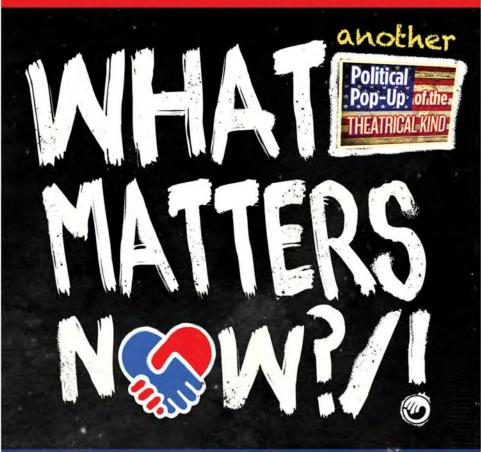
open fist theatre company presents





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presents

WHAT MATTERS NOW?/! Another Political Pop-Up of the Theatrical Kind

Curated by: Christopher Cappiello, Martha Demson, Beth Robbins, Barbara Schofield and Amanda Weier

Produced by the Ensemble of the Open Fist Theatre Company

Theatre design and decoration by Bruce Dickinson Lighting design by Ellen Monocroussos Sound design by Tim Labor Poster Art by LiamCarl.com Stage Management by Amy Rowell *



*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.



This presentation is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Arts Commission.

THE PLAYS

A Dream of Two Moons by Dorothea Cahan, directed by Laura James*		
Lois	Becca Cousineau	
Laney	Lori Gambero	
American Hamlet by William Sh by Lane Allison	akespeare, conceived and performed	
Cedeño	atalie Zutter, directed by Christopher	
Gav		
Extraterrestrial diplomat	. Sherry Larson	
But I'm Not Really by Bonnie Ra Judith	-	
Electric Eye by Timothy Moone Man	-	
Heart Attack Zack, written and	-	
Liza		
Aubrey	•	
Candice	. Ann Marie Wilding	
<i>High School Intifada</i> by Cary Gi Cappiello*	tter, directed by Christopher	
Principal Miller	David Shofner	
Rivvy	Caroline Klidonas	
How Are We Doing? by Jessica	Moss; directed by Michael Steinbach	
Lizzie		
Tom	David Shofner	
Duncan	Dylan Maddalena	
Maria	Chloe Berlinger	
Inheritance by EH Sanders; dire	cted by Rod Menzies*	
Ellie	Judith Scarpone*	
King	Steven Royce	
Pandemonium by Bara Swain; directed by Amanda Weier		
Abby	Stephanie Crothers	
John	Bryan Bertone	

The Protest by James William Evans, directed by Derek Manson*		
Fred	Dylan Maddalena	
Sam	Neil Oktay	

Bobbie Megumi Smisson

Unquiet American Dreams by Jaisey Bates, directed by Laura James*

The Woman Who Wakes Katie May Porter

THE PROGRAMS

Friday Nights	Saturday Nights	Sunday Nights
Electric Eye	American Hamlet	American Hamlet
Heart Attack Zack	The Protest	The Protest
An Awful Waste of Space	Unquiet American Dreams	An Awful Waste of Space
High School Intifada	Heart Attack Zack	Inheritance
Unquiet American Dreams	High School Intifada	Unquiet American Dreams
A Dream of Two Moons	But I'm Not Really Inheritance	A Dream of Two Moons
But I'm Not Really	How Are We	How Are We Doing?
Toppers	Doing?	Toppers
(Pandemonium alternate)	Pandemonium	Pandemonium
·		Electric Eye

PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

Jaisey Bates (Unquiet American

Dreams) Jaisey Bates, a misplaced Maine-iac in LA, writes/directs/performs with her multicultural nomadic theater company, The Peoplehood (the-peoplehood.com). A Princess Grace Award and O'Neill National Playwrights Conference finalist and Kilroys List honorable mention, she is a recipient of the Emerging American Playwright Prize from Marin Theatre Company.

Dorothea Cahan (A Dream of Two Moons)

Dorothea Cahan is an acting teacher, a director, a writer of historical fiction and of plays, both comedies and dramas. When not writing, she is painting or sculpting. Twenty of her short plays have been produced throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom. A full-length play, "Hope is the Thing with Feathers". was nominated for Outstanding Original Writing by The Desert Theatre League. Her play, "Dancing in the Elevator", appears in the Smith and Kraus anthology, The Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2019. A passionate world traveler. Dorothea has circled the globe several times. She has homes in Florida and Pennsylvania.

Cary Gitter (High School Intifada) Cary Gitter is a playwright and screenwriter. His play The Sabbath Girl premieres at Penguin Rep Theatre in New York this spring. His play How My Grandparents Fell in Love was a New York Times Critic's Pick as part of the Ensemble Studio Theatre's 36th Marathon of One-Act Plays and aired on the public radio show Playing on Air. He holds commissions from the EST/Sloan Project and West of 10th. His plays have been developed at the Berkshire Playwrights Lab, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, NJ Rep, and elsewhere. He is a two-time O'Neill semifinalist and Jewish Playwriting Contest finalist, and an alumnus of EST/Youngblood. His work was recently published in The Best Men's Stage Monologues 2018 (Smith and Kraus). BFA, MA: NYU. carvaitter.com

Brett Hursey (Toppers)

Brett Hursey's plays have appeared in over two hundred and fifty theaters across the country including venues in Boston, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hollywood, as well as internationally in England, Belgium, Luxembourg, Romania, Australia, South Korea and Canada. He's also had over fifty off/off-off Broadway productions in Manhattan. Timothy Mooney (Electric Eye) Timothy Mooney is the author of the celebrated acting text, "Acting at the Speed of Life; Conquering Theatrical Style" and the monologue collection, "The Big Book of Molière Monologues." His new rhyming adaptations of the plays of Molière have won awards in productions in the U.S. and around the world, have been presented hundreds of times and published by Play Scripts and Stage Rights. Tim is the author and original performer of eight award-winning one-man plays, including "Molière than Thou," "Lot o' Shakespeare," "Breakneck Hamlet," "Ten Epic Plays at a Breakneck Pace," and now, "Man Cave, a One-Man Sci-Fi Climate Change Tragicomedy." Tim was Editor/Publisher of "The Script Review" as well as the Artistic Director of the Stage Two Theatre Company. "Man Cave" is the latest addition to Tim's 17-year tour, as the head of the Timothy Mooney Repertory Theatre, which continues to entertain high schools and colleges and theatre audiences around the United States and Canada.

Jessica Moss (How Are We

Doing?) Jessica Moss is the creator/performer of solo shows 'Modern Love' (Next Stage Festival, Toronto), and 'Polly Polly' (Theatre Mischief at Toronto and Edmonton Fringe; Patron's Pick, Best of Fringe, Ed Mirvish Award for Entrepreneurship). Her full-length plays include 'Next to Him', 'I Will Miss You When You're Gone', 'Cam Baby' (Theatre Mischief (Toronto), Chimera Ensemble (Chicago), Toronto Fringe New Play Contest Winner 2015, finalist for Premiere Stage's New Play Festival, Cayle Chernin Award Finalist). 'A Girl Lives Alone' (Winner of SafeWord Theatre New Play Contest), "Next to Him'. Her work has been developed or presented at Great Plains Theatre Conference, Roundabout Theatre, Premiere Stages, Kitchen Dog Theatre, the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Canadian Stage Festival of New Ideas and Creation, among others. As an actor, she has appeared in shows with Necessary Angel/Luminato, Tarragon Theatre, SummerWorks, Sudbury Theatre Centre, the NAC, and many times at the Toronto Fringe. She produces theatre with her company, Theatre Mischief. She is a recent graduate of the Juilliard playwriting program.

Bonnie Ratner (But I'm Not Really)

Bonnie Ratner's plays can be seen on several Portland, Oregon stages this theatre season: *Hazardous Beauty* at PassinArt: A Theatre Company, *Cop Out: Beyond Black, White and Blue,* August Wilson Red Door Project, and *Here on This Bridge!* presented by MediaRites' Theatre Diaspora. Bonnie has an extensive background in theatre arts as a writer, producer, director, actor and educator. She also has over twenty years' experience as a consultant/writer and administrator in community development, literacy, race equity and public relations and has taught writing in venues as diverse as college classrooms, statewide public health conferences, community gatherings, and county jail.

Eric Henry Sanders (Inheritance) Eric Henry Sanders's many plays include Maybe, Probably; Reservoir; and The Heliopause. His writing has been produced and developed in theatres across the US and abroad, including the Goodman Theatre (Chicago), Union Theatre (London), Theatre503 (London), Theatre89 (Berlin), New Group (NY), The Drilling Company (NY), Primary Stages (NY), Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre (NY), Cherry Lane Alternative (NY), Victory Gardens Theatre (Chicago), Florida Repertory Theatre (Fort Myers) and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Fric also writes fiction and has written several short films including Recently, Long Ago, which premiered at the Palm Springs International ShortFest. He is a Lark Playwrights Fellow, a Member of the Dramatists Guild, and he teaches at Hampshire College (Amherst, MA).

Bara Swain (Pandemonium) Bara Swain's plays, monologues and film adaptations have been performed in more than 100 venues in 21 states and abroad (Australia, Canada, Ireland). NYC theatres include the Barrow Group, Abingdon Theatre, Urban Stages, Players Theatre, Symphony Space, Sam French OOB Festival, Artistic New Directions, Hudson Guild. Other venues include NJ Rep, TheatreWorks (TN), Lyric Theatre (FL), New American Theatre (CA), and OnStage Atlanta (GA), among others. Give and Take, Beyond a Reasonable Doubt. Critical Care. and Prized Begonias are published in the Smith & Kraus **Best Ten-Minute Plays** anthologies. Her work is also published by Art Age Press (Senior Theatre), Applause Books, Original Works Publishing, Meriwether, and JAC Publications. Honors include Heideman Award Finalist. Aboard the Guy V. Molinari; City Theatre National Award Finalist for Short Playwriting for The Hotel Lobbyist; and, by special invitation from Burt Reynolds, An Evening With Bara Swain, BRIFT, Jupiter, Florida, directed by The Bandit. Recent productions include Extraordinary (NJ Rep); First Do No Harm (Duluth Playhouse, MN); and I Love Lucy (Short+Sweet Cranberra), Turn! Turn! Turn! (Short+Sweet Sydney) Planned Obsolescence (Gallery Players, NY), and The Wonder of

You (AND Theatre, NYC). Bara Serves as the Creative Consultant at Urban Stages. www.BaraSwain.com

Amanda Weier (Heart Attack Zack)

Amanda's other writing credits include the screenplays BETHLEHEM, currently in development with Massar StoryWorks, and STRAY, 2nd place finisher in Slamdance + Skyline Screenwriting competitions, as well as the stage-play Goose-Stepping with Bound Feet. She also has written sketches for various shows at The Second City in Hollywood.

Natalie Zutter (An Awful Waste of Space)

Natalie Zutter is a playwright, audio dramatist, and pop culture writer living in Brooklyn. Her plays have been developed/performed at The Brick's Comic Book Theater Festival, The Tank, TinyRhino, and Co-Op Theatre East's Radio COTE in New York City: with Ouantum Dragon Theatre in Berkeley; with Sacred Fools in Los Angeles; and with Otherworld Theatre Company and The Arc Theatre in Chicago. She has been a resident artist with the Amtrak Residency (2017). FGP's BRB Retreat (2017), and the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts (2019). Her play Split Second, developed with QDT's The Forge program, is a semi-finalist for the 2019 Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Her radio plays Not Your (Final) Girl (inspired by the My Favorite Murder podcast) and Proxies (about emotional labor and the gig economy) can be found on iTunes as part of Distilled Theatre Company's dtc radio seasons 5 and 6. Member. Dramatists Guild and EMG Playwriting Workshop. Find her online @nataliezutter and on the New Play Exchange.

DIRECTOR BIOS

Christopher Cappiello * (High School Intifada, Toppers) Christopher Cappiello appeared onstage with OFTC in the 2017 world premiere of Tom Jacobson's WALKING TO BUCHENWALD. His numerous directing credits include SUNSET IN CHAPPAQUA in last year's Political Pop-Up. Christopher Cedeño (An Awful Waste of Space) From San Juan, Puerto Rico. Christopher Cedeño's recent acting work includes roles on HBO's Westworld, TBS' Rake, and LIFETIME's America's Most Wanted. Chris appeared on stage at the Open Fist in Under Milk Wood and The Zoo Story, and in The Blue Room by David Hare at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Training: The Stella Adler Conservatory - LA, Annie Grindley Studios, and Anthony Meindl's. Chris is excited to make his directorial debut with a story about his country. It's time for this story to be heard because no one is doing anything. Awareness can lead to change. Thanks for watching.

Art Hall (But I'm Not Really) A Baltimore boy in a West Coast world, Art Hall is thrilled to be directing his first piece for the Open Fist Theatre Company in this Pop Up. He's Meisner trained, newly married, and has an awesome rescue pup named Roscoe. T: @art_hall IG: @arthallofficial

Laura James * (A Dream of Two Moons, Unquiet American Dreams) Director/Actress/Teacher. Last seen in OFTC. Walking to Buchenwald, Directed Dreaming (DACA) last year. Director: Theatre Forty. Theatre West, etc. Actor: Many films,TV,theatre. Acting in premiere, "Herland" at the Greenway Court theatre opening in May. Classical Theatre Lab. Actors Studio. Taught at AADA. Teach SAG-Conservatory.

Derek Manson * (The Protest) Derek made his LA directorial debut with the Sierra Madre Playhouse's production of *Einstein is a Dummy*. As an actor, Derek has appeared with the Open Fist in The Existents, Room Service, The Gary Plays, and Welcome to Your Alternative Reality.

Rod Menzies * (Inheritance) Marking the start of his fifth decade in theatre, in 2017, by appearing as Daddy-O in *The Gary Plays*, and directing *Walking to Buchenwald* for OFTC, Rod is a voice and acting coach who teaches at AMDA and UCLA, and currently co-stars in *Quiet Denial*, a Zuri Alexander film, examining racism, screening at festivals.

Jan Munroe * (Electric Eye) Jan started his performing life in circuses and movement work. As an actor, he has appeared in all mediums. Last year for OFTC, he directed John O'Keefe's All Night Long as well as O'Keefe's Don't You Ever Call Me Anything But Mother!

Michael Steinbach (How Are

We Doing?) A long time transplant in LA, Michael has recently joined The Open Fist, bringing experience both on and back stage to the Company. Most recently, he performed on the main stage at Second City Hollywood as part of the Inaugural Undress show.

Amanda Weier (Heart Attack Zack; Pandemonium) See Playwright bios.

Ellen Monocroussos (Lighting

Design) Ellen has designed the lighting for hundreds of shows nationwide and is returning to the Open Fist after lighting last year's Political Pop-Up, All Night Long, deLEARious, Walking to Buchenwald, The Gary Plays, Part VII and VIII, Light Up the Sky, and Blue Night in the Heart of the West. Other shows in the L.A. area include: Whipping Man with West Coast Jewish Theatre, The Invisible Play with Theatre of NOTE. The Exonerated with The Actors' Gang. Hotel C'est L'Amour with Blank Theatre Company, and Mother Courage and Her Children with Antaeus Company. She was Assistant Lighting Designer on Walt Disney Imagineering's Tokyo DisneySea theme park and Legoland theme park. She has won awards from LA Weekly and Stage Scene LA, and has been nominated for Ovation, NAACP, and Lester Horton Dance Awards.

Tim Labor (Composer/Sound Designer)

Tim's recent projects include Welcome to Your Alternative Reality, Under Milk Wood and All Night Long (Open Fist Theatre Company), The Dig (Latino Theatre Company), American Book of the Dead: The Game Show, Flu Season, and Goonie (Circle-X), "The Little Match Girl" for narrator and orchestra (UCR Symphony), and "Dred Scott Decision" (West Point Wind Ouintet). Upcoming performances include sound design for The Dig (UCLA) and "Three Places in California" by the Kings Chorale in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Tim is a member of the Canadian League of Composers, an Associate with the Canadian Music Center and teaches in the Media and Cultural Studies Department at UC Riverside.

Bruce Dickinson (Theatre Design and Decoration) Bruce Dickinson has been a member of the Open Fist for 13 years. Favorite roles include Kit Carson in The Time of Your Life, Brown in The Dead and The Man in Cemetery Man.

Amy Rowell * (Stage Manager) Amy Rowell has worked as a Stage Manager in theatres across the country including: *Kings* (South Coast Rep); *Electricity* (TMD Productions); *One Year Later* (OFTC); *House Of Gold* (EST LA); The Second City Las Vegas; *Xena Live!* (About Face Theatre) and *The Vagina Monologues* (The Apollo Theater).

ACTOR BIOS

Lane Allison (American Hamlet, How Are We Doing?) Lane has been a proud member of OFTC since joining in 2016, where she has performed in several previous Pop Ups, as well as Welcome to Your Alternative Reality and the musical DeLEARious. She also directed OFTC's last main stage production, the world premiere of Anne Kenney's Last Call. Please visit laneallison.com for more.

Chloë Berlinger (How Are We Doing?)

Chloë Berlinger is a witty, whimsical & wild young actress from Austin, TX & new OFTC member! She's a Juilliard mentored actress, illustrator, vocalist, rap-artist, and enjoys long, romantic walks to her fridge. @chloeberlinger

Bryan Bertone (*Pandemonium*) Bryan is pleased as punch to be a part of another Open Fist romp. Previous Fist credits include: *Early and Often, Short Ends, Foote Notes, Welcome to Your Alternative Reality, Under Milkwood, All Night Long* (as Polar Bear, his greatest role), and most recently in *Last Call.*

Phillip William Brock * (Electric Eye)

Phillip was last onstage at the Open Fist in 2018's Los Angeles premier of John O'Keefe's *All Night Long*, also directed by Jan Munroe. Phillip is pleased to be working with such a fantastic group of theatre-makers.

Brittany Lauren Brown (Heart Attack Zack)

Brittany Lauren Brown moved to Los Angeles 5 years ago from Arizona where she studied theatre. This is her first performance with Open Fist and she's so excited! She wants to thank Crash acting and the amazing community of artists she surrounds herself with. When she's not acting, she's writing poetry or surfing!

Becca Cousineau (A Dream of Two Moons)

Is thrilled to re-engage her love of performing after taking a hiatus of nearly a decade! She most recently was seen in Open Fist's *BOTH*. Becca has taught dance and choreographed musical theatre shows for 15+ years. She currently works as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker where she is able to use her passion for expressive arts as mental health interventions to improve the lives of an underserved population in LA.

Stephanie Crothers

(Pandemonium)

Stephanie Crothers studied theater at USC and is delighted to perform with the OFTC again after last year's Under Milkwood and this year's Last Call. When not at the theater, she practices real estate, enjoys dance and yoga, and smears paint across canvases and sometimes calls it art.

Lori Gambero (A Dream of Two Moons)

Lori Gambero is thrilled, thankful and honored to be part of her first Open Fist Theatre Production. Lori moved to Los Angeles four years ago and is a graduate of The Elizabeth Mestnik Acting Studio in Los Angeles. In addition to acting, Lori works as an Arts Integration Specialist working with schools to integrate arts instructional strategies into core content curriculum. She is also curious what life would be like on Mars!

Caroline Klidonas (High School Intifada)

Caroline Klidonas is an actor, writer, and spoken word artist with a dog named Mike. She was last seen on the OFTC stage as Tammy in *All Night Long*, and recently made her television debut in the Showtime pilot, *Queen Fur*. Learn more: <u>carolineklidonas.com</u> or @carolineklidonas on Instagram.

Sherry Larson (An Awful Waste of Space)

Sherry discovered the joy of acting after a lifetime as an educator. From horror feature, *I* Had a Bloody Good Time at House Harker, to Sweethearts with Short Pajamas and *I Love* You like Crazy with Some Assembly Required at Dare LA, she continues to enjoy herself with new genre challenges.

Dylan Maddalena (*The Protest*) Dylan Maddalena has been acting in theater, film & tv since he was a child. He is a member of The Open Fist Theater Company and SAG-AFTRA, and is repped by Newman-Thomas Mgmt. Visit www.dylanmaddalena.com for more info

Rod Menzies * (*Toppers*) See Director Bios

Neil Oktay (*The Protest*) A recent graduate from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Neil is happy to return to the Open Fist stage after his debut in last summer's production of *Under Milk Wood*. He's enthralled to continue his professional career, even as a penguin.

Katie May Porter (Unquiet American Dreams)

Katie May Porter is an actor, filmmaker, engineer, and a native New Yorker. She appeared in last year's Pop-Up *One Year Later*, and most recently produced Anne Kenney's *Last Call* for OFTC. She also collaborates with Developed Over Coffee (DoC) Productions on several projects. Follow (IG and twitter) @ActressEngineer

Beth Robbins (But I'm Not Really)

Beth Robbins has been a member of Open Fist for as long as she can remember. She'd like to thank Martha and the gang for providing a space to create one's dreams. Namaste.

Kenia Romero (An Awful Waste of Space)

Kenia Romero is a strong Latina actress from Miami, FL! She received her B.A. in Theatre from USC and has also trained at Carnegie Mellon, Annie Grindlay, and AMDA. Special skills include fluent Spanish, vegan cooking, and conversational German. You can find her on Instagram @keniarosemary

Steven Royce (*Inheritance*) Steven Royce is excited to be on stage again with Open Fist! His last appearance with the Fist was in last year's political pop up play *Here To Serve*. He is originally from Michigan and made the trek out west from Chicago. This will be Steven's last time on an LA stage for a while as he goes on to another dream of his in joining the United States Air Force. He is grateful and blessed to work with Open Fist again, getting an opportunity to work with Judith and Rod to share this piece!

Judith Scarpone * (Inheritance)

Over 100 Productions on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Los Angeles, Regional & International Stages. Series regular on Showtime's *BEDTIME*, Co-Star in several MOW'S, Guest Star in numerous episodics. Recent films: *FIVE HOUR FRIENDS; JESUS, MARY & JOEY; GARLIC & GUNPOWDER; SELFIE SHOOT-OUT; THE JULIE STORIES.*

David Shofner (High School Intifada, How Are We Doing?) David most recently appeared in Open Fist's production of BOTH last December. Other selected theatre: Osvald/Give Me the Sun (adaptation of Ibsen's Ghosts @ the Lounge), David Koresh/Inside Private Lives (Lex & Fremont Centre Theaters; Edinburgh Fringe), James/Corpus Christi (Zephyr Theatre). Recent film: Hindsight, Careless, Redemption Trail.

Megumi Smisson (Toppers) Megumi Smisson is excited to be onstage with the OFTC! A Tokyo native and NYU graduate, Megumi began her acting career in the Bay Area. Other stage credits include *Reasons To Be Pretty* and *Talk Radio*. When not acting, she enjoys eating pizza - send her your pizza recommendations at @megumismisson!

Dionna Veremis (Heart Attack Zack)

Dionna Veremis grew up in MI before landing in CA after living on a bus for a few years doing theater tours. She has since graduated from the Meisner program at Elizabeth Mestnik Acting Studio and guest starred on a Comedy Central show that never aired. She is currently in production on a pilot that hopefully will. Favorite roles include Janet in *Rocky Horror* and Corie in *Barefoot in the Park*.

Ann Marie Wilding (Heart

Attack Zack)

Ann Marie Wilding is excited to be joining OFTC for her debut company performance! An actress and writer, Ann Marie regularly performs Shakespeare in the Park with Sierra Shakes and her play *Lillie's From Iron*, has recently won first place at The Bechdel Test Fest in Arizona!

SPECIAL THANKS

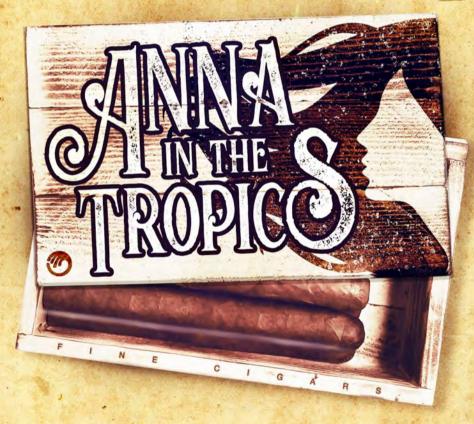
The Open Fist Theatre Company wishes to thank Robert Greenfield, Richard Rosen and the Props Dept at Warner Brothers for their support of Intimate Theatre in Los Angeles. Our Pop-Up would not be possible without their generous loan of furniture and lamps

OUR MISSION

The Open Fist Theatre Company is a community of actors, playwrights, designers and directors who believe that to realize the force and potential of a relevant, contemporary theatre it is necessary to establish a Company founded on the pursuit of artistic excellence. We seek through diverse styles and forms to illuminate the essential relationships that connect individuals and their societies, as we nurture empathy and forge identity through our work.

OPEN FIST THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

JON LAWRENCE RIVERA DIRECTS NILO CRUZ' PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING PLAY



MAY 2019