59E59 THEATERS

wild project productions
AND ADH THEATRICALS LLC
PRESENTS

— THE —
CHRISTINE JORGENSEN SHOW

BY DONALD STEVEN OLSON

DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL BARAKIVA AND ZOË ADAMS



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— THE —
CHRISTINE JORGENSEN SHOW

BY **DONALD STEVEN OLSON**
DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL BARAKIVA** AND **ZOË ADAMS**

— CAST —

Christine Jorgensen	JESSE JAMES KEITEL	*
Myles Bell	MARK NADLER	*

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright, Co-Composer	DONALD STEVEN OLSON	
Co-Composer, Musical Director	MARK NADLER	
Director	MICHAEL BARAKIVA	§
Director	ZOË ADAMS	
Scenic Design	SHOKO KAMBARA	†
Assistant Scenic Designer	ADAM CRINSON	
Costume Design	SUZANNE CHESNEY	†
Lighting Design	CALVIN ANDERSON	†
Sound Design	JACQUI HERTER	
Props Design	SAMANTHA SHOFFNER	
Assistant Props Designer	JAROD CASTELBLANCO	
Choreographer	BANJI ABORISADE	
Associate Choreographer	KRISTEN GRACE BROWN	
Gender Consultant	JOSEPHINE KEARNS	
Production Stage Manager	NAT KELLEY DiMARIO	*
Assistant Stage Manager	MARS JUNO BARTOLOME NERI	
Substitute Assistant Stage Manager	ALAYNA McCABE	
Casting	THE TELSEY OFFICE, CHARLIE HANO CSA	

— PRODUCTION TEAM —

Producer, ADH Theatricals LLC	ANDREW D. HAMINGSON
Producing Artistic Director, wild project productions	ANA MARI de QUESADA
General Manager, ADH Theatricals LLC	AMANDA COOPER
Production Manager	CARLY LEVIN
Technical Director	FRANKIE CHARLES
Master Electrician	TRAVIS SEMINARA
Wardrobe/Wig Supervisor	NORA GUSTUSON
Production Photographer	JOAN MARCUS

Run time: 95 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.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

Seventy years ago, when Christine Jorgensen returned from Denmark following her gender reassignment surgery (back then it was called a "sex-change operation"), she became the world's first internationally recognized transgender celebrity. Americans in the repressed and repressive 1950s had never encountered anyone like her and their fascination fed headlines for years to come and led to a notable public career. Christine occupies a unique niche in history. She didn't start the sexual revolution but, as she said, she gave it a swift kick in the pants. Much has changed over the past seventy years, but Christine's story, her accomplishments, and her legacy remain as timely today as they were back in 1953, when she stepped off that SAS plane at Idlewild (now JFK Airport) and walked straight into the pages of history.

Everyone involved with this show has been extraordinary, but I'd like to give special thanks to Andy Hamingson for his unwavering enthusiasm and professional guidance as producer, and to Mark Nadler, who has been on (key)board since the idea for this show first woke me up in the middle of the night.

–Donald Steven Olson

JESSE JAMES KEITEL

Christine Jorgensen



An actress, writer, and advocate, Jesse has been pivotal in moving the needle for the LGBTQ+ community's timely representation in Hollywood. From her groundbreaking casting in David E. Kelley's *Big Sky* on ABC, to her daring performance as Ruthie in the reboot of *Queer as Folk* and more recently making history as the first openly trans woman in *Star Trek* as Captain Angel in *Strange New Worlds*. She first broke onto the scene with her heartbreaking performance in the BAFTA and Student Academy Award-winning *Miller and Son*. Soon after, *Vogue* named her one of the "Rising Stars Poised to Dominate in 2022" and she was awarded the Human Rights Campaign Equality Award that same year. Jesse James Keitel's work has captured hearts, pushed boundaries, and helped pave the way for trans representation in television.

MARK NADLER

Myles Bell, Co-Composer, Music Director



Mark Nadler is the recipient of eight awards from the Manhattan Association of Cabarets, three Backstage Bistros, two New York Nightlife Awards, and two *Broadway World Awards*. Additionally, he was awarded two Bay Area Outer Critics' Circle Awards Mark has also been nominated for France's prestigious Trophée de la Théâtre Musicale. He has been a soloist with major orchestras, playing everywhere from Carnegie Hall to Philadelphia's 14,000 seat amphitheater at The Mann Center. His off Broadway show, ***I'm a Stranger Here Myself***, was honored with a New York Nightlife Award, a Drama Desk nomination and a nomination for Australia's highest performing arts honor, the Helpmann Award.

www.MarkNadler.com

MICHAEL BARAKIVA

Director

Michael Barakiva is an Armenian/Israeli American writer and director who currently serves as artistic director of Cleveland Play House. His work has been seen at Primary Stages, Ensemble Studio Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Syracuse Stage, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, as well as the Hangar Theatre, where he served as artistic director. Michael is also an award-winning young adult novelist whose third book, *Keepers of the Stones and Stars,* a multi-POV queer protagonist contemporary epic fantasy, will be on bookshelves in May 2024 (FSG, Macmillan).

www.michaelbarakiva.com

ZOË ADAMS

Director

Zoë Adams creates theater to spark imagination and open hearts to the magic of transformation. Her eclectic body of work includes: ***The Wizard of Oz***, ***The Historical Range of Ursus Americanus***, **Sister Act**, ***Meltdown: A live-action game about Climate Change***, ***In the Name of Us*** (Best Short Play at DUAF), ***The Cherry Orchard***, ***Not Clown***, ***Skin Flick City***, ***Stacked*** at the National Theatre of Croatia, and the immersive supper club Krāv. MFA, Directing, Columbia University.

www.zoecraigadams.com

DONALD STEVEN OLSON

Playwright, Co-Composer

Donald Steven Olson has an international career as a playwright, novelist, and travel and garden writer. His plays have been seen in New York, London, Rome, Amsterdam, Pittsburgh, and Portland, Oregon as well as on a number of virtual stages. ***Oscar & Walt***, about the 1882 meeting of literary lions Oscar Wilde and Walt Whitman, won the 2019 Best Full-Length Play award from ALAP/City of West Hollywood Pride Reading Festival and received its world premiere in Rome, followed by a staged reading at The National Arts Club in New York and a critically acclaimed production with Kinetic Theatre Company in Pittsburgh in 2021. His play ***TRANSITION: The Christine Jorgensen Collection*** was given a virtual production in November 2022 by Transformation Theatre of Maryland. London-based Joffre Books recently reissued e-book editions of three of Donald's groundbreaking novels and his collection of ghost stories. Over the years, Donald has written dozens of travel guides to destinations in Europe and North America, and authored two acclaimed guides to west coast gardens.

www.donaldstevenolson.com

SHOKO KAMBARA

Scenic Designer

Theater: ***Having Our Say*** (George St Playhouse), ***Bees and Honey*** (MCC), ***Fairycakes*** (Greenwich House), ***Little Girl Blue*** (New World Stages), ***Ring of Fire*** (Geva Theatre), ***Native Gardens*** (Syracuse Stage/Geva Theatre/Portland Stage). Opera: ***The Prince of Players*** (Houston Grand Opera-world premiere), ***The Barber of Seville*** (Opera Philadelphia, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Opera Omaha and many more around the US). Various film/TV projects as part of the art department and Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute: *In America: A Lexicon of Fashion*, *In America: An Anthology of Fashion*. MFA NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

SUZANNE CHESNEY

Costume Designer

Suzanne Chesney is a Brooklyn-based costume designer whose career spans 20 years of work in theater and television. She is a member artist at the Ensemble Studio Theatre where she has designed numerous premiere productions including ***Travisville*** by William Jackson Harper, ***Spill*** by Leigh Fondakowski, ***Isaac's Eye*** by Lucas Hnath, and ***Photograph 51*** by Anna Ziegler. Recent credits include ***In Every Generation*** at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, ***Steel Magnolias*** at Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and ***The Play that Goes Wrong*** at Syracuse Stage. Michael Moore Agency.

www.SuzanneChesney.com

CALVIN ANDERSON

Lighting Designer

Calvin Anderson (he/they) is a lighting designer and production manager. They have a strong pull towards the devised, the radical and the risky, while leaning towards heart and trust. Career highlights include ***Body as Site of Faith and Protest*** (waheedworks/NYC), ***Late Night Snacks 2019*** (Bearded Ladies Cabaret/ Philadelphia), ***Oscar at the Crown*** (The Neon Coven/NYC), and ***Orchid Receipt Service*** (Mirror/Fire Productions/NYC). Calvin is a member of Wingspace and USA829.

www.coandersondesign.com

JACQUI HERTER

Sound Designer

Jacqueline Herter is the resident sound designer and audio engineer for the Department of Drama and Syracuse Stage, Central New York's premier professional theater and the professional theater in residence at Syracuse University. She has designed for Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Studio Arena, Geva, Round House, Virginia Stage, and the Hangar Theater, among others. Some of her favorite productions are ***Next to Normal, the Overwhelming, Caroline, or Change, The Miracle Worker, Radio Golf, The Diary of Anne Frank, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Red Noses, The Real Thing, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, M. Butterfly, A Raisin in the Sun, A Lesson Before Dying, Frozen, Copenhagen, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Driving Miss Daisy***, and ***Big River***. B.A., State University College at Geneseo.

BANJI ABORISADE

Choreographer

Broadway: ***Beetlejuice the Musical***. Other assistant/associate credits include: ***Hairspray*** national tour, ***Oliver*** at New York City Center, ***The Griswolds Broadway Vacation*** at 5th Avenue, Virgin Voyages' ***A Ship Show***, ***Beetlejuice*** on Norwegian Cruise Line, ***How to Load a Musket*** at 59E59, and ***SoftPower*** at the Public Theater. Select directing/choreography credits include: ***You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*** at Forestburgh Playhouse, ***Derailed*** at Theatre Now, ***Urinetown*** Off Broadway (choreographer), ***Starblasters*** at Manhattan School of Music (choreographer), ***Guys and Dolls*** at Syracuse University, and ***Urinetown*** at Manhattan School of Music. Film/TV: *SC7NARIO* on BroadwayHD, *The Last Fall*, *While You Were Dreaming*, *SYNC: The Dance Series* (choreographer), and *Every Right*.

KRISTEN GRACE BROWN

Associate Choreographer

Kristen is thrilled to be part of this beautiful production. She trained as a competition dancer and now enjoys choreographing for theatre and dance studios. Performance Credits: ***Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz*** (Paper Mill Playhouse), ***Anything Goes*** (Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera), ***Joseph... Dreamcoat*** (Tuacahn Amphitheatre), ***42nd Street***; ***Mamma Mia!*** (The Palace Theatre NH), ***Little Women*** (Skyline Theatre Company), ***Elf On the Shelf*** (National Tour). BFA Musical Theatre, Syracuse University.

www.KristenGraceBrown.com
@kriistengrace

SAMANTHA SHOFFNER

Props Designer

Broadway: ***Trouble in Mind***, ***Slave Play*** (Props & Lobby redesign). Over 75 Off Broadway shows including ***White Rose***, ***Between Two Knees*** (PAC), ***Refuge Plays***, ***Merrily…*** (Roundabout), ***Dracula: Comedy of Terrors*** (props & puppets). Regional: ***Emmet Otter's Jugband Christmas*** (Chicago), ***Nutcracker*** (Ballet Memphis), ***May We All*** (TPAC). Corporate: Google, Samsung, Grammys, Emmys, H&M. Production design: Sony, NBCUniversal, BMW, Disney, Marvel. The Heart (Sundance 2024), set decorator and specialty props. Citytech professor, props and paint. Freelance interior designer and artist.

www.smartsetsbysam.com.

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.

www.thetelseyoffice.com

NAT KELLEY DiMARIO

Production Stage Manager

Nat Kelley DiMario is a Brooklyn-based queer and trans multidisciplinary theater artist, stage manager, and storyteller. Recent NYC: ***Into the Woods*** (Broadway 2022), ***backstroke boys*** (Fault Line Theatre), ***Lewberger & the Wizard of Friendship*** (Theatre Row), ***No Good Things Dwell in the Flesh*** (ART/NY), ****mark*** (Theatre 315), ***Thelma & Louise & the Time Machine*** (Breaking the Binary Theatre Festival). Nat is an alum of Fordham University and the Juilliard Professional Apprentice Program.

www.natkelleydimario.com
@natdimario

MARS JUNO BARTOLOME NERI

Assistant Stage Manager

Mars Juno Bartolome Neri (they/them) is an artist and stage manager dedicated to supporting those who want to tell their personal stories and creating community through social justice oriented art through new plays or devised works. Their passion lies in community care and the joy that can be found through these collaborative storytelling processes. They're devoted to doing work that brings unheard voices and untold stories to light. Previous collaborators include Leviathan Lab, Breaking the Binary Theatre, Rattlestick Theater, and Signature Theatre DC.

www.marsjbneri.com

CARLY LEVIN

Production Manager

Carly Levin is a NYC-based production manager and stage manager. Credits include ***Waiting for the Sibyl*** (William Kentridge, international tour), ***Ocean Filibuster*** (PearlDamour, US tour), ***Time:Spans***, ***Bric Jazz Fest***, ***The Good Swimmer*** (BAM), ***4:48 Psychosis*** (Prototype), ***Fellow Travelers*** (GWLT/Prototype), ***Anatomy Theater*** (Bric/BMP), Kurt Vonnegut's ***Happy Birthday Wanda June*** (Wheelhouse), ***Tap and Tom*** (Jacob's Pillow), ***Standard Time*** (The Duke), ***Private Peaceful*** (US tour), ***Please Continue*** (EST), ***Powerhouse*** (SinkingShip). Technical supervisor at GWLT/John Jay '19-'21, PM & SM for The American Tap Dance Foundation 2012-2020. Thanks to Seth and the Osnow-Levin clan for the behind-the-scenes support.

THE CHRISTINE JORGENSEN SHOW PRODUCERS

WILD PROJECT PRODUCTIONS

Ana Mari de Quesada, Producing Artistic Director; Tom Escovar, Producing Director

wild project, a nonprofit producer and venue, supports the diverse independent theater, film, music, visual arts, and spoken-word artists of New York City. Since 2007, wild project has presented and produced theater that enriches, educates, and unifies its East Village community in an environmentally responsible green space. Located on E. 3rd St. in Manhattan, wild project curate's resident companies in its 89-seat theater and devotes specific initiatives toward LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC projects and the work of local East Village artists, to ensure nonprofit theater sustains its roots in the community. wild project places the utmost importance on engendering a climate that supports the artists and cultivates artists who commit to artistic excellence, enrich the community and promote social equity.

ADH THEATRICALS, LLC

Andrew D. Hamingson, Producer
General Managers Amanda Cooper, Annie Middleton, Matthew Sonnenfeld

Most recently, ADHT was the associate producer with Audible Theater of Eric Bogosian's ***Drinking in America*** with Andre Royo, directed by Mark Armstrong, and the world premiere opera ***A Marvelous Order*** by Judd Greenstein, Tracy K. Smith, and Joshua Frankel. In 2019, ADHT co-presented the US premiere of ***The King's Speech***. Previous tours included ***The Woman in Black***, the National Theater's ***An Inspector Calls*** directed by Stephen Daldry, ***Private Peaceful*** by Simon Reade, and ***Sancho*** by and starring Paterson Joseph, among many others. Andy was the first executive director of St. Ann's Warehouse as well as ED of the Public Theater and MD at Atlantic Theater Company.

SUPPORTERS

Roselle & Brian Kaltner, Ken Greiner, Jayne Baron Sherman & Deby Zum, Karen Lotman, Gary Larson, Jack Roberts.

The Christine Jorgensen Show is a new play that was workshopped under the title ***Transformation*** in spring 2023 at the Fresh Fruit Festival at the wild project in NYC's East Village. The production at 59E59 Theaters is a world premiere.

SPECIAL THANKS

Tom Léger, American Tap Dance Foundation, Sarah McLellan, Brian Beirne, Val Day, Ebbet, Theatre Row—David J. Roberts, President, Scott Pegg, Rebecca Crigler, Ensemble Studio Theater, Courtney Ozaki & Christian Pederson.

This show is in honor of Bruce Kingsley who taught us all the importance that art should have in our lives.

CURATOR'S NOTE

Lights up on ADH Theatricals and wild project productions for their debut production at our venue!

From the moment I heard about this show featuring the true story of this American trailblazer, I knew it had to be seen by a wider audience.

Let's celebrate Jorgensen's journey of resilience and give a warm welcome to ***The Christine Jorgensen Show!***



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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ELYSABETH KLEINHANS

Artistic Director
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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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