TWILIGHT THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

THE ROSENBERG/ STRANGE FRUIT PROJECT

BY JOHN JILER

DIRECTED BY

MARGARETT PERRY



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TWILIGHT THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

THE ROSENBERG/ STRANGE FRUIT PROJECT

BY **JOHN JILER**
DIRECTED BY **MARGARETT PERRY**

PERFORMED BY **JOHN JILER**
LIVE MUSIC BY **SWEET LEE ODOM**

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright	JOHN JILER
Director	MARGARETT PERRY §
Associate Director	NATALIE TELL
Assistant Director	ALĀNA RADER
Scenic Designer	DAVID L. ARSENAULT †
Lighting Designer	TYLER M. PERRY †
Musical Arrangements	SWEET LEE ODOM
Costume Design	MUMMBLES
Assistant Scenic Designer	BEN HIRSCHFIELD
Production Stage Manager	ALEX RIDLEY
Producer	NATALIE TELL

Run time: 75 minutes, wih no intermission

THE ROSENBERG/STRANGE FRUIT PROJECT received its world premiere
at New Jersey Repertory Company, Long Branch, New Jersey
SuzAnne Barabas, Artistic Director; Gabor Barabas, Executive Producer

† 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.

WHY WERE THE ROSENBERGS EXECUTED?

By John Seven, History.com

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were the only spies executed during the Cold War and some question whether their sentence was fair. Few death-penalty executions can equal the controversy created by the electrocutions of spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in 1953. Accused of overseeing a spy network that stole American atomic secrets and handing those over to the Soviet Union, the couple were the only spies executed during the Cold War.
But were they guilty? For some, that has been in dispute for more than half a century.

Read more at bit.ly/RosenbergHistory

JOHN JILER

Playwright / Performer



John Jiler is an actor, and a writer of both drama and prose. He won the Weissberger Prize from New Dramatists for his first play, ***Sour Springs***, and was the recipient of both the Richard Rodgers Award and the Kleban Librettists' Award for ***AVENUE X***, which played in New York at Playwrights Horizons and in some fifty cities around the world. His work has been seen coast to coast, from the LAByrinth Theater to the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference to the Kennedy Center to Seattle Rep and many places in between. His first non-fiction book, *Dark Wind*, was published by St. Martin's Press. His most recent, *Sleeping with the Mayor*, was named a *New York Times* "Notable Book Of The Year." As an actor he has performed at the Public Theater, Hartford Stage Company, and has been the winner of the Chicago Drama Critics Best Actor Award. His first one-man show, ***Explicit Vows***, was seen at both Playwrights Horizons and the Flea Theatre; his second, ***RIPE***, was hailed by *The New York Times* as "a classic." He's very proud to be presenting his third, ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project***, at 59E59 Theaters where it previewed last summer before playing the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, garnering a British Offie nomination. His current projects are a soon-to-be published novel, *North Of Here*, a screenplay, *Smoke Ring Day*, and a brand new play, ***Malt Point***.

LEE ODOM

Musician



Multi-instrumentalist, band leader, composer Lee Odom's musical career continues to grow and expand nationally and internationally. Lee's musical spectrum includes gospel, free-improvised music, jazz, R&B, Hip-Hop, and classical. A native of North Carolina, Lee Odom received a Bachelor's in music industry while also studying clarinet performance at Appalachian State University (Boone, NC) and later moved to NYC where she continued her musical journey. Lee has performed as a featured artist and as part of ensembles in various cities and countries which include: The Makanda Project (Boston, MA), Home Rule Music Festival (Washington, DC), Jazz at the Gant (Charlotte, NC), Music Connect (Nairobi, Kenya), and other countries including Argentina and Scotland. Lee has performed for some of the top organizations and music festivals in New York like The Jazz Foundation, New York City Winter Jazz Festival, New York City Vision Festival, Bang on a Can Music Festival where she was the featured alto saxophone player for the Ornette Coleman "Shape of Jazz to Come", Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and the Enjoy Jazz Festival in Ludwigshafen, Germany, for which *The New York Times* describes her alto playing as "prayerful." Lee has also had the honor of performing for Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook for Women on the World Stage. Along with performing, Lee was also honored to be an artist-in-residence at Holmes Presbyterian Camp in Holmes, NY, and at Art Omi in Hudson, NY,

where she created and cultivated many musical experiences. Lee was the clarinet instructor for The Jazz House Kids music program based out of Paterson, NJ, and the lead musical instructor for the Poly Prep Summer Theatre Camp.

MARGARETT PERRY

Director

Margarett Perry is an award-winning director of new plays. She has directed and developed new work Off Broadway and in regional theaters across the country as well as in Scotland and London. Her previous 59E59 productions include ***Appraisal*** by Tim Marriott, Brian Dykstra's ***Clean Alternatives*** (Fringe First Award/Edinburgh), ***A Play on Words*** and ***Education*** (also by Brian Dykstra) and ***Body Politic*** by Richard Abrons & Margarett Perry as well as the East to Edinburgh shows: ***Shortlist, The Golfer, No Parole, Polishing Shakespeare***, and ***Plotters***. Margarett directed the world premiere of ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** at New Jersey Repertory Company last spring and the UK premiere at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh 2023. Other recent premieres include the critically acclaimed world premieres of ***Born in East Berlin*** by Rogelio Martinez and ***Seared*** by Theresa Rebeck both at San Francisco Playhouse, ***The House*** by Brian Parks (US, London & Scotland) and ***Banned from Baseball*** by Patricia O'Hara (Human Race). Other recent favorites include ***Shrek the Musical*** (Connecticut Rep), ***Used to Was/Maybe Did*** (Center Theatre Group), ***The Revolutionists*** (Human Race), ***A Doll's House, Part 2*** (Hudson Stage) and ***The Thanksgiving Play*** (Kitchen). Margarett was the resident director at the Kitchen Theatre in Ithaca where she has directed over 25 productions. During the shutdown, Margarett ventured into the short film and music video world for passion projects such as *#Hashtag That-Say Their Name* (from the musical ***Crazy Make Crazy***), ***This Doesn't Work*** written & performed by Darian Dauchan and Brian Dykstra, and ***Time Passes*** for the Resident Acting Company. She also began exploring watercolor and her work was licensed by the New York Historical Society and was a finalist in 2020 Brush & Lyre Prize. Margarett was an artistic fellow with the Lark for years and considered it her theatrical home base.

www.margarettperry.com

NATALIE TELL

Associate Director/Producer

For the past couple of years Natalie has been working with Twilight Theatre Company as both a director and producer. She was the associate director and producer on ***The Golfer*** by Brian Parks (59E59 East to Edinburgh and Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022) and the world premiere of ***Shortlist*** by Brian Parks (59E59 East to Edinburgh & Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh 2023). This season, she is working with Twilight on five shows. In addition to ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project***, she was recently the associate director/producer for both ***Watson: The Final Problem*** by Bert Coules and Tim Marriott, ***Appraisal*** by Tim Marriott, and will be the associate producer on the world premiere of ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra (59E59 East to Edinburgh and Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024). Alongside Margarett Perry, Natalie will co-direct the world premiere of ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks. Natalie is studying directing at the University of Michigan where she directed ***Horse Girls*** by Jenny Rachel Weiner and was the assistant director on ***The Heart of Robin Hood*** and ***Clean House*** by Sarah Ruhl. She would like to thank her support system, mom and dad, Margarett, and her friends for their guidance and helping her pursue her passion.

ALĀNA RADER

(Assistant Director)

Alāna Rader is a Brooklyn-based theatre maker/poet. Past credits: On the Sidelines, State of Dis'Union, Asleep at the Wheel, Down the Rabbithole: Into Other Realms (writer/director), The Crucible (co-director), Something Wicked This Way Comes (director), Our Town (co-director). As a playwright, she is a two-time Princess Grace Award Semi-Finalist, a Red Bull Theater Short Play Finalist, and has been short listed for The Alpine Fellowship. Her plays have also been read by The Barrow Group's First Fridays Reading Series and PRWF. She is a company member with New Circle Theatre, and associate artistic director of play readings with Friends in NYC. Let's connect & collaborate!

www.alanarader.com
@lanaenchanted

ALEX RIDLEY

Production Stage Manager (he/him)

Alex Ridley is thrilled to be back. He last worked with this crew on ***The Golfer*** (dir. Margarett Perry, 2022). 2024 credits include ***Gutbelly*** (Columbia MFA 2nd Year project, dir. Benjamin Viertel), ***Medea*** (Playwrights Horizons Theater School, dir. Gaby Dreyer), and ***Warm Science*** (?!: Brick New Works Festival Night 3, dir. Eulàlia Comas).

DAVID L. ARSENAULT

Scenic Designer

As a designer and associate in theater, opera, and dance, David's work has been seen on Broadway, Off Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Regional credits include designs at the Kennedy Center, Bay Street Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, Geva Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Northern Stage, and George Street Playhouse. Additionally, he has created unique environments for several major brands including Audible, Canva, Lifetime Network, and M&M's. Broadway associate work includes ***The Color Purple*** (2015 Tony-winning revival and tour), ***Les Liaisons Dangereuses***, and ***King Charles III***.

www.davidarsenaultdesign.com

TYLER M. PERRY

Lighting Designer

Tyler Perry is an award-winning designer for theater, television, and live events. He has designed regionally at theaters including Florida Repertory Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, Axelrod Performing Arts Center, Northern Stage, Ocean State Theatre Company, and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. His work on television has earned Telly Awards and an Emmy nomination and can be seen on BravoTV, Amazon Sports Network, NBC, Peacock, ABC, Fox Sports 1, and AOPA Live. Tyler was the assistant lighting designer for the 2017 Broadway revival of ***Miss Saigon***, and national tours of ***Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*** and ***Beautiful: The Carol King Musical***. Tyler is the technical theater director at Riverdale Country School and incoming director of production at Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, NY.

www.Tylermperrydesign.com

MUMMBLES DESIGN CO.

Costume Design

Mummbles Design Co. provides theatrical design for practical applications on stage and in the real world. We most recently designed the set for ***Appraisal*** by Tim Marriott directed by Margarett Perry at 59E59 Theaters Brits Off Broadway Festival. Upcoming: Costume Design for ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks and ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra both at Assembly Rooms, Edinbrugh and previewing at 59E59 Theaters East to Edinburgh Festival.

Twilight

TWILIGHT THEATRE COMPANY

Twilight Theatre Company is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization located in New York City. Founded by Sturgis Warner in 1998 and now under the artistic leadership of Margarett Perry, Twilight continues its mission to support new work through readings, workshops, and productions. Last season, Twilight produced two new plays at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, the UK premiere of John Jiler's ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** and the world premiere of ***Shortlist*** by Brian Parks (in collaboration with the Welsh theater company, Flying Bridge). This season, Twilight is working with UK artists to bring their work to the United States as well as producing the Off Broadway run of ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** at 59E59 Theaters in July. Twilight will be returning to Scotland this summer with two more world premieres, ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra and ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks. Twilight's mission is to develop, workshop, and produce new work by theater artists and to tell stories that deepen awareness, encourage compassion, and ignite conversation.

www.twilighttheatrecompany.org

SPECIAL THANKS

Nicholas Simone, Brian Dykstra, Karen & Paul Galleberg, and Emily Jackson.

CURATOR'S NOTE

A warm welcome to Twilight Theater Company who most recently brought us ***Appraisal*** and ***Watson: The Final Problem***! Twilight has produced numerous, acclaimed shows for our annual East to Edinburgh series. Under Artistic Director Margarett Perry, the director of this play, the company continues its mission of supporting theater artists in developing new work.

I became acquainted with Jiler's fascinating show last year when it was here for four performances during East to Edinburgh. After the applause died down, I took Margarett aside to suggest dates for a full run and the rest was history.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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ELYSABETH KLEINHANS

Artistic Director
VAL DAY

Managing Director
BRIAN BEIRNE

Finance Associate/Office Manager
AMANDA COOPER

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BIONDYS DURAN-MENDOZA
JOEY PITTORINO

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ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO
ANNA BONGARDINO
ANNE RUTTER
BENJI SILLS
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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 through rent-free spaces, as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support.

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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