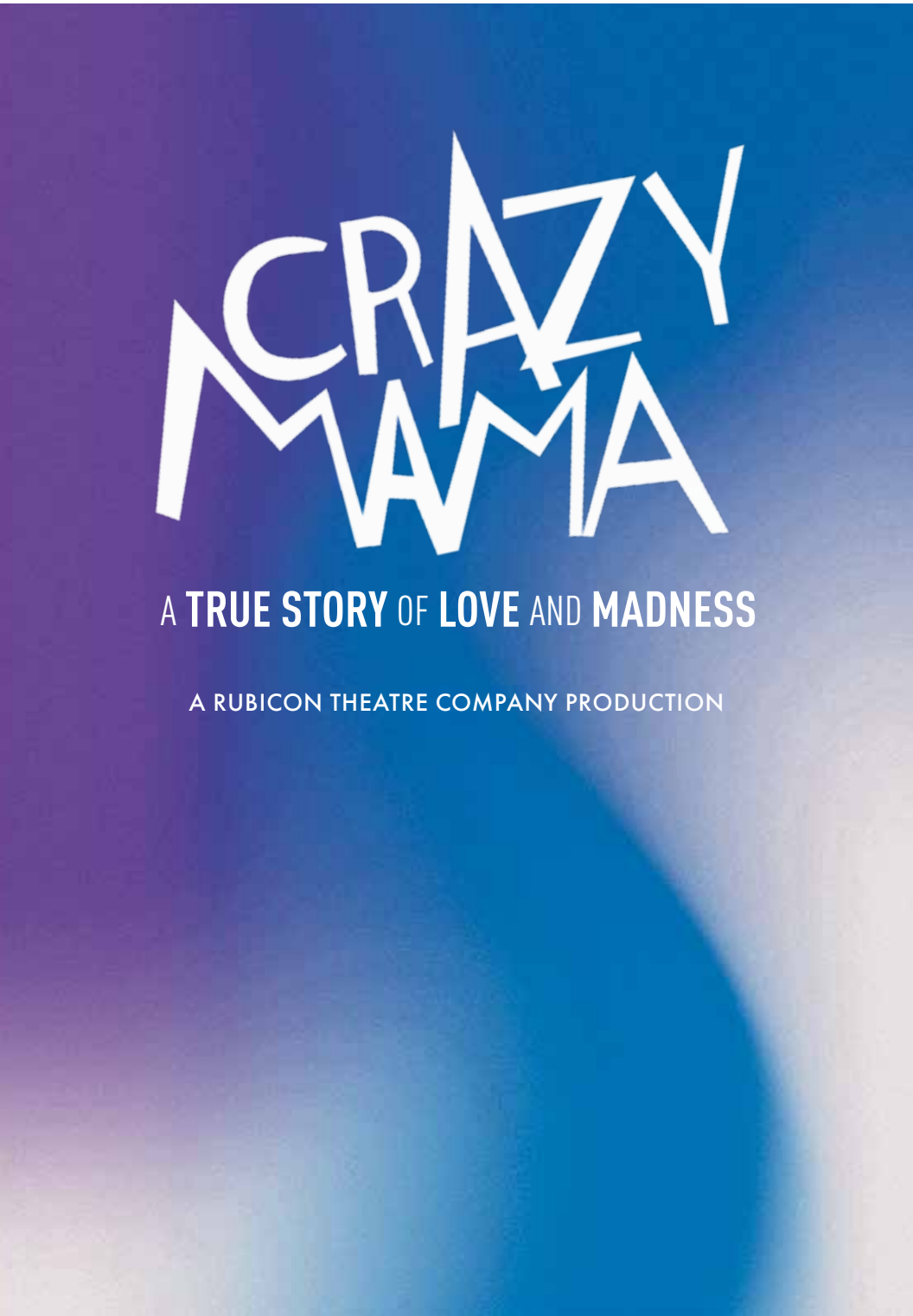

CRAZY
MAMA
A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND MADNESS
A RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

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LINDA PURL

IN

CRAZY MAMA

A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND MADNESS

BY SHARON SCOTT WILLIAMS

DIRECTED BY ANSON WILLIAMS

— CAST —

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

The Blues Man ..... WILL HUSE

Sharon/All Others ..... LINDA PURL *

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright ..... SHARON SCOTT WILLIAMS

Director ..... ANSON WILLIAMS

Lighting and Projection Design ..... BRIAN GALE †

Sound Design ..... LINDSAY JONES †

Stage Manager ..... ALEXANDREA HESS RODRIGUEZ *

Associate Sound Design ..... ien DeNio *

— RUBICON PRODUCTION TEAM —

Artistic Director ..... JONATHAN DRAHOS, PHD

Artistic Director Emeriti ..... KARYL LYNN BURNS and JAMES O'NEIL

Producer/Associate Artistic Director ..... STEPHANIE COLTRIN-BEYRIES

Production Manager ..... CHRISTOPHER BEYRIES

Technical Director ..... JIMMY CALLAHAN

Associate Producer, Advocacy ..... SERYOZHA LaPORTE

Press Representative ..... RICHARD HILLMAN

Act I 1957 Act 2 1959 – 2002

Place: Roanoke, Virginia - a Southern railroad town where everybody thinks they're normal.

Run time: 2 hours, 5 minutes including an intermission

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

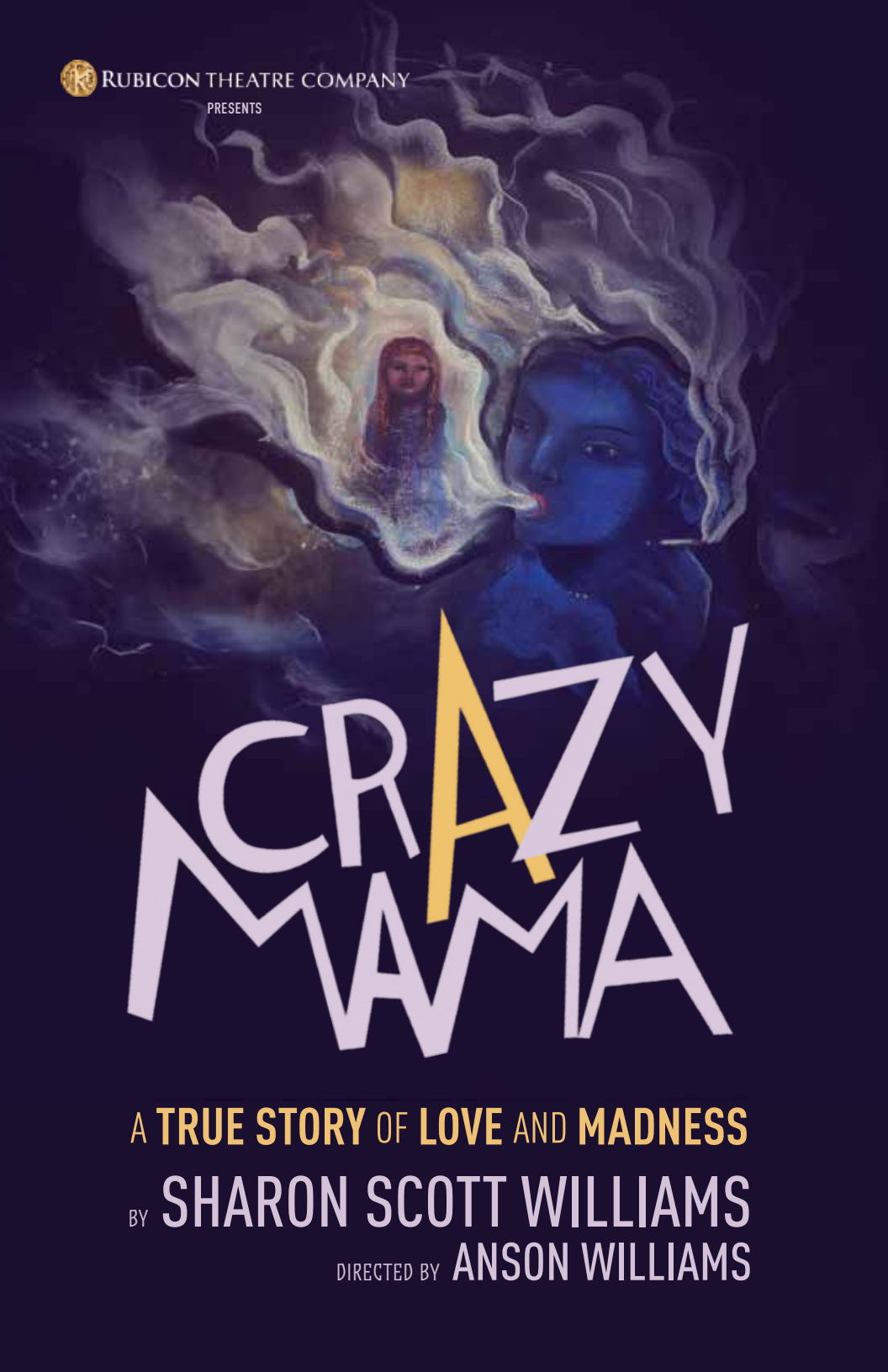
† Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

"Crazy Mama" Song by Sharon Scott Williams (Lyrics) and Tommy Holcomb (Music). Cover art by Abigail Cartright.

This production is supported in part through generous grants from The Ron and Cheryl Howard Family Foundation.

The World Premiere of ***Crazy Mama: A True Story of Love and Madness*** was originally produced at Rubicon Theatre Company in Ventura, California March 26 - April 13, 2025. The production was supported in part by a Social Impact Theatre Grant from the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation.

For information about performance rights or touring, please contact Karyl Lynn Burns at (805) 407-7797 or klburns@rubicontheatre.org.


RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS
CRAZY MAMA
A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND MADNESS
BY SHARON SCOTT WILLIAMS
DIRECTED BY ANSON WILLIAMS

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

My hope is that the project that began as my own self-therapy can offer audiences a journey filled with laughter and tears that builds empathy and insight for those who suffer from mental illness and the people who love them.

– Sharon Scott Williams

LINDA PURL
(Sharon/All)



Broadway: ***Adventures of Tom Sawyer***, ***Getting and Spending***. Off Broadway: ***Mr. Toole***, ***The Baby Dance***, ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*** West End: ***The Year of Magical Thinking***. Over 70 productions nationally, including 6 seasons Williamstown Theatre Festival. UK tour: ***Catch Me If You Can***. Highlight: ***The Road to Mecca*** with Miss Julie Harris. Series regular: *Happy Days, Matlock, Homeland, The Office*, over 45 MOW's. Founder/Artistic Director California International Theatre Festival 2008-2014. Along with partner Patrick Duffy, co-founder Duffy's Dough (all net proceeds to food scarcity). Concert tours with MD Tedd Firth. Their new album: "From My Heart."

WILL HUSE
(The Blues Man)



Originally from Dallas, Will is a singer/songwriter now based in Los Angeles. He fronts the theatrical folk-pop band The Late Great Charlie Borski, whose music is available on all major streaming platforms. He also writes, records, and produces for other artists. Film credits include Jackie Boss in the Netflix film *Boxer*. In addition to creating this role at Rubicon Theatre, theater credits include Billy in ***Once*** (Laguna Playhouse/Chance Theater), Peter in ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (Performance Riverside), Jud in ***Oklahoma!***, Joly in ***Les Misérables*** (Casa Mañana), and Cliff in ***Sunset Boulevard*** (Musical Theatre West). "We should probably be making music together."

@thewillhuse
@thelategreatcharlieborski

SHARON SCOTT WILLIAMS
(Playwright)

Sharon is a native Virginian who studied English and Performing Arts at Roanoke College before beginning a distinguished advertising career. Rising to become the first female creative director at Young and Rubicam, she earned hundreds of national and international awards working on iconic global brands. Relocating to Ojai, California, in 2003, she turned her focus to writing. Her award-winning memoirs exploring her upbringing with a paranoid schizophrenic mother served as the inspiration for the world premiere of ***Crazy Mama: A True Story of Love and Madness***. She is the proud mother of daughter Lindsay MaHarry.

ANSON WILLIAMS
(Director)

Anson Williams is known for his iconic role on *Happy Days*, which earned him a Golden Globe nomination. Over the past three decades, he has become an award-winning director, helming more than 300 hours of television, including *Star Trek*, Steven Spielberg's *SeaQuest, Beverly Hills 90210,*

Melrose Place, Charmed, Lizzie McGuire, and *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*. He also directed Christopher Walken in HBO's *All-American Murder* and won the Humanitas Award for writing *No Greater Gift*. Anson is honored to direct Sharon Scott Williams' ***Crazy Mama: A True Story of Love and Madness***.

BRIAN GALE

(Lighting and Projection Design)

Brian previously designed Rubicon productions of ***Twilight: Los Angeles*** and ***Lonesome Traveler***. Other Southern California designs have been seen at Lewis Family Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Rogue Machine, The Matrix Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, and The El Portal in Hollywood. Brian designed ***Waiting for Godot***, ***The Lieutenant of Inishmore***, and ***Harps and Angels*** at the Mark Taper Forum and LA Opera's complete ***The Ring Cycle***. He has also designed lighting for ***Carrie: The Musical***, ***God of Carnage***, and ***Waitress*** at La Mirada Theatre. Brian spent 24 years with the Walt Disney Company designing theme parks, shows, and special events worldwide.

LINDSAY JONES

(Original Music and Sound Design)

Lindsay has designed over 800 shows on Broadway, Off Broadway, and in theaters around the world. He has received 2 Tony Award nominations, 7 Jeff Awards, 3 Ovation Awards and many more for his work in theater. He has composed music for over 40 films, including the Oscar-winning *A Note of Triumph* for HBO Films. He has received a Webby Award (2 nominations), an Ambie Award, and 3 Signal Awards for his work in podcasts for Disney, Marvel, Audible, and Next Chapter Podcasts. He is the co-chair of Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association (TSDCA).

www.lindsayjones.com

ALEXANDREA HESS RODRIGUEZ

(Production Stage Manager)

Alexandrea is a multi-faceted theater manager and designer. She was previously company manager at Miami New Drama and theatre manager for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center (Miami). Off Broadway: ***Pen Pals*** (ASM), ***Not Ready for Prime Time*** (ASM), ***This is Not a Drill*** (CM). Regional: ***My Lord, What A Night*** (PSM, New York), ***The Walls Have Ears*** (GM, Miami), ***Not Ready for Prime Time*** (PSM, Miami), ***Cymbeline*** (Prop Artisan, Illinois), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Prop Artisan, Arkansas). Alexandrea is forever grateful to her parents, siblings, cats, and her forever love.

JONATHAN DRAHOS

(Rubicon Artistic Director)

Jonathan joined Rubicon this summer following a 30-year career as an actor, director, dramaturg, and educator. NY credits include ***Scapin*** (with Bill Irwin) at the Roundabout Theatre, ***Twelfth Night*** at The Public, ***A Doll's House*** directed by Zelda Fichandler; and regional productions at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Pasadena Playhouse, and others. He holds a PhD from the Shakespeare Institute - University of Birmingham. Jonathan spent the last decade as full professor and the Director of Theatre at the University of North Carolina where he produced and directed over 30 plays. In 2025, he received the national University Resident Theatre (URTA) teaching award.

KARYL LYNN BURNS

(Rubicon Artistic Director Emeritus)

Karyl Lynn co-founded Rubicon in 1998 and has overseen more than 175 productions for the company, including world premieres of ***23.5 Hours*** by Carey Crim (with Bay Street and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), ***Daddy Long Legs*** by John Caird and Paul Gordon, ***The Best is Yet to Come*** by David Zippel (NY Drama Desk Award), ***Lonesome Traveler*** by James O'Neil (Drama Desk

nomination); ***My Antonia*** adapted by Scott Schwartz, music by Steven Schwartz; ***It's Only Life*** by John Bucchino directed by Daisy Prince, and ***Hello! My Baby*** by Cheri Steinkellner. She partnered with Daryl Roth on the Off Broadway production of ***Wiesenthal*** by Tom Dugan, directed by Jenny Sullivan.

STEPHANIE A. COLTRIN-BEYRIES
(Producer/Associate Artistic Director)

Stephanie is an award-winning producer and director with over 200 productions to her credit. Rubicon credits include ***Buyer and Cellar***, ***Taking Sides***, ***Moonlight and Magnolias***, and the Ovation-recommended production of ***The Last Five Years***. Stephanie was formerly the artistic director of CLO of South Bay Cities and the Hermosa Beach Playhouse, helming a 10-show season at both venues, and directing ***Miss Saigon*** (Ovation winner for Best Musical, Director nomination), ***Seussical the Musical*** (Broadway World Award for Best Director), ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (Stage Scene LA Award, Director) and others. She is also co-artistic director for Shakespeare by the Sea.

www.stephaniecoltrin.com

CHRISTOPHER BEYRIES
(Production Manager)

Before joining the company, Chris designed sets for Rubicon productions of ***Taking Sides***, ***Moonlight and Magnolias***, and ***A Tuna Christmas***. Other favorite designs include ***And the Stones Will Cry Out***; ***Henry IV, Part I***; ***Taking Sides***, ***Hedda Gabler***, ***The Weir***, and ***The Light in the Piazza***. Chris previously served as technical director and resident scenic designer for Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities and Hermosa Beach Playhouse. His work has been seen coast to coast and in Mexico, Europe, and Japan, for clients including NBC, Princess Cruises, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Opera San Jose.

JIMMY CALLAHAN
(Technical Director)

Jimmy began as technical director for Rubicon after working backstage on ***The Realistic Joneses***, which was a part of the Dublin Festival (*Irish Times* Award) after playing at Rubicon. Other favorite Rubicon productions include the world premiere of ***Dark of the Moon: The Musical***, ***The World Goes 'Round***, and ***"A" Train***. He was also part of the Rubicon production of ***Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*** and traveled with the show to Santa Barbara and Olney Theater Center in Maryland.

SERYOZHA LA PORTE
(Associate Producer, Advocacy)

Seryozha contributes to Rubicon Theatre Company behind the scenes and onstage, working across finance, development, multimedia, and education, where he has helped expand programming and grow enrollment. For the world premiere of ***Crazy Mama***, he convened and moderated its original panels of mental health experts, drawing on his BSc in Psychology from California Lutheran University. A PCPA-trained actor, Seryozha has appeared in several Rubicon productions, his favorite being ***Fuddy Meers***, in which he played Kenny opposite Precious Chong. Onscreen, he performs as Sasha La Porte. His mission is to help people rediscover their imaginations.

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

Rubicon Theatre Company was founded in 1998 as an actors' and directors' company committed to creating a nurturing environment for artists where exploration and experimentation are encouraged and supported. In the company's intimate 180-seat home in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District, Rubicon has played to more than 550,000 audience members and reached more than 55,000 students. True to the Company's name and the vision of founders Karyl Lynn Burns and James O'Neil, the company is known for innovation, approaching classics with a fresh eye, and treating new works with a reverence often reserved for classics. Rubicon has been the recipient of a special award for Sustained Excellence from the LA Drama Critics Circle and has received multiple Drama Desk Awards. The company has also been honored to receive Ovation, Indy, Rep, and NAACP Awards. Many luminaries have graced the Rubicon stage, including Tony, Obie, Olivier, Ariel, and Dora Award winners. These artists work in concert with Rubicon company members, regional and local professionals, and aspiring young artists from Rubicon's education and outreach programs. Rubicon is governed by a Board of Directors led by President Doug Halter and Honorary Chair Rosa Lee Measures, and supported by an Industry Council, a Board of Advisors, and a volunteer auxiliary.

www.rubicontheatre.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ SPECIAL THANKS

Original Set Designer Matthew Herman, Original Costume Designer Abra Pilar Flores, Original Production Stage Manager Hannah Raymond. Production Team Members: Mike Butler, Stewart Forgey, Ben Hament, Joe Lopez, Gabi Baltzell, Cody Richardson, Zo Haynes, D.J. Medina, Danny Fiandaca, Julia Donlon. David Elzer of DeMAND PR. Rubicon Board Members: Doug Halter, Board President; Rosa Lee Measures, Honorary Chair; Jeanne P. Adams, Vice President; Stephanie Zierhut, Treasurer. Members-at-Large: Moustapha Abousamra, M.D.; Claire Bowman; Abra Pilar Flores; Jeffrey S. Grove; Michael Jackowitz; Matt D. Marquis; Tom Parker; Richard A. Reisman, M.D.; Scott Rushing; David Simpson; Douglas G. (Gil) Webber. Attorney Robert Berger. Shelly Braun, Susan Van Abel and the Rubicon Board of Advisors and Jewel Club. Rubicon Additional Administrative Staff: Steve Braun, Diane Frantela, Vanessa Navarro, Tessa Neeley, Perla Medina Ponti, Ellen White. Artistic Associates/Company Members: George Ball, Katharine Farmer, Joseph Fuqua, Thomas S. Giamario, Amanda McBroom, Joe Spano, Jenny Sullivan. Consultants: Sandy Aichner, Loren Haar - Lore Photography, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Israel Gallindo, Mance Creative of San Diego, Holly Lapp, J. Scott Lapp, Spencer Zetterberg. 2025 Season Major Sponsors: Dr. Jeanne P. Adams, Stacey and John Birchfield, Mary Ann Cohen, Barbara Meister, Willette and Manny Klausner, Jordan Laby and Family, Theatre League - Kansas City. Joe Brancato and Andrew M. Horn at Penguin Rep Theatre. Elizabeth Kleinhans, Val Day, Brian Beirne, and the entire staff of 59E59 Theatres.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

New York City Metro

FIND HELP. FIND HOPE. FIND NAMI-NYC

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call, text, or chat 988 to connect to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (available 24/7/365). You are not alone.

For over 40 years, the **National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City (NAMI-NYC)** has provided free support, education, and advocacy to individuals and families affected by mental illness.

NAMI-NYC offers 30+ free support groups, classes, family mentoring, and education presentations, as well as a multilingual Helpline. Our programs are designed for both individuals living with mental health challenges and those supporting loved ones, including support groups like Family & Friends, Sibling and Adult Child, Living with Thoughts of Suicide, Supporting Loved Ones with Suicidal Thoughts, and Suicide Loss Survivors.

All services are free regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status and are led by trained peers with lived experience.

If you are looking for support and community, **call or text the non-emergency NAMI-NYC Helpline at 212-684-3264, Monday through Friday, 10AM-5PM**. Learn more: www.naminyc.org/helpline.

NAMI-NYC offers virtual programs open to individuals across the country and can connect you with local NAMI affiliates nationwide.

RESOURCES

998 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:
988lifeline.org

NAMI-NYC:
naminyc.org

NAMI-NYC Support Groups:
naminyc.org/support-groups/

NAMI-NYC Classes:
naminyc.org/classes/

NAMI-NYC Family Match:
naminyc.org/family-match-program/

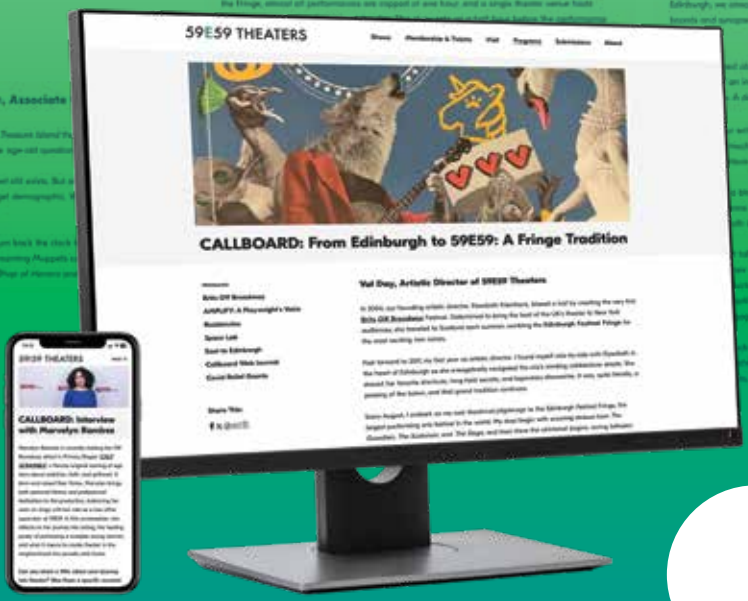
NAMI National:
www.nami.org

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:
www.afsp.org

The JED Foundation:
www.jedfoundation.org

Mental Health America:
www.mhanational.org

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.

Scan the QR code or visit
www.59E59.org/programs/callboard

CURATOR'S NOTE



Welcome back to Rubicon Theatre, whose last production here was ***Lonesome Traveler*** in 2015, earning two Drama Desk Award nominations and an Outer Critics Circle Award nomination.

This time, they've teamed up with one of the kindest and most talented women I've ever met. In March 2020, Linda Purl graced this very stage as Thelma Toole in ***Mr. Toole***, and I immediately added her to the short list of performers I'd show up for—even if she were only reading the phone book. Fortunately, this is exactly the kind of story that lets her do what she does best.

What drew me to ***Crazy Mama*** is the way it finds humor and compassion in places where they aren't always easy to see. This story reminded me that just a bit of courage can go a long way in helping us truly see one another.

Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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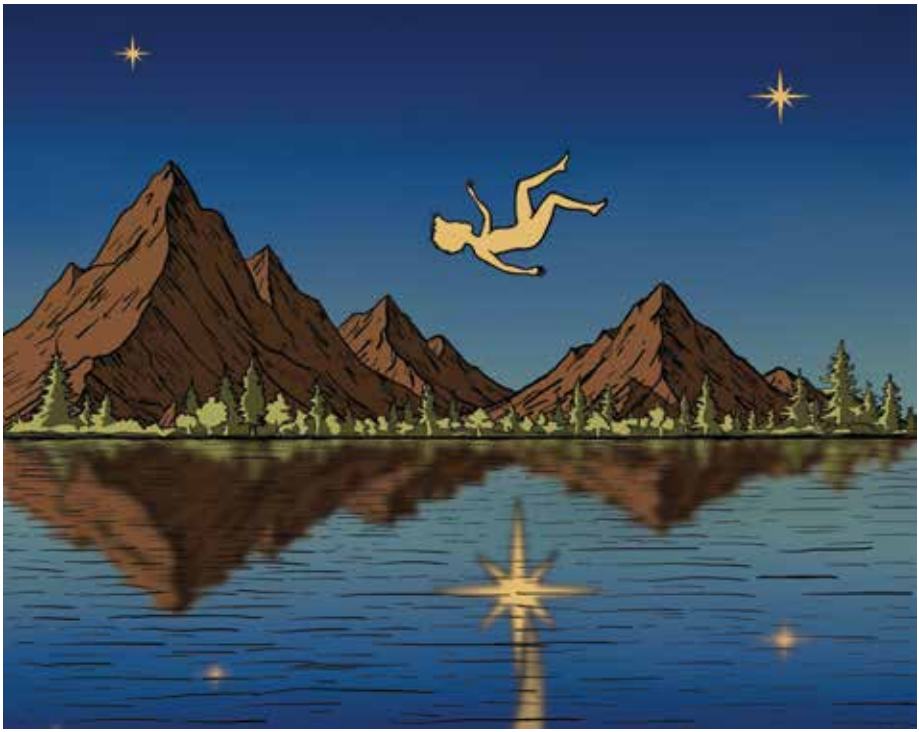
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STARSTUFF



Created by No.11 Productions Directed by Ryan Emmons

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.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.