

## SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I am thrilled to bring this show to the Hollywood Fringe 2018. So many have helped to make this happen. Thanks first to the original gang who helped mount it at the Fertile Ground Festival of New Work in Portland in January 2017, when the show was titled *My Little Jezebel*, including Michael Mendelson, Sarah Lucht, Louanne Moldovan, Karen Karbo, Pam Henkel, and Rebecca's cherished friend, singer Barbara Lusch.

Thanks to the whole creative team who worked on our show at New Expressive Works in Portland in October 2017, including Howie Bierbaum, Tim Stapleton, Bobby Brewer-Wallin, Phil Johnson, Katelan Braymer, Tere Mathern, Beth Noelle, and Fiona Baker. When I decided to bring the show to the Fringe 2018, Sarabeth Shedeem and Ezra Buzzington gave me great advice just when I needed it. Jane Unger in Portland has been a steadfast encourager and Jacklyn Maddux has helped me with Alexander work as well as breath and voice. Venue Manager Amber Bruegel has given us a warm welcome to the amazing Lounge Theatre, and Danny Crisp runs our tech cues with unflappable expertise.

David and Karima, Justin and Danny, Mort, Davina and Aytan, Addy, and Sy: you've been great, always interested and supportive.

And now for the core incredibles. My director Julie Akers, who has directed all three productions, has been at my side along with my husband Benson from the beginning, tireless in giving me invaluable insights into writing and performing.

My multitalented and unbelievably kind sister-in-law Shelly Wilner has been a *dea ex machina*, working in Los Angeles as my producer for Fringe 2018, as well as creative consultant, social director, program designer and one-woman advance team. My brother Adam Wilner, Rebecca's youngest uncle and close friend, created our whole look and designed all the graphics including print ads, online ads, postcards, the website, FB—the whole shebang. Their two daughters, Brooke and Brett, Rebecca's cousins, had tee-shirts made with the show logo and walk around like two charming human billboards. I am beyond lucky to have family like this. OK, I'll say it: I am blessed.

Special word to Marcia Clark, Paul Coulter, and to Frank Bolan (sadly missed): where would we be without you?

Thanks to you all. And always and again to my brave and beautiful Rebecca.



# You in Midair

ELEGY FOR A DAUGHTER

a true story written and performed by

**Danna Schaeffer**

directed by Julie Akers

**“Phenomenal,  
once-in-a-lifetime  
show...”**

- DeAnn Welker, ArtsWatch

6/3 Sunday, 2pm

6/9 Saturday, 12pm

6/10 Sunday, 6pm

6/14 Thursday, 10pm

6/16 Saturday, 8pm

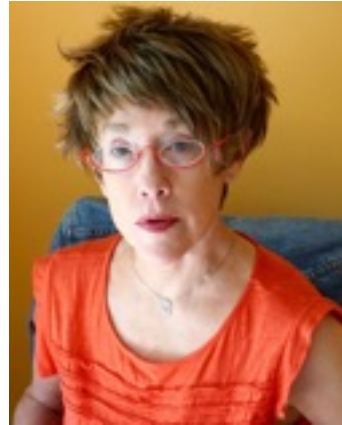
6/17 Sunday, 4pm

HOLLYWOOD  
**FRINGE**  
JUNE 7-24, 2018

The Lounge Theatre  
6201 Santa Monica Blvd.

[www.YouInMidair.com](http://www.YouInMidair.com)

**Danna Schaeffer** (actor, playwright) grew up in New York and Los Angeles, where she married Benson in 1963. Rebecca was born in Eugene in 1967 and when she was 14 the family moved to Portland. At age 16, Rebecca struck out on her own for New York, where she soon landed acting jobs, starting with a role on a soap and ultimately a role on a sitcom which took her to Los Angeles. Danna's first play, *City Women*, won a major award from the Kennedy Center in 1988. In 1989 Rebecca, by then a working actor in Hollywood, was murdered on her front step. Benson and Danna were shattered but survived. Danna went on to write more plays, teach playwriting, publish stories, articles, and reviews, produce two websites, write several novels and a memoir (in manuscript), and pursue a career in mental health.



*You in Midair* premiered January 2017 at Portland's Fertile Ground Festival.

Danna is grateful to her sensational *You in Midair* creative team.

**Julie Akers** (director) has been teaching acting, directing and teaching theater history at the university level for the past twenty five years. She received an MFA in directing from University of British Columbia and has worked as a Professor at New Mexico State University, Willamette University, Lone Star College, and Portland State University. In addition, she has been recognized for her work with young adults throughout her career. She has been nominated for an Emmy for the collaborative work she did with Teens and Company, in Portland. She has run summer-long theater camps for high school kids in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She has also worked with teens at risk in Austin, Texas, through the Creative Action Project. Her commitment to educational theater is absolute. Some of her favorite directing experiences include: *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Wit*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Lysistrata (the musical)*, and *Spoon River Project*.

**Phil Johnson** (sound designer) is a painter and theatrical artist based in Portland Oregon. His recent productions include *An Octoroon* (Artist Repertory Theater) *Hands Up* (Red Door Project), *Elliot a Soldiers Fugue* and *The Antigone Project* (Profile Theater), *Worse Than Tigers* (ACT Theater/Red Stage), *Contigo Pan y Cebolla* (Milagro Theater), *All My Sons* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Valley Repertory Theater). When he isn't designing or teaching Phil is traveling the world spreading art education to impoverished areas. He most recently taught theater in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Phil Has a B.F.A. and M.A. from Ohio University. For updates, artwork, digital downloads, and links to show soundtracks please visit [PhilJohnsondesignstheworld.com](http://PhilJohnsondesignstheworld.com)

**Katelan Braymer** is a Lighting Designer and Technical Director for Theatre, Dance and Opera. Recent Designs: *Underneath*, *Silent*, *Forgotten*, *Kiss*, *A Taste of Honey*, *The Hairy Ape* (Odyssey Theatre), *notes on change\_* (Erica Sobol), *MEAT* (Emma Zakes Green), *Jocasta Project* (Ghost Road), *Rosewood*, *JACK* (Micaela Taylor), *Free Outgoing* (East West Players), *Berlin Diary*, *Psychic Utopia* (Hand2Mouth Theatre), *Sammanflata (intertwine)* (Stina Ahlberg), *Excerpts* (Samantha Goodman), and *Bi, Lydia, El Payaso* (Milagro). Touring: *Stardust*, *Halfway to Dawn* (David Rousseve), *Inflatable Trio* (Lionel Popkin), *Surfacing* (Holcombe Waller), *Object Lesson* (Geffe Sobelle), and *Half Life* (Cloud Eye Control). Venues she has worked include Jacobs Pillow, Kirk Douglas Theatre, 59E59, MCA Chicago, On the Boards, SFMoMA, Krannert Center, Bootleg Theater, and Artists Repertory. Katelan is the Director of Production and Lighting for the LAX Festival since 2013. Katelan has been a Lighting Assistant at the LA Opera since 2011. [www.KatelanBraymer.com](http://www.KatelanBraymer.com)

**Shelly Wilner** (associate producer) is a musician, educator and board certified music therapist in Los Angeles. Trained in nonviolent child-raising, with MA's in educational psychology and music therapy, she has worked with people of all ages and abilities in various settings, and has helped produce chanting and meditation events for young people and families over 20 years in NY and LA. Her two daughters, Brooke & Brett, are Rebecca's adoring cousins.

**Adam Wilner** (web design) has a web design company based in L.A., Earthrise Multimedia, and has been a designer for 20 years. A UCLA graduate of music composition, he still harbors the dream of writing a musical with his sister, Danna. He was Rebecca's uncle at age 3, and was very close to her for all of her 21 years, including a lingering goodbye hug the night before she died. [www.EarthriseMultimedia.com](http://www.EarthriseMultimedia.com).

**Lucy Pollak** has been providing publicity services to the Los Angeles arts community for the past 26 years for companies including 24th Street, Antaeus, Echo Theater Company, Fountain Theatre, IAMA, International City Theatre, L.A. Theatre Works, Latino Theater Company, Odyssey Theatre, Open Fist, Padua Playwrights and Theatricum Botanicum, as well as for numerous independent productions. [www.lucypr.com](http://www.lucypr.com)

