

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble presents



# THE SERPENT

Written by Jean-Claude van Itallie

Directed by Ron Sossi

Produced by Ron Sossi & Beth Hogan in association with Isabel and Harvey Kibel

The Ensemble

Avery Dresel-Kurtz, Joseph Gilbert, Elin Hampton, Tomoko Karina, Kristina Ladegaard,  
C.J. O'Toole, Ian Stewart Riley, Carla Valentine, Atiya Walcott,  
Raymond Watanga, Terry Woodberry, Peyton Young

COSTUME DESIGNERS

Denise Blasor & Josh La Cour

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chu-Hsuan Chang

SOUND DESIGNER

Christopher Moscatiello

CHOREOGRAPHER

Kate Coleman

SET CONSULTANT

Stephanie Kerley Schwartz

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Elana Luo

STAGE MANAGER

Jacob Price

*THE SERPENT* runs from October 23 through December 12, 2021

Play running time is approximately sixty-five minutes and will be performed without an intermission.

*The Serpent* first opened on March 7 and closed on March 8, 2020 due to Covid-19.



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.

ODYSSEY THEATRE ENSEMBLE: 2055 South Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Administration and Box Office: 310-477-2055 ext 2 FAX: 310-444-0455  
boxoffice@odysseytheatre.com www.odysseytheatre.com



## CAST

Avery Dresel-Kurtz.....JACKIE KENNEDY, ENSEMBLE  
Joseph Gilbert .....JFK, CAIN, SERPENT, ENSEMBLE  
Elin Hampton..... ENSEMBLE  
Tomoko Karina ..... DOCTOR, GOVERNOR'S WIFE, ENSEMBLE  
Kristina Ladegaard..... ASSASSIN, ENSEMBLE  
C.J. O'Toole ..... GOVERNOR, SERPENT, ENSEMBLE  
Ian Stewart Riley .....SERPENT, ENSEMBLE  
Carla Valentine..... ENSEMBLE  
Atiya Walcott ..... EVE, SHEEP, ENSEMBLE  
Raymond Watanga ..... ABEL, SERPENT, ENSEMBLE  
Terry Woodberry.....ADAM, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, ENSEMBLE  
Peyton Young.....SERPENT, SHEEP, ENSEMBLE

Time: Now Place: Here

*This production is dedicated to the beloved memory of Alan Abelew and Orson Bean.  
Their passion and love for the theater and the craft of acting is greatly missed by all of us here.  
And to The Serpent actors, designers and OTE staff who have managed to achieve something so  
positive in very difficult times.*

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Of the plays we've been doing as part of the Odyssey's "Circa '69" retrospective, *The Serpent* is the most representative of the ensemble-creation style of work that was a major part of that late '60s/70s theater explosion. Many of the ensemble projects of that time are difficult to re-create, as they featured large casts and were highly personal in terms of actor input and content... unique products of their time and place. But *The Serpent* seemed do-able. It is especially dear to my heart as it was the second production ever produced by the Odyssey.

In terms of its history: the project was an attempt by Joseph Chaikin's iconic Open Theatre in New York to explore the Old Testament. However, the company got so hooked by the very early story of Genesis that they never got any further into the Bible!

The piece entailed eight months of improvisational work, then put into the hands of playwright Jean-Claude Van Itallie for further structuring and adding or adjusting dialogue.

*The Serpent* is certainly not a play in the traditional sense, but rather a collage centered around some major themes... the seeds of violence in our culture, the beginnings of rigid duality in our perceptions of life and some reflections on our stuckness "in the middle" of the human experience.

At this point we have no idea if this "Ceremony For Theater" speaks to the audience of today, yet so many of its themes are universal enough to make me believe that it has a good shot.

Hope you enjoy this unique 60's adventure!

—Ron Sossi, October 23, 2021



## **AVERY DRESEL-KURTZ**

*Jackie Kennedy, Ensemble*

Avery is an LA-based actor and writer. This is her first show at the Odyssey Theatre, and she is happy to be working with them. Avery is a graduate of Pace University, and has performed in a series of devised works that have brought her all around the globe. Since moving back to LA, she has primarily been working in TV and film, so working on this show was the best change of pace. Big thanks to everyone who made this all happen!



## **JOSEPH GILBERT**

*JFK, Cain, Serpent, Ensemble*

Joseph is excited to return to the Odyssey Theatre, having last performed in *The Hairy Ape*, directed by Steven Berkoff. In Los Angeles, Joseph has performed improv on the famous Second City Chicago stage and also worked with The New American Theatre, Chalk Rep and Circle X Theatre Co. Favorite roles include Edgar Allan Poe in the world premiere of *Nevermore*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Tommy in *The Normal Heart* and the musical comedy *Lost in Radioland*. Current projects include being the creator of a ten-film anthology and immersive installation which feature Joseph's efforts as a writer, director, designer, installation artist and performer. Recent films: *I am Fear*, *Behind the Walls*, and producer on the comedy pilot *The Comeback Kids*. Joseph received his professional acting training at The Second City Chicago, Atlantic Theatre Company and SITI Company in New York, and with professionals from the Goodman, Steppenwolf and Chicago Shakespeare Repertory. He has appeared in features, television, festival shorts and national commercials. [www.josephgilbert.net](http://www.josephgilbert.net)



## **ELIN HAMPTON**

*Ensemble*

Elin is grateful to be performing in-person again, and doubly grateful to be doing it at the esteemed Odyssey Theatre. Also a writer, Elin's plays have been produced all over the world, including the OOB Festival in 2017 for her short play *F4*, which was a national finalist at City Theatre's Summer Shorts and is scheduled for LA's INKFEST 2022. She works extensively with Ensemble Studio Theatre-L.A, where she develops and directs new work. Favorite TV writing credits include *Mad About You*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Dream On*, *Pinky and the Brain*, and *Rugrats*. Elin is also in The Dramatists Guild, WGA, ALAP and ASCAP. Most significantly, she has produced three young adults with her husband writer, David Fury.



## **TOMOKO KARINA**

*Doctor, Governor's Wife, Ensemble*

Tomoko is an LA-based Japanese actress. Her theater credits include *Balm in Gilead* and *Blood*, both directed by Obie Award-winning, two-time Golden Globe nominee Robert Allan Ackerman, *Three Sisters* at Theater Project Tokyo, lead roles in *Voice* and *Pecan in the Field* at the prestigious Tokyo Metropolitan Art Theater and a supporting role in *Her Highness Princess Kazu* at the legendary Shinbashi-Enbujo theatre in Tokyo. TV/ Film credits include *Cobra Kai* (Netflix), *Haunting in Silver Falls: Returns* (Netflix) *Another Tango* (Hallmark Movie) among others. Tomoko expanded her career as a writer/director with her short film *Camellia- Kerria- Pink*, which won the Best Foreign Mini Film at BPPI Film Festival and was a semifinalist at Women-Voice-Now Film Festival. Theatre writing/directing credits include *2 Lies*, *3 Dreams* and *Hollywood* at Acre Theatre and *Japanese Love Story – Shizuka* at The Broadwater Theater. Tomoko is represented by Bohemia Group.



## **KRISTINA LAEGAARD**

*Assassin, Ensemble*

Kristina is originally from Sweden. She has performed in theatre for twenty years, mainly in Europe, but also touring with Santa Barbara's Lit Moon Theatre Company in countries like Macedonia, Armenia and Georgia for the past five years. Her one-woman show has been performed in Sweden, Finland, Macedonia, Serbia and the U.S in different cities, including NYC, Chicago and L.A. She has also worked in Chicago with companies like A Walk About Theater Company, a site specific theater company. Kristina also writes, and at the moment, she's co-writing a film and TV series with Finnish filmmakers. This year she will be shooting a TV series for the Serbian National Television as an actress. Thank you for coming to see live theater in Los Angeles.



## **C.J. O'TOOLE**

*Governor, Serpent, Ensemble*

C.J. is originally from Chickasha, Oklahoma, is thrilled to be joining the cast of *The Serpent*, and working back at the Odyssey Theatre. He is a member of the Odyssey Theatre's Koan Group, and Michael Chekhov Studio . Live Theater is Back!!!! "Laissez les bons temps rouler"!!!



## **IAN STEWART RILEY**

*Serpent, Ensemble*

Ian is an actor, director and USC School of Dramatic Arts alum. He is making his return to the Odyssey Theatre and *The Serpent*, having been an original cast member in the 2020 production. Previous theatrical work includes *Titus Andronicus* and *Dracula* (Long Beach Shakespeare Company), *When You Comin' Back Red Ryder?* (USC SDA) and *Fortinbras* (Aeneid Theatre Company). He has also worked as an assistant director at USC and a performance coach at Westmark School on their productions of *Othello* and *Macbeth* respectively. Enjoy the show!



## **CARLA VALENTINE**

*Ensemble*

Carla is a native New Yorker of Honduran decent. She has performed on various New York stages including Henry St. Settlement, Intar-53, P.S 122 and The Nuyorican Poet's Cafe. Since moving to LA, Carla has made several national commercials and appeared in the shows *The Politician*, *Love*, *S.W.A.T* and *Gaslit*. Her film credits include *Moxie* by Amy Poehler, *Huella* by Gabriela Ortega and the Golden Globe awarded Oscar nominated film *Lady Bird* by Greta Gerwig. LA theatre include *Cumbia De Mi Corazon*; *La Casa De Bernarda Alba*; *Our Leading Lady*; *Mae West's SEX*; *Power in the Blood*; and originated the lead role of Emma in *Shout out Above Life's Storms, I Have Wings to Fly*. Carla has appeared in the Hollywood Fringe Festival with *Don't Talk About It Spit About It*, by Alex Alphaaroh and *Life's A Bitch And So Am I*, by Touch Brandon in which she starred, produced and co-directed. For more visit [carlavalentine.online](http://carlavalentine.online)



## **ATIYA WALCOTT**

*Eve, Sheep, Ensemble*

Atiya is an actress, model and YouTuber and is beyond thrilled to make her professional acting debut at the Odyssey Theatre. In 2020 Atiya graduated with a MFA in acting from the USC School of Dramatic Arts. While there she was delighted to play Julia in Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Oddsee Dog in Suzan-Lori Parks' *Father Comes Home from the Wars* and to be an ensemble member in Jean Claude van Itallie's *The Serpent*. In 2019 Atiya launched her YouTube channel that now has over 14,000 subscribers. You can find a new video on her YouTube channel every Sunday @3 PM, PST! <https://m.youtube.com/c/atiyawalcott>



## **RAYMOND WATANGA**

*Abel, Serpent, Ensemble*

Raymond is a newcomer to the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble. A native of Nairobi, Kenya who also grew up in Texas, he was last seen on stage in CASA 0101 Theatre's production of *Remembering Boyle Heights*. Raymond can be seen on network tv/film shows such as *S.W.A.T.*, *SEAL Team* and the independent feature film *Kickin' Knowledge*. Look for him in an upcoming guest star role on a new Netflix mini-series in 2022.



## **TERRY WOODBERRY**

*Adam, Dr. Martin Luther King, Ensemble*

Terry is a transplant from Connecticut. He moved to LA in the early 80's to study theatre at USC, where he received his BFA degree in Dramatic Arts and Film. His stage credits include a run of the productions *Oedipus Machina* and *Theatre in the Dark* at the Odyssey Theatre. He has also performed in the Hollywood Fringe

and Short and Sweet Festivals at the Let Live, The Lounge and Stella Adler Theatres and various productions at the Theatrum Botanicum in Topanga Canyon. Terry has also performed at the Hudson Theater in the INK Fest 2018. He was a principal cast member in a run of the production *The Blade of Jealousy* at the Whitefire Theatre. Television credits include various commercials and appearances in *NCIS*, *24*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, and most recently a Guest Star role in *911* on the FOX Network.



## **PEYTON YOUNG**

*Serpent, Sheep, Ensemble*

Peyton Young is a Los Angeles based actor who graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in drama. Training at Tisch allowed her to study with amazing professionals from the field, using various techniques of the craft for both theater and film. She has taken classes at Second City and interned at CBS Primetime Casting. Peyton grew up in a suburb of Chicago and has had the privilege of performing professionally on stage at the Drury Lane Theatre and The Goodman Theatre in downtown Chicago. In addition to her love for acting, she is also an avid rubber duck collector, a habitual reader, and a dedicated Dragonologist who lives with her lovable dog and snake near the beach. She is extremely excited to be working with the talented cast of *The Serpent* and hopes you have fun watching us do some crazy stuff today!

## **JEAN-CLAUDE VAN ITALLIE**

*Playwright*

Jean-Claude van Itallie was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1936, raised in Great Neck, Long Island, and graduated from Harvard University in 1958. His trilogy of one-act plays, *America Hurrah*, was hailed as the watershed Off-Broadway play of the sixties. Van Itallie was one of Ellen Stewart's original "La Mama playwrights." He was principal playwright of Joe Chaikin's Open Theater and for that group wrote what has been called "the classic ensemble play," *The Serpent*. In the seventies, Van Itallie wrote his frequently produced new English versions of the four major plays of Chekhov. His play *The Tibetan Book Of The Dead*, based on the traditional teachings, premiered at La Mama ETC in New York City in 1983. His 1985 translation of Jean Genet's *The Balcony* was commissioned and produced by the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *The Traveller*, van Itallie's play about recovery with aphasia, based on his own experience helping Joseph Chaikin when Chaikin had a stroke, premiered at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in 1987. *Ancient Boys*, van Itallie's play about a gay artist living with AIDS, premiered at La Mama Annex, in February 1991. Jean-Claude van Itallie's adaptation of Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita* premiered at the Theatre for the New City, New York City, in May, 1993. In 2002 van Itallie was given an award for Outstanding Achievement in the American Theatre by the New England Theatre Conference. In October 2004 his play *Light* had its world premiere in Pasadena, California, at the Theatre at Boston Court. His latest play is *Fear Itself, Secrets of The White House*. Jean-Claude van Itallie has taught playwriting and performance at Princeton, NYU, Harvard, Yale School of Drama, Amherst, Columbia, University of Colorado, Boulder, Naropa Institute and other colleges. Van Itallie is a founding member of the grassroots group Citizens Awareness Network, which combats production and proliferation of nuclear pollution. [www.vanitallie.com](http://www.vanitallie.com)

## **RON SOSSI**

*Artistic Director/Director of The Serpent*

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 *Faith Healer*, *The Dance of Death*, *Beckett's 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 52-year history.



## **TELL A FRIEND**

*The Serpent* runs through December 12, Friday & Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 2pm.

Tix4\$10 on October 29, November 19 & December 5  
[odysseytheatre.com](http://odysseytheatre.com) or 310-477-2055 ext. 2

## **DENISE BLASOR**

### *Costume Designer*

Denise is a Puerto Rican director, actress, artist and designer. She was artistic director of the multi-cultural theatre alliance IADiversified Theater Company, where she served as executive producer, director, designer, adapter and performer. She was a founding member of Latin Actors and a Few Others, KOAN and ELAC Theater, and is now associate artistic director of Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Plays designed include *The Unseen Hand/ Killer's Head* (Critics Choice, LA Times), *Fefu and her Friends* (LA Times and KCRW Pick of 2019), *Lysistrata Unbound*, *MACBETHX5*, *Cristo Vive*, *A Taste of Honey*, *Tempest Redux*, *Jacques Brell*, *Life Is A Dream*, *Pedro Infante y La Viuda Triunfante*, *The Greeks*, *La Posada Magica*, *Princess Of Burgundia*, *Faust*, *Wild in Wichita*, *The Good Woman Of Setzuan*, *Cumbia De Mi Corazon*, *The Wide, Wide Sea* and *No Exit*. She's appeared extensively on stage as an actress, recently in *The Abuelas* at the Antaeus Theatre and *The Madres* at Skylight Theatre and Victory Theatre in Chicago. She plays Doña Rosa in *SNOWFALL* and she's directing the Passion play, *Cristo Vive* with original music by Laurent Eyquem at the historic Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

## **CHU-HSUAN CHANG**

### *Lighting Designer*

Chu-Hsuan is a Los Angeles-based lighting artist working in live performance and installation. As a lighting designer, Chu-Hsuan's notable collaborations include—Lars Jan's *The White Album* (August Wilson Center, Wexner Center for the Arts, Next Wave Festival, Freud Playhouse, Sydneyfest ); Janie Geiser's *Fugitive Time* (On Edge Festival, Automata); performing artist Takao Tamaguchi's *Touch of Others* (One Archive, REDCAT); choreographer Meryl Murman's *The Lipstick* (CAC). His latest works include—*The Dope Elf* (Yale Union); *Hype Man* (Fountain Theater); *BBC* (REDCAT). Chu-hsuan has also worked with Lars Jan on *The Institute of Memory* (REDCAT, TBA Festival, Under the Radar Festival, Divine Comedy Festival, On the Board, ICA Boston, YBCA, LPAC) and *Slow-Moving Luminaries* (Art Basel Miami Beach); Andrew Schneider on *Nervous/System* (The Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, LUMBERYARD, W97 MIT, Next Wave Festival). In addition to lighting, Chu-hsuan's passions include puppeteering, model-making and lighting instrument design. [www.chuhsuanchang.com](http://www.chuhsuanchang.com)

## **CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO**

### *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*, *Human Target*, *Eureka*, *Psych*, *Caprica*, *The Cape* and *Trauma*. 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 Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Rogue Machine, Antaeus, Skylight Theatre, The Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theater Ensemble, The Road Theatre, Pacific Resident Theater, 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.

## **KATE COLEMAN**

### *Choreographer*

Kate is thrilled to be choreographing at the Odyssey again, where she choreographed *In Circles*, directed by David Schweitzer, in the fall of 2019. Kate has her BFA in dance theatre. She dances with the LA Contemporary Dance Company and Mixed Emotion Theatrix. She choreographed Scott Robbins and the Traveling Show at Young Artists Forever, and Kate has choreographed stories such as the *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister and *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein. She has assistant choreographed on shows like *The Good Place*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* and *VEEP*, as well as *Deadwood: The Movie*. She also directs, choreographs, edits and dances in her web series *Tales of the Universe*. Instagram: @kate.coleman.3

## **JOSH LA COUR**

### *Costume Designer*

Josh is the former production manager of the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble and is excited to be back working at OTE! He is now the venue manager and technical director at the Lounge Theatre and the Zephyr Theatre. He received his BA in technical theatre from Loyola Marymount University and continues to develop his technical and design skills doing freelance work throughout Los Angeles in small-theatre production, film/TV and circus arts. Recent works include lighting design for *Last*

Swallows at the Actor's Company, set and costume design for Playa Vista's Summer Shakespeare Festival and costume design for *Fefu and Her Friends* at the Odyssey Theatre.

## **STEPHANIE KERLEY SCHWARTZ**

*Set Consultant*

Stephanie is resident designer at Rogue Machine Theatre, and designed *Faith Healer*, directed by Ron Sossi, and *Rank* at The Odyssey. Recently she designed the scenery for *The Lion in Winter* at Laguna Playhouse and at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. and for *Twelve Angry Men*, both directed by Sheldon Epps. Stephanie created scenery for *Magellanica* at Artists Repertory Theatre in Portland, Oregon, and designed *Twelve Angry Men* and *Pygmalion* for the Pasadena Playhouse. For Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum she designed costumes for *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and Randy Newman's *Harp and Angels*, and created scenery for *Good Grief* at the CTG/Kirk Douglas Theatre. For A Noise Within: *Gem of the Ocean* and *A Raisin in the Sun*, both directed by Gregory Daniel. Other theatres include The Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, East West Players, Boston Court Pasadena, The Fountain, The Skylight and many others. She has earned multiple awards and nominations, including the 2017 IADCC Kinetic Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theatrical Design. [www.kerleydesign.com](http://www.kerleydesign.com).

## **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 fourth 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. He is also thankful to be back doing theatre after such a long intermission.

## **ELANA LUO**

*Assistant Director*

Elana is a director and writer. Recent projects include Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World* and the one-act play *Light My Candle* with HOOLIGAN Theatre Company, and a reading of an award-winning new musical, *Angels of the Southern Accents*, presented by 5-Star Theatricals and High Street Arts Center. She is thrilled to be back in the theatre and working on *The Serpent*. She will receive her Bachelor's degree in English from UCLA this winter.

## **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*.

## **DIANA CIGNONI**

*Video Designer*

Diana is a German-Italian-American film director, screen writer and actor. Member of FILM FATALES Los Angeles and GABA FILM INITIATIVE. Diana modeled (Clients included Trussardi, Giorgio Armani, Escada, Christian Dior) and acted in Europe and America for many years before she started directing. Diana has an extensive acting background and well recognized directorial talents. Having been taught by mentor Charlie Laughton (friend and mentor to Al Pacino), Penelope Allen, Mark Rydell and Martin Landau at The Actor's Studio, Elisabeth Dillon at the HB Studio NYC, Geraldine Baron and Lance Lane, Diana developed a unique voice. She has won multiple awards as an actor and KOAN member of the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble under the direction of Ron Sossi. Diana was nominated for the 2019 Stage Raw theatre awards for Best Leading Female Performance – *Faith Healer*, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, and was recently elected to the board of the Odyssey Theatre for the purpose of further enhancing the ensemble with her many artistic talents. Born and raised in Germany, Diana now resides and works in Los Angeles. She is the founder of Ground Hero. <https://www.groundherofilm.org>

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Video Design.....	Diana Cignoni
Master Electrician.....	Danny Felix
Fight Chreography .....	Joseph Gilbert & Peyton Young
Publicist .....	Lucy Pollak
Photography .....	Cooper Bates
Graphic Designer .....	Luba Lukova
Promotional Video .....	Cassie Hamilton
Special Thanks .....	Ray Barry, Julie and Phil Lebow, Marjie Mautner, Barbara Mueller-Wittman, Jean-Louis Rodrigue

**Very Special Thanks** to members of the original cast not appearing in this production: Riley Rose Critchlow, Marie Osterman, Anthony Rutowicz, Keaton Shyler, Ahkei Togun, Denise Yolén, and to original stage manager Beth Mack, assistant directors Simone Tetrault & Kayla Erikson, movement consultant Christopher Vened, photographer Enci, and to OTE staff members Meghan O'Brien, Hunter Paul, Octavia Carr and Tyler Dean.

Your work on this production in 2020 was greatly appreciated.

## **ODYSSEY STAFF**

### *ARTISTIC*

Artistic Director .....	Ron Sossi
Associate Artistic Director.....	Beth Hogan
Literary Manager .....	Sally Essex-Lopresti
Student Outreach Director .....	Beth Hogan

### *PRODUCTION*

Technical Director.....	Danny Felix, Leonard Felix
Production Manager.....	Jacob Price
Lighting Technician .....	Danny Felix
Dance Festival Co-Producer .....	Barbara Mueller-Wittman

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OTE Season & Program Graphic Art Designer .....	Peter Simpson Cook
OTE Graphic Designers ..	Peter Simpson Cook, Luba Lukova, Dane Martens
Volunteer Office Staff.....	Delores Plevick, Geroqe Weidem



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Hooray! Here we are, together again, beginning another half-century... the Odyssey's 52nd season! Although a good part of 2022 will be dedicated to completing our 2020 season (*The Serpent*, an all African-American version of Inge's *Picnic*, *A Day In The Death of Joe Egg*), these 60s/70s chestnuts will be joined by the world premiere of John Fleck's *it's alive*, *IT'S ALIVE!*, Richard Eyre's version of Ibsen's *Ghosts*, directed by Bart DeLorenzo, the Odyssey Dance Festival, with more productions to be announced early next year.

Noteworthy is the fact that the Odyssey and theater in general still forge ahead, following over 18 months of closure. In essence nothing yet matches the charm and power of live artists, present and performing their thoughts, emotions and actions right in front of you in an intimate 99-seat space.

As a line from *The Serpent* says

"Suddenly...

This moment,

Here, now

I am here,

And you.

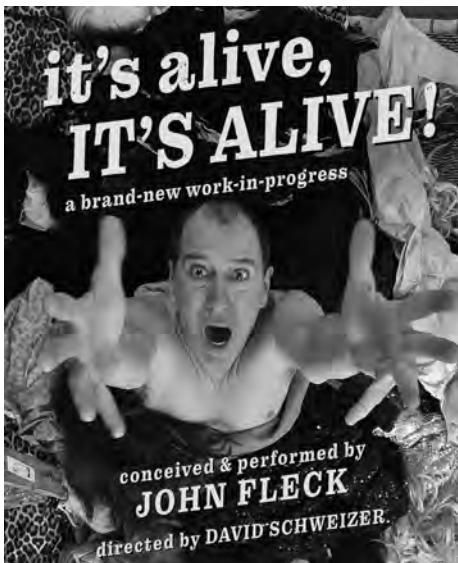
In this place, now

We are together."

But, of course, you already know this. As a 21st Century live theatergoer, you are, indeed, a rare and cherished breed.

For information call us at 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or go to our website at [odysseytheatre.com](http://odysseytheatre.com) or email us at [beth@odysseytheatre.com](mailto:beth@odysseytheatre.com). Thank you!

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