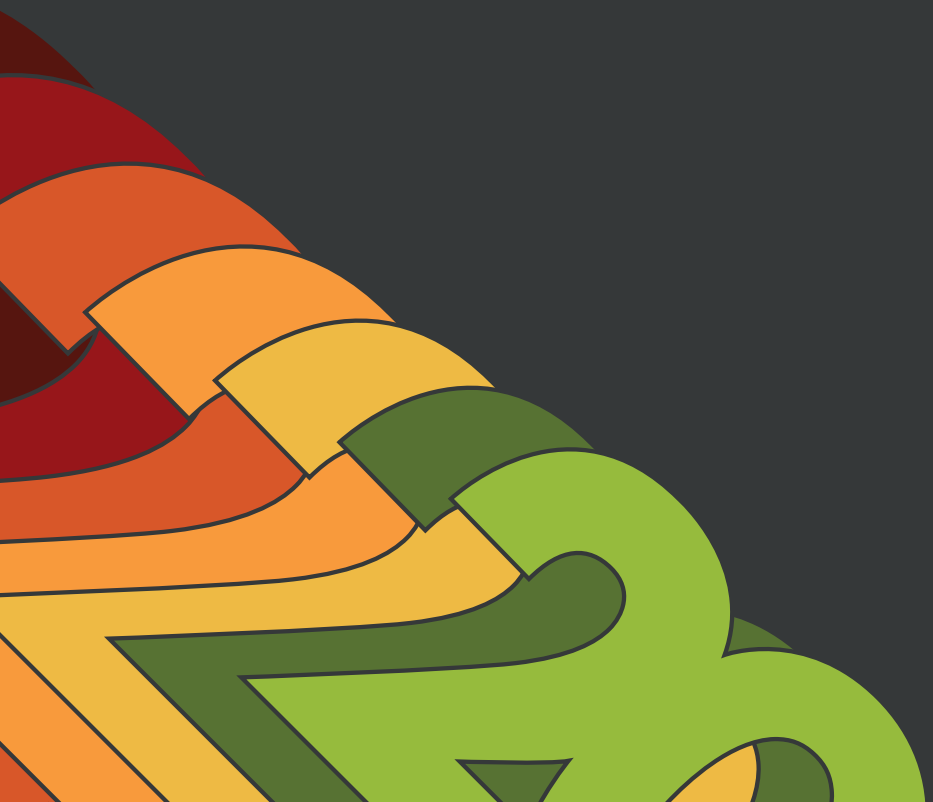
WHITE HORSE THEATER COMPANY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **ANTHONY W. LOPEZ**
PRESENTS

THISTLES

BY
CYNDY A. MARION

DIRECTED BY
DEV BONDARIN



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WHITE HORSE THEATER COMPANY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **ANTHONY W. LOPEZ**
PRESENTS

THISTLES

BY **CYNDY A. MARION**
DIRECTED BY **DEV BONDARIN**

—CAST —

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Rebecca Frank	MEL HOUSE *
Laney Harnbry	LISA BOSTNAR *
Alan Crier	ROD SWEITZER *
Peter Crow	GORDON STANLEY *
Lucinda	LESLIE ALEXANDER *

—CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright	CYNDY A. MARION
Director	DEV BONDARIN
Scenic Design	ANDIS GJONI
Costume Design	DEREK NYE LOCKWOOD
Lighting Design	BRIAN ALDOUS
Sound Design	ANDY EVAN COHEN
Original Music	JOE GIANONO
Dramaturg	LINDA S. NELSON
Dialect Coach	JULIE FOH
Intimacy Direction	UNKLEDAVE'S FIGHT-HOUSE
Assistant Director	THALIA RANJBAR
Production Stage Manager	ROBERT COTT *
Assistant Stage Manager	CHRIS M. RUSSO
Associate Creative Producer	VANESSA R. BOMBARDIERI
Casting Director	ERIK SCHARK

—PRODUCTION TEAM —

Producing Artistic Director	CYNDY A. MARION
Managing Director	VANESSA R. BOMBARDIERI
Founding Artistic Director	ROD SWEITZER
Wardrobe Head	ERIC HATCH
Wardrobe Assistant	HILARIE JENKINS
Production Assistant	HANNAH MORLEY
Sound Technician	MARLIN PARKER
Photographer	JOHN ROBERT HOFFMAN
Video Editor	STEPHEN BRUCKERT

Time: Summer of 2020
Place: Interior of an old farmhouse in Pennsylvania
Run time: 2 hours, including an intermission

ACTORS' EQUITY

*Equity Member appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association without benefit of an Equity contract in this Off-Off Broadway production.

WHITE HORSE
THEATER COMPANY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
ANTHONY W. LOPEZ

PRESENTS



THISTLES

BY
CYNDY A. MARION

DIRECTED BY
DEV BONDARIN

MEL HOUSE

(Rebecca Frank)



Mel House is an actress, voice teacher, and the writer/creator behind the award-winning series *HOT ANGRY MOM* (www.hotangrymom.com - @hotangrymom). Mel guest starred on *FBI: Most Wanted* as Leah Wilson, played Heidi in ***What the Constitution Means to Me*** (Syracuse Stage), and toured Rome, Cagliari, Belgrade, Dublin, and NYC with ***The Baby Monitor***. She has played iconic roles from Shakespeare to Ibsen, working Off Broadway, regionally, and internationally, as well as originating roles for the web, film, and TV. Guest teacher for the Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University, the Fitzmaurice Institute, and Lincoln Center Theater. Member: Actors Center Company, Literature to Life, NYWIFT, VASTA, SAG/AFTRA, AEA, and a certified teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®.

LISA BOSTNAR

(Laney Harnbry)



Lisa Bostnar has starred in such plays as ***The Voysey Inheritance***, ***The Madras House***, ***The House of Mirth***, ***Mr. Pim Passes By***, ***The Truth About Blaydes***, and Arthur Schnitzler's ***Far and Wide*** and ***The Lonely Way*** (The Mint Theater). Other NYC: ***The Brother's Berg***, ***Love Divided By***, ***The Taming of the Shrew***, ***Conflict of Interest***, ***A Persistent Memory***, and ***C.O.A.L*** at 59E59 Theaters. Regional credits include: ***Going to St. Ives***; ***The Blonde, The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead***; ***Candida***, ***The Seagull***, and ***Mrs. Warren's Profession***. TV credits include guest star spots on: *Law & Order, Blindspot, FBI: Most Wanted, Conviction, Blacklist, CI,* and *Pan Am*. Lisa's latest venture is *The Constituent,* a film by and starring Ernest Thompson and Gordon Clapp.

ROD SWEITZER

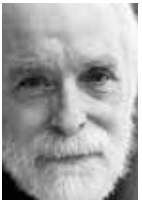
(Alan Crier)



Founding artistic director WHTC. New York stage credits include: ***Broken Story***, ***Clothes For A Summer Hotel***, ***Small Craft Warnings***, ***Buried Child***, ***The Late Henry Moss***, ***States of Shock***, ***A Lie of the Mind***, ***True West*** (WHTC); ***Arthur Murray Taught Me Dancing in a Hurry*** (Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre). LA credits include: ***Broken Story*** (WHTC), ***A View from the Bridge*** (Pacific Resident Theater), ***Foote Notes*** and ***The Idiot Box*** (Open Fist Theater), ***Out in the Woods*** (Zeitgeist Theater), ***The Gun*** (Electric Lodge). Film credits include: *King Richard, They Want Dick Dickster, Psycho Cop II*. TV credits include: *FBI, House of Deadly Secrets, Rent an Elf, Guiding Light, The Bold and The Beautiful, As The World Turns.*

GORDON STANLEY

(Peter Crow)



Eight Broadway shows, including ***Joseph… Dreamcoat***, ***Beauty and the Beast***, ***Ragtime***, and ***Cabaret***. York Theater: six Mufti's including ***Panama Hattie***, ***A Time For Singing***, ***Dear World***, and ***Dragons***. Irish Repertory Theatre: ***White Woman Street***, ***Take Me Along***. Prospect Musicals: ***Iron Curtain***, ***The Hidden Sky***, ***The Rockae***. Other Off Broadway credits include ***Flamingo Court*** and Harold Prince's ***Diamonds***. Tours: ***Annie*** and ***Promises, Promises***. Regional theater: ***Showboat*** (N. Shore Music Theatre/IRNE Nomination), ***Old Wicked Songs*** (Fulton Theatre and Triad Stage); ***On The Town***, ***Amour*** (Goodspeed Musicals); and sixteen productions for Barrington Stage. Film and TV: *Beauty and the Beast, Pocohontas, Law & Order: CI*. Agent: Cynthia Katz (Gotham Talent). Best credit/longest run: 44 years with Renee.

LESLIE ALEXANDER

(Lucinda)



Broadway: ***The Boy From Oz*** (w/ Hugh Jackman), ***Mamma Mia!*** North American tours: ***My Fair Lady*** (Mrs. Higgins), ***Fiddler on the Roof*** (w/ Topol, Fierstein, & Bikel). Off Broadway: ***The Audience*** (Transport Group). Selected regional: ***A Little Night Music*** (Madame Armfeldt), ***The Taming of the Shrew*** (Widow), ***A Christmas Carol*** (Mrs. Cratchit), ***Rattlesnake Kate*** (Kate 3 - all Denver Center Theatre Co.); ***The Music Man*** (Eulalie Shinn - Arizona Theatre Co.); ***Hello, Dolly!*** (Dolly Levi), ***Memphis*** (Gladys Calhoun - both Gateway Playhouse); ***Sister Act*** (Mother Superior - Arts Center of Coastal Carolina). Film/TV: Hallmark Channel's *Mystic Christmas*, HBO's *The Leftovers, One Life To Live, The One O'Clock*. Member AEA, SAG-AFTRA.

@IaleslieAlexander
www.leslie-alexander.com

CYNDY A. MARION

(Playwright)

Cyndy A. Marion is a playwright, director, and producing artistic director of White Horse Theater Company. Cyndy directed the world premiere (NYC) and LA productions of her play ***You Are Perfect***, which has subsequently been staged at The Kathryn Randolph Theater (Danville, IL), The Toronto Fringe Festival, and Off Broadway's Theatre 80. Her play ***Broken Story*** received its west coast premiere at The Sherry Theater (dir. Tamara Ruppart) and is soon to be published by international publisher Off the Wall Plays. Directing credits include: ***A Cavalier for Milady, Eyes for Consuela, In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel, The Late Henry Moss*** (WHTC); ***The Book of Lambert*** and ***MINA*** by Obie-winner Leslie Lee (La MaMa). MFA in Directing Brooklyn College. BA: Davidson College. Member: SDC, WGGB, Dramatists Guild

DEV BONDARIN

(Director)

Dev Bondarin is a director of plays and musicals with a focus on new work. As associate artistic director of Prospect Musicals she directs an annual musical theater lab. Credits include: ***A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*** and ***Little Women*** (Festival 56), ***King Lear*** (American Bard), ***Reefer Madness*** (Gallery Players), and many readings and workshops. As a former artistic director of Astoria Performing Arts Center, Dev directed the NY premiere of ***Marguerite, Caroline, or Change*** (AUDELCO Award), and ***Merrily We Roll Along*** (NYIT Award) among others. MFA: Brooklyn College. BA: Brandeis University. Member: League of Professional Theatre Women. Associate Member: SDC.

www.devbondarin.com

ANDIS GJONI

(Scenic Design)

Design credits include: ***Angel of the Amazon*** and ***The Consul*** for Encompass New Opera Theater, ***Broken Story*** and ***Eyes for Consuela*** (WHTC); ***Is He Dead*** by Mark Twain (sets, costumes, and directing), ***West Side Story***, and ***Kiss Me Kate*** (sets and costumes) at the National Opera Theater of Albania; ***Mina*** and ***The Book of Lambert*** (La MaMa), ***Uncle Vanya*** (Sonet Repertory), ***PB&J*** (NYC Fringe Festival), ***The Higher Education of Khalid Amir*** (NY Midtown Festival), and ***Villa Diodati*** (45th Street Theater). He published his book about his creations in theater titled *The Passion for the Stage*. Andis is director of the board of Albanian Excellence, a not-for-profit that promotes Albanian culture and heritage.

DEREK NYE LOCKWOOD

(Costume Design)

Derek is a New York City-based costume designer originally from Ojai, CA. He is the resident costume designer for White Horse Theater Company, for whom he has designed numerous shows. He currently works on *Law*

and Order. In addition to costume designing, Derek designs/tailors/styles for private and celebrity clients. Other notable credits include: designing costumes for ***Wood Work Ballet*** choreographed by Ethan Stiefel and recently performed by American Repertory Ballet.

BRIAN ALDOUS

(Lighting Design)

Brian Aldous has lit hundreds of plays, dance pieces, music concerts, and art installations in New York City and elsewhere, including ***Broken Story*** for White Horse Theater. Other recent work in the city includes ***We***, an adaptation of Yevgeny Zamyatin's dystopian novel by Kevin Ray at the Mark O'Donnell Theatre, and ***Mahinerator*** by Jerry Lieblich and ***Mrs. Loman*** by Barbara Cassidy at the Tank. NYC companies he has designed for include Signature, the Flea, HERE, Playwrights Horizons, Triskelion Arts; the long-gone Circle Rep, Jean Cocteau Rep and Cucaracha Theatres; and the site-specific pioneer EnGarde Arts. He is resident designer for Symphony Space and the Bard College Dance Department and teaches lighting design at City College.

ANDY EVAN COHEN

(Sound Design)

Andy is excited to work again with White Horse Theater, having contributed sound to ***Broken Story***, ***You Are Perfect***, and many other productions dating back to 2013. Andy's recent credits include: ***Forbidden Broadway: Merrily We Stole a Song***, ***The Greatest Hits Down Route 66*** (New Light Theater Project; Drama Desk nomination for Orchestrations), ***The Lights Are On*** (Henry Hewes Design Awards Nomination for Sound), ***(A)Loft Modulation*** (AUDELCO Award nomination for Sound Design), and music for the documentary films *We Dissent* and *Less Than or Equal To*. Andy teaches at BMCC and Kingsborough Community College in CUNY.

www.rolypolyproductions.com

JOE GIANONO

(Original Music)

Joe Gianono has been the resident composer for White Horse Theater Company for many years and loves every minute of it. Cyndy A. Marion has always pushed Joe to write some of his best music, some of which can be heard on WQXR. He also writes for film, television, and the concert stage and his own record company. He wrote the arrangement for *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* featuring Robert Merrill and the Juilliard Orchestra, which played at Yankee Stadium for 26 years. Most recent film: *The Fourth Musketeer*. For more, visit YouTube.

LINDA S. NELSON

(Dramaturg)

Resident actor and dramaturg with WHTC, is also a director and producer. As a dramaturg, Ms. Nelson previously worked with Cyndy A. Marion on ***Broken Story***. She has worked with dozens of writers including: playwright/novelist Cailin Heffernan, screenwriter Michael Lee Stever, and playwrights Traci Godfrey, Roman Feeser, Bob Ost, and Phil Olson on his popular series, ***Don't Hug Me***. Starting as the dramaturg for ***Vietnam...through my lens*** by Stu Richel, she has now been touring the show nationally for ten years as its producer/director. As an actor with White Horse, she appeared in ***Small Craft Warnings***, ***A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot***, and ***A Cavalier for Milady***.

www.vietnamthroughmylens.com

JULIE FOH

(Dialect Coach)

Julie Foh is a voice and accent coach based in CT. WHTC credits: ***A Cavalier for Milady***, ***You Are Perfect***, ***A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot***, ***Eyes for Consuela***, ***'night, Mother***, ***Suddenly Last Summer***. Other coaching credits include: ***falcon girls***, ***Escaped Alone***, and ***the ripple, the wave that carried me home*** (Yale Rep); ***All My Sons*** and ***The Winter's***

Tale (Hartford Stage); ***A View from the Bridge*** (Long Wharf Theatre); ***Sense and Sensibility***, ***As You Like It***, ***A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder***, ***A Man for All Seasons***, ***And a Nightingale Sang***, ***The Caretaker***, ***A Child's Christmas in Wales*** (Shakespeare Theatre of NJ); ***Belfast Girls*** (Irish Rep). She is an associate professor at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University.

UNKLEDAVE'S FIGHT-HOUSE

(Intimacy Direction)

UnkleDave's Fight-House is a three-time Drama Desk-nominated team of LGBTQ fight/intimacy directors. Broadway: ***Sunset Blvd***, ***Uncle Vanya***, ***Appropriate***, ***Merrily We Roll Along***, ***Great Gatsby***, ***Jaja's African Hair Braiding***, ***Bad Cinderella***, ***Ain't No Mo'***, ***Kimberly Akimbo***, ***Girl From The North Country***, ***Escape To Margaritaville***, ***The Great Society***, ***Tuck Everlasting***, ***An American In Paris***, and ***Disgraced***. Off Broadway: ***The Hours Are Feminine***, ***Bathhouse***, ***Soft*** (Drama Desk nom), ***Jordans***, ***Light In The Piazza***, ***Stereophonic***, ***Halfway Bitches Go Straight To Heaven*** (Drama Desk nom), ***Oedipus El Rey*** (Drama Desk nom). TV: *Annie Live!*

THALIA RANJBAR

(Assistant Director)

Thalia is a Persian-Salvadoran-Canadian director, choreographer, and librettist based in NYC. Credits include: ***The Extinctionist*** (asst. director, Heartbeat Opera), ***Sparks*** (TheatreNOW), ***The Talk*** (New York Theatre Festival, nominated for Best Short), and ***All the Space Between*** (Eugene O'Neill Theatre). Selected for the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat (***Nima & the Jen***), the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project (***Ramin***), and was featured in the Highlight Series at Noor Theatre (***Shot Clock***). Thalia's theatrical writing has been presented by 54 Below, Lincoln Center, Don't Tell Mama, and the Emerging Artists Theatre. MFA: NYU. She currently teaches at Classic Stage Company as well as the Washington Heights Choir School.

ROBERT COTT

(Production Stage Manager)

NYC/Off Broadway credits include ***Like They Do in The Movies*** (PAC), ***Russian Troll Farm*** (Vineyard Theatre), ***Amid Falling Walls*** (National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene), ***Plaza Suite*** (West End Transfer), ***The Fears*** (Signature), ***Love Around the Block*** (an immersive musical for Hermès). Regional credits include: ***Next To Normal*** (Barrington Stage Company), ***The Last Supper*** (SOPAC), The Contemporary American Theater Festival, Huntington Theatre Company, and Berkshire Theatre Group. Robert is proud to be a regional representative for the Stage Managers' Association and an ambassador for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Dedicated to the late Thom Gates.

CHRIS M. RUSSO

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Chris is an NYC-based stage manager and arts administrator, supporting creatives in their pursuits of plays, musicals, variety, and circus acts. Credits include: ***Coney Island Circus Sideshow*** 2024 season, ***Woman Who Sings*** (Tawk Productions), ***Baked! The Musical in Concert*** (Prospect Musicals/NAAP); ***The Mad Ones*** Virtual Theater Lab, ***Significant Other*** (NIFT Theater Co.); and ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (AMAS Musical Theater).

VANESSA R. BOMBARDIERI

(Associate Creative Producer)

With WHTC, Vanessa co-produced ***The Misanthrope*** by Olivia Hunt at HERE Arts Center and Penny Arcade's ***Longing Lasts Longer*** at Bridge Street Theatre in Catskill. Dramaturg/assoc. director on ***Broken Story***, ***You Are Perfect***, ***A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot***, ***Eyes For Consuela***, ***'night, Mother***, ***Clothes For A Summer Hotel***, ***Small Craft Warnings***, among others. Other WHTC credits include a Lab production of her one-act play ***Everybody Dies In February***. Vanessa directed ***Runaway Princess*** by Mary Goggin at The PIT's Solocom. Summer stock credits:

Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dorset Theatre Festival. She holds a Certificate in Professional Coaching from NYU's School of Professional Studies and coaches creatives, neurodivergent individuals, not-for-profit leaders/staff, and parenthood decision-makers. BA in Directing Bard College.

www.whitehorsecoaching.com

ERIK SCHARK

(Casting Director)

LA casting: ***Broken Story*** (White Horse Theater). NY casting: ***The Jury***, ***Powerline Road*** (Gural Theatre); ***Box*** (Independent Theatre), ***Dalliance in Vienna*** (American Theatre of Actors). Numerous developmental readings including ***The Pelican***, ***Fountain of You***, ***Sunday Brunch***, ***The Sustain***, and ***K-Pax***. Internet: *Something to Be Desired* (4 seasons), *The Baristas*. Film: *Red Flag* (upcoming). Erik started casting over 20 years ago in the offices of Margolis-Seay Casting, assisting with the New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) and other projects. He currently is the in-house casting director for Theatre Now New York and has cast their annual ***SOUND BITES*** festival of 10-Minute Musicals for the last 4 years.

WHITE HORSE THEATER COMPANY

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Cyndy A. Marion (President), Vanessa R. Bombardieri (Secretary), Rod Sweitzer, Dr. Mira Shin, & Loretta Hunt Marion

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Michael G. Chin, Andy Evan Cohen, Julie Foh, Joe Gianono, Lindsay Danielle Gitter, Andis Gjoni, James Michael Hughes, Derek Nye Lockwood, Linda S. Nelson, & Laura Siner

This program has been made possible in part through the sponsorship of The Field and with funding provided by WHTC sponsors.

You can support WHTC's mission of championing American plays and playwrights by making a tax-deductible gift today:
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Incorporated in 2003, **White Horse Theater Company** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to producing and developing American plays. We seek to investigate and celebrate American culture by re-examining American classics and nurturing new American voices. We aim to champion great American playwrights by revitalizing their masterworks and shedding new light on their seldom-produced works. We strive to support emerging American playwrights by offering them developmental readings, labs and workshops. White Horse is committed to making high-quality theater and we aim to share our passion for American plays and playwrights with our fellow artists and audiences.

www.whitehorsetheater.com

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SPECIAL THANKS

Indie Space, Dr. Kimi del Busto Ramirez, Frank Hentschker, Prospect Musicals, John Herin, White Horse Theater Company's supporters and donors, and everyone at 59E59 Theaters for making this world premiere production of ***Thistles*** possible.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the US labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theater as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

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Amanda Cooper, Josh Levine

CURATOR'S NOTE

A warm welcome to White Horse Theater Company!

This company is notably dedicated to producing and developing American plays. They support emerging American playwrights by offering developmental readings, labs, and workshops. White Horse is committed to making high-quality theater and aims to share their passion for American plays and playwrights. ***Thistles*** is a prime example of this company's commitment to make theater with a distinctly American flavor.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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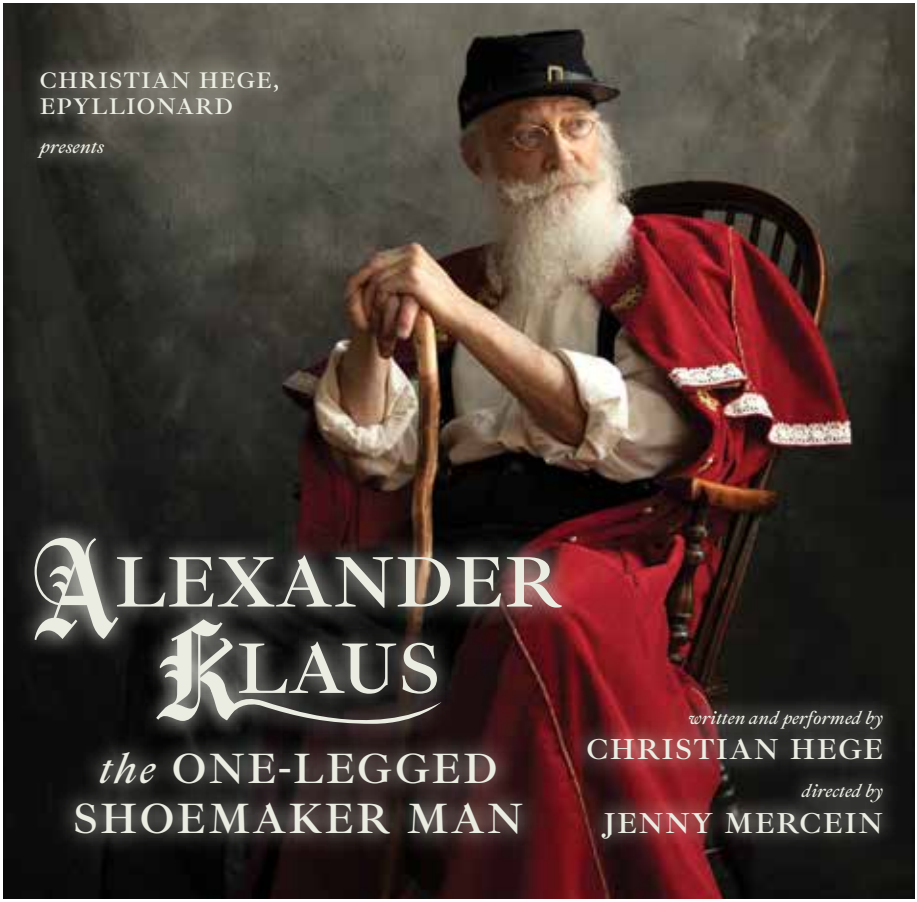
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OUR MISSION

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 by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. As of January, 2025, 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.