



Presents

# RORSCHACH FEST

featuring plays written by  
**Caryl Churchill, Daniel Maclvor, John O’Keefe,  
and Harold Pinter**

directed by  
**Chris Cappiello\*, Martha Demson, Matthew McCray\*\*\*,  
John O’Keefe, and Amanda Weier**

Featuring

**Bruce Barton • Bryan Bertone • Megan Brotherton • Emma Bruno •  
Cat Davis\* • Art Hall • Alberto Isaac\* • Laura James\* • Carmella Jenkins •  
Dylan Maddalena • Schuyler Mastain\* • Jan Munroe\* • Tom Noga\* •  
Neil Oktay • Tina Preston • Debba Rofheart • Steven Rosenbaum • Elif Sava •  
David Shofner • Michaela Slezak • Casey Sullivan • Janine Venable •  
Dionna Veremis • Alexander Wells\* • Ann Marie Wilding • AlgeRita Wynn**

Sound Design  
**Tim Labor**

Scenic Designer  
**Jan Munroe**

Lighting Design  
**Matt Richter**

Fight Choreographer  
**Emma Bruno**

Properties

Asst. Lighting Design  
**Kaitlin Chang**

Publicist  
**Lucy Pollak**

Production Stage Manager  
**Jennifer Palumbo\***

Dialect Coach  
**Ellen Bergener**

Curated and Co-Produced by  
**Martha Demson, Amanda Weier, and Jan Munroe**



\*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.

\*\*Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society



The Director and Choreographer are members of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

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<https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

*Inkblot A*

# **Ghosts**

written and directed by  
**JOHN O'KEEFE**

Ghosts ..... Bryan Bertone  
Cat Davis  
Jan Munroe  
Tina Preston  
Elif Savas  
Janine Venable  
Michaela Slezak (U/S)

Ghosts concerns the moments of transition into the great mystery,  
and as such, is timeless.

*Inkblot B*

# **Landscape**

written by

Harold Pinter

directed by

Chris Cappiello

Beth ..... Laura James

Duff ..... Tom Noga

Evening, a country house in England, September 1969

## Note from the Director

Harold Pinter's iconic early plays inspired the term "Pinteresque" to refer to works marked by struggles for power, our capacity for brutality, and undefined menace. Then in 1967, as his marriage to Vivien Merchant was failing, he wrote LANDSCAPE, a short, intimate piece with a deceptively gentler tone in which he deepened his exploration of the unknowability of our partners and the unreliability of memory, elements that pervade many subsequent works. Pinter was famously unwilling to explain his work, but in OLD TIMES, written just a few years later, one character offers us a possible clue: "There are some things one remembers even though they may never have happened. There are things I remember which may never have happened but as I recall them so they take place."

*Inkblot B*

# ***Never Swim Alone***

written by

Daniel MacIvor

directed by

Amanda Weier

Frank ..... Bryan Bertone  
Bill ..... Dylan Maddalena  
Ref ..... Ann Marie Wilding

## Note from the Director

"Why NEVER SWIM ALONE?" I simply love this play. I first saw it in Chicago in the late 90s. It was an off-night offering and I can't recall for certain the venue — I think it was one of Steppenwolf's auxiliary spaces... It could have been Victory Gardens. What I know for certain is I and about 20 other patrons who'd never heard of the writer, but wanted to support the director, climbed some narrow stairs and entered an intimate black-box space where we subsequently had our minds blown by this gem that is at once experimental, but also completely accessible. It was a limited run because the actors involved were a big-deal and all the theaters in town wanted to work with them. The show ended up getting extended around the actors' schedules — meaning sometimes the play would run at 11 pm on a random Wednesday. And I'd go. I ended up seeing it 4 times. That's how I came to fall in love with Daniel MacIvor. This is my second time directing the piece. When I first joined the Fist in 2004 I pitched it for a Directors Fest and it made me look so super-smart that I was named Literary Manager.

The piece continues to make me laugh and think and feel things. I hope it does the same for you. I hope you find it timeless and relevant, funny and sad, poetic and soulful, deep and delightful. Whatever your perception of the play, you're 100% right.

"Never Swim Alone" is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, [www.ggagency.ca](http://www.ggagency.ca)

"Never Swim Alone" was first produced in 1991 by da da kamera at Platform 9 Theatre in The Theatre Centre in Toronto

*Inkblot C*

# ***This is a Chair***

written by

Caryl Churchill

directed by

Martha Demson

Julian .....	Alexander Wells	Deirdre .....	AlgeRita Wynn
Mary .....	Debba Rofheart	Polly .....	Carmella Jenkins
Father .....	Art Hall	Tom .....	Steven Rosenbaum
Mother .....	Dionna Veremis	Leo .....	David Shofner
Muriel .....	Carmella Jenkins	Charlie .....	Bruce Barton
Ted .....	Neil Oktay	Eric .....	Casey Sullivan
Ann .....	Emma Bruno	Maddie .....	Megan Brotherton
John .....	Schulyer Mastain		

## Note from the Director

When I joined the Open Fist as a youngster in 1991, the newly formed Company was presenting Churchill's early play CLOUD NINE. The gender-swapping satire of Victorian society made a huge impression on me. Later, when 9/11 overwhelmed the country, we were getting ready to open Churchill's play FEN. We weren't sure what to do, but ultimately decided to go ahead with the production. Somehow the plight of women who dug potatoes in the Midlands became eerily resonant and the production drew a large audience. We had filled our theatre on La Brea with tons of dirt, and the earthy smell was oddly reassuring. Then in 2013, when we were producing Churchill's play MAD FOREST about the Romanian revolution, we learned we would be losing our beloved theatre on Santa Monica Blvd. The multi-layered, postmodern story of upheaval will forever remain in my psyche as the ominous counterpoint to our own journey. To say that Churchill has marked momentous moments in my life, and in the life of the Open Fist, is an understatement.

So here we are in 2020, in our third home in as many decades. When we decided to produce this Festival celebrating playwrights who push theatrical boundaries, Churchill was one of the first names to come up. I hadn't read THIS IS A CHAIR before but when Amanda handed it to me I was instantly smitten. When I got to the last scene I thought, "oh, I have to direct the play that ends with this moment." Written in 1997, it features momentous geopolitical issues of the time as titles for each scene. Working out the relationships between the titles and the intimate scenes that follow has been a fascinating puzzle. I hope you enjoy the play as we have.

"This is a Chair" is presented by special arrangement with Casarotto Ramsay and Associates on behalf of the author.

*Inkblot C*

# ***Here We Go***

written by

**Caryl Churchill**

directed by

**Matthew McCray**

assistant director

Hannah Priscilla

special thanks

Son of Semele

Megan Brotherton  
Carmella Jenkins  
Schulyer Mastain

Debba Rofheart  
David Shofner  
Casey Sullivan

Alexander Wells  
AlgeRita Wynn

and

Alberto Isaac

## Note from the Director

This is a short play about death.

“You make beauty and it disappears, I love that.”

— Caryl Churchill

“**Here We Go**” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

“**Here We Go**” was first presented at the Lyttelton, at the National Theatre, London on 27th November 2016.

## THE PLAYWRIGHTS

**CARYL CHURCHILL (Playwright, "This is a Chair" & "Here We Go")** is a British playwright whose work has been associated with surrealist and postmodern theatre. In 1972, her first stage play, *Owners*, premiered at London's Royal Court Theater. During the 1970s and 1980s, Churchill worked with numerous theater companies, including Joint Stock and Monstrous Regiment. Obie Award winner for *Cloud Nine* (1979), *Top Girls* (1982), and *Serious Money* (1987). Susan Smith Blackburn prizes for *Fen* (1984) and *Serious Money*. Churchill's drama is widely recognized for abandoning realist approaches to theater in favor of surrealist experimentation, postmodern exploration of language, and an emphasis on the sexual politics and legacies of feminism.

**DANIEL MACIVOR (Playwright, "Never Swim Alone")** was born in Sydney, Cape Breton in 1962. Daniel MacIvor studied theatre at Dalhousie University in Halifax and George Brown College in Toronto. A prolific playwright, dynamic performer, producer and artistic director, MacIvor has been creating original theatre since 1986 when he founded the highly acclaimed theatre company *da da kamera*, which earned the coveted Chalmers Award for Innovation in Theatre in 1988. His plays, many of them solo works in which he acts, have garnered world-wide acclaim and been translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish, Czech, German, and Japanese, making MacIvor one of the most recognizable names in Canadian theatre.

**JOHN O'KEEFE (Director & Playwright, "Ghosts")** O'Keefe's works have been produced in London, Glasgow, Amsterdam, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, the Second Stage in New York, Lincoln Center, and the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum's New Plays Series and the Director's Workshop at Lincoln Center. He was a PEW writer in residence at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco, NEA residency at the Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles. This is his third production with Open Fist.

**HAROLD PINTER (Playwright, "Landscape")** was an English playwright, screenwriter, actor, director and poet (1930-2008). He wrote 29 plays, including *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY*, *THE CARETAKER*, *THE HOMECOMING*, *OLD TIMES*, *NO MAN'S LAND*, and *BETRAYAL*. In 2005 Mr. Pinter received the Nobel Prize for Literature. Other awards include the Companion of Honor for services to literature, the Légion d'Honneur, the Laurence Olivier Award, the Tony Award, and the Moliere d'Honneur for lifetime achievement. He received honorary degrees from 18 universities.

## THE CAST

**BRUCE BARTON (Inkblot C)** was born well into the last half of the last century. A classically trained actor, he performed in theatre pieces in New York and in regional theatres across the country. He disappeared from the scene for a number of years and was once spotted living in an ashram in India. Aside from the occasional short film, some television appearances, and podcast improv comedy, Bruce's only recent live performances consist of two staged readings of original works a few years ago. *Ladies and Gentlemen*, these three minutes represent his official Los Angeles theatre debut. Hold your applause.

**BRYAN BERTONE (Inkblots A & B)** is grateful for the opportunity to work on such lovely pieces, and for nearly a decade performing with Open Fist. Previous Fist credits include: *Early and Often*, *Short Ends*, *Foot Notes*, *Welcome to Your Alternative Reality*, *Under Milkwood*, *All Night Long* (as Polar Bear, his greatest role yet), and most recently in *Last Call*. Other favorites include- Los Angeles: *Closer*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *It's a Living*, *The Fire Room*, *Light up the Sky*. San Diego: *History Boys*, *The Little Dog Laughed*. Orange County: *The Lion in Winter*

**MEGAN BROTHERTON (Inkblot C)** is thrilled to be a new member of the Open Fist Theatre Company. She earned her M.F.A. in Acting from Harvard University/The American Repertory Theater, which included a three-month residency at The Moscow Art Theatre. Her television credits include *Grey's Anatomy* and the FX pilot *Gone Hollywood*. She also writes and directs for *Funny or Die*. You can view her videos and short films at: [www.meganbrotherton.com](http://www.meganbrotherton.com)

**EMMA BRUNO (Inkblot C)** is so excited to be a part of the Rorschach Festival! Emma is a trained actor who just graduated from AMDA College last year. This is her first production out of college and she is thrilled that the material is as absurd and moving as it is. She can't wait to see what the audience makes of these plays!

**CAT DAVIS (Inkblot A)** last appeared on the OFTC stage in Neil Simon's *MUSICAL FOOLS*. She played Terry in *ALL NIGHT LONG* and is delighted to be reunited with the force that is John O'Keefe! Cat has written for *KC Undercover* and *Shake It Up* on the Disney Channel and has appeared on Showtime, Lifetime, Disney, LOGO and the CW. Stand-up credits: LOGO's *One Night Stand-Up*, LA Comedy Festival, The Laugh Factory, The Improv, and the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club. She's on the Main Company at ComedySportz, a proud member of the Story Pirates. All the love and thanks to her fabulous wife, Kristen!

**ART HALL (Inkblot C)** is delighted to grace the boards in this OFTC production. Last seen in OFTC's *Last Call* by Anne Kenney, he has since completed filming the romantic comedy *Gap Weekend* and is directing a number of short films. He sends all his love to his beautiful wife, Ashley, and his forever-puppy, Roscoe. For more info visit: [www.arthallonline.com](http://www.arthallonline.com)

**ALBERTO ISAAC (Inkblot C)** stage: *Southernmost* (Playwrights Arena), *Three Days in the Country, As You Like I* (Antaeus), *Equus, Three Sisters, Twelfth Night, Accomplice, Pacific Overtures, Mother Tongue, Rashomon* (East West Players), *Bloodletting* (Kirk Douglas Theater, Playwrights Arena), *Blood Wedding* (Odyssey Theater), *Dogeaters* (La Jolla Playhouse, Kirk Douglas Theater), *Fishhead Soup* (Berkeley Rep, A Contemporary Theatre), *The Wash* (Studio Theater, D.C.), *Made in Bangkok* (Mark Taper Forum), *Importance of Being Earnest* (A Noise Within), *Romeo and Juliet* (Lodestone), *The White Death* (Cast Theatre), TV/Film: *Crazy Ex-girlfriend, Assassination of Gianni Versace, Gef Shorty, West Wing, Beyond the Next Mountain, Melrose Place, Family Law, The Defenders.*

**LAURA JAMES (Inkblot B)** recently: "Herland," Greenway Court theatre; "Walking to Buchenwald," OPF. Theatre in LA: John Anson Ford, Theatre West, Tiffany theatre, El Portal, etc. Old Globe, S.D, Shakespeare & Co. Film: "Raging Bull," "Losin' It," "Lovesick." TV, soaps, episodics. Directed Theatre 40, Theatre West, Idyllwyld Conservatory, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, OPF. Teach: SAG Conservatory. Member of Classical Theatre Lab, Directed at Actors Studio. Thanks to Martha, the OPF Board & great team that made all this happen.

**CARMELLA JENKINS (Inkblot C)** As a Chapman graduate, Carmella is extremely happy to be back on stage with OpenFist theater company. She is grateful for the incredible artists she gets to work with and she would like to thank you all for supporting small theater in Los Angeles. Hope you enjoy the show.

**DYLAN MADDALENA (Inkblot B)** is a comic book movie nutcase and a long time theater actor. He is a proud member of the Open Fist Theater Company, a member of SAG-AFTRA and holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Southern California. He is a very serious person. Socials: @DylanMadd  
Or visit: [www.dylanmaddalena.com](http://www.dylanmaddalena.com)

**SCHUYLER MASTAIN (Inkblot C)** is a recent graduate of the MFA in Acting program at UNC Chapel Hill. Schuyler moved to Los Angeles to sharpen his skills as playwright and actor. His plays have appeared in the Hollywood Fringe Festival (*The Sower*, 2018 - for which he won an Encore Award; *Bushwick*, 2019), and for the undergrad black box theatre at UNC Chapel Hill. He has acted in numerous projects with Heckler Films, most recently as Dalton Janckewicz in the upcoming feature, "Is This Wrestling" directed by Sean George. He hosts "The Man-Kind Podcast" and can be found online at: [www.schuylerscottmastain.com](http://www.schuylerscottmastain.com).

**JAN MUNROE (Co-Producer & Inkblot A)** has been involved with the creation and performance of new work since early studies with Marcel Marceau and Etienne Decroux and is a recipient of numerous awards, fellowships and grants. As an actor, he has performed in all mediums. He has directed three O'Keefe plays: *BABBLER* in 1986, *DONT YOU EVER CALL ME ANYTHING BUT MOTHER* in 2017 and *ALL NIGHT LONG* in 2018. He is very pleased to finally be performing in one.

**TOM NOGA (Inkblot B)** is a fan of the work of Harold Pinter since he was introduced to his work in college in the early 1970s. It is a special pleasure to be performing in Landscape and in the wonderful company of Laura and Chris who have made the process of analyzing and developing this play a very special experience. Thanks Martha Demson and the Open Fist Theatre Company for having me back. Anna In The Tropics was my intro to the company and was one of the best plays I was ever in. What? More about me? Visit [tomnoga@tomnoga.com](mailto:tomnoga@tomnoga.com)

**NEIL OKTAY (Inkblot C)** is back for his second year of festival shows with the Open Fist Theatre, and is excited for you to decide what has happened in the flat. He's also looking for representation, wink wink, leave your card. His previous credits with Open Fist include *Dancing at Lughnassa* as Gerry, *The Protest* as Sam in the 2019 Political Pop-Up Show, and as Willy Nilly in *Under Milk Wood*.

**TINA PRESTON (Inkblot A)** has been a long-time actress at Padua Hills Playwrights Festival where she appeared in plays by Maria Irene Fornes, Julie Hebert, Murray Mednick, John O'Keefe and others. Other appearances include John Stepping's *DREAM COAST* (Taper), O'Keefe's *REAPERS* (Odyssey), many plays by Michael Sargent and at *Zombie Joe's Underground*. She has won 3 LA Weekly awards and a Drama-Logue award for acting and was nominated last year for BEST SOLO PERFORMANCE for O'Keefe's *DONT YOU EVER CALL ME ANYTHING BUT MOTHER* by both Stage Raw and the Valley Theater Alliance.

**DEBBA ROFHEART (Inkblot C)** is a Los Angeles based actor who holds a BFA in Theatre Performance, from the University of Florida. After a long indentured servitude as a corporate wage slave, she returned to acting in 2014. Since her emancipation, she has been training steadily at various studios, especially with the Independent Shakespeare Company and The Antaeus Academy, where she nurtures her great love of The Immortal Bard. She is a proud member of Son of Semele Ensemble and is delighted to be making her debut with Open Fist Theatre Company. Thank you for coming and supporting live theatre in Los Angeles!

**STEVEN ROSENBAUM (Inkblot C)** was a member of Open Fist Theatre Co., *long ago and far away*, when it was a structure/parking lot on LaBrea Ave. *Flight of the Earls*, also directed by Martha Demson, *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich* and *AS IS*, which he directed, remain some of his favorite theatrical experiences. Along the way he has "played" at The Celebration; P.R.T., The Odyssey, Complex, Fountainhead, Hudson and Ahmanson Theatres in Los Angeles. He directed *ELECTRICITY*, by Terry Ray which has now entered its 3rd year in Palm Springs. Thank you Martha for taking me on another journey.

**ELIF SAVA (Inkblot A)** trained as a violinist and a classical singer, Elif Savas specializes performing in the theater of cruelty, grand guignol, experimental, immersive and physical theatre, and works with classical, contemporary, experimental music composers.



**DAVID SHOFNER (Inkblot B)** is an Open Fist Theatre company member. He most recently performed as Michael in last year's production of Brian Friel's *Dancing At Lughnasa*. David also performed with Open Fist in *What Matters Now?/I*, as well as in the production of *BOTH* in December 2018. Other selected theatre: *Osvold/Give Me The Sun* (Tony Tanner's adaptation of Ibsen's *Ghosts* at the Lounge Theatre), *David Koresh/Inside Private Lives* (Lex & Fremont Centre Theatres; Edinburgh Fringe), *James/Corpus Christi* (Zephyr Theatre), *The Clairvoyant* (Playwrights' Arena). Recent film: *Hindsight*, *Careless*, *Redemption Trail*.

**MICHAELA SLEZAK (Inkblot A)** was most recently seen dancing in *Cabaret le Fey* with TheatreWitch. Favorite credits include: *Lord of the Underworld's Home for Unwed Mothers* (Spotlight Theatre - Stage Raw nom for Best Supporting), *Urban Death* (ZJU Theatre - EdFringe '18), and *TURKEYS! The Musical* (ZJU Theatre - Valley Theatre nom for Best Actress). Upcoming projects include *Bite: An Interactive Dinner Experience* at the Count's Den with fellow performer Elif Savas, and returning to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with TheatreWitch. BFA from AMDA LA/NY. Currently seeking representation.

**CASEY SULLIVAN (Inkblot C)** Theater credits: Gary in *DADDYO DIES WELL*, written and directed by Obie award winning Murray Mednick. Variety said, *Sullivan, a winning performer even at Gary's lowest ebb, believably charts a progression from panicky dry heaves to wonder as the Quechua brew brings this modern Everyman face to face with "reality."* Additional credits: *OCCUPIED* at the Beverly Hills Playhouse, directed by Tony Abetamarco, *HEDDA GABLER* for Little Fish Theatre in Long Beach directed by Melanie Jones, and *BUG* at Veterans Arts Alliance, directed by Keith Jeffreys. Recent films: *THE DEATH OF COLM CANTER* and *WIDOWS*. Commercial credits: *Viasat*, *Volkswagon*, and *Chevrolet*.

**JANINE VENABLE (Inkblot A)** has been performing on stage and in tv and film for over 20 years. Favorite stage roles include *Blanche duBois*, *Hermia/Midsummer Night's Dream*, *the Nurse/Romeo and Juliet* (Edinburgh Festival, Scotland). TV credits include recurring character *Veronica Bowles/General Hospital*, the French speaking *Lucienne/Shonda Rhimes' pilot The Catch*, guest stars on such shows as *Baskets*, *X Files*, *Crossing Jordan*. Janine graduated from Smith College and attended the National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

**DIONNA VEREMIS (Inkblot C)** is originally from MI, and lived on a bus for a few years doing theater tours before making LA home. She has since graduated from the Meisner program at Elizabeth Mestnik Acting Studio, and worked in film & tv, including a Comedy Central show that never aired. She is currently the co-creator of a pilot that hopefully will. Favorite stage roles include *Janet* in *Rocky Horror*, *Shelby* in *Steel Magnolias* and *Corie* in *Barefoot in the Park*.

**ALEXANDER WELLS (Inkblot C)** is excited to work with The Open Fist Theatre Company! He has appeared in numerous critically acclaimed stage productions in Los Angeles. He is a member of Classical Theatre Lab where he appeared as *Don Gonzalo* in *THE LAST DAYS OF DON JUAN* last summer for West

Hollywood's Free Theatre in the Parks. Alex is also a member of *Son of Semele Ensemble* where he was mostly recently seen in *INCOGNITO* by Nick Payne. He won an LA Weekly Award for Best Male Comedy Performance for *FATBOY*, a political satire by John Clancy.

**ANN MARIE WILDING (Inkblot B)** is thrilled to be performing in her third production with OFTC! BFA in Acting from Azusa Pacific University, and graduate of UCB's School of Improv. Member of Open Fist Theatre Company and Downtown Repertory Theatre Company. She has performed with Independent Shakespeare Company and Southwest Shakespeare Company. Recent credits: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Agnes), *Heart Attack Zack*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helen), *Twelfth Night* (Maria). Thank you to the entire Rorschach Festival cast and crew for this joyful and creative process. Thank you especially to friends, family, and Jimmy. She is currently represented by The FirmLA Model and Talent. @annthewilding

**ALGERITA WYNN (Inkblot C)** has worked in film production, producing, acting, and hosting. Film: *CRAZY STUPID LOVE*, *BEGINNERS* w/ Christopher Plummer and the horror film *MEDUSA*. Television: *THE COMEDY GET DOWN* on BET with the late Charlie Murphy, *PRETTY LITTLE LIARS*, *SUPERIOR DONUTS*, *MAD MEN*, *NEW GIRL*, *SPEECHLESS*, *CAROL'S CHRISTMAS* on the OWN network, *LIGHT AS A FEATHER* on HULU, and recurring roles on NBC's *THE OFFICE* and Amazon's *SNEAKY PETE*. Theater: Horton Foote's "A Young Lady of Property" and "Getting Frankie Married," "Drive," "Vagina Monologues," "Shock Therapy," and "First Dates" for the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Hobbies include Interior Decorating, Staging, Painting and Gardening.

## THE CREATIVES

**CHRIS CAPIELLO (Director, "Landscape")** is delighted to be directing a fifth play by Harold Pinter, having previously directed *THE ROOM*, *CELEBRATION*, *MOONLIGHT*, and *THE HOTOUSE*. Chris' Open Fist acting work includes the 2017 world premiere of Tom Jacobson's *WALKING TO BUCHENWALD* and last summer's acclaimed revival of *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*. Special thanks to: Ann C. Hall and the International Harold Pinter Society; Carol Kline for costume expertise; Robert Firpo-Cappiello for music consultation; and to the cast for their extraordinary commitment to excavating this elusive gem.

**MARTHA DEMSON (Co-Producer & Director, "This is a Chair")** highlights include: As a director: *The Ovation Award-winning PAPA* (deGroot), *CASANOVA* (Congden), *ABINGDON SQUARE* (Fomes), *ESCAPE FROM HAPPINESS* (Walker), *FLIGHT OF THE EARLS* (Humble), *DEAR JOHN MAYER* (Shoshana Bean / Eydie Faye) and with Jason Paige the 10-year phenomenon that is *BOTH: A HARD DAY'S SILENT NIGHT*. As an actor: *JAMES JOYCE'S THE DEAD* (Nelson/Davey), *FOOTE NOTES* (Foote), *GETTING FRANKIE MARRIED... AND AFTERWARDS* (Foote), *THE ABDICATION* (Wolff). As a Producer: *ANNA IN THE TROPICS* (Cruz), *ALL NIGHT LONG* (O'Keefe), *UNDER MILK WOOD* (Thomas), *THE GARY PLAYS* (Mednick). Education: Yale University and Sanford Meisner's 2-year master class.

**MATTHEW MCCRAY (Director, "Here We Go")** has directed productions, workshops and concerts at Center Theatre Group, LA Philharmonic at Disney Concert Hall, South Coast Repertory (StudioSCR), Deaf West Theatre, Lewis Family Playhouse, Theatre at Boston Court, REDCAT, Circle X, Son of Semele, The Chance, Rogue Machine, among others. Founding Artistic Director of Son of Semele Ensemble (20th year). Recipient of directing awards from LA Drama Critics Circle and SAGE Awards, as well as nominations from the Ovation and LA Weekly Theatre Awards. Former President, Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles. BFA, Chapman University. Member: SDC, AEA & SAG/AFTRA. @matthewmccray  
<http://www.matthewmccray.com>

**AMANDA WEIER (Co-Producer & Director, "Never Swim Alone")** is a long-time member of The Open Fist. She studied Theatre & Creative Writing at Northwestern, earning a certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre. Amanda also holds a Certificate in Directing from The Royal Court. Favorite OFTC credits include Stage Door (LA Weekly "Best Actress" nominee), Room Service (LA Weekly "Best Actress" nominee), A Wolf Inside The Fence, The Gary Plays, Blue Night in the Heart of the West (director) and Autobahn (director.) When not creeping around dark theaters, Amanda shills houses and has the pleasure of working with the amazing students & faculty at AMDA. Find more here: @geldofgodot.

**HANNAH PRISCILLA (Asst. Director, "Here We Go")** is a performance-maker, actor, mover, dancer, designer, and organizer. Her work is collaborative, multidisciplinary, and honors place, memory, connection, and time. She is an associate company member of Son of Semele (LA) and has worked with performance collectives Mujeres de Artes Tomar (Buenos Aires), La Pocha Nostra (USA/Mexico), the SITI Company (NYC), NayáCircular (international), and Two Broad. Many things to Matt for inviting me into this process and to the ensemble. She's so glad you're here! hannahpriscilla.com

**MATT RICHTER (Lighting Design)** is an award-winning designer based in Los Angeles. He is the resident designer for the LA LGBT Center, where he also works full time. Previous designs for OFTC include *Anna in the Tropics*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Musical Fools*. Other recent work includes: *4:48 Psychosis* (Son of Semele), the Los Angeles premiere of *Between Riverside and Crazy* (The Fountain) and *I'm Not A Comedian, I'm Lenny Bruce* Off Broadway and in Chicago. Matt also serves as half of the experimental ambient folk duo Lanfair Field ([lanfairfield.com](http://lanfairfield.com)) and creates his own audio strangeness as autodealer (autodlr.net). For more information: [mattrichter.net](http://mattrichter.net)

**TIM LABOR (Sound Design)** as a sound designer for Los Angeles 99-seat theatre community since 1999, Tim has worked with the Circle-X Theatre Company, Sacred Fools, and others. He received an Ovation nomination for the sound design for the Open Fist Production of *Papa* (2005), and the LA Weekly Award in intimate sound design for *Sacred Fools' Swine Show* (2008). Recent OFTC projects include

*Under Milkwood*, *All Night Long*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Other recent projects include sound and music for *Laramie Project* and *She Kills Monsters* (Mira Costa High School), and *Three Places in California*, for Nova Scotia's King's Chorale.

**JENNIFER PALUMBO (Production Stage Manager)** is happy to be back at Open Fist! OFTC credits: *Musical Fools*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Last Call*, *All Night Long*, *Under Milk Wood*, *DeLEARious*, *The Gary Plays*, and *Mad Forest*. She's an LA based SM and on staff at AMDA College of Performing Arts. Credit highlights: The Color Purple with Greenway Arts Alliance (winner of 2 NAACP awards), *Katori Hall's The Mountaintop* - LA debut at the Matrix Theatre, and in Memphis, TN as part of MLK50 with Hatfiloo Theatre/Halloran Centre - and Suppliant Women with Rogue Machine Theatre. Special thanks to my partner James, and my feline muse, Chaz.

**KAITLIN CHANG (Asst. Lighting Design)** is thrilled to be a part of this production. She received her BFA in Theatre Production from USC's School of Dramatic Arts in 2018. Her previous lighting credits include *Detroit '67*, *The Receptionist*, *Good for Otto*, *50 Words* and *Sacred Fools'* recent production of *Waiting for Waiting for Godot*, as well as serving as associate designer on *4:48 Psychosis* at Son of Semele. Portfolio: [kaitlindchang.com](http://kaitlindchang.com)

**ELLEN BERGENER (Dialect Coach)** is an accent coach/actor/anything else you might need from Texas. Trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Antaeus Theatre Company, and South Coast Repertory. Recent work includes *Julius Caesar* with Warriors for Peace Theatre, and *Early Birds* with Moving Arts. Massive thanks to Nike Doukas for her mentorship and encouragement.

### Special Thanks to...

Myllette Nora  
Jim Spencer  
Derek Manson  
Rod Menzies  
Carol Kline  
John at Hollywood Suit Outlet

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION



@openfist



**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 voices to celebrate difference in all its forms, as we nurture empathy and forge identity through our work.

**Board of Directors**

Martha Demson, Christopher Lore, Malhar Pagay, Katie May Porter, Charles Otte, Catie Saralegui, Ina Shumaker, James Spencer

**Company Staff**

Artistic Director.....	<b>Martha Demson</b>
Associate Artistic Director .....	<b>Amanda Weier</b>
Financial Director.....	<b>Richard Michael Knolla</b>
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Outreach Director .....	<b>Dionna Veremis</b>
Technical Director .....	<b>Tim Labor</b>

**Our Members**

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