PENGUIN REP THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE NEW YORK CITY PREMIERE OF



# THE SABBATH GIRL

## BY CARY GITTER

DIRECTED BY JOE BRANCATO

59 59

THEATER B

FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 8

PENGUIN REP THEATRE

JOE BRANCATO, FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & ANDREW M. HORN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **MORTON WOLKOWITZ** AND **JOSEPH GROSSO**,

PRESENTS

THE NEW YORK CITY PREMIERE OF

# THE SABBATH GIRL

## BY CARY GITTER

## DIRECTED BY JOE BRANCATO

**TIME: SUMMER PLACE: NEW YORK CITY**

### CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

ANGIE.....LAUREN ANNUNZIATA

SOPHIA.....ANGELINA FIORDELLISI

SETH.....JEREMY RISHE

BLAKE.....TY MOLBAK

RACHEL.....LAUREN SINGERMAN

### CREATIVE TEAM

SCENIC DESIGNERS....CHRISTOPHER & JUSTIN SWADER

COSTUME DESIGNER.....GREGORY GALE†

LIGHTING DESIGNER.....TODD O. WREN†

ORIGINAL MUSIC/SOUND DESIGNER.....MATT OTTO†

PROJECTION DESIGNER.....YANA BIRŸKOVA

PROPERTIES.....BUFFY CARDOZA

CASTING.....CINDI RUSH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....MICHAEL HERWITZ

### PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER.....ANDREW M. HORN

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.....MICHAEL PALMER

STAGE MANAGER.....JAMIL CHOKACHI

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT.....TIM HEINEMANN

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR.....ZOË FANCHER

SET CONSTRUCTION.....HILLBOLIC ARTS & CARPENTRY

The running time of *The Sabbath Girl* is 85 minutes without an intermission

*The Sabbath Girl* had its world premiere at Penguin Rep Theatre (Joe Brancato, Founding Artistic Director & Andrew M. Horn, Executive Director) in Stony Point, NY

Actors and Stage Manager(s) are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

†These Designers are members of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

## LAUREN ANNUNZIATA
Angie



Recent productions include ***Detained*** (Ensemble Studio Theater), ***This Girl Laughs...*** (The Atlantic Theater Company), ***Syncopation*** (Penguin Rep), ***Agnes*** (Rattlestick Playwright's/ Middle Voice), ***Orpheus in the Berkshires*** (Williamstown Theater Festival), ***Perry Street*** (*LAByrinth Theater Company Barn Series*), ***Seen By/Everyone*** (HERE Arts Center), and ***Las Hermanas Padilla*** (Playwright's Realm.) NYU/TISCH.

www.laurenannunziata.com

## ANGELINA FIORDELLISI
Sophia



Angelina is a Tony and Obie Award-winning Producing Artist. She recently starred in the world premiere of ***With*** by Carter Lewis at Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska. She has acted on Broadway, Off Broadway, 3 National Tours and in regional theaters across the country, including ***Zorba*** with Anthony Quinn, ***Out of the Mouths of Babes*** with Estelle Parsons, ***First Love*** with Michael O'Keefe, ***Annie***, ***Snow Orchid***, ***The Traveling Lady***, ***Nunsense***, ***Man of La Mancha***, ***Private Lives***, ***Blithe Spirit***, ***Tamara***, and ***What the Butler Saw***. Partial film and television credits include *When a Man Loves a Woman, Where the Heart Is, Walker Payne, Big Stone Gap, Straight Outta Tompkins, Out of Darkness, Delusion, Law & Order, LA Law, Star Trek: TNG, The Cosby Show, Roseanne*, and *The Kennedy Center Honors Program*. Proprietor of Cherry Lane Theatre since 1996, she co-founded CLT Mentor Project with Edward Albee, Charles Fuller, A. R. Gurney, Tony Kushner, Wendy Wasserstein, and Michael Weller, launching 64 emerging playwrights to date including Katori Hall and Rajiv Joseph. She won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critic's Circle, and Drama League awards as co-producer of Albee's ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf***, and Drama Desk award for co-producing Will Eno's ***The Realistic Joneses***.

## TY MOLBAK
Blake



Ty is a New York-based actor raised in New Orleans, LA, and on Whidbey Island, WA. Theater: ***Richard II*** & ***Henry IV Pt. I*** (Shakespeare's Globe); ***Constellations*** (Blue Collaborative), and ***Gloria*** (Notwithstanding). TV: *Katy Keene* (The CW). Film: *Good Men* (upcoming). Before theater, Ty studied ballet pre-professionally and has danced leading roles with New Orleans Ballet Theater, Whidbey Island Dance Theater, and South Bay Ballet. Ty attended Loyola Marymount University's School of Film and Television for directing before earning his BFA in acting from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

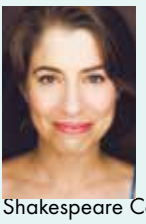
## JEREMY RISHE
Seth



Jeremy first stepped onstage before he was old enough to know what was going on, and has acted in over 50 plays, television/streaming shows, and films since that time. The feature film *JEWTAH*, which he co-wrote & produced, is coming to theaters later this year distributed by Menemsha films; it's his third feature as writer and star, his second as producer. In 2011, he helped co-found Kids Creative Collective, Inc., bringing tuition free theater arts training to young people from all walks of life. MFA: NYU Tisch, Graduate Acting Program.

@jeremyrishe

## LAUREN SINGERMAN
Rachel



Regional/New York credits include ***The Sabbath Girl*** (Penguin Rep), ***Caroline, or Change*** (APAC); ***Hedwig and the Angry Inch***, ***Forbidden Broadway*** (Arc Stages); ***Little Eagles*** (workshop, Royal Shakespeare Company), ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*** (Two River Theater), ***The Drunken City*** (Kitchen Theatre Company), ***The Most Happy Fella*** (Cider Mill Playhouse), ***Leaving IKEA*** (The Artful Conspirators), and ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (The Here & Now). TV/web series credits include *All My Children, Brokers,* and *Precious Cargo*—a critically acclaimed web series she co-created. Upcoming: *The Plot Against America* (HBO). MFA: Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers.

www.laurensingerman.com

## YANA BIRŸKOVA
Projection Design

Yana is a multimedia artist and designer from Moscow, Russia. Her theatrical designs include ***Mlima's Tale*** (Westport Country Playhouse), ***The White Devil*** (Red Bull Theater), ***Dropping Gumballs on Luke Wilson*** (The Working Theater), ***SELKIE*** (Dutch Kills), ***Grounded*** (Westport Country Playhouse); ***Imogen Says Nothing***, ***Scenes from Court Life*** (Yale Repertory Theatre); ***Square Root of Three Sisters*** (Dmitry Krymov Lab), and ***Transport*** (Irish Repertory Theatre). Yana is the 2019 finalist of the Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer showcase for Opera America, and lectures and teaches workshops on projection design at Harvard University. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

www.yanabiryukova.com

## BUFFY CARDOZA
### Props Design

Buffy is thrilled to join the design team for this production of ***The Sabbath Girl***. Some previous design credits include ***The Santa Closet*** (Teatro Circulo), ***After*** (59E59 Theaters), ***Daniels Husband*** (Westside Theatre); ***Mr. Parker***, ***Clever Little Lies*** (Penguin Rep Theatre). She is the production manager and prop master for Penguin Rep Theatre in Stony Point, NY. When not finding treasures for the Penguin stage, she is busy in her community as a scenic associate and teaching artist for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, a children's drama teacher at Stage Left Theatre, and a preschool teacher.

## GREGORY GALE
### Costume Design

Gregory is a two-time Tony Award-nominated designer for ***Rock of Ages*** and ***Cyrano de Bergerac***. Other Broadway: ***Arcadia***, ***The Wedding Singer***, ***Urinetown***, and ***Band in Berlin***. Off Broadway world premieres of ***To Wong Foo***, ***Hood***, and ***Fairycakes***. He was nominated for multiple Drama Desk, Henry Hewes, and Lucille Lortel Awards, winning for ***The Voysey Inheritance***. Recently, he designed the pre-Broadway productions of ***Cagney*** and ***Fat Kid Rules the World***. Opera productions include world premieres of ***The Prince of Players*** and ***El Milagro del Recuerdo*** for Houston Grand Opera and ***An American Soldier*** for OTSL. Gale designed two films that will be released in 2020: *The Mental State* and *Real Drag*.

## MATT OTTO
### Sound Design & Original Music

New York City: ***Patron of the Arts***, ***Nollywood Dreams***, ***Esai's Table***, and ***King Lear*** (Cherry Lane); ***Abigail's Party***, ***Muswell Hill***, ***Enemy of the People*** (Barrow Group); ***Cadaver of Synod*** (New York Musical Festival), ***Empathitrax*** (Colt Couer). Regional: ***Our Town***, ***Love Labour's Lost*** (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); ***Midsummer Nights Dream***, ***Macbeth***, ***Neil Gwynn***, ***Timon of Athens*** (Folger Theater); ***Fly*** (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), ***Aubergine*** (Park Square Theater), and ***James and the Giant Peach*** (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma). Matt received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

## CHRISTOPHER & JUSTIN SWADER
### Scenic Design

Christopher and Justin are New York City-based scenic designers. Recent designs with Two River Theatre, Everyman Theatre, Miami New Drama, Dorset Theatre Festival, The New Victory Theatre, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Lincoln Center Education, York Theatre, INTAR, Engeman Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Kitchen Theatre Company, Penguin Rep, Luna Stage, IBEX Puppetry, Trusty Sidekick, A$AP Rocky, Sotheby's, Big Apple Circus, and National Geographic. 2 Henry Hewes nominations, 2019 Prague Quadrennial Exhibition, AUDELCO Award, IRNE Award, Carbonell Award. Graduates of Ball State University.

www.cjswaderdesign.com

## TODD WREN
### Lighting Design

Todd happily returns for this production of ***The Sabbath Girl***. Todd's world premiere designs include ***Stand by Your Man*** with Jim Lauderdale and directed by Gabriel Barre; ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*** conceived and choreographed by Chase Brock; and the NYC premiere of ***The Fall to Earth*** directed by Joe Brancato. Todd's regional credits include Riverside Theatre Vero Beach, Goodspeed Musicals, The Cleveland Playhouse, Penguin Repertory Theatre, Seaside Musical Theatre, The Barter Theatre, Palm Beach DramaWorks, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Casa Manana, Coconut Grove Playhouse, North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, and Flat Rock Playhouse. Todd received his MFA from Carnegie Mellon University and is an Associate Professor of Lighting Design with Coastal Carolina University.

## MICHAEL PALMER
### Production Stage Manager

New York credits include ***PumpGirl***, ***After***, ***My Brilliant Divorce***, ***Daniel's Husband***, ***The Dead 1904***, ***The Hundred We Are***, ***The Winter's Tale***, ***Drop Dead Perfect***, ***The Rivals***, ***Have I No Mouth***, ***For Love***, ***It's a Wonderful Life***, ***The Wheelchair On My Face***, ***Silent***, ***Miracle On South Division Street***, ***Bogboy***, ***Fall To Earth***, ***Tryst***, ***My Scandalous Life***, ***St. Nicholas***, ***Exit Entrance***, and ***Mark Twain's Blues***. Penguin Rep credits include ***Mr. Parker***, ***Art***, ***After***, ***Relativity***, ***Syncopation***, ***Daniel's Husband***, ***Buyer & Cellar***, ***The Immigrant***, ***My Name Is Asher Lev***, ***Small World***, ***Playing the Assassin***, ***Sex and Education***, ***How The World Began***, ***Class***, ***The How And The Why***, and ***The Last Days of Mickey and Jean***.

## JAMIL CHOKACHI
### Stage Manager

Jamil is happy to once again be working with the Penguin Rep family! Jamil has been in the entertainment world for over 20 years as a stage manager, actor, singer, and director. Past credits include Stage Manager on ***Junie B. Jones*** (Theatre Works USA), Assistant Stage Manager on ***Rose's War*** (The Francesca Harper Project), Production Stage Manager on ***Alex & Eugene*** (Isle of Shoals), Assistant Stage ***Manager on Small World*** (Penguin Rep). If you're dying to know more, check out my website. Peace.

www.jamilchokachi.com

## CARY GITTER
Playwright

***The Sabbath Girl*** premiered at Penguin Rep in 2019. Cary's play ***How My Grandparents Fell in Love*** appeared in the Ensemble Studio Theatre's 36th Marathon of One-Act Plays and aired on *Playing on Air*. His work has been developed at the Berkshire Playwrights Lab, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, and NJ Rep. He has been commissioned by the EST/Sloan Project and is an alumnus of EST/Youngblood. Two-time O'Neill semifinalist and Jewish Plays Project finalist. Published by Smith & Kraus and Applause. BFA, MA: NYU. He dedicates this production to the memory of his grandmother, Teresa Frances Golden.

www.carygitter.com

## JOE BRANCATO
Director/Founding Artistic Director, Penguin Rep Theatre

Off-Broadway: Michael McKeever's ***Daniel's Husband*** (Penguin/Primary Stages/Westside Theater) and ***After*** (59E59 Theaters), Erasmus Fenn's ***Drop Dead Perfect***, Angelo Parra's ***The Devil's Music: The Life & Blues of Bessie Smith*** (Drama Desk, Lortel, Off Bway Alliance & Audelco nominee), ***Miracle on South Division Street***, ***Fall to Earth***, ***Freed*** (Audelco nominee), ***Tryst*** (Outer Critics nominee), ***Cobb*** (Drama Desk winner), ***From Door To Door***, ***One Shot, One Kill***, ***Two and a Half Jews***, ***My Italy Story***, and ***Hold the Wedding***, produced by Joseph Papp. Regional: Royal Manitoba Theatre Center, George Street, Seattle Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Alley Theatre, Hartford Stage, Westport Country Playhouse, among others. As founding artistic director of Penguin Rep Theatre, he has directed 150 productions in Stony Point, New York, including the world premiere of ***The Man Who Was Peter Pan***, which became the Broadway musical and film ***Finding Neverland***. He is also the author of the books for the musicals ***Mae West at Club El Fey***, ***Only the Sky Was Blue!***, and ***Words Fail Me*** (a musical tribute to Michael Leonard).

www.joebrancato.com.

## ANDREW M. HORN
Producer/Executive Director, Penguin Rep Theatre

Andrew has overseen nearly 200 productions, readings, concerts, and special events for Penguin Rep Theatre, including the Off Broadway productions of ***Drop Dead Perfect*** (Theatre at St. Clements); ***The Devil's Music: The Life & Blues of Bessie Smith***, and ***Miracle on South Division Street*** (St. Luke's); ***After***, ***Small World*** and ***Freed*** (59E59). He commissioned Allan Knee's ***The Man Who Was Peter Pan***, which was the basis for the Broadway musical and movie ***Finding Neverland***. He is a published poet, arbitrator, and attorney. Graduate of SUNY Purchase and Cardozo School of Law.

## PENGUIN REP THEATRE
Producer

Under the dynamic leadership of founding Artistic Director Joe Brancato and Executive Director Andrew M. Horn, Penguin Rep has grown in 40 years from a summer theatre in a repurposed 1880's hay barn in historic Stony Point, NY to become one of the Hudson Valley's most influential nonprofit cultural institutions. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "the gutsiest little theater" and by *Lohud.com* as a theatre that "continues to astonish", Penguin now reaches tens of thousands of theatergoers each year at its home theatre upstate, in New York City and beyond – with plays and productions premiered by Penguin moving to Off Broadway and to stages across the country and around the world.

www.penguinrep.org

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Leah Gitter, Virginia Gitter, Joseph Grosso, Douglas J. & Susan VanArsdalen & Morton Wolkowitz.

## NOTE ON THE TERM SHABBOS GOY

*Shabbos goy* [SHOB-iss goy] is a Yiddish term for a "Sabbath Gentile," or a non Jew who is asked by Jews to perform tasks that are forbidden to them on the Sabbath– e.g., operating elevators, turning lights on and off, using appliances, heating up food, etc. Famous one-time Shabbos goys include Colin Powell, Martin Scorsese, Harry Truman, and Elvis Presley, who all helped out Jewish neighbors when they were young. Colin Powell even learned to speak Yiddish.

## NOTE ON ORTHODOX JUDAISM

The characters of Seth and Rachel are observant Orthodox Jews. This isn't to be confused with Hasidic or ultra-Orthodox Judaism. Seth doesn't wear all black or have a beard or side locks. He looks completely modern, except he wears a yarmulke. And Rachel just dresses modestly and wears a head covering. They observe the Sabbath, keep kosher, attend synagogue, and socialize mostly with other Orthodox Jews, but otherwise they appear and talk just like young, modern Americans. All that really make them different are their private religious beliefs and practices.

**"THREE THINGS HAVE A FAINT SAVOR OF THE WORLD TO COME: SABBATH, THE SUN, AND LOVE."**
*Talmud, Berakhot*

## CURATOR'S NOTE

I'm delighted to welcome back our good friends from Penguin Rep Theatre with this new romantic comedy, ***The Sabbath Girl***. Playwright Cary Gitter's characters amusingly navigate the challenges of carving out authentic connections in a jam-packed New York City. Director Joe Brancato is the perfect collaborator and under his careful guidance the production blooms with a hearty dose of humor and warmth - don't be surprised if you find yourself a bit verklempt.



Val Day
Artistic Director
59E59 Theaters

## 59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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## NEXT IN THEATER B

**MARCH 18 – APRIL 5**




Design: www.mugdesign.co.uk

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