THE 6TH ACT

PRESENTS

SUKKOT

BY

MATTHEW LEAVITT

DIRECTED BY

JOEL ZWICK

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BY

MATTHEW LEAVITT

DIRECTED BY

JOEL ZWICK

— CAST —

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Patrick ..... ANDY ROBINSON*

Asher ..... JONATHAN SLAVIN*

Mairead ..... LIZA SENECA*

Eden ..... NATALIE LANDER*

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright ..... MATTHEW LEAVITT

Director ..... JOEL ZWICK

Scenic & Set Design ..... MARK MENDELSON

Costume Design ..... CAITLIN CISEK and ORIANA SOPHIA

Lighting Design ..... COLLEEN DOHERTY

Sound Design ..... CHRIS MOSCATIELLO†

Stage Manager ..... EMILY BURSTYN

Assistant Stage Manager ..... TALA MUNSTERMAN

Composer/Keyboards ..... NATHAN WANG

Violin ..... SHELLY REN

Run time: 95 minutes with no intermission

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

†Member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 IATSE

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BY

MATTHEW LEAVITT

DIRECTED BY

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CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' NOTE

Why the name "The 6th Act?" This is something we get asked often and this seems like a wonderful opportunity to explain it: In 2016, we formed a theater company. We were two friends who met doing another of Matthew's original plays, ***The Boomerang Effect***, that Liza acted in and we found we had a shared passion for the classics, particularly Shakespeare. We knew, however, that we didn't want to be just another Shakespeare company. We wanted to take his very familiar works and present them in fresh and innovative ways. Shakespeare's plays are written in five acts, so what comes next? The new and fresh take on the play is what follows: The 6th Act. We are forever grateful to our dear friend and early collaborator, Joel Bryant, for the name.

Our beginnings were very humble: we performed Shakespeare in bars, in libraries, in rented theater spaces. Two years later, we staged our first full production, ***An Evening of Betrayal***, an evening pairing Pinter's ***Betrayal*** with a four person, backwards retelling of Shakespeare's ***Othello***. The following year we staged ***Hamlet*** with a five person cast – each actor (of different gender identities, races, and ethnicities) playing the Dane in one act to show us how universal this character truly is.

In 2020, we were the last ever show to be named *LA Times* Critic's Pick for Matthew's ***The $5 Shakespeare Company*** (also starring Andy Robinson and Liza), which miraculously closed the week before Covid shut the world down. We took the long pandemic to regroup and to figure out what we wanted to do moving forward. We became a nonprofit organization. We knew we were not done.

Since that time, we are so proud to be stronger than ever, having performed ***Sukkot*** in Los Angeles to sold-out crowds as well as John Patrick Shanley's ***Outside Mullingar*** which will receive a third revival in October of this year due to popular demand.

What started as a small Shakespeare company has done what theater is meant to do: it has evolved into something new, something different, something we could not have imagined when we started. It therefore feels fitting to be here in New York, an absolute dream for us, presenting a play about a family's evolution and embracing new and different ideas. And, as with every play, the final ingredient is you, the audience. Thank you for rejoicing with us.

MATTHEW LEAVITT & LIZA SENECA
Co-Artistic Directors, The 6th Act

ANDY ROBINSON
(Patrick)



Andy began his life and career in New York. A graduate of the New School, a Fulbright scholar to LAMDA, and a founding member of the La MaMa Plexus troupe, he has worked on and Off Broadway and at repertory companies around the country. In LA Andy worked in film, TV, and theater as an actor and director. He was co-artistic director of the Matrix Theatre Company, and created, taught, and directed the MFA actor-training program at USC. He has published a memoir, *Stepping Into the Light*, and a novel, *A Stitch In Time*.

JONATHAN SLAVIN
(Asher; he/she/they)



A very vegan, secularly Jewish, and ferociously queer actor and activist, Jonathan has spent the last several decades in Los Angeles working largely in television, and is now utterly honored to come home to New York to perform in Matthew Leavitt's gorgeous play, ***Sukkot***, with this remarkable cast. Jonathan would like to dedicate this run to the memory of Jeremy Katz.

LIZA SENECA
(Mairead)



Liza is thrilled to return to New York, having previously performed in ***Pulp Shakespeare*** at the Cherry Lane and SoHo Playhouse, and having filmed a recurring role on the cult show *The Following*. Some favorite regional and LA theater includes ***Outside Mullingar***, ***The $5 Shakespeare Company***, ***An Evening of Betrayal*** (The 6th Act); ***Twelfth Night***, ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle***, ***Cloud 9*** (Antaeus); ***Ameryka*** (Kirk Douglas), ***Much Ado About Nothing*** (Kentucky Shakespeare), ***A Shayna Maidel*** (ICT). Liza is a prolific voice artist and can be heard in countless episodes of television and films. Love and thanks to her three favorite boys.

NATALIE LANDER
(Eden)



Natalie Lander is thrilled to be making her Off Broadway debut with her ***Sukkot*** family! Past recurring and guest TV roles include *The Middle*, *Lopez*, *Major Crimes*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Étoile*, *13 Reasons Why*, *911: Lone Star*, *Hannah Montana*, and more. Natalie also has been working in voiceover since the age of 9. She might be most well-known for coming in 5th on the MTV competition series, *Legally Blonde: The Search for Elle Woods*. Natalie recently starred in a pilot alongside Jason Alexander and David Paymer. Special thanks to her in-laws for letting live out her "local hire" NYC life this summer!

MATTHEW LEAVITT
(Playwright)

Matthew Leavitt is a Los Angeles-based playwright, librettist, and director. His award-winning play ***The Boomerang Effect*** is published by Concord Theatricals and has enjoyed productions throughout the US and UK. His subsequent play, ***The $5 Shakespeare Company***, was recognized as an *LA Times* Critics' Choice. He has also been commissioned by LA Opera to write the librettos for two new operas, ***Orpheus*** and ***Wreck of the Miranda***. Directing credits include ***Hamlet*** (winner of Best Director of a Play, Stage Scene LA Award), John Patrick Shanley's ***Outside Mullingar***, and this fall he will be directing ***Eureka Day*** at Seattle Rep.

JOEL ZWICK
(Director)

Mr. Zwick directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time. He directed the Broadway production of ***George Gershwin Alone*** at The Helen Hayes Theatre, and also collaborated with Hershey Felder on ***Monsieur Chopin***, ***Beethoven As I Knew Him***, and ***Maestro***. Directing credits include ***Dance With Me*** (Tony nomination), ***Shenandoah*** (Broadway/national tour), ***Oklahoma*** (national tour), ***Woycek*** (West End). Mr. Zwick began his theatrical career at La MaMa E.T.C., as director of the La MaMa Plexus. He is also one of Hollywood's most prolific television directors, with over 650 episodes to his credit.

MARK MENDELSON
(Set Design; he/him)

Mark Mendelson is a Los Angeles-based set designer whose recent designs include ***My Son The Playwright***, ***Corktown '39***, ***Evanston Salt Costs Climbing***, ***can i touch it?*** (Rogue Machine Theatre Co.); ***Tasty Little Rabbit*** (Moving Arts); ***I'll Give You My Heart***, ***The Wedding Singer***, ***The Civility of Albert Cashier*** (Colony); and ***Lines in the Dust*** (Collaborative Artists' Bloc/Support Black Theatre). Other designs include projects for Mattel, Disney Imagineering, Seattle Rep, La Mirada, Rubicon Theatre, A Noise Within, Pacific Symphony, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Broadway by the Bay, Berkeley Playhouse, Diablo Theatre, 42nd Street Moon, and more.

CAITLIN CISEK
(Costume Design)

Caitlin Cisek is a costume designer and educator. Favorite credits include *Saturday Night Live* (S44), ***Bluebeard's Castle*** at Opera San Jose, and ***Dialogue of the Carmelites*** at Wolf Trap Opera. Cait was awarded the Research Incentive Award from the College of the Arts at the University of Florida in 2025 to present research from The Huddled Masses Project, an editorial on American identity and immigration. She earned a BA in Theatre from the State University of New York at Albany and MFA from the University of California, Irvine. USA829.

@caitccisek

ORIANA SOPHIA
(Costume Design; she/her)

Oriana Sophia is a costume designer and actress. Her credits include ***La Llamada*** (Repertorio Español); ***Harlem Hellfighters***, ***El Deseo del Astronauta*** (Pregones PRTT); ***Water by the Spoonful***, ***In the Heights*** (Colorado Springs FAC); ***Mercado Libre*** (Boundless Theater). Oriana's practice is centered on the rhythm of stories — finding the pulse within a narrative and translating it into a visual language. She is committed to decolonizing stories through design, intentionally breaking away from traditional Western lenses to find more authentic, inclusive ways of representing identity on stage and screen. She is a resident designer and actress at Boundless Theater.

COLLEEN DOHERTY
(Lighting Design)

Colleen Doherty is based in New York City. Recent design credits include ***The Little Mermaid*** (Red Mountain Theatre Company), ***Broadway Backwards 2026*** (Broadway Cares/ Equity Fights Aids), ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*** (Virginia Stage Company), ***The Twelfth Night Show*** (Weston Theatre Company), ***Machinal*** (New York Theatre Company), and ***Ghost of John McCain*** (Soho Playhouse). Associate/ assistant design credits include ***Marcel on the Train*** (Classic Stage Company), ***Billie Jean*** (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), ***Heathers*** (New World Stages), ***Death Becomes Her*** (Broadway), and ***The Great Gatsby*** (Broadway). MFA from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts.

@colleenashleyd
www.colleenadoherty.com

CHRIS MOSCATIELLO
(Sound Design)

Chris is an award-winning sound designer, composer, music editor, and music director for theater, TV, and film, and he is the resident sound designer at Rogue Machine Theatre. TV highlights: *The Walking Dead*, *Eureka*, *Psych*, *Human Target*, *Caprica*, *The Cape*, and *Trauma*. He has scored series and specials for National Geographic, The Discovery Channel, and specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Animal Planet, MSNBC, ZDF Germany, and The History Channel. Theater highlights: The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian, The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Antaeus, A Noise Within, Skylight Theatre, The Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theater, The Road Theatre, and Pacific Resident Theater.

NATHAN WANG
(Composer/Keyboards)

Nathan Wang is a highly successful composer in Hollywood, Asian cinema, and theater. His filmography includes scores for Jackie Chan movies, Steven Spielberg documentaries, animated cartoons, operas, and symphonies. He collaborated with Hans Zimmer on the Academy Award-winning documentary *The Last Days* and was commissioned to write an opera for the Los Angeles Opera, ***On Gold Mountain***. Nathan won an Emmy for Best Arrangement of a Song for *Reefer Madness* and another Emmy for the documentary *The Legend of Pancho Barnes and the Happy Bottom Riding Club*.

EMILY BURSTYN

(Stage Manager)

Emily Burstyn is thrilled to join the production of ***Sukkot***. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and creative team for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful production. She is especially grateful to her friends for always cheering her on, and to her Mom, Dad, and Grandmama for their endless love and encouragement. Special thanks to Bess and Kat for making her the stage manager she is today.

@eburstyn

TALA MUNSTERMAN

(Assistant Stage Manager; they/them)

Tala Munsterman is an NYC-based stage manager. Their most recent NYC credits include ***Cellino v. Barnes*** (Off Broadway), ***A Guide for the Homesick*** (Off Broadway), ***Pygmalion*** (Off Broadway), and multiple collaborations with Moliere In The Park and Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater. Some of their favorite past productions include ***Matilda the Musical***, ***Legally Blonde***, and ***Sweeney Todd*** (all regional). Offstage, they unwind with color-coded lists, a good cup of tea, and snuggling with their senior dog, Digerie Do. They are excited to join the ***Sukkot*** team and help bring this wonderful play to life!

THE 6th ACT

Founded in 2016 by co-artistic directors Matthew Leavitt and Liza Seneca, The 6th Act is an award winning non-profit theater company committed to keeping the vitally important tradition of classical theater alive, while also giving life to new plays, striving to make both accessible and exciting to modern audiences. The aim is to create experiences that are equal parts enrichment and entertainment, to produce shows that offer fresh takes on timeless stories and new stories with timeless themes. The 6th Act works passionately and tirelessly to build a creative community that fosters artistic risk, intelligence, and inclusivity.

www.The6thAct.com

SUKKOT PRODUCERS

This production was made possible by the generosity of Samantha and Jason Goldstein, who love the arts, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

SPECIAL THANKS

Kitty Swink, Michelle Hanzelova-Bierbauer, Rich Wong, Brian Semel, David Elzer, Douglas Gabrielle, The Skylight Theatre Company, and the amazing staff at 59E59 Theaters.

Dedicated to the loving memory of Sharyn Lane.

Callboard Web Journal

Behind-the-scenes perspectives and experiences from our community

Callboard is a place for our producing theater companies, artists, and staff to share their thoughts on the inner workings of the Off Broadway scene.

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CURATOR'S NOTE

I was first introduced to The 6th Act back in 2024 with their East to Edinburgh show ***Sonnets From Suburbia*** and when they submitted ***Sukkot*** for consideration, I jumped at the chance to welcome them back to the theater for a full run.

I was gripped by this story from start to finish. A parent trying to glue a fractured family back together — people who love each other and still can't trust each other. The humor isn't relief from that; it's part of how true it feels. I hope you find it as funny, as painful, and as real as I did.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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