

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble presents



Written by Harold Pinter, Robert Coover and Hermann Hesse

Directed by Ron Sossi

The Ensemble

Ron Bottitta, Diana Cignoni, Kristina Ladegaard, Darrell Larson, C.J. O'Toole

Produced by Odyssey Theatre Ensemble in association with Isabel and Harvey Kibel

COSTUME DESIGNERS

Mylette Nora

SET DESIGNER

Song Yi Park

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Josh La Cour

SOUND DESIGNER

Christopher Moscatiello

STAGE MANAGER

Beth Mack

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Elana Luo

PRODUCED FOR THE ODYSSEY BY

Beth Hogan & Josh La Cour

WAKINGS! runs from April 30 to June 5th, 2022

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

Running time 2 hours

RIP AWAKE by Robert Coover. Copyright © Robert Coover, 1972.

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CAST & PLAYS

(in order of appearance)

VICTORIA STATION

Ron Bottitta..... CONTROLLER
 C.J. O'TooleDRIVER

RIP AWAKE

Darrell Larson RIP VAN WINKLE

A KIND OF ALASKA

Diana Cignoni..... DEBORAH
 Ron Bottitta.....HORNBY
 Kristina Ladegaard.....PAULINE

SIDDHARTHA

C. J. O'TooleSIDDHARTHA

NARRATED BY

Diana Cignoni, Kristina Ladegaard, Ron Bottitta, Darrell Larson

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

There are so many states of consciousness and awareness that we have barely investigated. Sleep, dreaming and waking are strange enough, but are only the beginnings. What of fantasy, hallucination, coma states, hypnosis, the “psychedelic experience” and the age-old quest for “spiritual awakening.”

Most of these seem elusive to the rational mind. Perhaps because they are actually far beyond the perview and equipment of the rational mind. Perhaps some of them present an alternative glance into the universe... no more or no less in value than “normal” perceptions. In India the tradition was to leave a madman alone, as he might be “halfway to God”. In our culture we consider the rational mind “king, “ a condition above or “more real” than these other conditions... but is it?

Tonight’s plays are a mere scratching the surface of a few of these conditions. I thought it might be intriguing to bring together four different takes on some of the modes of consciousness mentioned above.

One of the pieces, Pinter’s VICTORIA STATION, is a take on the sometimes strangeness of conventional reality. Another, RIP AWAKE is Robert Coover’s serio-comedic expansion of the story of RIP VAN WINKLE, Washington Irving’s classic tale of a man who falls asleep, after drinking some strange brew, and find himself, 30 years later waking to a world and himself totally changed. Another is Pinter’s variation on the “sleeping sickness” that infected the world in the early part of the 20th century, causing hundreds of people to fall asleep for decades. The piece is influenced by Oliver Sacks’ AWAKENINGS (later a Robin Williams, Robert De Niro film by the same name). And finally an an excerpt from the ancient tale of the “awakening” of the Buddha, as envisioned by classic German writer Herman Hesse in his SIDDHARTHA. Siddhartha (later called the Buddha) escapes from his rich life as a prince in order to seek refuge with forest ascetics, but that too has been unsuccessful. He is about to give up, as our short excerpt begins.

As I said these are but a few states. But what about trance, déjà vu, precognition, age regression, psychotic fantasies etc.? WAKINGS! Part Two? —Ron Sossi, April 30, 2022



RON BOTTITTA

Controller, Hornby, Narrator

Ron recently completed a run of *The Children* at The Fountain Theatre. He was seen at the Odyssey in *Loot, Faith Healer, Hir, Arsenic and Old Lace, Rank, Theatre in the Dark, Chekhov and Maria*, among others. Company member at Rogue Machine Theatre where credits include *Earthquakes in London, Oppenheimer, Honky and The Sunset Limited*, and host of RMT's spoken word Rant and Rave series. At LA Theatre Works: *Sisters Matsumoto, I Love Lucy...*, and two national tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg*. Other LA credits include Sarah Kane's *4.48. Psychosis* at Son of Semele, John Pollono's *Rules of Seconds* at LA Theatre Center, *Superior Donuts* and *Yes, Prime Minister* at The Geffen Playhouse. TV: *How to Get Away with Murder, Get Shorty, Elementary, Supergirl* and *Grey's Anatomy*. Film: *Avengers: Endgame, Black Panther, Thor: Ragnarok, The Mountain Between Us* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*. Plays cult favorite Captain Butcher in the *Call of Duty* video game franchise. Dad, motorcyclist, aviator. Full deets on IMDb.com



DIANA CIGNONI

Deborah, Narrator

Diana is a German-American actor and filmmaker who got her start in acting at an early age working at the HB Studio in New York. She later moved to Los Angeles, where she studied with teacher Charlie Laughton, Al Pacino's life-long mentor and friend, while performing in award-winning productions of plays by Brecht, Beckett and most recently starring in Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* (2019 Stage Raw nomination for Best Leading Female Performance) at the Odyssey Theatre. It was in Los Angeles that she developed into a thoughtful, independent writer and filmmaker, and her work has been recognized in multiple film festivals in the United State and Europe. You can see her directorial work at dianacignoni.com and groundhero.com

KRISTINA LADEGAARD



Pauline, Narrator

Kristina is originally from Sweden. She has performed in theater for 20 years, mainly in Europe, and for the past five years toured with Santa Barbara's Lit Moon Theater Company in countries like Macedonia, Armenia and Georgia. Her one-woman show has been performed in Sweden, Finland, Macedonia, Serbia, the U.S and in several cities, including New York, Chicago and L.A. Kristina worked in Chicago with the A Walk About Theater Company, a site specific theater company. This year Kristina will be shooting a series for Serbian National television. She is also a writer and is currently working on a film and TV series with Finnish filmmakers. Thank you for coming to see live theater in Los Angeles.



DARRELL LARSON

Rip Van Winkle, Narrator

Darrell has appeared in over 80 films and television shows including *Mike's Murder* and *The China Syndrome* directed by James Bridges, *Rachel Getting Married* and *The Manchurian Candidate* directed by Jonathan Demme, *Stepmom* directed by Chris Columbus and Frances. Faerie Tale Theatre shows include *Little Red Riding Hood* directed by Graeme Clifford, *Euphoria* and *Lazarus Man* directed by John Binder, *Shadrach* and *100 Centra Street* directed by Susanna Styron. Onstage Darrell is best known for creating Coyote in *The Coyote Cycle*, written and directed by Murray Mednick, and has appeared at the Odyssey four times over the decades in *The Man Who Killed the Buddha, God's Country* and Strindberg's *The Dance of Death*, directed by Ron Sossi. He is delighted to wake up *Rip Van Winkle* for your sweet pleasure, once again directed by Ron Sossi.



C.J. O'TOOLE

Driver, Siddhartha

C.J. is originally from Chickasha, Oklahoma, is excited to be working again at the Odyssey Theatre, and is glad theatre is back! He is a member of The Koan Group and the Michael Chekhov Studio West Theater Company. "Let's Go Mets!"

ROBERT COOVER

Rip Awake

Robert Coover (1932 -) is an American writer of avant-garde fiction, plays, poetry and essays whose experimental forms and techniques mix reality and illusion, frequently creating otherworldly and surreal situations and effects. He is the author of twenty-some books of fiction and plays, his most recent being *Noir* and *A Child Again*. Robert Coover's first novel, *The Origin of the Brunists*, won the 1966 William Faulkner Award. His other works include the collection of short fiction, *Pricksongs and Descants*, a collection of plays, *A Theological Position*, such novels as *The Public Burning*, *Spanking the Maid*, *Gerald's Party*, *Pinocchio in Venice*, *John's Wife*, *Ghost Town* and *Briar Rose*. He has been nominated for the National Book Award and awarded numerous prizes and fellowships, the Real Lifetime Achievement Award for the Short Story, and a Lannan Foundation Literary Fellowship. His plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, London and elsewhere. At Brown University he taught "Cave Writing," (a writing workshop in immersive virtual reality), and other experimental electronic writing and mixed media workshops.

HERMAN HESSE

Siddhartha

Hermann Hesse, (1877 - 1962), Montagnola, Switzerland), German novelist and poet who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946. The main theme of his work is the individual's efforts to break out of the established modes of civilization so as to find an essential spirit and identity. Hesse grew up in Calw and in Basel. He attended school briefly in Göppingen before, at the behest of his father, he entered the Maulbronn seminary in 1891. Though a model student, he was unable to adapt and left less than a year later. Hesse, who aspired to be a poet, was apprenticed in a Calw tower-clock factory and later in a Tübingen bookstore. He would express his disgust with conventional schooling in the 1906 novel *Unterm Rad*, (Beneath the Wheel), in which an overly diligent student is driven to self-destruction. Hesse published his first book, a collection of poems, in 1899. He remained in the bookselling business until 1904, when he became a freelance writer and brought out his first novel, *Peter Camenzind*, about a failed and dissipated writer. The novel was a success, and Hesse returned to the theme of an artist's inward and outward search in *Gertrud* (1910) and *Rosshalde* (1914). A visit to India in these years was later reflected in *Siddhartha* (1922), a poetic novel, set in India at the time of the Buddha, about the search for enlightenment.

During World War I, Hesse lived in neutral Switzerland, wrote denunciations of militarism and nationalism, and edited a journal for German war prisoners and internees. He became a permanent resident of Switzerland in 1919 and a citizen in 1923, settling in Montagnola. A deepening sense of personal crisis led Hesse to psychoanalysis with J.B. Lang, a disciple of Carl Jung. The influence of analysis appears in *Demian* (1919), an examination of the achievement of self-awareness by a troubled adolescent. This novel had a pervasive effect on a troubled Germany and made its author famous. Hesse's later work shows his interest in Jungian concepts of introversion and extraversion, the collective unconscious, idealism and symbols. Hesse also came to be preoccupied with what he saw as the duality of human nature. *Der Steppenwolf* (1927; *Steppenwolf*) describes the conflict between bourgeois acceptance and spiritual self-realization in a middle-aged man. In *Narziss und Goldmund* (1930; *Narcissus and Goldmund*), an intellectual ascetic who is content with established religious faith is contrasted with an artistic sensualist pursuing his own form of salvation. Hesse's last and longest novel, *Das Glasperlenspiel* (1943; English titles *The Glass Bead Game* and *Magister Ludi*), is set in the 23rd century. In it Hesse again explores the dualism of the contemplative and the active life, this time through the figure of a supremely gifted intellectual. He subsequently published letters, essays and stories.

After World War II, Hesse's popularity among German readers soared, though it had crashed by the 1950s. His appeal for self-realization and his celebration of Eastern mysticism transformed him into something of a cult figure to young people in the English-speaking world in the 1960s and '70s, and this vein of his work ensured an international audience for his work afterward.

HAROLD PINTER

A Kind Of Alaska, Victoria Station

Harold Pinter (1930-2008) was born in London on October 10, 1930. He lived with Antonia Fraser from 1975 until his death on Christmas Eve, 2008. (They were married in 1980). After studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Central School of Speech and Drama, he worked as an actor under the stage name David Baron. Following his success as a playwright, he continued to act under his own name, on stage and screen. He last acted in 2006, when he appeared in *Beckett's Krapp's Last Tape* at the Royal Court Theatre, directed by Ian Rickson. He wrote 29 plays, including *The Birthday Party*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *A Slight Ache*, *The Hothouse*, *The Caretaker*, *The Collection*, *The Lover*, *The Homecoming*, *Old Times*, *No Man's Land*, *Betrayal*, *A Kind of Alaska*, *One For The Road*, *The New World Order*, *Moonlight* and *Ashes to Ashes*. Sketches include *The Black and White*, *Request Stop*, *That's Your Trouble*, *Night*, *Precisely*, *Apart From That* and the recently rediscovered *Umbrellas*. He directed 27 theatre productions, including James Joyce's *Exiles*, David Mamet's *Oleanna*, seven plays by Simon Gray, (one of which was *Butley* in 1971, for which he directed the film adaptation three years later), and many of his own plays, including his last, *Celebration*, paired with his first, *The Room*, at The Almeida Theatre, London, in the spring of 2000. He wrote 21 screenplays, including *The Pumpkin Eater*, *The Servant*, *The Go-Between*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *Sleuth*. In 2005 he received the Nobel Prize for literature. Other awards include the Companion of Honour for services to literature, the Legion D'Honneur, the European Theatre Prize, the Laurence Olivier Award and the Moliere D'Honneur for lifetime achievement. In 1999 he was made a Companion of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature. Harold Pinter was awarded 18 honorary degrees

RON SOSSI

Artistic Director/Director of WAKINGS!

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 *The Serpent*, *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 IADCC 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 53-year history.

MYLETTE NORA

Costume Designer

NAACP theatre award for best costumes, listed in the honors edition of The Cambridge Registry of Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women; her works world wide consist of television, film, and stage, and she was seen nightly on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and now weekly on "Jay Leno's Garage." The famed artist Synthia St. James noted Mylette as being the inspiration for her world renowned painting "Ensemble" which graced the cover of the best selling novel *Waiting To Exhale* by Terry McMillan. Mylette creates designer doggie wear, www.FromTheHeartDoggieWear.com, and heirloom dolls, "My Mind's Eye."

SONG YI PARK

Scenic Designer

Song Yi has experience in theatrical scenic and production design in theatre and film. Her scenic designs include *Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies* (2022) by Terrance Arvelle Chisholm and directed by Ahmed Best at Echo Theater, and a virtual production *The Latrell Show* (2021) by Brandon Kyle Goodman and co-directed by Stefanie Black and Devere Rogers at the IAMA Theatre Company, *The Unseen Hand / Killer's Head* (2020, nominated for the 31st Ovation Awards) by Sam Shepard and directed by Darrell Larson at Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, and *Driving Wilde* (2019) by Jacqueline Wright and directed by Bart DeLorenzo at Theatre of Note.

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Through our Visiting Production programming, we are excited to create opportunities for our Iranian theatre community, bringing people together to celebrate stories in Farsi and English. Find out more at odysseytheatre.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 Theatre Ensemble, The Road Theatre and Pacific Resident Theatre; 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.

JOSH LE COUR

Lighting Designer, Co-Producer

Josh is the former production manager of the Odyssey Theatre and is happy to return for this production. He currently works as an art coordinator for commercials and music videos, and runs the production company YUQ Studios. Josh also works as a nightlife performer. Enjoy the show!

BETH MACK

Stage Manager

Beth has stage-managed many productions around Los Angeles during the last 27 years. Most recently at the Odyssey Theatre she stage managed Pat Kinevane's West Coast premiere of *Before* and earlier she was the stage manager for *Hir*, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, *Beckett5*, *Go Back To Where You Are*, *Riding The Midnight Express* and *Awake And Sing!* among others. As an actor Beth appeared in *Passion Play* and *Ivanov*, an Evidence Room and Odyssey Theatre co-production.

ELANA LUO

Assistant to the Director

Elana is a director and writer. Recent directing projects include the one-act play, *Kingdom Keeper*, and Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World* with HOOLIGAN Theatre Company. She has previously worked at the Odyssey as the assistant director of the 50th anniversary production of *The Serpent*. Other assistant directorships include Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* at Greenway Court Theatre, and a reading of a new musical, *Angels of the Southern Accents*, presented by Five Star Theatricals and High Street Arts Center. Thank you for coming to see *Wakings!*

BETH HOGAN

Co-Producer

Beth is the associate artistic director of the Odyssey, and also functions as a producer on many Odyssey shows, including *Hir*, *Kiss*, *The Hairy Ape*, *Passion Play*, *Annapurna*, *Margo Veil*, *Awake and Sing!*, *Anna Christie* and most recently *Before and La Vie en Rose*. 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*.



WAKINGS!

Friday & Saturday 8pm

Sunday 2pm

Wednesday May 11 & May 25 8pm

Post Show Discussions May 11 & May 20 or upon request.

Tix 4\$10 & wine nite Friday, May 27

Reservations: 310-477-2055 ext. 2 or

odysseytheatre.com

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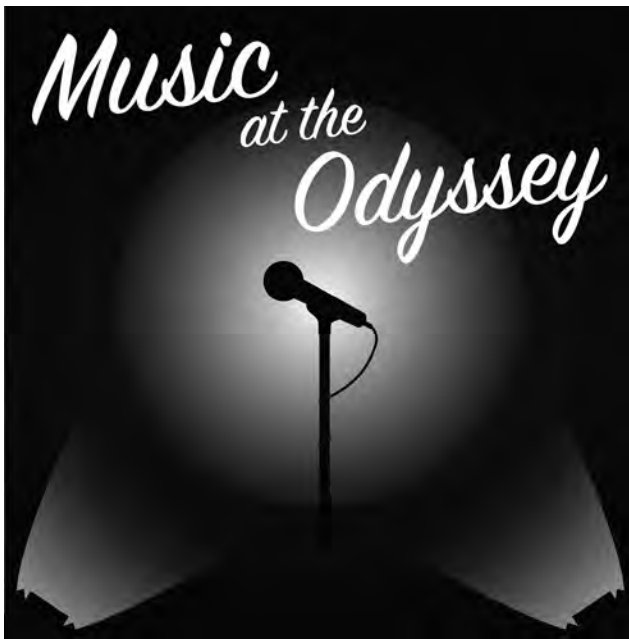
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