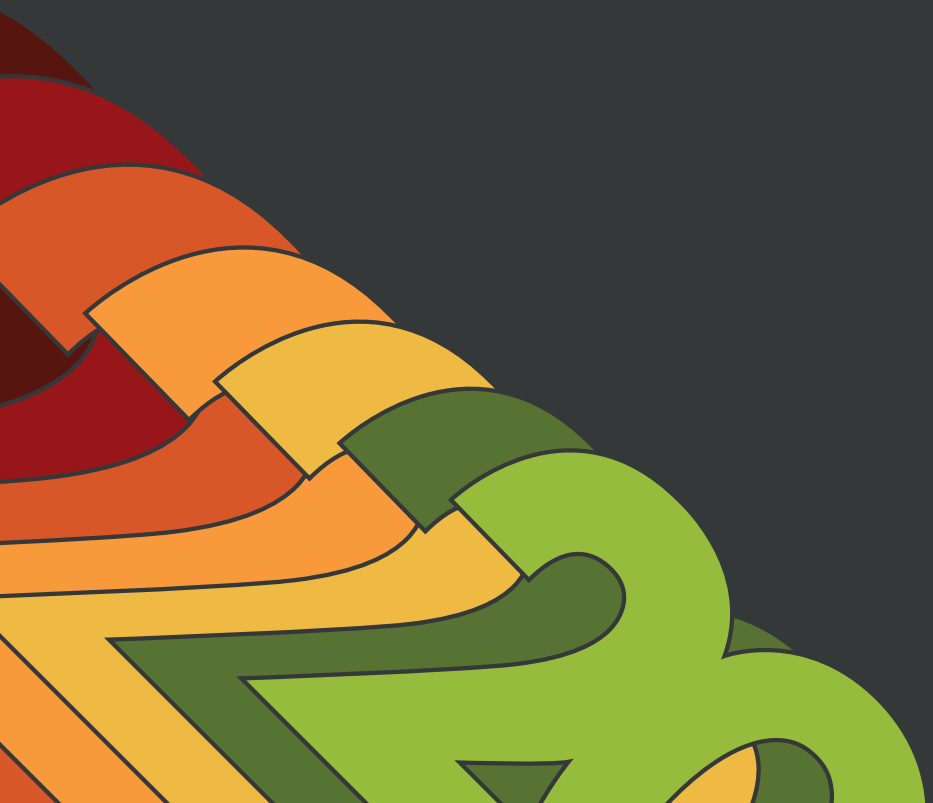
LUNA STAGE
PRESENTS

Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library

BY
JENNY LYN BADER

DIRECTED BY
ARI LAURA KREITH



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LUNA STAGE
PRESENTS

Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library

BY JENNY LYN BADER
DIRECTED BY ARI LAURA KREITH

— CAST —

Hannah ..... ELLA DERSHOWITZ *
Karl ..... BRETT TEMPLE *
Erich ..... DREW HIRSHFIELD *
Understudy, Hannah ..... MARISSA RUBEN *
Understudy, Karl and Erich ..... JAY DeYONKER *

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Playwright ..... JENNY LYN BADER
Director ..... ARI LAURA KREITH ^
Scenic Design ..... LAUREN HELPERN †
Costume Design ..... DEBORAH CANEY
Lighting Design ..... CAMERON FILEPAS
Sound Design ..... MEGAN CULLEY †
Casting Director ..... JUDY BOWMAN, CSA
Design Assistant ..... AMBROSE AMORY

— PRODUCTION TEAM —

Producing Artistic Director ..... ARI LAURA KREITH ^
Production Manager ..... LUCAS PINNER *
Production Stage Manager ..... INGRID PIERSON *
Production Assistant ..... RACHAEL MALLOY
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... ASHANTAH KERR
Board Operator ..... HANNAH STARR
Scenic Shop ..... HILLBOLIC ARTS AND CARPENTRY
Production Electrician ..... JEFFREY D'AMBROSIO
Lead Carpenter ..... JACOB CANGE

Press Representative ..... DAVID GIBBS/DARR PUBLICITY

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.

^ Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

ELLA DERSHOWITZ
(Hannah)



Theater: ***Connected*** (59E59), ***Can You Forgive Her?*** (Vineyard Theatre), ***Intimacy*** (New Group), ***Card and Gift*** (Clubbed Thumb), ***The Two Hander*** (NJ Rep), ***Joy and Pandemic*** (Huntington), ***Sovereignty*** and ***Thomas and Sally*** (Marin Theatre Company), ***Three Musketeers: 1941*** (Project Y), ***4,000 Miles*** and ***You Will Remember Me*** (Hudson Stage), ***Actually*** (Aurora), ***The Wolves*** (Capital Stage), ***On the Verge*** (Attic), ***Visitors*** and ***The Screenwriter's Daughter*** (Martha's Vineyard Playhouse), ***A Splintered Soul*** (Rosalind Productions), ***The Siegel*** (City Lights), ***Twelfth Night*** (Payomet). TV/film: *Phil Spector* (HBO), *The Affair* (Showtime), *Lie to Me* (Fox), *Knife Fight, Two-Bit Waltz, Pitching Tents.* Yale University. Crossword puzzle constructor.

BRETT TEMPLE
(Karl)



Brett Temple is honored to return to ***Mrs. Stern*** after the world premiere at Luna Stage in 2019. Some of his previous stage credits include ***The Valley of the Shadow*** (WP Theatre) and ***Henry IV, Part One*** (Shakespeare's Globe). TV/film: *Mrs. Fletcher (HBO), Bull (CBS),* and the upcoming film *When The Moon Was Twice as Big.* Graduated from Rutgers, Mason Gross.

DREW HIRSHFIELD
(Erich)



Drew is lucky enough to have worked on plays by Bertolt Brecht, Francis Beaumont, Sandy Rustin, Arthur Miller, Kate Hamill, Robert Askins, Jordan Seavey, Lucas Knath, Anton Chekhov, Steve Martin, Peter Shaffer, Lanford Wilson, Sam Shepard, Oliver Goldsmith, Tom Stoppard, Neil Simon, Steven Sater, Shakespeare, and many others, at theaters and rehearsal rooms large and small across the country. He's long served on the acting faculty at New York Film Academy. He earned an MFA from American Conservatory Theater.

JAY DeYONKER
(Understudy, Karl/Erich)



An NYU alumni, Jay spent five years working in Prague where he was a principal member of the Prague Shakespeare Company. Back in New York, Jay booked roles on *FBI: Most Wanted*, *American Horror Story*, and the recently released, *The Zombie Wedding* from the Weekly World News Productions. He also wrote, produced, and acted in multiple award-winning films including the musical hit *Triple Threat* (Best Actor at the SOHO Film Festival) currently streaming on Peacock. All my gratitude to family, friends, and his team for their love and support.

MARISSA RUBEN
(Understudy, Hannah)



Marissa Ruben is an actor and filmmaker. Theater: ***Indecent*** (Next Stage Arts), ***ALIEN NATION*** (Williamstown Theatre Festival), ***The Last Hunter*** (Williamstown Theatre Festival/reading), ***Caring for the Dead*** (Williamstown Theatre Festival/reading), ***Seven Cousins for a Horse*** (New Dramatists/reading), ***YANKEES*** (Corkscrew Theater Festival). Film: *The Premiere* (Sam Pezzulo), *True Dark* (Ellis Ryder). Marissa holds a BFA from NYU Tisch.

www.marissaruben.com

JENNY LYN BADER
(Playwright)

Jenny Lyn Bader is the author of plays including ***Equally Divine*** (14th St. Y), ***In Flight*** (TTF Productions/Workshop Theatre), ***Manhattan Casanova*** (Hudson Stage), and ***None of the Above*** (New Georges). One-acts include ***Worldness*** (Humana Festival), ***Beta Testing*** (Symphony Space), and ***Miss America*** (NY Int'l Fringe, "Best of Fringe" selection). Audio productions include ***Communal Table*** (Broadway Podcast Network) and ***Tree Confessions*** (TINATC, w/ Kathleen Chalfant). Her work has been published by Dramatists Play Service, Next Stage Press, Smith & Kraus, Vintage, Applause, *Plays International & Europe, Lincoln Center Theater Review*, and *The New York Times,* where she was a frequent contributor to the "Week in Review." A Harvard graduate, she has received the Best Documentary One-Woman Show Award (United Solo Fest), Athena Playwriting Fellowship, Edith Oliver Award (O'Neill Center), and Lark Playwriting Fellowship (nominated by Wendy Wasserstein). She belongs to the Dramatists Guild, LPTW, and Honor Roll.

ARI LAURA KREITH

(Director)

Ari is the artistic director of Luna Stage, where her directing credits include world premieres of ***RIFT*** (Venturous Award), ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library***, ***The Voting Writes Project*** (NEA Art Works), and the regional premiere of ***Heartland*** (Star-Ledger Top 10). As artistic director of NYC's Theatre 167 she conceived/directed ***The Jackson Heights Trilogy*** (3 full-length plays collaboratively written by 18 playwrights featuring 37 actors playing 93 roles in 14 languages), and directed the world premieres of ***Pirira*** (NYIT Award: Best Production), ***Singing Beach*** (HERE), ***Mourning Sun*** (West End Theatre/Kampala, Uganda). Ari designed immersive commissions for Queens Museum and the NY Transit Museum, and conceived/directed ***The Ground On Which We Stand***, which received the Giles R. Wright Award for Excellence in African American History. BA: Yale University.

LAUREN HELPERN

(Scenic Design)

Lauren Helpern designed numerous world premiere and critically acclaimed productions including: ***4000 Miles*** (Lincoln Center - Lortel Award), ***Bad Jews*** (Roundabout), ***Skintight*** (Roundabout and Geffen Playhouse - Robby Award nomination), ***Model Apartment***, and ***BUG*** (Obie Award). Her work has been seen from Hartford Stage to La Jolla Playhouse, on the national tour of ***American Girl Live!***, and several productions of ***Blue Man Group***. She was the production designer for *Ari Shaffir - Jew* (over 7.3 million views on YouTube). She is a partner in Butter Designs, a full-service design firm for installations and activations.

DEBORAH CANEY

(Costume Design)

Deborah Caney has been designing costumes for 25 years. She has been the resident costume designer at Luna Stage since 2008. Recent productions at Luna Stage include ***Queen of the Night*** (written by travis tate, directed by Lucas Pinner) and ***RIFT*** (written by Gabriel Jason Dean, directed by Ari Laura Kreith). Other credits include: ***The Operas, Ghosts of Gatsby, & The Beautiful Bridegroom***, directed by Karen Driscoll at The Alexander Kasser Theater; ***Ain't Misbehavin'*** directed by 2019 Tony Award winner André DeShields at NJPAC and Crossroads Theatre Co.; ***Look What A Wonder,*** written and directed by Walter Robinson at Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center.

CAMERON FILEPAS

(Lighting Design)

Cameron Filepas is a NJ/NYC-based lighting designer for theater. Recent design credits: ***The Last Match Tour*** (Temple Theatre), ***Spring Awakening*** (EPIC Players), ***RIFT*** (Luna Stage), ***A Raisin In The Sun*** (Bristol Riverside Theatre), ***White Christmas*** (Arizona Broadway Theatre), ***Ride The Cyclone*** (Ramapo College), ***Rock of Ages*** (Centenary Stage Company), ***The Prom*** (Axelrod PAC), ***Into The Woods*** (EPIC Players), ***Torn Asunder*** (Luna Stage), ***Mamma Mia*** (Madison HS). Recent assistant credits: ***Drag The Musical*** (New World Stages), ***Giselle*** (American Repertory Ballet), ***Queens Girl In The World*** (Abingdon Theatre Company), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (American Repertory Ballet), ***NEXTSteps*** (The Washington Ballet).

MEGAN CULLEY

(Sound Design)

Selected design: ***Antigone*** (Cleveland Play House), ***The Loophole*** (The Public Theater), ***Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt 2B*** (KCRep); ***Grounded***, ***Hurricane Diane***, ***Stew*** (Dobama Theater); ***Terminus*** (New York Theatre Workshop), ***Stranger Sings!*** (Off Broadway), ***Inanimate*** (The Flea Theater), ***The Last Match*** (B Street Theatre), ***Roan @ the Gates*** (Luna Stage), ***The Color Purple*** (Theatre Horizon). Broadway associate design: ***McNeal***, ***Uncle Vanya***, ***A Christmas Carol***, ***Jaja's African Hair Braiding***, ***Flying Over Sunset***. Other selected associate design: ***The Secret Garden*** (Center Theatre Group), ***The Preacher's Wife*** (Alliance Theatre), ***King James*** (MTC), ***Come Fall In Love*** (The Old Globe).

JUDY BOWMAN, CSA

(Casting Director)

Upcoming: ***Bullethead*** (dir. Scott Schwartz), ***The Humans*** (Palm Beach Drama Works), Jeffrey Hatcher's ***Dial M for Murder*** *(Arizona/Pioneer)*, ***Little Women*** (Geva Theatre). Recent: ***RIFT*** (Luna Stage), ***True Art*** (Dorset Theatre Festival), Festival of New Jewish Plays (Berkshire Theatre Group/ JPP), ***Summer, 1976*** (Wellfleet HAT), ***Sanctuary City*** (Kitchen Theatre Co/Geva), ***Where We Belong*** (Folger/Woolly Mammoth tours), ***A View from the Bridge*** (SOOP), and the Sharon Playhouse season. Films include *First Shift, Hurricane Bianca, Gold Star, Separation, One Moment,* & the TV series *Big Dogs.* Numerous short films, webseries, and audio projects. Board member/resident casting: Jewish Plays Project. Judy has cast numerous plays at 59E59 Theaters.

LUCAS PINNER

(Production Manager)

At Luna: ***Queen of the Night*** (director), ***RIFT, Westphalia, A Trojan Woman, Trich.*** In addition to his work as production manager at Luna, Lucas is an actor, fight choreographer, and teaching artist. Performance credits include ***Richard III*** (Oxford Shakespeare Company), ***Peter and the Starcatcher*** (The Growing Stage), ***Razia's Shadow*** (Bullet Theatre Collaborative). For the last decade, Lucas has worked as a teaching artist with many theaters, including Luna Stage, Paper Mill Playhouse, George Street Playhouse, and Two River Theatre Company.

INGRID PIERSON

(Production Stage Manager)

NYC: ***All The Devils Are Here***, ***Ghost of John McCain***, Disney Theatrical Group, Signature Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Page 73, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, Jewish Plays Project, Emerging Artists Theatre, Gingold Theatrical Group. National tour: ***Aladdin***, Theatreworks USA. Regional: Gateway Playhouse, Sharon Playhouse, Gloucester Stage Company, Theater at Monmouth, The Curtain, Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, Argyle Theatre, Luna Stage, Triad Stage, Mill Mountain Theater, Weathervane Repertory Theatre. Proud member of AEA.

RACHAEL MALLOY

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Rachael is a New Jersey-based assistant stage manager and a graduate of Cedar Crest College. They have been working with New Jersey Repertory Company for three years. Notable NJRep credits include ***The Other American***, ***Bookstore***, ***The Two Hander***, ***ESSPY***, ***Welcome to Matteson***, ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project***, ***What Doesn't Kill You***, as well as ***Cosi Fan Tutte*** with the Princeton Symphony Festival.

AMBROSE AMORY

(Design Assistant)

Ambrose is an undergraduate at NYU's Gallatin School where he is pursuing his interests in pre-med, fashion, and music. He made his backstage debut spring at Luna Stage as Wardrobe Supervisor for ***Queen of the Night***, having previously performed onstage at Luna Stage, Paper Mill Playhouse, and more. He is excited for the opportunity to merge his love of the stage with his experience in clothing design and construction.

ASHANTAH KERR

(Wardrobe Supervisor)

Ashantah is a recent graduate from Montclair State University with a BFA in Theater with a focus in Stage Management and Costumes. She focuses primarily on the technical side of costume work, using her skills learned through stage management, having to do with organization and coordination to help her excel in the areas of wardrobe and costume assistant work. She also has a skillset in costumes crafting, distressing, dyeing, and pattern making, making her a well-rounded member of the world of wardrobe. Previous work includes costumes stock manager, costume design assistant, and coordinator on shows such as ***Head Over Heels*** and ***Anna in the Tropics*** while still in university.

HANNAH STARR

(Sound Board Operator/Wardrobe)

Hannah is from New Jersey. She studied Theater Technology at Bergen Community College and graduated in May 2022 with a degree in the arts. There, she was ASM for ***The Wolves*** by Sarah DeLappe, ***A Christmas Pudding***, as well as both ASM and assistant dance captain for ***Once Upon a Mattress*** before the pandemic. Last year, she was the co-front of house manager at Vanguard Theater Company in Montclair. Board operator at Luna: ***RIFT, Queen of the Night***.

JEFFREY D'AMBROSIO

(Production Electrician)

Jeffrey D'Ambrosio is pleased to be joining the team behind ***Mrs. Stern***. Based in New York City, his main body of work comprises lighting for both stage and screen. Recent productions include ***Staff Meal*** (Playwrights Horizons), ***Russian Troll Farm*** (Vineyard Theatre), ***Buena Vista Social Club*** (Atlantic Theater Company), and ***Dig*** (59E59 Theaters).

DAVID GIBBS

(Press Representative; he/him)

David Gibbs is the founder of DARR Publicity, a boutique entertainment press agency specializing in theater, comedy, dance, film, music, and unique theatrical experiences. His clients have won Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Obie and Off Broadway Alliance Awards, and have been nominated for Bessie and Chita Rivera Awards.

www.DarrPublicity.com

LUNA STAGE

Luna Stage develops and produces vibrant plays about local and global experiences and brings communities together for artistic events that spark conversations, create understanding, and inspire change. As producer, innovator, educator, and arts anchor, Luna is dedicated to uplifting underrepresented narratives, eliminating barriers to participation, and nurturing the next generation of audiences and artists. Luna World Premieres include Matthew Lopez's ***The Whipping Man***, which later became one of the produced plays in the U.S. from 2012-2016; and three plays by Nikkole Salter: ***Lines in The Dust*** (Luna commission) ***Indian Head*** (Luna co-commission), and ***Carnaval***. Winner of the NJ Arts People's Choice Award for "Favorite Small Theatre in New Jersey", Luna has contributed to the development of over 100 new works for the stage.

Deep gratitude to all who supported this production:

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SPECIAL THANKS

Pat Addiss, Peggy & John Bader, Giuliana Carr, Cindy Cooper, Frances Hill, Karl Kenzler, Jon Krupp, Ina Marlowe, Deborah Savadge, Elisa Stein, Bara Swain, Ellen Weiss, 13th St. Rep, 14th St. Y, 365 Women/Plays, Anne Frank Center, Jerome Kohn, Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College (hac.bard.edu), Jewish Theatre Circle, Museum of Jewish Heritage, Playwrights Gallery.

Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library is produced by Luna Stage Company, Inc.

Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library by Jenny Lyn Bader was originally produced at Luna Stage in West Orange, NJ, directed by Ari Laura Kreith.

CURATOR'S NOTE

Welcome back to Luna Stage, last here in 2010 with ***The Man in Room 306***. A leading voice in New Jersey's Valley Arts District theater scene, this company is dedicated to building community by developing and producing plays with a local and global perspective that promotes diversity and understanding. Luna Stage's longstanding mission of nurturing artists and eliminating barriers to participation to include new and underrepresented voices is close to our hearts at 59E59. With ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library***, playwright Jenny Lyn Bader has honed in on a story set during perhaps the darkest time of the 20th century that manages to offer moments of light and connection.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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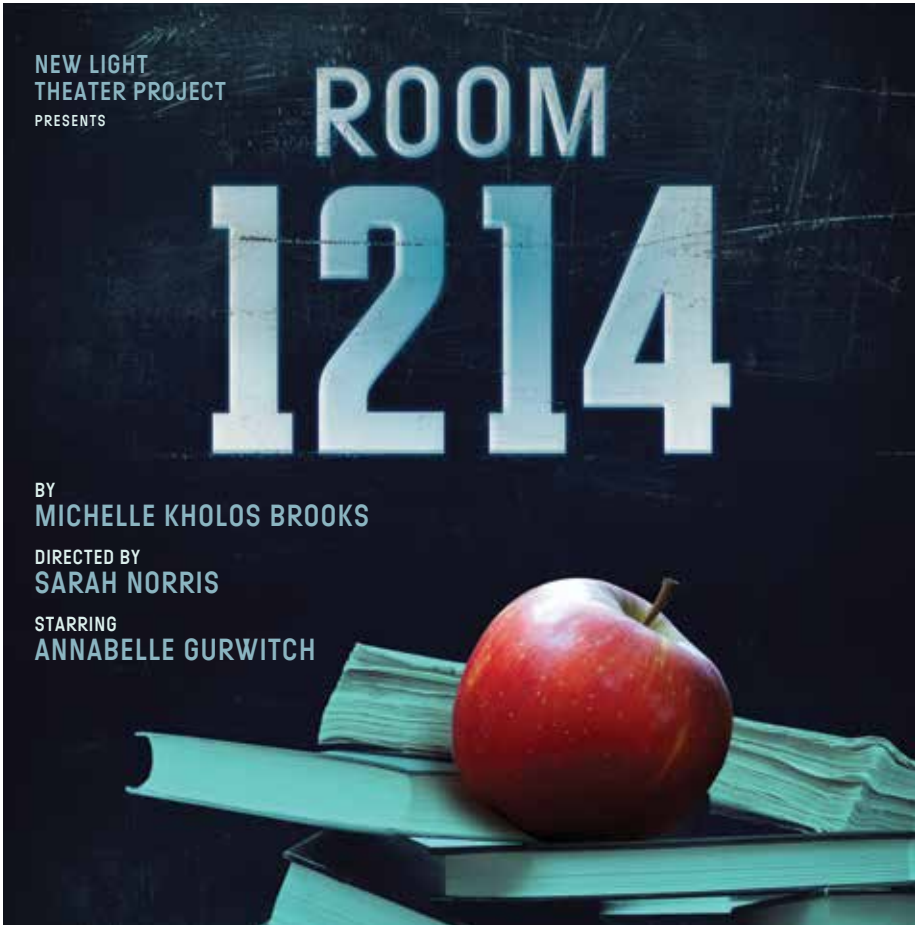
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OUR MISSION

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.