



# LOOT

Written by **Joe Orton**

Directed by **Bart DeLorenzo**

STARRING

**Elizabeth Arends, Ron Bottitta, Nicholas Hormann,  
Alex James-Phelps, Robbie Jarvis, Selina Woolery Smith**

SCENIC DESIGNER  
**Keith Mitchell**

COSTUME DESIGNER  
**Michael Mullen**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**Christine Ferriter**

PROP DESIGNER  
**Josh La Cour**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/SOUND DESIGNER  
**Bo Powell**

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER  
**Mike Mahaffey**

STAGE MANAGER  
**Laurien Allmon**

PRODUCED BY  
**Beth Hogan**

*Loot* runs from June 8 through August 10, 2019

Play running time is approximately two hours.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

*Loot* 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.



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boxoffice@odysseytheatre.com www.odysseytheatre.com



## CAST

(listed in order of appearance)

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| McLeavy .....              | Nicholas Hormann     |
| Fay .....                  | Elizabeth Arends     |
| Hal.....                   | Robbie Jarvis        |
| Dennis .....               | Alex James-Phelps    |
| Truscott .....             | Ron Bottitta         |
| Mrs. McLeavy/Meadows ..... | Selina Woolery Smith |

## SETTING

Place: A room in McLeavy's house, London

Time: An afternoon in June, 1966

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Wake up. Stop dreaming." These are the words playwright Joe Orton chooses to open tonight's entertainment, and so the commands that will also begin the *Odyssey's* CIRCA 69, its 50-year-anniversary celebration. "Wake up. Stop dreaming." In four words, I couldn't describe the purpose of theater better – especially that important theatrical revolution that began in the late 1960s that the *Odyssey* was such an important part of. Shatter your illusions, look at the world clearly, and refresh your life. Fifty years on, I think we can still learn a lot from Mr. Orton.

Over the past weeks, the cast and I have had the great fortune to immerse ourselves in the life and mind of this "Oscar Wilde of the Welfare State," as one critic famously dubbed him. The research of course took me to Orton's extraordinary diaries that anatomize the last months of his life – as *Loot* is playing in the West End and as he starts achieving the acclaim, prizes, and celebrity that he'd long dreamed of.

Joe is a faithful diarist, furnishing a clear-eyed daily chronicle of the hypocrisies and pretensions, injustices and ironies of his time – alongside an extraordinarily detailed sexual autobiography of a very busy young man from the days when homosexual activity was still a crime. But beyond description, Orton seems to be putting together a philosophy in his writing, a design for living, if you will, a way of the world.

There's an Auntie Mame *jeu d'esprit* in his viewpoint, but instead of "Life's a banquet and most poor bastards are starving to death," Orton suggests that life is a robbery – a total con job – and most suckers close their eyes and let themselves be taken. In Orton's eyes, the government and the police and the church are all rigged profit-making enterprises designed to control behavior and reward only the most selfish exploiters at the top. So, Orton asks, why do we waste our lives in a pose of outrage when we all already deeply know what is happening, that the world is manipulated by liars and thieves, that the fix is in?

So *Loot* – and I remind you here that this title is both a noun and an interesting verb – *Loot* asks us to wake up. It suggests, not without some controversy, that the only acceptable way, if you ever hope to get what you want, is to become a criminal. To live outside society's "rules." And I think Orton shows just how fun that can be. Sometimes you must destroy the past to create the future. If your family is crushing you, you can create a new anti-family to carry you on.

I'll admit it here: Joe Orton was my first great love in the theater. Reading his plays in high school and laughing myself silly and feeling at one with his smart dirty anarchic glamor. I assumed I would outgrow his rebellion and the wisdom of age would catch up with me. But as the world endlessly becomes more and more outrageous – how much further can it go? – I'm thinking that age/wisdom thing may be just one more illusion. Orton and the 60s can still teach us: "Wake up. Stop dreaming!"

—Bart DeLorenzo, June 8, 2019

## WHO'S WHO

### JOE ORTON

*Playwright*

Joe Orton (1933-1967) was a British playwright, born in Leicester, whose outrageous dark comedies and macabre farces scandalized theater audiences in the 1960s. After winning an acting scholarship to RADA in 1951, he met Kenneth Halliwell, an actor and writer who became his life-long mentor, lover, roommate and collaborator. Orton and Halliwell first came to public attention not as writers, but through an elaborate prank played out at their local library, altering book covers and adding new provocative blurbs to dust jackets. In 1962, they were sentenced to six months in prison for this crime, an unusually harsh sentence "because we were queers," Orton later commented. Prison proved transformative: "It affected my attitude towards society. Before I had been vaguely conscious of something rotten somewhere, prison crystallized this. The old whore society really lifted up her skirts and the stench was pretty foul." In his rapid-fire writing that followed, Orton contributed to an exciting working class youth culture that swept through the nation. His first success, the radio play *Ruffian on the Stair*, broadcast in 1964, ushered in a run of successes — *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* in 1964, *Loot* in 1965 and *What the Butler Saw*, written in 1967 — shocking and unconventional entertainments that examined moral corruption, authoritarian abuse and hypocrisy. Orton's career was cut tragically short when Halliwell bludgeoned Orton to death with a hammer, before overdosing on Nembutal in the 16' x 12' one-room flat that had been their home.



### ELIZABETH ARENDS

*Fay*

Elizabeth is a UK-born actor, living and working in Los Angeles. She is thrilled to be making her Los Angeles theatre debut at the Odyssey Theatre. Her work in London includes performing at the Old Vic Theatre and the Hampstead Theatre as Lady Anne in *Richard III* and as Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*. She toured internationally with *The Merchant of Venice*, *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Cymbeline*. Elizabeth began her performance career as a professional ballerina. Most recently, she starred in *Alone*, a feature-length film scheduled for theatrical release in late 2019. She also had supporting roles in *Abruptio* (starring Jordan Peele) and the theatrical release *On Wings of Eagles* (with Joseph Fiennes), a sequel to *Chariots of Fire*. Elizabeth began working as a film actress in England in *Sherlock Holmes* (streaming on Netflix, Asylum Films). Her TV credits include *Lethal Weapon* (FOX), *Battle of the Sexes* (Lifetime), *Betrayed* (ID Network) and the mini-series *Marinho*. She guest-starred on the acclaimed British television dramas, *Coronation Street* (ITV) and *Emmerdale* (ITV).



### RON BOTTITTA

*Truscott*

Ron was seen here most recently in *Faith Healer* and *Hir*. Other appearances at the Odyssey: *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Rank*, *Theatre in the Dark*, *Chekhov and Maria*, among others. He's 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 RMT's spoken word *Rant and Rave* now in its eleventh year. Recent stage credits include *Sisters Matsumoto*, *I Love Lucy...* at L.A. Theatre Works and two national tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg*. Other LA credits include John Pollono's *Rules of Seconds* at LATC, *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*, *Mad Max*, *Fury Road*, and not so recent: *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. Training: BA, UC Berkeley, MFA, NYU. Dad, professional motorcyclist, aviator.



### NICHOLAS HORMANN

*McLeavy*

Nicholas began his career on Broadway in Harold Prince's *Love for Love* and *The Visit*. Also on Broadway: *Saint Joan* (with Lynn Redgrave), *The Member of the Wedding* and *Execution of Justice*. He has performed at distinguished theatres across the country, including the Ahmanson, the Mark Taper Forum, the Kirk Douglas, South Coast Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse, the Old Globe, ACT, Long Wharf, Yale Repertory, and The Actors' Theatre of Louisville. Roles include *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Abraham Lincoln*, *Atticus Finch*, *Laurence Olivier*, *Van Helsing* and *Henry Higgins*. Nicholas has toured nationally with L.A. Theatre Works in *Dracula* and *Pride and Prejudice*, and he toured China twice with L.A. Theatre Works in *Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers*. Nick has appeared in numerous

television series including *Modern Family*, *Parks & Rec*, *Girl Meets World*, *Bone* and *Seinfeld* (as Calvin Klein). He attended the Yale School of Drama.



## **ALEX JAMES-PHELPS**

*Dennis*

Having been performing from a young age, Alex took part in various stage productions back in the UK, including Cameron Mackintosh's West End production, *Oliver!*, where Alex played the role of understudy for Oliver. In 2016 he graduated from RACC with a diploma in acting. During his time in college, he signed with Beresford Management after a talent agent spotted him in a student film. From this he was cast in the one-off BBC revival of the 80's classic sitcom *Are You Being Served?*. This led to the BBC casting Alex again, but this time in the massively popular British soap *Eastenders*. The following summer, Alex was cast in his first two feature films, *Cassette* and Paramount Pictures' Elton John biopic, *Rocketman*. Through this series of jobs, Alex was cast in a feature film in the US, produced by Odd Duck Films.



## **ROBBIE JARVIS**

*Hal*

Robbie began his career with the prestigious National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. His theatre credits include Laura Wade's *Posh* (Salisbury Playhouse & Nottingham Playhouse), *The Cherry Orchard* (The Cockpit Theatre), Faliraki: *The Greek Tragedy* (Lyric Hammersmith) and *Two Days in Prison, Three Days At Home* (Tristan Bates Theatre). Robbie originated the role of Alec in Philip Ridley's *Shivered* (Southwark Playhouse). His film work includes his portrayal of the teen-aged James Potter in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (Warner Bros) and the Jimi Hendrix biopic, *All Is By My Side* (Watchtower Productions), directed by Oscar-winner John Ridley. On television Robbie has played numerous guest-starring roles on award-winning dramas, including *Waking the Dead* (BBC), *Trial & Retribution* (ITV) and *Upstairs, Downstairs* (BBC). He also starred as Billy Hayes in National Geographic's retelling of *The Midnight Express*.



## **SELINA WOOLERY SMITH**

*Mrs. McLeavy/Meadows*

A native of Los Angeles and a graduate of California Institute of the Arts, Selina Woolery Smith is honored to be given a chance to bring Mrs. McLeavy "to life." A founding member of LA theatre company Burglars of Hamm, she has written, produced and performed in many of their shows including *Flee Circus*, *Hot City*, *Easy Targets*, *Party Show* and *Focus Today*. Currently an associate artist of both Burglars of Hamm and Sacred Fools, Selina most recently portrayed the role of Madam Shekstenloot in their co-production of *Resa Fantastiskt Mystisk* by Lars Mattsun. Big thanks to Bart for asking me to join the cast.

## **BART DELORENZO**

*Director*

Bart DeLorenzo is the Founding Artistic Director of the Evidence Room Theater. At the Odyssey, he has previously directed *Hir*, *Kiss*, *Go Back to Where You Are*, *Day Drinkers* and *A Number*, as well as Evidence Room co-productions *The False Servant*, *Passion Play*, *Annapurna*, *Ivanov*, *Margo Veil* and *The Receptionist*. Other recent work: *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Sugar Plum Fairy*, *tokyo fish story*, and *Fast Company* at South Coast Repertory; *Stage Kiss*, *Death of the Author*, *Coney Island Christmas* and *Shipwrecked* at the Geffen Playhouse; *Nomad Motel* at Pittsburgh's City Theatre; *Time Alone* at LATC; *Women in Jeopardy!* at the Ensemble Theater of Santa Barbara; *Need to Know* at Rogue Machine; and in this very theater, *Too Much Sun* with Indie Chi Productions. Bart is on the faculty at CalArts, and has received LA Drama Critics Circle awards, LA Weekly awards, Backstage Garlands and the Alan Schneider Director Award.

## **KEITH MITCHELL**

*Scenic Designer*

Keith is delighted to be back at the Odyssey, where he designed the futuristic *Oedipus Machina*, directed by Ron Sossi, and the beloved *Margo Veil*. Keith has designed productions for a variety of Southland theatre groups including 24th St. Theatre, A Noise Within, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Geffen Playhouse, Getty Villa, ETC, Lewis Family Playhouse, Celebration and Rogue Artists Ensemble; (2018 Ovation Award Scenic Design, Kaidan Project: *Walls Grow Thin*.) He has designed over 15 shows for SCR and more than 20 shows for The Garry Marshall Theater, including *The Value of Names*,

(Ovation Award Scenic Design) and 18 seasons for Los Angeles Philharmonic's *Summersounds*, at the Hollywood Bowl. Keith is an Emmy Award-winning art director and also works on a variety of commercials, television promotions and film projects, including recently, *13 Reason Why*, NBC's *The Voice*, *The Olympics*, and *American Assassin*. He is a USC alumnus.

## **MICHAEL MULLEN**

*Costume Designer*

Michael is a costume designer and actor. Among his design credits are *Dreamgirls*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Siamese Sex Show*, *Fugue*, *When Jazz Had The Blue*, *Burners*, *Cabaret*, *Year Of The Rooster*, *Fixed*, *Sweeney Todd* and *American Idiot*. He has received several awards and nominations for his work both onstage and off from such organizations as Ovation, L.A. Drama Critics Circle, L.A. Weekly, N.A.A.C.P., Scenie, Stage Raw, Robby, Broadway World, Ticket Holder, Eddon and Desert Theatre League. He would like to thank his family, friends and everyone involved with this show for being awesome. :)

## **CHRISTINE FERRITER**

*Lighting Designer*

Christine is thrilled to be making her Odyssey Theatre Ensemble debut with *Loot*. A recent transplant to Los Angeles, she has designed lighting for *King Lear* with Source Material Collective at the Bootleg Theater, *Group Therapy* with Poor Dog Group at CAP/UCLA, *Loaded* with Heidi Duckler Dance at the Ford Amphitheater, *Through the Leaves* at CalArts, and *Skjemt Blod* with video artist Gwenmarie White. Her work on *Ubu Roi* will be exhibited at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space this coming June. Previously, Christine was master electrician and moving light programmer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, assistant lighting supervisor at Actors Theatre of Louisville, resident lighting designer with Circus Flora, and a freelance designer in her hometown of Chicago. She is a member of IATSE 154 and an MFA candidate in lighting design at California Institute of the Arts. [www.christineferriter.com](http://www.christineferriter.com)

## **JOSH LA COUR**

*Prop Designer*

Josh is the Odyssey Theatre's production manager and earned a BFA in theatre arts and BBA in business administration from Loyola Marymount University. Recent works include scenography for *Bright Half Life* at LMU, and property design for both *Steam-bath*, and *Hir* at the Odyssey Theatre. He will be set and costume designing for the Summer Shakespeare Festival at Loyola Marymount University and Playa Vista Park. He is very excited to be a part of the *Loot* design team and hopes you enjoy the show!

## **BO POWELL**

*Sound Designer/Assistant Director*

Bo is a theatrical director and producer based in North Hollywood. He graduated in 2015 with a BA in theatrical directing and producing from the University of La Verne, where he studied under Steve Kent. Bo has been producing and directing in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas for the last four years. Most recently he directed the world premiere of *Small Little Safe World* by Michael Eichler at The Whitmore Lindley Theater Center and was Bart's assistant for the LA Premiere of *Hir* by Taylor Mac, here at the Odyssey. During the day he is an extras casting director for Rich King Casting, most recently as the extras casting director for *Baskets Season 4*, on FX. You can check out all his work, including producing, stage managing and lighting design on his website [www.bojamespowell.com](http://www.bojamespowell.com)

## **MIKE MAHAFFEY**

*Fight Choreographer*

Mike was recognized in 2015 with an LA Ovations Honors Award for his fight choreography for LOFT Ensemble's *She Kills Monsters*, has earned several Stage Raw nominations and has worked with Tony, Obie and Emmy award-winning actors in over sixty productions worldwide. Acting credits: *Masters of Sex*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Resident Evil: Degeneration*. FD Credits include: *Stoneface*, *Casa Valentina* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Value of Moscow*, *Akuma-Shin*, *Astro Boy and the God of Comics*, *Taste*, *Tangerine Sunset*, *A Gulag Mouse* (Sacred Fools Theater); *Rio Hondo* (Theatre of NOTE); *The Devil's Wife*, *Forever House* (Skylight Theatre); *Mice* (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Carmen*, *Faust* (San Diego Opera); *All the Best Killers Are Librarians* (Hollywood Fringe Festival). Mike is a certified teacher of stage combat with the SAFD.

## **LAURIEN ALLMON**

*Stage Manager*

Laurien is excited to be the stage manager for *Loot* at the Odyssey Theatre. She has two AA degree, one in technical theatre and

one in costume design. Laurien currently works at A Noise Within Theatre in Pasadena as a carpenter and has stage managed at LAPC, Ruskin Theatre, and Casa 0101.

## **RON SOSSI**

*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.

## **BETH HOGAN**

*Producer*

Beth is the associate artistic director of the Odyssey, and also functions as a producer on many Odyssey shows, including *Hir*, *Kiss*, *The Hairy Ape*, *Passion Play*, *Annapurna*, *Margo Veil*, *Awake and Sing!*, *Anna Christie* and Irish actor Pat Kinevane’s solo work. Together with Barbara Mueller-Wittmann, she produces the Odyssey Dance Festival featuring choreographers, soloist and ensembles from the Los Angeles area. Beth is a founding member of the Odyssey’s in-house process-oriented resident acting ensemble, KOAN, developing original work over a four-to-eight-month process, and was last seen in *Old Clown Wanted*.

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Scenic Artist .....              | Chris Bell   |
| Scenic Carpenters .....          | Danny Felix, Leonard Felix   |
| Associate Casting Director ..... | Andrew Lynford lynfordcasting@gmail.com  |
| Publicist .....                  | Lucy Pollak  |
| Photography .....                | Enci   |
| Lighting Technicians.....        | Michael Blendermann, Michael Evans, Danny Felix, Meteo Rudich  |
| Prop Assistant .....             | Andrew O'Connor  |
| Paint Crew .....                 | Nicole Barnett   |
| Graphic Designer .....           | Fred Baxter  |
| Website .....                    | Eric Ekman   |
| Casting Assistant.....           | Tyler Dean   |
| Promotional Video .....          | Meghan O'Brien   |
| Special Thanks .....             | CalArts, Karen Haskell, Los Angeles City College Theatre Department,<br>Gary Mitchell, 24th Street Theatre |

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|                                  |                      |
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Lighting Technician .....Danny Felix  
Dance Festival Co-Producer ..... Barbara Mueller-Wittmann  
Odyssey Intern.....Mateo Rudich

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

Wednesday at 8pm on July 10 & 31

Thursday at 8pm on Thursday, August 8

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

June 14, July 10 and 26

Wine Night Fridays June 14 & July 26 • FREE wine with cast after the performance

College Night - July 12, \$10 tix for college students w/ ID -

includes a pre-performance student reception with themed catering as well as a  
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*Cast photo of THE SERPENT taken in 1969 outside the Odyssey's original home in Hollywood.*

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The Broad Theatre in Santa Monica

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**THANK YOU** for helping us sustain our  
community of inspired audiences and artists.

# 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.

## **FEFU AND HER FRIENDS**

A splendidly surreal comedy-drama about what it means to be a feminist in the mid-1930's.

Written by María Irene Fornés  
Directed by Denise Blasor  
August 3 - September 29

## **IN CIRCLES**

Musical adapted from *A Circular Play* by Gerturde Stein  
Adaptor & Composer Al Carmines  
Directed by David Schweizer  
September 7 - October 27, 2019

## **JULIA MIGENES**

An evening of French Chansons from Edith Piaf to Michel Legrand, Léo Ferre, Jacques Brel and more.

Staring Julia Migenes  
Directed by Peter Medak  
October 26 - December 8, 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

## **THE SERPENT**

Imaginative, perceptive and entertaining, *The Serpent* is a celebration of life as seen through the Book of Genesis.

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

## **A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG**

One of the groundbreaking plays of the Sixties, "Joe Egg" is an incisive, wonderfully theatrical examination of the private language of a marriage, and the ways that it enriches and destroys.

Written by Peter Nichols  
Directed by Robin Larsen  
March 21 - May 10, 2020

## **PICNIC**

William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Picnic* opens at the Odyssey in a striking new production helmed by award-winning director John Farmanesh-Bocca.  
May 15 - June 5, 2020

## **FABULATION**

### **or the Re-Education of Undine**

A delightful, sharp and very funny play about social and racial identity.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage.  
Opens in 2020

## **ESCAPED ALONE**

Written by Obie Award-winning playwright Caryl Churchill  
This magnificent new play unleashes an intricate, elliptical, acutely female view of the apocalypse.  
Opens in 2020

For information on how you can become an Odyssey member and supporter, or to renew your support to the theatre please call our box office at 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or go online at [odysseytheatre.com](http://odysseytheatre.com)