

24th St Theatre

TheWallis

PROUDLY PRESENTS



in Association with The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

RAPUNZEL ALONE

**WRITTEN BY
MIKE KENNY**

*Directed by
Debbie Devine
and Jesús Castaños-Chima*

CAST

←—————◆—————→

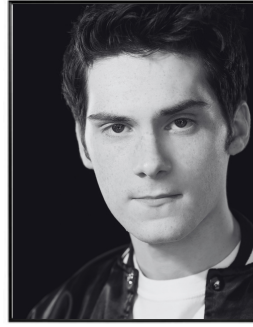
Lettie Tara Alise Cox
 Gertrude puppeteer Matt Curtin
 Conrad William Leon
 Miss Pearce Jacquelin Lorraine Schofield*



Tara Alise Cox
(Lettie)



Matt Curtin
(Gertrude the Goose Puppeteer)



William Leon
(Conrad)



Jacquelin Lorraine Schofield*
(Miss Pearce)

*member of the Actor's Equity Association

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When we commissioned British playwright Mike Kenny to write this play 3 years ago, nobody had yet heard the word *Covid*. The reason we asked Mike to write this piece about isolation was because even pre-pandemic, kids and teens were in an enormous crisis of feeling isolated and depressed. Little did we know in 2019 that soon there would be a global pandemic, on a scale unseen in over a century, and we would all be suffering from isolation.

We also didn't know when we talked to Mike about setting the play in WW2-era England, that there would be a new European war unfolding precisely when we opened our show. Days before opening we were standing on our stage watching our video designer Matt Hill create white puffs of smoke along the London skyline to represent artful bombing. And then we watched the real bombing of Ukraine knowing that each puff of smoke represented not artful design but very real human tragedy.

Art often imitates life. It is no coincidence. From the time of the ancient Greeks, the art form of theatre addressed real issues in the real world. And that has been consistent for over 2500 years. It's why theatre is still alive and relevant in this digital age.

Theatre, though a couple of thousand years older than film, invented the zoom lens. Because theatre zooms in on intimate stories that are a much bigger part of our world. A play shows you not the entire war, but how that war is affecting a person or a small group of people. It zooms in on the personal emotions and nuances of war. And it is nearly the only art form remaining today where humans share those emotions together in the same place at the same time, just as the ancient Greeks did.

After two years of isolation and many overwhelming emotions suffered in solitude, we are beyond thrilled to welcome you back into "the room where it happens", the LIVE THEATRE.

- Debbie Devine & Jesús Castaños-Chima

Lettie's Journal, a supplemental visual project, was designed by **Matthew G. Hill** with illustrations by **Leah Abazari**. To learn more about this companion piece as well as the *Rapunzel Alone* audio drama and education guide, visit our website:

Para leer el programa en español, visite nuestra página:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Nate Zeisler, Board President; David Marquez, Vice Chair; Jacqueline Hamilton, Board Secretary; Stacy Barnes, Treasurer; La Stanja Baker; Debbie Devine (Ex Officio); Juan Hernandez; Michael Hirschfeld; Craig Keys; David Leuchter; Emily Ramos; Mark Schwarz; Iman Wilson, Board Fellow.

EXTRA!

Biographies

EXTRA!

Debbie Devine (Director) is the co-founder and Artistic Director of 24th Street Theatre, which has created professional theatre and model arts education programs since 1997.

Jesús Castaños-Chima (Co-Director) started his acting career in Culiacán, Sinaloa, México. During his 35-year career, he's worked in plays, TV and films in Mexico and the United States.

Mike Kenny (Playwright/ Narrator) is one of England's leading writers, specializing in young people's theatre. In 2013 he was given an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by Nottingham University, England.

Tara Alise Cox (Lettie) has a BA in Theater from UCLA, studies improv with UCB, and performs in an educational rock show for kids. Tara frequently works with young children, and is truly honored to channel what they've taught her into the role of Lettie.

William Leon (Conrad) is an actor known for his roles on both the small and big screen. Some of his credits include *How to Get Away with Murder*, *All American*, *Those Who Can't, Shameless*, and *Grey's Anatomy*.

Matt Curtin (Gertrude the Goose puppeteer): is an alumnus of the UCLA Theater Program. Previous works in Los Angeles include *The Unseen Hand* (The Odyssey Theater, LA Critics Choice award-winner), *Touch the Moon* (Dean Productions Theaterworks), and *Measure for Measure* (Method and Madness Theater Co.). In addition, Matt is an active writer in Los Angeles.

Jacquelin Lorraine Schofield* (Miss Pearce): Jacquelin is from Brooklyn, NY. She is a proud Afro-Latina, United States Air Force Veteran, member of the Actor's Equity Association, and a very gifted home chef. After a successful run of Idris Goodwin's, *How We Got On*, she is ecstatic to join the cast of *Rapunzel Alone*. She thanks God for every opportunity she gets to do what she loves.

Michael Donovan (Casting): is the recipient of nine Artios awards, presented by the Casting Society of America for Outstanding Achievement in casting. Michael is the President of the Board for the Foundation for New American Musicals, and also serves on the board for Camp Bravo.

Richie Ferris (Casting): has been casting with Michael Donovan Casting for nearly 10 years. In that time, he has worked on the casting of well over 300 projects across the mediums of TV, film, and theatre, and has been nominated by the Casting Society of America (CSA) for 9 associate Artios Awards for Outstanding Casting, earning 3 wins. He is most passionate about working on the casting of new projects that tell important stories and promote equity, change and inclusion.

Jay McAdams (Producer): is the Executive Director of LA's 24th Street Theatre. He has also produced dozens of theatrical productions over the last 20 years and won LA Weekly's 2011 Production of the Year Award.

Bradley Brough (Composer): is a Los Angeles based composer and musician who has been writing and playing piano for more than 25 years. He has written music for many stage productions in both Los Angeles and London as well as assisting to develop arts education programs for distance learning during the pandemic. His previous work with 24th Street theatre includes *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Enter Stage Right*, and *Las Instrucciones*. He is very proud to bring music back to the live theatre for the debut of *Rapunzel Alone*.

Matthew G. Hill (Video Designer): is a storyteller by trade and by heart. He believes in the power of stories and hopes to use them to inspire. As a theatre artist, Matt is an award-winning designer and director. Matt previously collaborated with 24th Street Theatre on *Hansel & Gretel Bluegrass*, for which he won a StageRaw Award.

Jeff Gardner (Sound Designer) is an award-winning sound designer, foley artist and actor. Jeff has designed and performed throughout the country including the Geffen Playhouse, The Kirk Douglas Theatre, The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, A Noise Within, Antaeus Theatre Company, Boston Court Pasadena, Circle X Theatre, Echo Theater, Rogue Machine Theatre, Matrix Theatre, Skylight Theatre, IAMA Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre (DC), Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, Williamstown Theatre Festival as well as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Jeff can be seen at L.A. Theatre Works where he regularly performs live sound effects.

Shannon Kennedy (Costume Designer) is a designer, performance and installation artist, builder and teacher of costuming, scenery and puppetry for both theater and film. She has written and directed several original puppet plays including: *Sick Dream*, *Butterflies*, *Spark and Dawn*. Costume design credits include: *The Way You Look Tonight*, *Dr. Anonymous*, *Inherit The Wind*, *The Pain And The Itch*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Greeks 6*, *Trojans 5*. She won a Backstage West Award for Costume Design of The Actors' Gang's original production of *Gulliver's Travels*. She is currently a Curator at Coaxial Arts Foundation. Her MFA is from UCLA.

Keith Mitchell (Set & Puppet Designer) also designed *Enter Stage Right*, *Walking the Tightrope* and *El Ogrito* for 24th Street! Keith designed LA Philharmonic's "Summer Sounds" at The Hollywood Bowl, for 18 years. Other local design credits include projects for Disney Hall, Center Theatre Group, A Noise Within, The Getty Villa, and over 20 shows at the late Garry Marshall's Falcon Theatre. Keith is an Ovation Award-winning Scenic Designer and an Emmy and Broadcast Design Award-winning Art Director. His television work includes national advertising and promotional campaigns. He is a graduate of USC, Annenberg.

Dan Weingarten (Lighting Designer) has designed extensively for theatre, dance, opera and theme parks. Credits include shows for 24th Street Theatre, Rogue Machine, East West Players, Bootleg, Ebony Repertory Company, Boston Court, Open Fist, Echo Theater Companies, Long Beach Opera, Chicago Opera Theatre, Ensemble Theatre of Santa Barbara, SBT, Actors Gang, Universal Studios Hollywood. Awards include LADCC, LA Weekly, the Garland and the Dramalogue. He is a Professor at California State University Northridge, MFA in Design and Production from CalArts.

Jennie McInnis (Producer): has been with 24th Street for over a decade. She was the Associate Producer and Tour Manager for *Walking the Tightrope*, which won the 2013 LA Drama Critic's Circle Award for Best Production and enjoyed a nine-city national tour culminating at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

Ethan Niven is a graduate of Southern Oregon University with a BA in performance and a double minor in musical theater and stage management. Ethan has been working and teaching stage management for the past eight years. Originally from South Lake Tahoe, CA, he worked as the assistant festival director for the Vallahalla Tahoe Arts festival. Most of his work in Tahoe has been dedicated to the local schools teaching stage management and technical theater. Since relocating to the area, he has become a proud member of the Open Fist Theater Company.

Lucy Pollak (Publicity): has been providing publicity services to the Los Angeles arts community for three decades, working to promote theater, dance and music productions as well as for large events and festivals. She has served on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Theatre Alliance, Women in Theatre and the Performing Arts Theatre for the Handicapped.

Leah Abazari (Visual Artist): is a high school senior at the Archer School for Girls. She enjoys creating abstract paintings that explore themes such as reality vs. fantasy, mental health, philosophy, and the human experience.

*member of the Actor's Equity Association

PRODUCTION TEAM

Narrator
Mike Kenny

Voice of 'Mother'
Dionne Neish

Producers
Jay McAdams, Jennie McInnis

Casting Directors
Michael Donovan, CSA and Richie Ferris, CSA

Line Producer
Brittany Franke

Stage Manager
Ethan Niven

Composer
Bradley Brough

Sound Designer
Jeff Gardner

Video Designer
Matthew G. Hill

Set & Puppet Designer
Keith Mitchell

Costume Designer
Shannon Kennedy

Lighting Designer
Dan Weingarten

Graphic Designer
Tara Nitz

Visual Artist
Leah Abazari

Spanish Translation
Jesús Castaños-Chima

Supertitles
Jorge Villela

House Staff
Abel Alvarado, Arie Levine

Marketing Team
Odalys Martinez, Kiara Nguyen, Andrea Orozco

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support:

The Ahmanson Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, The Capital Group Companies Foundation, Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation, Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, Friars Charitable Foundation, The Green Foundation, Los Angeles City Council Districts 1 and 8, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, LA Arts Recovery Fund, Nancy E. Barton Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, The Rose Hills Foundation, Stockel Family Foundation, Toyota, and USC Good Neighbors Campaign.

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Special Thanks to:

Paul Crewes, Rachel Fine, Camille Jenkins, Ruben Jones, Amy Kirkland, Nathaly Macias, Coy Middlebrook, Mark Slavkin, Laura Stegman, Laura Wittcoff and Patty Wolff.