PRIMARY STAGES
AT 59E59 THEATERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ERIN DALEY

FOUNDER
CASEY CHILDS

AND

LUCILLE LORTEL
THEATRE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
JAN McADOO

PRESENTS

FANTASMA

BY

BENJAMIN BENNE

DIRECTED BY

LAURIE WOOLERY

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PRIMARY STAGES
AT 59E59 THEATERS

WELCOME TO THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *FANTASMA* BY BENJAMIN BENNE!

I've followed Ben's work since my earliest days at Primary Stages, when I was Artistic Associate under Andrew Leynse. I wasn't yet part of season programming conversations; my job was to find exciting new voices for the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group, our developmental home for some of the promising new playwrights. Even nine years ago, Ben's plays stopped me in my tracks: moving, impressionistic, and deeply human. I jumped at the chance to bring him into the group, and I'm thrilled now to bring ***Fantasma*** to the stage and introduce Ben to New York audiences with his Off-Broadway debut.

Fantasma is the story of one Guatemalan American family, but its scope is universal. All of us have stories about how our families got here: what pulled or pushed them from home, what they carried with them, and what they left behind. We pass down recipes, name children after great-grandparents they'll never meet, and hold on to habits and attitudes rooted in places and times we've never visited.

History lives on in our families, and in turn, family is the window through which we understand the world. We can watch the news, but it only truly comes alive when it reaches the people we love, when it changes who sits at our table or what's on it. Around the kitchen table, politics, economics, and faith stop being abstractions. A global recession shows up as an uncle who's out of work. Class shows up in which cousin goes away for spring break and which one stays home. Whether and how we bless our food speaks not only to what we believe today, but to what our parents believed, and their parents before them, and the worlds they grew up in.

And yet, for all that's passed down, our elders carry memories they've never shared, hardships they've never named, and lives they lived long before we arrived. Fantasma means "ghost" in Spanish, and Ben's play asks us to consider the people and histories that shape us even when we can't see them, and what fades away with their memory. It's a tender and heartbreaking kind of haunting.

As the days grow shorter and we gather for the holidays, I hope you'll have the chance to look around your own table and recognize the ghosts there too. Every family has them.



ERIN DALEY
Artistic Director,
Primary Stages

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
EXPLORE THE PRIMARY STAGES
STUDY GUIDE FOR ***FANTASMA***!


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FANTASMA

BY

BENJAMIN BENNE

DIRECTED BY

LAURIE WOOLERY

— CAST —

Carmen ..... ZABRYNA GUEVARA
Rosie ..... ALMA MARTINEZ
Celeste ..... CAMILA MORENO
Lizzy ..... ELIZABETH RAMOS
Patty ..... NANCY RODRIGUEZ
Ramona ..... ADRIANA SEVAN

Production Stage Manager ..... JANELLE CASO
Assistant Stage Manager ..... EMMA BATTLE

Scenic Design ..... EFREN DELGADILLO JR.
Costume Design ..... HAYDEE ZELIDETH
Lighting Design ..... MEXTLY COUZIN
Original Music and Sound Design ..... DANIELA HART, NOEL NICHOLS
BAILEY TRIERWEILER & UPTOWNWORKS
Props Supervisor ..... THOMAS JENKELEIT
Dialect Coach ..... ELISA GONZALES
Spanish Translations ..... CAT RODRÍGUEZ
Cultural Consultant ..... ALBA QUEZADA

Production Manager ..... WILL DUTY

Casting ..... THE TELSEY OFFICE
KARYN CASL, CSA, CHARLIE CANO, CSA

General Press Representative ..... PRINT SHOP PR

Associate Scenic Designer ..... GRETCHEN UGALDE
Associate Costume Designer ..... DANTE GONZALEZ
Assistant Lighting Designers ..... HAYLEY GARCIA PARNELL,
SAM TERRELL
Associate Director ..... ANTONIA CRUZ-KENT
Assistant Production Manager ..... CORY ASINOFSKY
Production Electricians ..... JOHN ANSELMO, MACK WOODS
Production Audio ... HAYDEN BEARDEN, FIVE OHM PRODUCTIONS
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Development and Communications Coordinator ..... **SOFIA VILCHES**

— LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE —

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Artistic Director of New Musical Development ..... **MICHAEL HEITZMAN**
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Marketing and Administrative Associate ..... **RASCHER ALCASID**
Digital Designer ..... **JOHN HAYEK**
Press/Marketing ..... **EVERYMAN AGENCY**

Setting: Orange County, CA. Christmas Eve.

Run Time: 90 minutes with no intermission

Developed in collaboration with Cat Rodríguez with Spanish translations by Cat Rodríguez.

Fantasma was developed at the Primary Stages Liff Lab, a new play development program named by The Sulzberger Rolfe Foundation in memory of legendary theater agent Samuel "Biff" Liff.

Fantasma was originally commissioned by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation. Developed in The Playwrights' Center's 40th Anniversary PlayLabs (Artistic Director: Jeremy Cohen), Duke University's New Works Labs Residency, and The Public NYC. Additional dramaturgical contributions by Andy Knight, Sarah Lunnie, and Wendy Weckwerth.

Lead support for ***Fantasma*** is provided by Paula Kaminsky Davis and The Andrew Leynse Legacy Project at Primary Stages.

Major season support provided by The Howard Gilman Foundation, the A.R. Gurney Playwrights Fund, The SHS Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

BENJAMIN BENNE

(Playwright)



Benjamin Benne was named part of "LA Vanguardia: The Latino innovators, instigators, and power players breaking through barriers" by the Los Angeles Times. His produced plays include ***Alma*** (Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theatre, American Blues Theater, ArtsWest Playhouse, Curious Theatre Company, Central Square Theater, The Spot, Chance Theater, Passage Theatre Company), ***In His Hands*** (Mosaic Theater Company, First Floor Theater), ***Manning*** (Portland Stage, Crowded Fire), ***Wave After Wave*** (Actors Theatre of Louisville), and ***What / Washed Ashore / Astray*** (Pillsbury House Theatre). The World Premiere of ***at the very bottom of a body of water*** (LA New Play Project Award Winner) is running at Boston Court Pasadena, Oct 22-Nov 29, 2026. Additionally, his work has been developed by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference, Great Plains Theatre Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Public, Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, The New Group, Playwrights Realm, South Coast Repertory, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Colorado New Play Festival, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, The Old Globe, Two River Theater, and The Playwrights' Center, among many others. He has been awarded Ojai Playwrights Conference's Dr. Kerry English Award, Portland Stage's Clauder Competition Grand Prize, American Blues Theater's Blue Ink Playwriting Award, Arizona Theatre Company's National Latinx Playwriting Award, and KCACTF Latinx Playwriting Award, among others. He is a 2026 Page 73 Writers Group member and an alum of the Primary Stages Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group. MFA: David Geffen/Yale School of Drama.

www.benjaminbenne.com

LAURIE WOOLERY

(Director)



Laurie Woolery is an OBIE Award-winning director, playwright, cultural organizer, and citizen artist who works at the intersection of theater and civic engagement. She works in theaters nationally and internationally such as The Public Theater, National Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory, Denver Center, Weiwuying National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts/Taiwan, Trinity Repertory, Goodman Theatre, and South Coast Repertory. Selected projects include the world premiere of Mary Kathryn Nagle's ***Manahatta*** at The Public, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Yale Repertory Theater; ***Somewhere*** by Matthew Lopez at Denver Center; ***Come From Away*** at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Laurie has a long history of working on new plays with notable playwrights like Tanya Saracho, Charise Castro Smith, Marisela Trevino Orta, Aditi Brennan Kapil, Vauhini Vara, Maria Irene Fornes, Julia Cho, Eliana Pipes, KJ Sanchez, etc. Her musical adaptation of ***As You Like It*** co-created with Shaina Taub and ***The Tempest*** with Benjamin Velez received world premieres at the Delacorte Theater. For over a decade, Laurie served as Director of Public Works at The Public Theater, a program that seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators. Laurie is the former Associate Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company and Conservatory Director at South Coast Repertory. Laurie is founding member of The Sol Project, 2020 United States Artist recipient, 2021 Americans for the Arts Johnson Fellow, Yale's 2021 Beineke Fellow, and was named Person of the Year at the 2022 National Theatre Conference.

ZABRYNA GUEVARA
(Carmen)



Zabryna Guevara, a NY native, most recently originated the role of Julissa Reynoso in the Joseph Papp Public Theater's world premiere of ***Public Charge***. Other Off Broadway shows include ***My Broken Language***, Pulitzer Prize-winning ***Water by the Spoonful***, ***Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue***, ***The Cook***, ***Chimichangas & Zoloft***, ***Sonia Flew***, ***El Paso Blue***, ***Santa Concepción***, ***Tight Embrace***, ***Now and Then***, and ***Bulrusher***. Most recently on television, she stars in the hit show *Daredevil: Born Again*, *Happy Face* alongside Dennis Quaid, *The Hunting Party*, *Emergence*, and *New Amsterdam*.

ALMA MARTINEZ
(Rosie)



Broadway: ***In the Summer House*** (Vivian Beaumont). Off Broadway: ***Green Card*** (Joyce). World premieres: ***Zoot Suit*** (Aquarius Theatre); ***Green Card***, ***Bocón*** (CTG/Taper); ***Just Like Us*** (Denver Center), ***Mummified Deer*** (San Diego Rep), ***Electricidad*** (Borderlands Theatre). Regional: ***Mojada: A Medea in LA*** (Yale Rep, CT Critics Circle Award), Oregon Shakes, Santa Cruz Shakes, Berkeley Rep, South Coast Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, St. Louis Rep. TV: *Bosch: Legacy*, *The Bridge*, *Gentefied*. Film: *Zoot Suit*, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Cake*. PhD, Stanford; MFA, USC; C.U.T./UNAM.

www.IMDb.me/almamartinez

CAMILA MORENO
(Celeste)



Camila Moreno was a series regular in Ava DuVernay's CW series *Naomi*. Her stage credits include the title role in ***Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*** at Yale Rep and ***Mother of Exiles*** at Berkeley Rep. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Camila studied Drama at the University of Puerto Rico before earning her MFA from NYU Grad Acting. She divides her time between New York and Puerto Rico.

ELIZABETH RAMOS
(Lizzy)



Off Broadway: Second Stage Theatre, New Light Theater Project, Primary Stages, Sheen Center, Classic Stage Company, Cherry Lane Theatre, INTAR, Tribeca PAC. Regional: IAMA, DCPA, O'Neill Center, Dallas Theatre Center, Long Wharf Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, Two River Theatre, Gulfshore Playhouse, TheatreWorks Hartford. TV/Film: *Poker Face*, *The Beauty*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Chicago Med*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Daily Show*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Recently, Elizabeth played the role of Yari in *The Knock Shadow*, a psychological thriller short film featuring Lea DeLaria and Kevin Kilner, which had its World Premiere at the SOHO International Film Festival. BFA: CSU Fullerton; Actors Theatre of Louisville.

NANCY RODRIGUEZ
(Patty)



Broadway: ***The Great Society***, ***Cymbeline***. Off Broadway: Public Theater, Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, INTAR, Irondale Ensemble. Regional: 10 seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 5 seasons with American Players Theater, Guthrie Theater, Two River Theater, Shakespeare Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Studio Theatre. Film: *Detachment*, *Indigo*, *Cricket Head*. TV: *The Diplomat*, *FBI: Most Wanted*, *Blacklist*, *Blue Bloods*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *SVU*, *Mercy*, *One Life to Live*. Awards: HOLA Award for Outstanding Ensemble.

ADRIANA SEVAN

(Ramona)



Credits include The Public, Yale Repertory, Goodman, Lincoln Center, INTAR, CSC, Denver Center, South Coast Repertory, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Boston Court. TV/Film: *Grey's Anatomy, 9-1-1, Sex and the City, Law & Order, Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Namaslay, Loco, Harvest.* Her solo show ***Taking Flight*** and plays have been developed or produced at CTG's Kirk Douglas Theatre, Goodman, SD Rep, Sundance, The Lark, Golden Thread, Silk Road, and published by Samuel French and multiple anthologies. For my ancestors.

EFREN DELGADILLO JR.

(Scenic Designer)

Efren Delgadillo Jr. is a Mexican-American scenic designer born and raised in East Los Angeles whose work spans regional theaters and experimental stages nationwide. He is the recipient of two Henry Awards for ***In The Upper Room*** and ***Quixote Nuevo*** at the Denver Center, an LA Weekly Award for Production and Lighting Design, and has received Ovation and Barrymore Award nominations for ***Bordertown Now***, ***Bienvenidos Blancos***, and ***Mushroom***.

HAYDEE ZELIDETH

(Costume Designer)

Haydee Zelideth is an NYC-based costume designer and storyteller whose work explores identity, image, and narrative through clothing. A Chicana artist raised on both sides of the US-Mexico border, her work examines how clothing and appearance shape the way we are seen and understood in terms of race, class, gender, and culture. A 2024 Obie Award winner, Haydee has designed for Boston Lyric Opera, The Old Globe, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, MCC Theater, and many others.

MEXTLY COUZIN

(Lighting Designer)

Credits include Broadway: ***JOB***. Off Broadway: ***The Potluck***, ***Henry 6***, ***MEXODUS***, ***Indian Princesses***, ***BIGFOOT!***, ***Rheology***, ***N/A***, ***Fiasco Theatre's Pericles***, ***A Good Day to Me Not to You***, ***Here We Are (ALD)***, ***Straight Line Crazy***, ***peerless***, ***Tambo & Bones***. Regional: Arena Stage, Alley Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, Seattle Opera, Woolly Mammoth, Centro de Bellas Artes Puerto Rico. International: Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Nuits de Fourvière. MXD Lighting Co-Founder. 2023 recipient of The 1/52 Project grant. MFA: UC San Diego '20.

www.mextlycouzin.com

UPTOWNWORKS

(Original Music and Sound Designer)

UptownWorks is a collaborative design team specializing in theater, film, podcasts, installations and other media. UptownWorks has worked with LCT3, Primary Stages, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe, Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Roundhouse Theatre, Goodman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, NYTW, The Lortel, DCPA, Miami New Drama, Hartford Stage, Baltimore Center Stage, Syracuse Stage, and National Black Theatre. This design was led by Daniela Hart (uptownworksnyc.com), Noel Nichols (noelnicholsdesign.com) and Bailey Trierweiler (btsounddesign.com).

THOMAS JENKELEIT

(Props Supervisor; they/he)

Thomas Jenkeleit is a prop and scenic designer from Queens, New York, devoted to creating new, reimagined, and thought-provoking work. Recent: ***Laowang*** (Primary Stages, 59E59); ***SUMO***, ***Jesa***, ***Henry VI*** (The Public); ***The Potluck***, ***The Fires***, ***Give Me Carmelita Tropicana!***, ***Watch Me Walk*** (Soho Rep); Geoff Sobelle's ***Clown Show*** (Edinburgh International Festival, PS21); Sarah Jones' ***America Who Hurt***

You? (TFANA, NBT); ***Cat Cohen: Broad Strokes*** (Lucille Lortel); ***Derangements, The Family Dog*** (Clubbed Thumb).

www.jenkeleit.com

JANELLE CASO

(Production Stage Manager)

HVS: ***Les Misérables, King Lear, The Matchmaker, Comedy of Errors, Octet, Medea: Re-Versed, By the Queen, Mr. Burns, Romeo & Juliet, Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington, The Tempest, Into the Woods, Cyrano***. The Public Theater: ***Initiative, Manahatta, PW The Tempest, ShadowLand, Plays for the Plague Year, Cullud Wattah, The Line, Romeo y Julieta, Coal Country, Wild Goose Dreams, MU The Tempest, Mlima's Tale, Oedipus El Rey***. Broadway: ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Noises Off***. Regional: ***Frost/Nixon, Fiddler on the Roof, Gypsy, Hamlet, Othello***. Columbia University MFA in Stage Management. Para Maria!

EMMA BATTLE

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Emma Battle is thrilled to be a part of ***Fantasma***, her first production with Primary Stages! Broadway: ***Wicked, Stranger Things: The First Shadow, Other Desert Cities***. Off Broadway: ***Initiative*** (The Public Theater), ***A Hundred Circling Camps*** (Atlantic Theater Company), ***The Wind and The Rain*** (En Garde Arts & Vineyard Theatre). Regional: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Walnut Street Theater, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Chautauqua Theater Company. Education: BA Bucknell University, Juilliard Professional Stage Management Program.

THE TELSEY OFFICE

(Casting)

With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy.

Please visit our website for our credits.

www.thetelseyoffice.com

ELISA GONZALES

(Dialect Coach)

Broadway: ***Real Women Have Curves: The Musical*** (including world-premiere at American Repertory Theater). Select regional: ***Destiny of Desire*** (Mark Taper Forum, DCPA); ***Henry IV Part One, You're Cordially Invited to the End of the World!, Coriolanus*** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); ***Sueño, Anna in the Tropics, Wolf at the Door, Mala*** (American Players Theatre); ***Coriolanus*** (Portland Center Stage); ***Twelfth Night*** (St. Louis Shakespeare Festival).

www.elisagonzales.com

ANTONIA CRUZ-KENT

(Associate Director, she/her)

Antonia Cruz-Kent is a Nuyorican-Jewish director, playwright, and dramaturg. She holds an MFA in playwriting from Columbia University and a BFA in acting from CalArts. Antonia's plays have been produced with INTAR, Pregones/PRTT & Harlem9, and Columbia University. She was artistically nurtured by La Lengua Theater, the Latinx Playwrights Circle, Primary Stages, and IATI Theater. She wrote her first play at age 4. It involved a grocery store parking lot, murder, and a tenacious stuffed animal. Thank you to Laurie and the whole ***Fantasma*** team!

JAN McADOO

Starting with the 2012 production of ***End of the Rainbow***, Jan McAdoo has supported a variety of theater projects including ***Spain***, ***The Roommate***, ***Buena Vista Social Club***, and ***Amerikin***. In 2026, she added ***The Lost Boys*** and is now looking forward to celebrating the opening of ***Fantasma***!

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PRIMARY STAGES



Amerikin by Chisa Hutchinson



CALF SCRAMBLE by Libby Carr



The Light and The Dark
by Kate Hamill

Primary Stages is a nonprofit theater company that operates on the strongly held belief that the future of American theater relies on nurturing playwrights and giving them the artistic support needed to create new work. Since our founding in 1984, we have produced more than 150 new plays. Our productions and artists have received critical acclaim, including numerous Tony, Obie, Lortel, Off Broadway Alliance, AUDELCO, Outer Critics' Circle, Drama League, and Drama Desk awards and nominations. Primary Stages supports playwrights and develops new works through commissions, workshops, readings, and our education and engagement programs: **the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group**, **Marvin and Anne Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA)**, **Creative Access Grants**, **Liff Lab**, our **Free Student Matinee Program**, and the **Primary Stages Off Broadway Oral History Project**. Through these programs, Primary Stages advocates for our artists, helping them make important—and often transformative—connections within the theater community.

Primary Stages is proud to be the Resident Off Broadway Theater Company at 59E59 Theaters. This year, we're thrilled to bring you three world premiere plays: ***Fantasma*** by Benjamin Benne, ***Baby Shower Katie*** by Beth Hyland, and ***Aasif Mandvi: A Work in Progress***, the inaugural project for our new Studio Series. There's nothing quite like being in the room when a new play meets its first audience. Primary Stages is proud to be the launching pad for these three adventurous works, and we can't wait for you to discover them with us.

Together, we are building the future of American theater, one play at a time.

Learn more at **www.primarystages.org**

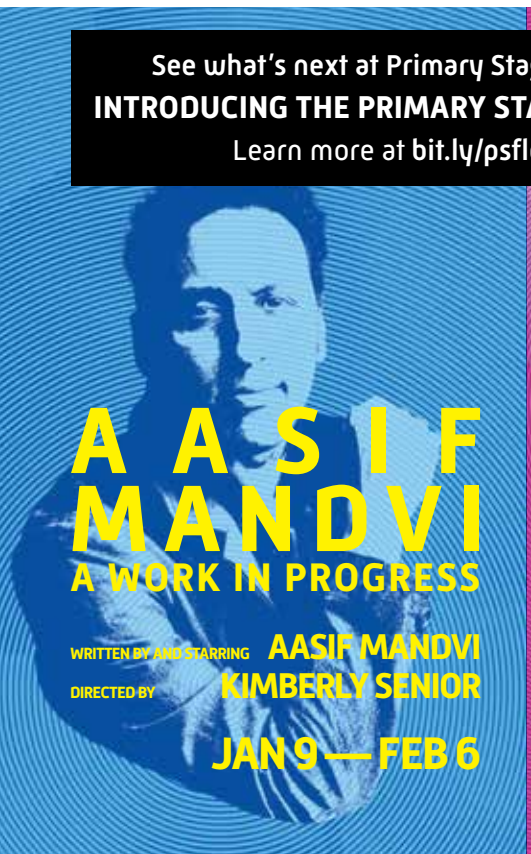
ERIN DALEY
(Artistic Director)

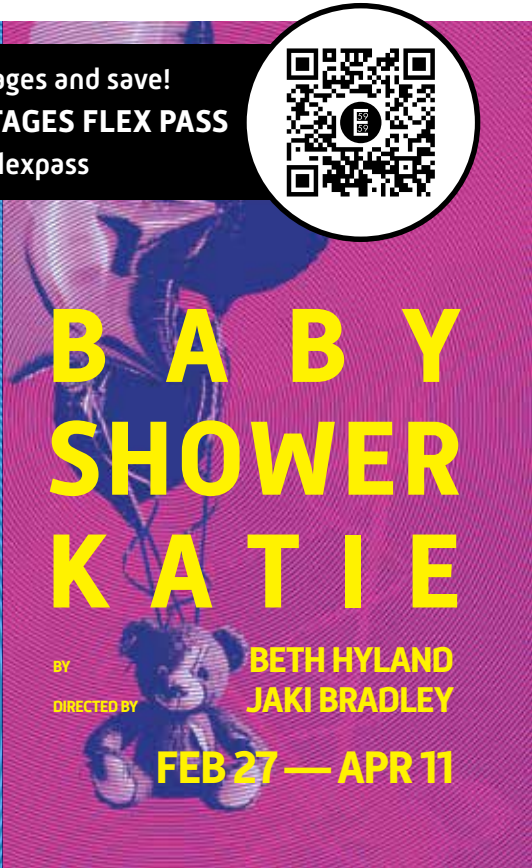
Erin Daley first joined Primary Stages in 2016, rising to her current role in 2024. Previously she was Company Manager at The Flea, where she worked on ***The Mysteries*** (featuring the work of over 50 playwrights), ***Wolf in the River*** by Adam Rapp, ***the place we built*** by Sarah Gancher, and many others. Prior to New York, she was an Allen Lee Hughes Producing Fellow at Arena Stage, and cut her teeth in film/commercial production at La Banda Films. She is a proud graduate of Skidmore College and a Massachusetts native.

CASEY CHILDS
(Founder)

Casey Childs founded Primary Stages in 1984 and has directed many productions for the company. He served as the Artistic Program Director for the New Dramatists from 1981-1985 and was the recipient of the Carnegie Mellon Commitment to New Playwrights Award, as well as two Emmy Awards and many nominations for his extensive work in television. He is a past Vice President of the Directors' Guild of America and a past trustee of The National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. Casey has a BFA in acting and an MFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University.

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ERIN DALEY ..... Artistic Director
CASEY CHILDS ..... Founder
ANDREW LEYNSE ..... Artistic Director, *in memoriam*

ZUHDI BOUERI ..... Artistic Associate
SUE BREGER ..... Free Student Matinee Program Founder
DEAN A. CARPENTER ..... General Manager
WILL DUTY ..... Production Manager
DAVID L. GOLDSMITH ..... IT Manager
SOPHIA JACOVITZ ..... Development & Communications Intern
SARAH MATTEUCCI ..... Director of Communications and Public Engagement
CLAUDIA McCOY ..... Company Manager
LUCY McMICHAEL ..... Associate to the Artistic Director
ROWAN McSTAY ..... Development Manager
SALLY PLASS ..... Off-Broadway Oral History Project Director
ERICA RAVEN-SCORZA ..... Director of Development
BRI NG SCHWARTZ ..... Education and Community Outreach Manager
TED STEPHENS III ..... Graphic Designer, The Numad Group
ALEX VALDEZ ..... Communications Manager
SOFIA VILCHES ..... Development and Communications Coordinator

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Mary Louise Rockwell Scholars ..... TIFFANY ESTEB, MANDY MA, BLAIR POOLE, NANCY SUN, LIZZIE VIEH, MICHAEL VILLANE

Literary Team ..... VEDA KUMARJIGUDA, LUCY McMICHAEL

Accountants ..... WITHUMSMITH+BROWN, PC

Insurance ..... DeWITT STERN GROUP

SPECIAL THANKS

The Staff of 59E59 Theaters, Amrita Ramanan, Alba Quezada, Esperanza Rosales Balcárcel, Latinx Playwrights Circle, Eduardo Machado, Five Ohm Productions, Hillbolic Arts & Carpentry. Gratitude to the legacy of powerful women, both ancestors and living, who guided the artists of ***Fantasma*** through inception, design, rehearsal, and production. This is for you.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION 1913
The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

The Designers at this Theatre are Represented by United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes

OBL OFF-BROADWAY LEAGUE

NEW YORK THEATRES
Primary Stages is a member of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, the service organization for NYC's non-profit Off- and Off-Off-Broadway theatres.

SDC The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE

Lucille Lortel Theatre's mission is to foster both new and established artists, increase awareness and appreciation of Off-Broadway, and uphold fair and equitable business and artistic practices in service of creating a larger, more diverse community of theatre makers and audiences. The Company builds on the legacy of its founder, Lucille Lortel (1900–1999).

In addition to its Off Broadway theatre, which has been in continuous operation since 1955, the Company is renovating a three-story carriage house in Chelsea that will act as the Company's new headquarters and a new studio theatre committed to the development of new works. The Lortel's programs include The Alcove at the Lortel, a commissioning and development program for early and mid-career playwrights; the 121 Project, a tailored development program for new musicals; NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, Fellowships in NYC Theatre at Bennington College, the New York Emmy-Winning *Dangerous Acts: A Series Uplifting Black Writers from Our Past* (in partnership with HBCUs), Lucille Lortel Awards and Playwrights' Sidewalk, and Non-Profit Theatre Strategic and Management Services.

www.lortel.org

CARIDAD SVICH

Caridad Svich is an Obie and Guggenheim Fellowship awarded playwright, and the Artistic Director of New Play Development at The Lucille Lortel Theatre. Feature film: *Fugitive Dreams* on Apple TV. Forthcoming: *Shakespeare Refracted: Five Plays* by Caridad Svich (Methuen Drama, 2027).

MICHAEL HEITZMAN

Michael Heitzman is an acclaimed director/writer and Artistic Director of New Musical Development at The Lucille Lortel Theatre. He created the 121 Project, supporting creative development, commissions, and productions of new musicals at the Lortel and its new 18th Street venue, scheduled to open in fall 2027.

A NOTE FROM CARIDAD SVICH ON *FANTASMA*

The Lucille Lortel Theatre is proud to join Primary Stages as a co-producing partner in the world premiere of Benjamin Benne's ***Fantasma***. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to nurturing new voices and bringing vital new works to the Off-Broadway stage.

New plays need space and time to be seen by audiences, especially at a volatile time in the world. We look to writers to reflect the times back to us or to eerily point us to the future. Plays that celebrate the bonds of love among people, related by blood or not, hold a unique place during times of escalating polycrises because they remind us that faith and trust are possible in a disillusioned and floundering world. In Benjamin Benne's ***Fantasma***, family ties hold the key to mutual understanding across generations, as food is prepared and the legacy of a grandmother's recipe is carried on. What is learned by the characters in this play's kitchen - the hearth of the story - is a lesson in humility, grace and compassion.

As you witness this play on the stage, remind yourself of the lessons in faith that get you through another day, and how in making something together for the greater good of all, perhaps strength is found to confront the challenges of an ever-demanding and difficult society. A new play cannot change the world in and of itself, but it can open a window toward a different way of seeing. Let us be grateful for the light our writers offer amidst the darkness.

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* Includes gifts made to the 2026 Primary Stages Gala and Variety Show.

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CURATOR'S NOTE

Welcome back to Primary Stages! As our Resident Off Broadway Theater Company, Primary Stages has built a remarkable reputation for championing new voices and delivering exceptional productions. It's been exciting to watch the company evolve under Artistic Director Erin Daley, whose distinctive talent for nurturing the next generation of artistic voices has shaped its artistic identity.

When Erin speaks about ***Fantasma***, her enthusiasm is undeniable and it's clear she's found an unexpected family story to share with you.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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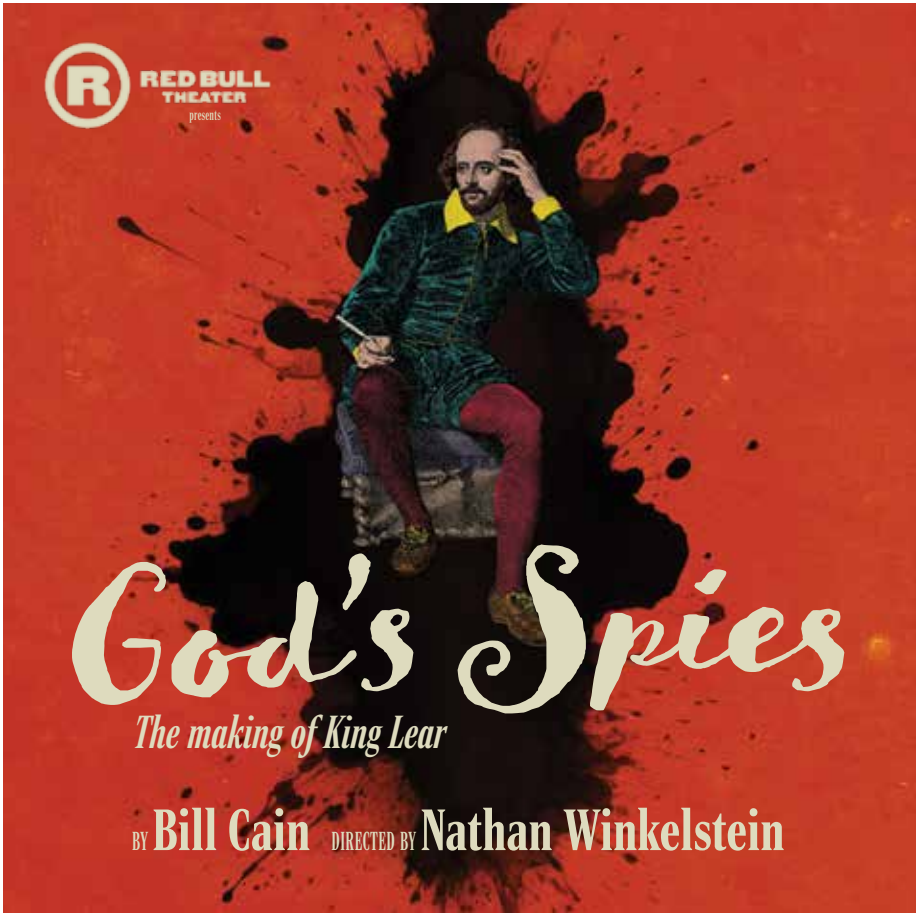
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