



LA VIE EN ROSE

Starring Julia Migenes

Directed by Peter Medak

Accompanied by Victoria H. Kirsch

SCENIC DESIGNER
Chris Bell

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Bosco Flanagan

SOUND DESIGNER
Christopher Moscatiello

STAGE MANAGER
Jacob Price

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

MON HOMME: Music by Maurice Yvain with French lyrics by Jacques-Charles and Albert Willametz

MILORD written by Georges Moustaki/Marguerite Monnot • HIER ENCORE by Charles Aznavour

LA BOHÈME by Charles Aznavour • AVEC LE TEMPS by Léo Ferré • TU NE DIS JAMAIS RIEN by Léo Ferré

LES PAUMÉS DU PETIT MATIN by François Rauber and Jacques Brel

LA CHANSON DES VIEUX AMANTS by Jacques Brel

A MAN AND A WOMAN Lyrics by Pierre Barouh, Music by Francis Lai

LA VALSE DES LILAS by Michel Legrand, Eddie Barclay, Edmond Bacri, Edouard Ruault, Eddie Marnay

LES PARAPLUIES DE CHERBOURG Lyrics by Jacques Demy, Music by Michel Legrand

Produced for the Odyssey Theatre by Beth Hogan

LA VIE EN ROSE runs from November 2 through to December 14, 2019

Running time is approximately seventy-five minutes.

La Vie en Rose is performed without an intermission.

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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A NOTE FROM JULIA MIGENES

I was happily retired, staring at air molecules, until a friend (a great singer) asked me to help him with a new French opera. Working with him was so intense that it jumpstarted my love of singing in French. So here I am singing my last row of concerts, in the type of venue I mostly prefer singing concerts in.... a theater! What I love about a theater where mostly plays are performed is that I'm not obliged to just stand in front of the piano and sing. The stage allows me the freedom to move and illustrate the songs (especially important if the audience is not fluent in the languages I'm singing in, which are thirteen, so far), English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Lufardo (an Argentinian dialect), Latin, Russian, Czechoslovakian, Chinese, Thai, Yiddish and Hebrew. I so want the public to understand what I'm singing (without their heads buried in the program, or looking at the ceiling reading supertitles), so I prefer setting the mood with lights and placement on the stage and using a microphone, in order to sing as softly as I wish and even whisper when the word or mood calls for it. I'm grateful to have such wonderful lights, sound, stage design and director to help me bring the songs to life

—Julia Migenes, October 30, 2019

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to direct Julia at the Odyssey Theatre, where we worked together several times before, and, to have also directed her in *La Voix Humaine* in Monte Carlo and *Salome* in Minnesota. She is an exceptional and brilliant interpreter of these wonderful songs about love and lost love. The first time I heard Jacques Brel sing live was in 1969 in Paris, and it is engraved in my heart forever. Also the same with Charles Aznavour and Edith Piaf. The magic of the French Chansons is so wonderfully addictive and I hope you will enjoy this wonderful evening with us.

—Peter Medak, October 30, 2019

WHO'S WHO

JULIA MIGENES

Julia Migenes is a New York story... She comes from an immigrant family with five siblings, living on welfare in New York City. But from her teens on, she had the great fortune to work with great artists Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, Zero Mostel and Gian Carlo Menotti. She had a natural voice, and could sing without having voice lessons, but needed technique to be able to dance well.... (She says, "I'm married to my voice, but my lover is dancing")... In order to take dance lessons, she would pay for her lessons by sweeping and straightening up the dance studio. As a teenager, she was chosen to sing in Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts. Julia won the Albanese award for young singers, and went on to sing Maria in *West Side Story*, on Off-Broadway. She then starred as Hodel opposite Zero Mostel in the original Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and sang Annina, the young saint, in Menotti's *Saint of Bleaker Street*, directed by Menotti himself. Julia left New York to sing at the Volksoper in Vienna, Austria, then the opera and concert stages plus television, all over Europe, England, Ireland, France, Denmark, Hungary, East Berlin, West Berlin, Switzerland and Germany, and she has toured with Placido Domingo in South America, Mexico, Australia and Europe. She sang and was the host of the London TV series *Top C's and Tiaras*, and also in Germany, her own TV show, *Ich Bin Da*. Julia returned to the U.S. as a soloist in Metropolitan Opera productions of *La Boheme*, *Pagliacci*, Rise and Fall fo the City of *Mahagonny* and in the title role of *Lulu* by Alban Berg, a role known for its extreme difficulty. Her performance as Salome at the Grand Théâtre in Geneva led to the starring role in Italian director Francesco Rosi's film version of *Carmen*, alongside Placido Domingo and Ruggiero Raimondi (César and David di Donatello Award nominations for best actress); the movie achieved cult status, and the soundtrack went on to win a Grammy Award. The one and only opera she directed was Rossini's, *The Barber Of Seville*, which was nominated in the category of Best Opera in France. Julia's recorded over 30 CDs and DVDs. Her awards include the Edison Classical Music Award; two Golden Bambi's; and Golden Lion, Golden Camera and Golden Microphone Awards. (She has at home another Grammy award from 1990, but, for the life of her, she can't remember what it was for.....it remains a mystery.....)

PETER MEDAK

Director

Peter is an internationally acclaimed film directot, whose credits include *Negatives* with Glenda Jackson (her first film), *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* starring Alan Bates and Janet Suzman, and *The Ruling Class* starring Peter O' Toole, for which he re-

ceived an Academy Award nomination. A sampling of the numerous other films he has directed includes *The Krays* (England's Evening Standard Award for best director), *Let Him Have It*, *Romeo is Bleeding* and *The Men's Club*. In addition, he has directed numerous plays, miniseries and films for television, as well as operas and stage productions. Recent credits include *Hannibal* for NBC, *Hand of God* for Amazon, *The Dating Game Killer* (Discovery Channel). *Ghost of Peter Sellers* a new film based on his own old film, made in 1973 with Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Peter Boyle and Tony Franciosa. A film about his own film, It took two years in the making, and will open in Los Angeles and New York on the 17th of January, 2020.

VICTORIA H. KIRSCH

Pianist

Victoria Kirsch is delighted to reunite with Julia Migenes for *La Vie en Rose*. As the pianist for Julia's *Diva on the Verge*, Victoria toured the world with the renowned singing actress, playing the show over 150 times, including several extended runs at the Odyssey Theatre. Other collaborations with Julia include programs devoted to Franz Schubert (Odyssey Theatre, Thessaloniki, Istanbul, New Caledonia), Leonard Bernstein (Spoleto Festival, Avignon) and sacred music (Fez Festival of Sacred Music). In addition to her work with Julia, Victoria creates and performs innovative thematic programs that weave together spoken and sung texts. She is a faculty vocal and opera coach at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music, as well as the music director of the Palm Springs-based Opera Arts organization. Victoria has also served on the music staffs of LA Opera and Long Beach Opera, among others. She has been an official pianist for the Operalia competition and the Metropolitan Opera's National Council regional auditions, and she was associated with the Music Academy of the West for many years, playing in the studio of the renowned French baritone and master teacher Martial Singher.

CHRIS BELL

Scenic Designer

Chris used to shout with exuberant glee, "Theater is my life!" when he was a kid doing plays at Santa Monica's Lincoln Junior High in the late 70's. His first black box theater experience was seeing *Joe Egg* at the Odyssey's Bundy location. Out of high school he fabricated props and performed in the first Actors' Gang show, *Ubu The King*. He received a theater scholarship to Stephens College in MO, and later participated in a multitude of original productions with The Actors' Gang in Hollywood, becoming known for his elaborate fun houses at their benefit parties. Chris worked as set designer and technical director for many years at the Assistance League Playhouse with the historic Nine O'Clock Players, and created sets and special effects for The Grand Guignolers. He became resident set designer and technical director for the theater department at CalTech (TACIT), and now does sets for the High Street Arts Center in Moorpark. Since 2014 he has enjoyed coming to the Odyssey as a scenic artist. Also, there have been some design awards handed to him along the way.

BOSCO FLANAGAN

Lighting Designer

Bosco has designed lights for theatre on four continents, winning awards from Edinburgh (Best of Fest), to New York (Fringe Festival award) and Los Angeles (LA Weekly awards). He currently designs in L.A., and his work continues to take him all over the world. Recent work includes: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Snow Geese* for ISC in Griffith Park, *Violence*, *Johnny Got His Gun*, *The Happiness Project*, *Harlequino*, *1984* and *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The New Colossus* (World Tours) for the Actors Gang. *Naked*, *Tempest Redux* for the Odyssey Theatre (2017 Stage Raw Award for Light Design), and *Mine Eyes Have Seen* and *Bog Of Cats* for Theatre Banshee. *MacBeth In Rhythm* for Shakespeare Center and *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* and *SOS* for Wallis Annenberg, *Lysistrata Unbound* for the Odyssey Theatre and *Titus Andronicus*, *Julius Caesar*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* and *Twelfth Night* for ISC in the Park. *1984* at the Actors Gang.

CHRISTOPHER MOSCATELLO

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) and 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 Theatre Ensemble, The Road Theatre and Pacific Resident Theatre, 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.

JACOB PRICE

Stage Manager

Jacob is an Arkansas native and a recent graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, where he studied theatre with a concentration in stage management. Jacob has 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 second production at the Odyssey his first show being the *Los Angeles Times* Critics' Choice, *Fefu and Her Friends*. He wants to thank all of the special people in his life who have supported him.

BETH HOGAN

Producer

Beth is the associate artistic director of the Odyssey, and also functions as a producer on many Odyssey shows, including *In Circles*, *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's dance festival now in its fifth year. 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*.

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*, *Beckett⁵*, *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.

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Special Thanks from Julia Migenes..... I’d like to thank Beth Hogan and the wonderful staff of the Odyssey Theater plus Victoria Kirsch and Peter Medak , Bosco, the three Chris’s and Jacob, for the warmth and encouragement they selflessly brought to this very last row of concerts of my long career. I feel blessed to be in this jewel of a theater, surrounded by such wonderful artists.

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2019-2020 marks our 50th birthday celebration.

It's been a lifetime quest for many of us, creating unique experiences between artists and audiences for the past 50 years. And we're so grateful for all who have shared and supported the journey! Starting in June we launched an exciting year-long retrospective of seminal theatre works which inspired the Odyssey at the time of its inception. First up was Joe Orton's *Loot* and then the currently running Maria Irene Fornes' *Fefu and Her Friends* and Gertrude Stein and Al Carmines' *In Circles*. Sam Shepard's *The Unseen Hand* and *The Serpent* by Jean-Claude van Itallie, open in January/March 2020 followed by *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* by Peter Nichols and *Picnic* by William Inge directed by John Farmannesh-Bocca. Please become an Odyssey Member or Contributor and help us make our Golden year the best ever!

For information call us at 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or go to our website at odysseytheatre.com or email us at beth@odysseytheatre.com. Thank you!