59E59 THEATERS

LAByrinth Theater Company

PRESENTS

LAB:STRIPPED

The Complicated

BY CUSI CRAM

DIRECTED BY DINA JANIS



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LAB:STRIPPED
The Complicated

BY **CUSI CRAM**
DIRECTED BY **DINA JANIS**[§]

— CAST —

Santiago ..... JASON MANUEL OLAZÁBAL [*]
Louise ..... ELIZABETH CANAVAN [*]
Manca ..... JACQUELINE GUILLÉN [*]
Pedro ..... GIL PEREZ-ABRAHAM JR. [*]

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright ..... CUSI CRAM
Director ..... DINA JANIS
LAB Producer ..... MADELINE BARR
Dramaturg ..... TAYLOR BARFIELD
Production Stage Manager ..... TRACI BARGEN [*]
Assistant Stage Manager ..... ROWEN MAHONEY
Production Assistant ..... NATASHA LANCASTER
Lighting Designer ..... KIA ROGERS
Costume Consultant ..... ALEXIS FORTE [†]
Set Designers ..... CHRISTOPHER [†] and JUSTIN SWADER [†]
Sound Designer ..... CAROLINE ENG

Run time: 90 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. Designers in LORT Theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

[§] The Director is a member of the Stage Directors And Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

JASON MANUEL OLAZÁBAL

(Santiago)



Broadway: ***Julius Caesar***, ***Anna in the Tropics***. Off Broadway: ***Massacre (Sing to your Children)*** (The Public LAByrinth), ***Guinea Pig Solo*** (The Public/LAByrinth), ***Where's My Money?*** (MTC), ***The Phantom Lady*** (The Pearl Theater). Film: *Skin Care, Black Maria, I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore* (Sundance Grand Jury Award Winner), *Inside Man, Bad Boys II*. TV: Jason recurs on *The Cleaning Lady* (FOX). A few favorite TV roles were on: *DEXTER* (SHOWTIME-SAG Award Nomination), *Fear the Walking Dead* (AMC), *Stumptown* (ABC), *Make It or Break It* (Freeform). MFA-UMKC. Member of LAByrinth Theater Company.

ELIZABETH CANAVAN

(Louise)



Broadway: ***Between Riverside and Crazy*** by Stephen Adly Guirgis, dir. Austin Pendleton. Off Broadway: ***Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven*** (dir. John Ortiz) and ***Little Flower of East Orange***, ***Our Lady of 121st Street***, ***Jesus Hopped the "A" Train***, ***The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*** all by Stephen Adly Guirgis and dir. by Philip Seymour Hoffman, Dominique Morisseau's ***Pipeline***, among others. Film: *Allswell, 1 Mile to You, Wild and Precious*. TV: *Younger, Law & Order, Law & Order SVU, Sex and the City*. She is the recipient of the Dramatists Guild Foundation's 2021 Madge Evans and Sidney Kingsley Award for excellence in the theater chosen by the winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis along with Liza Colón-Zayas and Elizabeth Rodriguez. Liz is a proud member of LAByrinth Theater Company and The Actor's Studio.

JACQUELINE GUILLÉN

(Manca)



TV/film credits include *Orange is the New Black, Search Party, Blue Bloods, Bull, The Good Cop,* and *Crabs in a Barrel,* currently on HBO (Max). Theater credits include world premiers: ***Torera*** (Alley Theatre), ***I Wanna F*ck like Romeo and Juliet*** (New Light Theater Project), ***Mancave*** (Page73), ***Truckers*** (INTAR), ***72 Miles To Go...*** (Roundabout Theater), ***Then They Forgot About the Rest*** (INTAR). She's a two-time finalist for the Nosotros' Ya Tu Sabes Monologue Slam hosted by NBC. She currently voices Mrs. Martinez in PBS's *Alma's Way*.

www.jacqueline-guillen.com
@jacquie.guillen

GIL PEREZ-ABRAHAM JR.

(Pedro)



Gil Perez-Abraham Jr. is a Venezuelan-American actor. Film: *Carry On* (Netflix Amblin), *The Batman* (Warner Brothers); *Killing Castro, Our Son, The Farewell* (A24). Television: *The Young Pope* (HBO), *Pose* (FX). Gil currently stars in the film *If I Die in America*, world premiering this spring at SXSW. He dedicates his work here to William and Suzanne Esper.

CUSI CRAM

(Playwright)

Cusi Cram is a first-generation native New Yorker whose parents originally came from Bolivia and Scotland. She is a playwright, screenwriter, director, educator, and advocate for under-represented writers. Her plays have been produced by LAByrinth Theater Company, Rattlestick, Primary Stages, Atlantic Theater Company, and on stages all over the country. She's written on numerous TV programs and has been nominated for three Emmy Awards for her work on the animated program, *Arthur*. Cusi is the associate chair of the Dramatic Writing program at Tisch, where

she teaches playwriting, television writing, and some stuff she makes up. Proud member of LAByrinth, and the boards of Rattlestick and The Leah Ryan Fund.

DINA JANIS

(Director)

Dina is the artistic director of Vermont Public Theater where she recently directed ***A Christmas Memory*** by Truman Capote starring Dan Butler. She previously served as the artistic director of the Dorset Theatre Festival where she directed many mainstage and developmental productions and oversaw Dorset's new play development programs. Mainstage productions include ***Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*** (Lanie Robertson), ***The Whipping Man*** (Mathew Lopez), and ***Out of the City*** (Leslie Ayvazian). Janis is a contributor to the Kilroy List. She trained as an actor with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Stella Adler, Lee Strasberg, Sanford Meisner, and Kim Stanley. Lifetime member of the Actors Studio. She taught acting at the School of Visual Arts for several years and has been a faculty member at Bennington since 2000.

KIA ROGERS

(Lighting Designer) (she/her)

Kia Rogers is a New York City-based lighting designer for theater and dance. International credits: lighting designer for ***The Baby Monitor*** (Rome and Cagliari, Italy 2021, and Belgrade, Serbia for the Belgrade Pride Festival). Associate lighting designer for Slutforart/98.6 (Gothenburg, Sweden with Muna Tseng). West coast designs: El Portal's Monroe Forum Theatre (Los Angeles) and Z Space (San Francisco). Film credits: *Georgia & Me*, *Happy Days*, and *Hot Angry Mom* web series. Kia is a member of LAByrinth Theater Company and creative partner with Flux Theatre Ensemble since 2012.

TAYLOR BARFIELD

(Dramaturg)

Taylor Barfield is a dramaturg, writer, and theater artist from Baltimore. He served as the acting literary manager at Yale Repertory Theatre and the literary manager at Two River Theater. Taylor currently works as a freelance dramaturg and consultant with organizations such as the Guthrie, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, and Yale Rep. Taylor received his BA in Molecular/Cellular Biology and English Literature from Johns Hopkins University, and earned his MFA and DFA in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from the Yale School of Drama. His scholarly work explores how contemporary Black American playwrights re-imagine and re-stage Black theater history. He is currently an adjunct professor at NYU Tisch.

MADELINE BARR

(LAB Producer)

Madeline Barr (playwright, actor, director, producer) is a graduate of NYU Tisch (BFA Theater) and a member of LAByrinth Theater Company. She recently performed her one woman show, ***Diary Play***, at Arts on Site and LAByrinth's 2023 Barn Series (59E59). Her full length play, Recurring, has been workshopped with The Farm Theater, Castillo Theater, and was in LAByrinth's 2024 Barn Series (59E59). She has been under fellowship with Dramatic Question Theater for the last two years. Her work has also been shown at The Tank, Dixon Place, The Muse, The Black Actor's Guild, and The Chain.

CAROLINE ENG

(Sound Designer)

Recent theater: ***Merry Me, Belfast Girls, The Democracy Project, Fences, The Overview Effect, Little Women, What the Constitution Means to Me, Three Sisters, The Future is Female, That Must Be the Entrance to Heaven***. Upcoming: ***Coriolanus, Hurricane Diane***.

www.carolineengdesign.com

TRACI BARGEN

(Production Stage Manager) (she/her)

Theater: ***Truckers*** (INTAR), ***The Making of How to Save the World in 90 Minutes*** (Cherry Lane); Actors Studio Drama Seasons '21-'22, ***Redwood***, ***Travisville***, Marathon on One Act Plays (Ensemble Studio Theatre); ***Downtown***

Stories (En Garde Arts), ***Old Hats*** (Signature Theatre). Currently watching: *Inside No. 9* and *Last Week Tonight*. Currently reading: *Being Henry* by Henry Winkler.

@tracibargen

CHRISTOPHER & JUSTIN SWADER

(Scenic Designers)

Selected NYC: ***Dig*** (Primary Stages), ***Arden of Faversham*** (Red Bull Theater), ***The Knight of the Burning Pestle*** (Fiasco Theater, Red Bull Theater), ***Seven Deadly Sins*** (Tectonic Theater Project); ***Malvolio***, ***Seize the King***, ***The Bacchae***, ***Antigone***, ***Macbeth***, ***The Tempest***, ***Dutchma***n (Classical Theatre of Harlem); ***Ajijaak on Turtle Island*** (The New Victory Theatre), ***Midnight at the Never Get*** (York Theatre Company). Selected Regional: ***Private Jones*** (Goodspeed, Signature Theatre), ***Our Town*** (Dallas Theater Center), ***Dial M for Murder*** (Geva Theatre), ***A Raisin in the Sun*** (Two River Theatre), ***The Tempest*** (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), ***Radio Golf*** (Everyman Theatre), Small (People's Light).

www.cjswaderdesign.com

ROWEN MAHONEY

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Rowen is excited to be working with LAByrinth on this project. She has previously been the first team runner on *Powerbook III: Raising Kanan*. Rowen earned her BA in Theatre Production and Design from Susquehanna University, where she was the production stage manager for ***Working***, ***Silent Sky***, ***Doubt***, and ***The Mineola Twins***. Rowen is delighted to work with such a wonderful company. Thank you to those who believed in her.

NATASHA LANCASTER

(Production Assistant)

Natasha is a writer and performer, born and raised in NYC. She's a recent graduate of Kenyon College with a BA in English and Drama, and her original play ***Will You Go to the Bathroom With Me?*** was staged at Kenyon in spring of 2023. She's an alum of the selective program at New York Theatre Workshop, Mind the Gap, and currently an intern at Process Media. She's very excited to be part of the ***STRIPPED*** production team.

ALEXIS FORTE

(Costume Consultant)

Theater: ***Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven*** (Atlantic Theater Company), ***Our Lady of 121st Street*** (Signature Theatre), ***Luna Gale*** (Cleveland PlayHouse), ***Between Riverside and Crazy*** (Atlantic Theater Company and Second Stage, Broadway). Film design: *Resurrection* (premiered at Sundance 2022), *Something's Wrong with Rose* (Paramount+). Associate design: *The Whale* (A24), *The Sky is Everywhere* (A24). Assistant costume design: *Ghostbusters Afterlife* (Sony), *The Glorias* (Amazon), *Little Women* (Sony), *Bad Times at the El Royal* (20th Century Fox), amongst others.



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Associate Artistic Director
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LAByrinth Theater Company, founded in 1992 as The Latino Actors Base, was created to deliberately interrupt the racial status quo by giving voice to artists of color and reflecting a world where color is the norm and not the exception. LAByrinth Theater Company is a diverse, impassioned, tightly knit ensemble of multicultural artists that empowers individuals and builds community by creating member driven, incendiary, new works of theater.

LAByrinth Theater Company is grateful to the following institutions for their generous support:

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York City Council

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NEXT IN THEATER B
MARCH 12 – 24



CURATOR'S NOTE

Since 1992, LAByrinth has championed diverse voices. Now, they're doubling down on that commitment with LAB: Stripped, featuring two brand-new works in progress from their talented members.

This exciting event offers more support for playwrights while giving audiences a rare chance to witness the process of theater-making up close. We hope you'll find this rare opportunity to look behind the curtain as fascinating as we do!



VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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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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