2023 NEW LIGHT NEW VOICES WINNER

PENDRAGON THEATRE and
NEW LIGHT THEATER PROJECT
present

Friends WITH Amenities

written and performed by
AHSAN ALI and LISA JILL ANDERSON

directed by
SARAH NORRIS



59E59
THEATER C

SEPTEMBER 14 – 30

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Friends WITH Amenities

written and performed by
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CAST

Ali	AHSAN ALI *
Natalie	LISA JILL ANDERSON *

CREATIVE + PRODUCTION TEAM

Writer	AHSAN ALI & LISA JILL ANDERSON †
Director	SARAH NORRIS ^†
Scenic Designer	NATALIE ESLAMI
Lighting Designer	HAYLEY GARCIA PARNELL
Sound Designer	JANET BENTLEY †
Intro Music	ALEX WROTEN
Property Master	DANIELLE PECCHIOLI
Assistant Director/Stage Manager	KELLY McCARTY †
Stage Manager	MEREDITH WARREN
Master Carpenter	BEN WATSON
Company Manager	BETHANY FITCH
Producing Associate	KLEO MITROKOSTAS
General Manager	COURTNEY KNYSCH †
Managing Director	MICHAEL AGUIRRE †
Artistic Director	SARAH NORRIS †

Run time: 70 minutes with no intermission

* Member of Actors' Equity Association
^ Member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society
† Resident Artist of New Light Theater Project

AHSAN ALI

(Writer/Ali; he/him)



Ahsan Ali is a writer, actor, and filmmaker who grew up in Pakistan, and then immigrated to NYC where he currently resides. Select theater credits: Amir in ***Disgraced*** by Ayad Akhtar (American Stage), Natarajan in ***Mushroom*** by Eisa Davis (People's Light), George in ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*** by Edward Albee, John Hale in ***The Crucible*** by Arthur Miller. TV: *The Blacklist* (NBC), *Nora from Queens* (Comedy Central). Awards: Best Short Film, Best Actor, & Best Director for his film *Fahim* (Golden Short Film Festival, 2020), Best Performance for his film *Coffee* (Astoria Film Festival, 2021), and The Hilton Worldwide Award for Distinguished Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (2014). He co-wrote the award winning pilot *Legit Married*, which won Best Web Pilot at DWF: LA, Best Episodic Pilot at Katra Film Series, and was an ATX TV Festival Pitch Competition Finalist in 2022. BFA, CUNY Brooklyn College.

www.ahsanaliactor.com

LISA JILL ANDERSON

(Writer/Natalie; she/her)



Lisa is an actor, writer, and producer based in NYC, originally from CA. Select theater credits include: ***Everything is Super Great*** by Stephen Brown (NLTP @ 59E59), ***Hal & Bee*** by Max Baker (NLTP @ 59E59), ***The Woods.*** by Jahna Ferron-Smith (Pendragon), ***In the Event of My Death*** by Lindsay Joy (IRT Theater), and ***Live From the Surface of the Moon*** by Max Baker (Wild Project). TV: *Inventing Anna* (Netflix) and *Growing Up* (Disney+). Lisa co-created, produced, and starred in the award-winning pilot *Legit Married*. In 2022, *Legit Married* was an ATX TV Festival Pitch Competition Finalist and screened at 32 film festivals, with several wins and nominations for Best Pilot. Proud member of New Light Theater Project. BFA in acting, CUNY Brooklyn College.

www.lisajillanderson.com

SARAH NORRIS

(Director; she/her)

Sarah is the founding artistic director of New Light Theater Project and the summer artistic director of Pendragon Theatre. As a director, select credits include: ***H*tler's Tasters*** (*TimeOut NY* Critics' Pick, Best of the Edinburgh Fringe; featured in the *NY Times, Chicago Tribune, LA Times,* and the BBC), ***Everything is Super Great*** (*TimeOut NY* Critics' Pick), ***This Wrestling Place*** (w/ executive producer Ben Folds), ***Picture Ourselves in Latvia*** (Best of Theater, *The L Magazine*). Other highlights include: Guild Hall of East Hamptons, Pleasance Theatre (Edinburgh), Greenside Theatre (Edinburgh), Bottom Dog Theatre (Ireland), Adelaide Fringe Festival (Australia), 59E59 Theaters, LAByrinth Theater, Working Theater, Electric Lodge (LA), Chicago Dramatists, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, The Flea Theater, Zeiders American Dream Theater, Forestburgh Playhouse, and Calliope Stage.

www.SarahNorris.org
SarahNorris002

JANET BENTLEY

(Sound Designer; they/them)

Janet is a multidisciplinary theater artist with an MFA from the University of Iowa. Select: ***The Waiting Room*** (Ashtar Theatre, Ramallah), ***Experimenting With Katz*** (TheatreLab), ***The Art of Protest*** (Articulate Theatre), *We Dissent: Voices for Reproductive Rights* – film (Words of Choice), ***Detroit '67*** (Kingsborough College), ***Circle Mirror Transformation*** (Pendragon Theatre), ***The Pillowman*** (Surfside Playhouse), ***Thanks For the Memories*** (University of Iowa), ***Macbeth*** (University of South Florida). For NLTP: ***According to the Chorus, The End of Hester, Everything Is Super Great, Life x 3***.

www.RolyPolyProductions.com

NATALIE ESLAMI

(Scenic Designer; she/her)

Natalie is an Iranian-American scenic designer from Memphis, now based in NYC. Selected design credits include ***Così Fan Tutte, A Hit Dog Will Holler*** (Carnegie Mellon); ***Little Women*** (Bristol Valley Theater), ***Our Town*** (Pendragon Theater). Natalie is a recent graduate of the BFA Drama program at Carnegie Mellon University.

www.NeslamiDesign.com
@natslami

HAYLEY GARCIA PARNELL

Lighting Designer; she/they)

Hayley is a Latina lighting designer from Colorado, currently based in NYC. They received their BA in Theatre with a concentration in Lighting Design and a minor in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder. They are especially interested in applied theater, new works, and theater in nontraditional spaces, but there has yet to be a style of performance they have not fallen hopelessly in love with. They believe there is nothing more intimately human we can do than sit in the dark, telling each other stories.

DANIELLE PECCHIOLI

(Property Master; she/her)

Danielle Pecchioli is a NY-based scenic and properties designer. Her recent projects include ***The Muppet Cabaret, Sleeping Beauty, Sort Of.*** (Pendragon Theatre); and ***Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play*** (Adelphi University). Adelphi University BFA Theatre Design and Technology '26.

www.DaniellePecchioli.com
@danielleptech

KELLY McCARTY

(Asst Director/ASM; she/they)

Kelly is a NYC-based actor, director, and stage manager. She has worked Off Broadway, in NYC, and regionally. Select theater: Connecticut Repertory Theatre under the direction of Terrence Mann (Sophie in ***Mamma Mia***), Playhouse on the Square - Ostrander Award-nominated (Winnie in ***Tuck Everlasting***, Phoebe in ***A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder***, Lulu in ***Cabaret***), Pendragon Theatre (Emily in ***Our Town***, Schwartzy in ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee***). She trains vocally with Bradley Dean (Broadway: ***Phantom of the Opera, Dear Evan Hansen***). Western Carolina University. Yoga instructor for The Cliffs at Harlem. Coach for Run4FunUSA (nonprofit). For NLTP: ***According to the Chorus, H*tler's Tasters, This Wrestling Place***.

www.Kelly-Mccarty.com
@kellylaurenmccarty

KLEO MITROKOSTAS

(Producing Associate; she/her)

Kleo is a NYC-based actor and producer. Recent theater credits include ***Circle, Mirror, Transformation; The Muppet Cabaret, Our Town*** (Pendragon Theatre); ***The Wolves*** (NYU Tisch), and ***Sweet Charity*** (Cotuit Center for the Arts). NYU BFA Drama '24. For NLTP: ***According to the Chorus***.

www.KleoMitrokostas.com
@kleomitrokostas

MEREDITH WARREN

(Production Stage Manager; she/her)

Meredith is a musical theater performer and stage manager from Nashville, Tennessee. She most recently worked as the production stage manager at Pendragon Theatre for their summer stock season (***The Rocky Horror Show, The Muppet Cabaret***). Other select stage management credits include: ***Amahl and the Night Visitors*** (Samford University), ***Blue Yonder*** (Samford Underground), and ***Escape to Margaritaville*** (Virginia Samford Theatre).

@merewarren

NEW LIGHT THEATER PROJECT

(Co-Producer)

New Light is an ensemble-driven theater company that strives to support independent and emerging artists by providing and promoting growth opportunities through exposure to New York City audiences. Since 2013, New Light has mounted over 40 productions which have received critical praise including a Drama Desk nomination (***According to the Chorus***), sold-out run and Best of EdFringe 2019 (*The Stage* for ***H*tler's Tasters***), Best of Theater 2014 (*The L Magazine* for ***Picture Ourselves in Latvia***), TimeOut NY Critics' Pick (***H*tler's Tasters, Everything is Super Great, The American Tradition, Breeders, and Bubba***), Co-Op Resident Company of 59E59 Theaters, and past recipients of The Flea Theater's Anchor Program, Theatre Row Residency Program, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Residency Fellowship, Chicago Dramatists Grafting Project, and the Access Theater Residency Program. New Light is a 501(c)3 organization. Productions at 59E59 include: ***According to the Chorus*** (Arlene Hutton), ***I Wanna F*ck Like Romeo and Juliet*** (Andrew Rincón), ***Ink'dWell*** (Erin E. Adams), ***Everything is Super Great*** (Stephen Brown), ***H*tler's Tasters*** (E2E Festival; Michelle Kholos Brooks), ***Imagining Madoff*** (Deb Margolin), ***Hal & Bee*** (Max Baker), and ***Less Than 50%*** (Gianmarco Soresi).

FOLLOW NEW LIGHT ON:

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www.NewLightTheaterProject.com

PENDRAGON THEATRE

(Co-Producer)

Pendragon has served the Saranac Lake and Adirondack community for over forty years. Dedicated to artistic excellence, education, and programmatic opportunities, Pendragon has been the recipient of the Governor of the Arts award, voted *BroadwayWorld's* Favorite Theatre in Central New York, as well as countless other recognitions. Pendragon is supported annually by countless businesses, foundations, government agencies and individual donors.

FOLLOW PENDRAGON ON:

@Pendragon Theatre @PendragonThtre PendragonTheatre

www.PendragonTheatre.org

SPECIAL THANKS

Stephen Brown, Andy Evan Cohen, Brenden Gotham, Padraic Lillis, Jessica McClellan, Kent Streed, Grant Swift, Kim Weems & Tom Dodd



CURATORS NOTE

We are thrilled to welcome back New Light Theater Project for their fourth production since becoming a Co-Op Resident Company. We are delighted to support their commitment to using a sustainable collective of artist-practitioners from diverse backgrounds. With ***Friends with Amenities*** Ahsan Ali and Lisa Jill Anderson have created a work that has the setup of a romantic comedy but quickly turns into an exploration of identity and assumptions between two friends who may not know each other as well as they think they do.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS President/Founding Artistic Director
VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager
KWAMÉ BERRY Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
MELISSA SHAWCROSS Technical Director
ERICA PIERRE Marketing/General Manager
CRISTINA GREENFIELD Marketing Manager
MELINDA GRABER Digital Marketing Associate
CATE PUGLIA Marketing & Audience Development Coordinator
ALAN BUTTAR Graphic Designer
MATT ROSS PUBLIC RELATIONS General Press Representative
SHANNON SMITH Theater Manager
COLLEEN MORGEN House Manager
CHRIS MULHARE Facilities Manager
WALDIN ROJAS Facilities Assistant
FRANKIE DIAZ Facilities Assistant
LLOYD MULVEY Director of Ticketing Services
CRAIG SCHENKER Box Office Manager
JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor/Bartender
DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
MARGOT GAGE Box Office Supervisor
LEAH GABRIEL Box Office Supervisor
LUCY KELLY Box Office Associate
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Box Office Associate/Usher
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ANT PRIOLA Front of House Assistant
JOEY PITTORINO Front of House Assistant
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher
ELLIOT JACOBS Usher
ERIC BERKELEY Usher
FLOWER RIOS Usher
HANS MUEH Usher
ISRAEL ORENGO Usher
ITAI ADAM VAGNER Usher
KAYLA GRANT Usher
OLIVE CHAMPAGNIE Usher
SANTIAGO AGUILAR Usher
SHANNON GAFFNEY Usher
JULIA MELLONI Bartender
KEVIN MOLICA Bartender
KAITLYN CHEN Theater Technician
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician
KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician
JAMIE JOHNSON Production Technician

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS, President/Founding Artistic Director
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NEXT IN THEATER C **OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 19**



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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