for which he received a Stage Raw Award nomination. Recent productions include *Arrival and Departure* (Fountain Theatre), *The Chosen* (Fountain Theatre), *Driving Miss Daisy*, starring Donna Mills (Colony Theatre), *A Steady Rain* (John Kirby Studio), *Into the Woods*, as featured during ABC's reality TV event, "Encore!", and the KJAZZ Fall Benefit Concert (Wallis Annenberg). Other work includes *Blackbird* (MET Theatre), *The Archer from Malis* (Getty Villa), *Blood* (Complex Theatre), *Cabaret* (Long Beach Playhouse), and *Phenomenal*, written & directed by Macy Gray (Ramon Cortines Performing Arts). He is a Professor of Technical Theatre & Design at Cypress College and holds an MFA in Lighting from UCLA. www.DonnyJackson.com

JOSEPH "SLOE" SLAWINSKI (Sound Designer) Sloe is a multi-award winning sound designer. He recently received the 2018 Ovation Award for his sound design of the play *Burners*. He is the resident sound designer for The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. Recent theatre sound designs include *The Birds* directed by Jeff Rack and *God Looked Away* starring Judith Light and Al Pacino, directed by Robert Allan Ackerman. He also scored the feature film "Death Waits For No Man" a neon-noir, psychological thriller written and directed by Armin Siljkovic. He would like to thank the incredible and amazing Gabriel Griego for her continuous support during all of his creative endeavors. He is proud to be part of this great production.

JENINE MACDONALD (Property Designer) Jenine hails from Chicago and holds a B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College. Recent designs: *The Death and Life of Mary Jo Kopechne* at the Odyssey Theatre and *L.O.V.E.R.* at The Zephyr Theatre. Favorite productions include *Beckett5* for the Odyssey Theatre; prop and puppet design on *Hamlet* and *The Tempest* for Pittsburgh Theatre Laboratories; and her own independent productions *Acts of God*, *Disappearing Act*, and *Four Clowns and a Bench*.

KIFF SCHOLL, AFK DESIGN (Graphic Designer) Headed by Kiff Scholl, AFK Design has a long history of designing original and eye-catching graphics for Los Angeles theatre and film productions. Long time theatre clients include the wonderful folks over at Theatre Planners, Sierra Madre Playhouse, The Athena Cats, West Coast Jewish Theatre, Indie Chi, KADM Productions, Sacred Fools, Theatre of NOTE, as well as countless independent companies. Last year our design for *An Evening with John Wilkes Booth* won Best of the Fringe 2017. In addition to graphics, Kiff is also an award-winning director, actor and filmmaker. Like AFK Design on Facebook and follow Kiff on Twitter @afkiff. www.KiffScholl.com

MISHA RILEY, THEATRE PLANNERS (Assistant Producer) Misha holds a B.A. in Theater from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. At UCLA Misha specialized in both Theater Studies and Acting, performing in multiple productions including *The Revenger's Tragedy*, directed by Lisa Wolpe. He was also chosen to participate in UCLA's inaugural Professional Theater Practicum course, hosted in tandem with The Geffen Playhouse. To learn more about Theatre Planners, go to www.theatreplanners.com

JAMI RUDOFSKY (Casting Director) Jami Rudofsky has been casting theatre in Los Angeles for many many years. She is the Resident Casting Director for the award winning Celebration Theatre. Most recent Celebration Theatre credits include *Cabaret*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *The Boy From Oz*. As well as *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum* for The Garry Marshall Theatre. In addition to theatre, Jami has worked on a myriad of projects including “Gilmore Girls,” “Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life” and “Masters of Sex” and currently the Emmy Nominated Digital Series “Conversations in L.A.” Thank you to Racquel, Misha and Amber for your tireless work and support. Mark and Jo Anne, for making me laugh and creating a project that spoke to me from the second I opened the script.

SHARON LOGAN (Assistant Stage Manager) Sharon Logan was born in Brescia, Italy and moved to Columbia, SC in 2000. While in SC she was a member of her high school’s dance company, Ebony Dance, SC Shakespeare Company, Carolina Ballet Company, and Columbia City Jazz. She trained under Julia Moisseva, Marissa Freeman, Anna Dragoni, Stacey Calvert, and Dale Lam. She graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy of the Performing Arts with a Bachelor’s in Dance Theatre. She made her debut with 5 Star Theatricals as an “Indian” in *Peter Pan* and recently appeared in their production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She was the Assistant Stage Manager for Theatre Planners’ production of *The Red Dress*, *Earth and Fire Walking* and *Parallel Worlds*. She wants to thank her family and friends for all of their support.

KAREN SCHLEIFER* (Production Stage Manager) Karen is grateful to be returning to work with Theatre Planners in this hilarious comedy by the brilliant writing team of Mark Lonow & Jo Anne Astrow! Credits include: PSM: *Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally* (Theatre Planners @ The Odyssey), *Farragut North* (Theatre Planners @ The Odyssey), *Troubled Waters* (Ventura Court Theatre), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Wagner College Theatre); Rehearsal SM: *The Death and Life of Mary Jo Kopechne* (Theatre Planners @ The Odyssey); Producer: fofo: *Echo Greco*, fofo: *Eat the Bunny* and the première fofo: *Día de los Muertos* event at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery (theatre fofo), *The Caliban* (Sacred Fools); Director: *Mayhem at Mayfield Mall* (Wolfskill Theater, People Magazine feature); Performer: Broadway: *Annie* (Kate u/s Molly - original production); Off-Broadway: *Broken Moments* (Nicole), *Tonya Harding-A Rock Opera* (Mrs. Harding); National Tour: *Tony & Tina’s Wedding* (Donna); Regional: *Annie* (Annie, w/ limited engagement at Lincoln Center), *Dames at Sea* (Joan), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary). Commercial representation: FireStarter Entertainment (FSE Talent); Graduate of SUNY Purchase, she is also a working musician and professional recording artist. Love to Pockets and Benny & The Jets. www.curlykaren.com



Daniel Lonow and Minnie “Bubby” Lonow



Minnie “Bubby” Lonow



ADDITIONAL CREW

Box Office Manager.....Kelsey Gilchriest
 House Manager.....Tiffany Parker
 Charge Scenic Artist.....Marine Walton
 Construction Crew.....Perris Alfonzo
 Rochelle Kong
 Bethany Nava
 Joshua Smith-Lunger
 Pasha Wyant
 Scenic Painters.....Chris Moscatiello
 Paul Sheargold



SPECIAL THANKS

The Improv Comedy Club
 The Lounge Theatre
 The Zephyr Theatre
 Faithful Central Bible Church
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 Beefsteak and WOLF Restaurants
 Joseph Stern and The Matrix Theatre
 Matheus Segura
 Chef Marcel Vigneron
 Amber Bruegel
 Alireza Ghaemian
 Christopher Klapp
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 Judy Orbach
 ...and Murray Weissman, our Zayda.





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the cast and
crew from your
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