



# THREE TABLES

A NEW PLAY  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY  
MURRAY MEDNICK

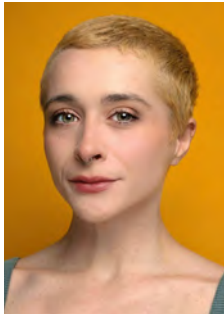




## CAST HEADSHOTS



ERIC STANTON BETTS\*



RAQUEL CAIN



JOHN FANTASIA



LAURA LIGUORI\*



DENNIS RENARD\*



COREY RIEGER\*



RICHARD SABINE



MICHAEL URIBES\*

\*Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association





Padua Playwrights  
presents  
The World Premiere

# THREE TABLES

Written and Directed by  
**MURRAY MEDNICK**

STARRING  
**ERIC STANTON BETTS\***, **RAQUEL CAIN**, **JOHN FANTASIA**,  
**LAURA LIGUORI\***, **DENNIS RENARD\***, **COREY RIEGER\***,  
**RICHARD SABINE**, **MICHAEL URIBES\***

Produced by  
**RACQUEL LEHRMAN**, **THEATRE PLANNERS**

Scenic Design  
**JOEL DAAVID**

Costume Design  
**SHON LEBLANC**

Lighting Design  
**AZRA KING-ABADI**

Sound Design & Original Music  
**JOHN ZALEWSKI**

Graphic Design  
**GEORGE McWILLIAMS**

Press Photographer  
**JENNY GRAHAM**

Associate Producer  
**MISHA RILEY**,  
**THEATRE PLANNERS**

Casting Director  
**MICHAEL DONOVAN, CSA**  
**RICHIE FERRIS, CSA**

Publicity  
**LUCY POLLAK**

Production Stage Manager  
**JENINE MACDONALD\***





## CAST

*(in alphabetical order)*

**ERIC STANTON BETTS \*** .....**Casey**  
**RAQUEL CAIN**.....**Margie**  
**JOHN FANTASIA**.....**Joe**  
**LAURA LIGUORI \*** .....**Christen**  
**DENNIS RENARD \*** .....**Don**  
**COREY RIEGER \***.....**Mike**  
**RICHARD SABINE**.....**Sol**  
**MICHAEL URIBES \*** .....**Rodger**

THREE TABLES WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION

Face masks are required to be worn at all times.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cell phones and watches.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and Guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By attending this production you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

We thank you for supporting live theatre and helping to keep others healthy.





## On Three Tables by Murray Mednick

In his work for the stage Murray has always followed the artist's creed to "make it new." In his six decades writing for the stage this has meant finding some new technical challenge to guide his curiosity about the expressive capacities of actors on stage speaking to one another.

With *Three Tables* that challenge involves the capacity of everyday dinner-table conversation to reveal, through the musical interplay of thought, emotion and embodiment, something refined about the human situation. The musicality here has to do with timing, the aspect of dialogue that links Murray to the be-bop musicians—Miles, Charlie Parker, Artie Shaw—he listened to as a young man working in restaurants in the Catskills and writing poetry. Occupying our present moment, Joe and Saul serve chow to their dinner guests, having updated versions of the kinds of exchanges people would have had back then as a matter of course. The experience of emotional pain, the meaning of love, the nature of anti-Semitism, along with insights about Kabbalah—through a symphonic weave of everyday intelligence the play transports us into a timeless present, and then speaks sobering truths about the arrival of fascism in the US of A. While enjoying colorful characters sharing time on an evening out on the town, we look down from the play's magic carpet to see a darkness creeping across the land.

Other Mednick-ites in the audience will recognize in *Three Tables* traces of Murray's play *Fedunn*. Written in the 1990s and directed with memorable precision by Mitch Ryan at the Odyssey in 2004. A close friend of Murray's, Ryan recently passed away, and this production strikes me as a fitting eulogy for their shared interest in the transformative impact of meeting the demands of the moment on stage and off. *Fedunn* also featured exquisite timing around the serving of diners in a restaurant amid conversations about the destruction of European Jewry at the hands of the Nazis. That same monster has learned to speak American now, and *Three Tables* calls it out and shines a light through the language ordinary people exchange as they tend in a civilized way to their biological need for a good meal.

Actually, the characters in *Three Tables* are not quite ordinary—rather, they are theatre people. This allows Murray to comment, obliquely and directly, on how the art of theatre pertains to the fuckery at large in our world. Fascism is always a shitty production enrolling people without taste to perform their dark fantasies against those who make them feel inadequate. The play laments the re-mounting of an especially degrading spectacle, and it does so with humor, pathos and, of course, exquisite timing. *Three Tables* celebrates our capacity to not indulge the collapsive imperatives of our reptilian brainstem, but rather to meet the moment with wit and even, perhaps a modicum of grace.

It is remarkable to find an artist of Murray's stature able to bring a lifetime of technique to bear with such force and clarity as he enters his ninth decade on planet earth. For anyone who loves the fine art of theatre, *Three Tables* is a feast.

– Guy Zimmerman (Padua Playwrights)





## CAST BIOS

**ERIC STANTON BETTS\*** (*Casey*) Eric Stanton Betts studied film and media arts in college in NYC all while pursuing a career in the theatre. Eric has modeled internationally in Paris, Milan, and NY Fashion Weeks and has acted in projects over several platforms including TV, film, commercial, music videos, and of course, theatre. He spent a year and half on the US/Asia tour of Broadway's *Kinky Boots* and can be seen in the feature films *Deadly Scholars*, available now, and *Martinez, Margaritas, and Murder*, coming at the end of 2022. Eric was last seen in MSD Productions' virtual *Spring Awakening* and 3D Theatricals *Kinky Boots*. Other credits include *Evita* (national tour), *Catch Me If You Can*, *American Idiot*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *In The Heights*, and *Hairspray*. "Thank you to my acting coach Susan Giosa and of course, my fiancé, Gabe." Proud member of Actor's Equity. Follow his adventures @StandstooTall21 or www.ericstantonbetts.com

**RAQUEL CAIN** (*Margie*) Raquel Cain hails from Baltimore, MD and Austin, TX. They have been most recently seen in *Arcane: Enter The Undercity*, *T as in Teen* and *Apollo 11*. Raquel graduated from The University of Texas at Austin and Carver Center for Arts and Technology with specializations in Acting and Literary Arts respectively. In addition to being an actor, Raquel is a poet with a background in competitive Poetry Slams and a Cabaret performer showcasing Drag, Burlesque and Pole acts. Raquel is proud to be a multidisciplinary, queer, nonbinary performance artist and is always looking for the next creative muscle to stretch.

**JOHN FANTASIA** (*Joe*) John is an actor, writer, director and producer. He received his training in New York City at the American Academy Of Dramatic Arts, HB Studios and The Actors Studio. While in NY he worked primarily on stage from black boxes in Greenwich Village to a two year stint Off Broadway at the Judith Anderson Theatre. After leaving NY he moved to Seattle where he was cast, out of Toronto, in the lead role in the feature *The Collapsed* which was distributed worldwide by Lionsgate Entertainment. After a few years in Seattle he moved to Los Angeles where he began writing and directing. To date he has written five short films and three features. Three of his shorts have been produced and can be seen on his website at johnfantasia.com which also features other work he has appeared in. He is currently in pre-production on another two of his films. Over the past year and a half he has worked on the feature films, *Good Mourning*, *Deadly Girls Night Out*, *Flesh and Guillotine* where he was cast as a very interesting King Louis XVI. His recent television work includes, *Physical*, *The Offer*, *Jury Duty*, *Super Pumped* and *Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty*. John has appeared in other theatre productions in LA, however, is especially honored and privileged to be working with Murray Mednick on his current project, *Three Tables*.

**LAURA LIGUORI\*** (*Christen*) I am so happy to be back in the theatre. So grateful. I have had the privilege of working with Murray Mednick since 2006. His friendship, his talent, his love and dedication to the theatre is of great value and inspiration to me. Before the pandemic, Laura Liguori played Lilya Brik, in Mednick's *Mayakovsky and Stalin*, which premiered in Los Angeles and New York. Past theatre credits include the critically-acclaimed World War II play, *The Red Dress*, in which she portrayed a famous German actress at odds with the Nazi





regime; the role of "Marilyn Monroe" in *Marilyn, Madness, and Me*; and the role of "Laura" in all six of Mednick's *The Gary Plays*, which were workshopped over the course of two years prior to a full production of the entire sextet by Open Fist Theatre Company. Liguori is currently filming the SHOWTIME series *American Gigolo* (2022), appearing in the recurring role of Elizabeth ShannonHouse. She can currently be seen in the title role of the award-winning film, *Hollywood Girl: The Peg Entwistle Story*, available on Amazon Prime. TV credits include *The Boogie Dilemma* (Amazon), *Suburgatory*, *Ugly Betty*, *Weeds* and *Growing Up Fisher*. She was classically trained at the Oxford School of Drama in Oxford England and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

**DENNIS RENARD\*** (*Don*) Since graduating from UCLA's TFT, Dennis Renard has been making a home of the LA theater scene. His recent theatre credits include *The City of Conversation* at Coachella Valley Repertory, *Mono/Poly* at the Odyssey Theatre, *Apollo 11* at the Rose Bowl, *Baby Eyes* with Playwrights' Arena, and *12 Angry Men* at the Laguna Playhouse. Film credits: *San Andreas: Mega Quake* (The Asylum), *Mississippi Requiem* (Elysium Bandini), *Sinister Minister* (Lifetime). Soon you'll be able to catch him in his streaming debut on the sketch comedy/history show *Book of Queer* on Discovery+. He'd like to thank his family and friends for the undying support, as well as the other artists responsible for making this such a fantastic and fulfilling experience. @dennisrenardii

**COREY RIEGER\*** (*Mike*) Corey is an actor and writer, originally from Western Pennsylvania, but based in LA now for nearly the past 13 years. His recent acting credits include stage roles as George in *Of Mice and Men*, The Husband in the Michael John LaChiusa musical *Hello Again*, and Brian in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *The Shadow Box*. He's appeared in co-starring television roles on *NCIS: Hawaii*, *Magnum P.I.*, and *Banshee*, as well as in the films *The Last Witch Hunter*, and *Out of the Furnace*, directed by Scott Cooper. He recently worked on a scripted fictional podcast entitled *Hobo Code*, to be released soon, and his book of humor, entitled *Good Guy, Asshole* is available in print online at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and lulu.com, or as an ebook at various ebook sellers.

**RICHARD SABINE** (*Sol*) Richard was born, raised and trained in New York City. Although was always actively creative, he studied business and earned an MBA. However, he also took every acting opportunity available in terms of both study and performance. What followed was a decade in business which left him professionally successful, but creatively unfulfilled. He returned to acting - in everything from Shakespeare to stand-up comedy - throughout NYC while studying with Kelly Kimball and Joan Rosenfels. After balancing both business and performing, he took the leap and relocated to Los Angeles to pursue his lifelong dream. In addition to studies with Jeffrey Marcus, he has appeared in a variety of plays, features, and various television shows, including *House M.D.*, *NIP/TUCK*, *Happily Divorced*, *Casual* and *Better Things*. Richard is thrilled to be a part of the world premiere of *t*, and thanks the talented cast, crew and Murray Mednick for a memorable experience. Embrace your dreams and enjoy the journey of life!







**MICHAEL URIBES\*** (*Rodger*) Michael Uribe is originally from San Jose California. American Academy of Dramatic Arts west alumni. Theater credits: Title role in *Hamlet* for the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company, *Zoot Suit* (El Pachuco), *Man of La Mancha* (The Duke) *A Tale of Two Cities* (John Barsad) *Bronco Billy* (Chief Big Eagle) *Argonautika* (Maleager, Amicus, Boreas) *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Picasso), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Guildenstern), *Twelfth Night* (Tranio). *Camino Real* (Kilroy), *Oedipus El Rey* at The Boston Court (Choro) *Two Rooms* (Michael) *Candida* (Eugene). Valley Theatre League Award nomination in the world premiere musical *Musical Chairs* written by Academy Award winning composer Joel Hirschorn. Film and TV: *Good Trouble*, *Goliath*, *Harry's Law*, *America's Most Wanted*. Michael is a founding member of the west coast chapter of Captured Aural Phantasy Theater, giving vintage comic books a modern voice in Los Angeles since 2008. Thrilled to be back at Theatre Planners!

## PRODUCTION BIOS

**MURRAY MEDNICK** (*Playwright/Director*) Murray Mednick is a pioneer of the Off and Off-Off Broadway movements in the '60s and '70s and was playwright-in-residence at Theater Genesis. He wrote such groundbreaking works as *The Hawk* (NY), *The Hunter* (NY), *Sand* (NY), *Are You Lookin'* (NY), *Scar* (LA; starring Ed Harris), *Coyote Cycle* (LA) and *The Deer Kill* (NY) (1970 OBIE Award for Outstanding Play), and was the founder/artistic director of the Padua Hills Playwrights Workshop/Festival in Los Angeles from 1978 to 1995. Murray is the recipient of two Rockefeller Foundation grants and a Guggenheim Fellowship, an American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play citation (for *Joe and Betty*), a Career Achievement Award from the LA Weekly, an Ovation Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Los Angeles Theater from the LA Stage Alliance, a Local Hero Award from Backstage West, and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle's Margaret Harford Award for Sustained Excellence in Theater. "As Murray Mednick experiments with language... he is emblematic of a Los Angeles dramatic tradition in much the same way that Clifford Odets is identifiable with Gotham or David Mamet with Chicago," wrote Bob Verini in *Variety*. Mednick's most recent production of his play, *Villon*, was nominated for "Best New Play" by the Stage Raw committee in 2015. In 2017, Open Fist Theatre Company produced Murray Mednick's *The Gary Plays* (eight plays) which premiered in May-June at the Atwater Theatre in Los Angeles, California. *The Gary Plays* were nominated for four 2017 Ovation Awards. In 2018, Mednick's play *Mayakovsky and Stalin* received its World Premiere in Los Angeles to critical acclaim. It was produced Off-Broadway in 2019 at The Cherry Lane Theatre. Produced in conjunction with Padua Playwrights, *Three Tables* is Mednick's latest play.

**RACQUEL LEHRMAN, THEATRE PLANNERS** (*Producer*) Racquel is the founder and managing director of Theatre Planners, her own bi-coastal theatre production firm which has been serving the New York and Los Angeles theatre scenes for over fifteen years. She graduated from NYU-Tisch School of the Arts and lived in NY for many years producing theatre. Theatre Planners has since developed into a very busy and successful outlet for actors, writers, producers and theatre companies. Doing everything from producing, consulting, marketing and more, Racquel loves to make productions a reality and help to keep the theatre scene in LA







alive and strong. Racquel is also the owner of The Lounge on Melrose and manages The Zephyr Theatre. To learn more about Racquel and Theatre Planners, go to [www.theatreplanners.com](http://www.theatreplanners.com)

**JOEL DAAVID** (*Scenic Designer*) Texan /LA resident since 1993. Joel has become an award-winning set designer since attending the American Film Institute for Cinematography. His career accomplishments include cinematography for film work as well as stage directing and design. Joel's most notable awards include the Ovation, LA Weekly, NAACP and LADCC Theater Awards. He directed/designed the award winning production of *The Miracle Worker* at the Matrix and Edgemar Theatres and the new production of Tennessee Williams' *Baby Doll* at the Lillian Theatre. Joel directed/designed the multi-award winning *Frankenstein* for Theatre Tallahassee and the epic story of *Camille* (Claudel) at the Greenway Arts Alliance. [www.joeldaavid-director.com](http://www.joeldaavid-director.com)

**AZRA KING-ABADI** (*Lighting Designer*) Azra King-Abadi has recently designed *Apartment Living* at the Skylight Theatre, *Tentacion* and *The Composer is Dead* at the LA Phil. And premiered a new opera *Tres Mujeres de Jerusalén* with LA Opera Connects at the beautiful Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Last November she finally got to see *Poor Clare* with Echo Theatre, after it failed to open in March 2020! She had the opportunity to design several streamed concerts with LA Opera Connects. Prior works include *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *The Color Purple* with Greenway Court Theatre, *Women Beyond Borders* with Rubicon Theatre, *The Ridiculous Darkness with Son of Semele*, *Under Milk Wood*, and *Vendetta Chrome* with Coeurage Theatre, *Lunatics and Actors* with Four Clowns, *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Santa Barbara, *Alexander's Feast* with LA Master Chorale, *Wonderful Town* with LA Opera, *Angels in America* opera with the LA Philharmonic. [azrakingabadi.com](http://azrakingabadi.com)

**JOHN ZALEWSKI** (*Sound Design & Original Music*) feels privileged to be back working on Murray Mednick's oeuvre with Theatre Planners. He's designed sound for many of Mednick's productions from *Clown Show for Bruno* and all nine of *The Gary Plays* in various iterations including the anthology, alongside other projects with Padua Playwrights. His work has been heard at The Goodman, The Guthrie, Portland Center Stage, South Coast Repertory, Humana Festival, Perseverance Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Disney Hall, Geffen, Center Theater Group, Broad Stage, Wallis Annenberg, Rattlestick, Theatre Delicatessen in London and companies in Los Angeles including Evidence Room, Boston Court, Antaeus, Padua Playwrights, Actors' Gang. He is resident at Latino Theater Company. Awards include eight LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards, seven LA Weekly Awards, three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, and ten Backstage Garlands. Recent work includes *Destiny of Desire* and *Macbeth* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2018 and 2019; *The Father* at Pasadena Playhouse; *And Then They Came for Me* at Lewis Family Playhouse and *Destiny of Desire* at Cincinnati PiP at the beginning of 2020. John also teaches and designs at Occidental College in California. Audio drama work can be heard in Michael Shutt's *A Lesson in Swimming*. His photography can be seen in Hatje Cantz/Moma/PST's publication *Reza Abdoh*.





**SHON LEBLANC** (*Costume Designer*) Shon celebrates 33 years designing costumes in California and across the country. He has designed shows for The Fountain Theatre, The Colony Theatre, 3D Theatricals, Odyssey, Matrix, Theatre 40, Hudson, NoHo Arts, The El Portal, Open Fist Theatre Co, Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities, Ogunquit Playhouse (ME), Sierra Madre Playhouse, The Rubicon, Actors Co-Op, Greenway Court, and Kentucky Shakespeare (KY) just to name a few. He's designed the costumes for the national tours of *I Love Lucy*, *Live on Stage*. He recently designed *Showboat* at Kentucky Opera, and returned to Ash Lawn Opera for a 5th season, designing *South Pacific*. Most recently he designed *The Man Who Came to Dinner* here at Actors Co-Op. Shon has taught costume design for the Academy of Art in SF, and is an award-winning costume designer with multiple Ovation, Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly and Garland awards and nominations. He is the owner of The Costume House, located in North Hollywood, California where the costumes for tonight's show were created.

**GEORGE McWILLIAMS** (*Graphic Designer*), It's an honor to get to do art for Murray's plays and the lovely people at Theatre Planners! George is an award winning packaging and poster designer. He is currently living in Los Angeles in his humble apartment with his plants. IG: @halfmachinelipsmove & georgemcwilliams.design

**MICHAEL DONOVAN, CSA** (*Casting Director*) Michael is the recipient of 9 Artios awards, presented by the Casting Society of America for Outstanding Achievement in casting. He has cast shows produced at the Ahmanson Theatre, the Hollywood Bowl, the Wallis Annenberg, Pasadena Playhouse, the Kirk Douglas Theatre, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Geffen Playhouse, the Bourbon Room, International City Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, the Getty Villa, the Ricardo Montalban Theatre, Ebony Repertory Theatre, the El Portal Theatre, the Theatre at Boston Court, the 24th St. Theatre, San Francisco Symphony, Arizona Theatre Company, both the Palazzo Theatre and Paris Theatre in Las Vegas, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and more, as well as several tours. His credits also include numerous films, over 1,000 commercials, and multiple TV series. Michael is President of the Foundation for New American Musicals, and serves on the Board for Camp Bravo.

**RICHIE FERRIS, CSA** (*Casting Director*) Richie has been casting with Michael Donovan Casting for nearly 10 years. In that time, he has been nominated by the Casting Society of America (CSA) for 10 associate Artios Awards for Outstanding Casting, and has won 3 times. He has worked on the casting of well over 300 projects, including musicals, plays, readings, TV, and films. His theatre casting credits include shows produced at the Hollywood Bowl, Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Pasadena Playhouse, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Walt Disney Concert Hall, International City Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, La Mirada Theatre, The Theatre @ Boston Court, the Odyssey Theatre and many more. IG: @richie\_ferris & @michaeldonovancasting

**MISHA RILEY, THEATRE PLANNERS** (*Associate Producer*) Originally from Northern California, Misha holds a B.A. in Theater from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. At UCLA Misha specialized in both Theater Studies and Acting. He was also chosen to participate in UCLA's inaugural Professional Theater Practicum course, hosted in tandem with The Geffen





Playhouse. Misha has been with Theatre Planners for the past five years and is thrilled to be part of this team. To learn more about Theatre Planners, go to [www.theatreplanners.com](http://www.theatreplanners.com)

**JENINE MACDONALD** (*Production Stage Manager*) Jenine began stage managing in college and continued after as a member of Pittsburgh Theatre Laboratories. In Los Angeles she has stage managed at The Actors' Gang, The Matrix Theatre, The Alliance Repertory Company, Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble, Interact Theatre, The Pan-Andreas Theatre, OHYMEE Productions at the Lost Studio, Project 601 at The Mark Taper Annex, Bonnie Franklin's CCAP, The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, Zephyr Theatre, The Hudson Theatres, and The Rubicon Theatre in Ventura. She received her B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago and is a recipient of the Valley Theatre League ADA Award for Best Stage Manager.

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION** ("*Equity*"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

## ADDITIONAL CREW

**MARINE WALTON**.....**Charge Scenic Artist**  
**HILAIRE NOLLETTE, DAN TUTTLE**.....**Load-In Crew**  
**ROBERT ZAMBRANO**.....**Covid Safety Manager**  
**BONNIE BAILEY-REED**.....**Box Office Manager**

## SPECIAL THANKS

Guy Zimmerman  
 Gabrial Griego  
 Amber Bruegel  
 Nick Foran  
 Matt Richter  
 The Zephyr Theatre and Staff



