

Photo credit: Tunde Skovran and Julia Ubrankovics.
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NEXT IN THEATER B — NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 31

LOVE PRODUCTIONS RECORDS
presents

CROSS THAT RIVER

Composed by
ALLAN HARRIS

Book by
ALLAN & PAT HARRIS

Directed by
REGGE LIFE

With MAYA AZUCENA, JEFFERY LEWIS, CAROLYN LEONHART, ALAN GRUBNER, SHIRAZETTE TINNIN, JAY WHITE, SETH JOHNSON, MIKI HAYAMA, *and* ALLAN HARRIS

The unsettled West of the 1860s provides a new life and new dreams for Blue, a run-away slave, who escapes to Texas to become one of America's first Black Cowboys. This compelling tale of freedom integrates fiction with historical fact, and each song presents a different page in this complicated chapter of American History.

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
JAMES SPARNON Production/Facility Manager
GINGER DZERK Director of Ticketing Services
JESSICA HART Finance Associate/Office Manager
SPONDEE House Guy
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician
KIRSTY GAUKEL Director of Marketing
KAREN GRECO Press Representative
JEN GUSHUE Marketing Manager
JESSICA SCHMIDT Membership and Marketing Associate
BARBARA IAMS KOREIN Archivist
KELVIN VERAS Box Office Manager
PETER CARRIER Box Office Supervisor
LEAH GABRIEL Box Office Supervisor
NATHANIEL CLARIDAD Box Office Associate
MARK COOPER Box Office Associate
CURT JAMES Box Office Associate
STEVEN MEEKER JR. Box Office Associate
MARTAVIUS PARRISH Box Office Associate
IAN PRINCE Box Office Associate
LLOYD MULVEY Box Office Associate/Front Desk
DARIELLE SHANDLER Box Office Associate/Front Desk

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS
President/Founding Artistic Director
ADAM SMITH E:BAR Manager
MOLLY GROOME E:BAR Staff
JOSE JAIME E:BAR Staff
ALICE JOHNSON E:BAR Staff
LINDSAY WALKER Theater Manager
ERIK DE JESUS House Manager
JASMIN MORALES Front of House Assistant
RICARDO ANTONIO Usher
DEVON AUSTIN Usher
MICHAEL DEVINE Usher
BRANDON JOHNSON Usher
JOHN KARCHER Usher
KAILAH KING Usher
CHRISTOPHER (ACE) LANTIGUA Usher
MEGAN MILKO Usher
JOSE RONDON Usher
GIRAULT SEGER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
TORIA STERLING Usher
EDGARD TORO Usher
JESUS RIVERA Facilities Manager
CARLOS CONILL Facilities
JOHNATHAN PRICE Facilities



design: musemanhattan.nyc

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J.U.S.T. TOYS PRODUCTIONS
AND THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL
INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK
PRESENT

TOYS

A DARK FAIRY TALE

BY
SAVIANA STANESCU

DIRECTED BY
GÁBOR TOMPA

59
59

THEATER B

NOVEMBER 8 – 26, 2017

J.U.S.T. TOYS PRODUCTIONS
AND THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL
INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK
PRESENT

TOYS

A DARK FAIRY TALE

BY
SAVIANA STANESCU

DIRECTED BY
GÁBOR TOMPA

CAST

SHARI/MADONNA // **TUNDE SKOVRAN**
FATMA/CLARA // **JULIA UBRANKOVICS**

CREATIVE TEAM

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR // **KATE JOPSON**
SET DESIGN // **GÁBOR TOMPA**
COSTUME DESIGN // **ELISA BENZONI**
LIGHTING DESIGN // **GÁBOR TOMPA**
ORIGINAL MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN // **GÁBOR TOMPA**
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER // **KATE JOPSON**

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCERS // **TUNDE SKOVRAN, JULIA UBRANKOVICS**
PRODUCTION COMPANY // **J.U.S.T. TOYS PRODUCTIONS**

The running time of *TOYS: A Dark Fairy Tale*
is 50 minutes with no intermission.

J.U.S.T. TOYS PRODUCTIONS

J.U.S.T. Toys Productions was founded by Tunde Skovran and Julia Ubrankovics, two Eastern European artists residing in Los Angeles. The company provides a platform for multicultural theater artists with Eastern European roots. J.U.S.T. Toys Productions produces passionate and provocative theatrical experiences by inviting outstanding professionals from Europe to collaborate with American theater makers. Their mission is to initiate cross-cultural discussions, foster collaborations, and enrich their community with a diverse cultural heritage.

In 2015, J.U.S.T. Toys Productions produced ***TOYS: A Dark Fairy Tale*** by Saviana Stanescu. Directed by Gábor Tompa, the play premiered at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood and ran for six weeks. Throughout 2016 and 2017, the show was presented at numerous prestigious international theater festivals, including the Festival d'Avignon in Avignon, France.

In 2017, J.U.S.T. Toys Productions joined forces with Circle X Theatre Co., a prominent Los Angeles-based theater company, and the Hollyhock House, a historic house built by Frank Lloyd Wright and managed by the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, to present a production of Maria Irene Fornes's feminist play, ***Fefu and Her Friends***. Featuring an international cast and crew, the *LA Times* called the show "an experience that feels less like seeing a show than traveling through space and time, unencumbered by the laws of physics."

LA critic Tracey Paleo called ***Fefu and Her Friends*** "largely abstract and fundamentally feminist, the presentation here is yet another gorgeous display of the acting talents of primarily Tunde Skrovan and Julia Ubrankovics (J.U.S.T. Toys Productions) whose specialty is Avante Garde, socially conscious stage productions."

JULIA UBRANKOVICS

Actor/Producer
Fatma/Clara



Julia is a film, television, and theater actress. Recently she worked with Jennifer Lawrence on *Red Sparrow,* made her debut on CBS's *Hawaii Five-O* playing a young special agent, and appeared on the BBC/NETFLIX series *The Last Kingdom* and CBS's spy drama series *X Company*. Her career covers 10+ years of work with features & shorts, theater plays, radio plays, and commercials. She was awarded Best Actress at the 40th Hungarian Film Festival for her leading role in the feature *Virtually a Virgin*, and her work on a recent Hollywood theater success ***Fefu and her Friends*** received rave reviews.

In 2018, she will star as a lead character on a new European TV series called *The Teacher*. Julia is the owner and cofounder of J.U.S.T. Toys Productions, a Los Angeles based production company, producing ***TOYS: A Dark Fairy Tale*** and ***Fefu and Her Friends***. Julia previously lived in Hawaii, studied in New York, performed in Berlin, and spent her youth in Budapest. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

She deeply cares about gender equality and devoting her art to empower those who are cast aside.

TUNDE SKOVRAN

Actor/Producer
Shari/Madonna



Tunde is an actress, director, and producer currently working and residing in Los Angeles. After graduating college, she joined the internationally acclaimed Hungarian Theater of Cluj in Romania, where she performed in over 30 productions. Her performance in the film *Puzzle* secured her two Best Actress in a Lead Role Awards at the NYC Independent Film Festival and at the BNFF. She was also nominated for the Romanian Theater Union Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

Tunde initiated and undertook the production of the plays ***TOYS: A Dark Fairy Tale*** and ***Fefu and Her Friends*** in Los Angeles. She produced the short film *Donkey Xote* and won Best Film at the 47th Montréal Film Festival 2016. She also directed *Little Snail* and *Too deep in the forest*, nominated in seven different categories at the 2016 edition of the 48 Hour Film Festival in Los Angeles. She is a cofounder and owner of Voxx Studios and J.U.S.T. Toys Productions, both Los Angeles-based production companies.

Tunde is currently directing a hybrid feature documentary produced by Vernon Films, due to release in 2019.

SAVIANA STANESCU

Playwright

Saviana Stanescu is an award-winning Romanian-born playwright and ARTivist based in New York and Ithaca. Her plays include ***Aliens with extraordinary skills***, ***Ants*** (both published by Samuel French), ***Lenin's Shoe***, ***Useless***, ***TOYS***, ***Bechnya***, ***Hurt, Hobo-Jungle***, ***Waxing West*** (2007 NY Innovative Theatre Award), and ***What Happens Next***. Her plays have been developed/produced at Women's Project, La MaMa, New York Theatre Workshop, EST, HERE, New Georges, The Lark, The Cherry, Teatro La Capilla, etc. Saviana holds an MA in Performance Studies and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU. She teaches Playwriting and Contemporary Theatre at Ithaca College and is the founder of Immigrant Artists and Scholars in New York.
www.saviana.com

GÁBOR TOMPA

Director

Gábor Tompa is an internationally renowned Romanian-Hungarian theater and film director, poet, essayist, and teacher. Between 2007-2015 he was Head of Directing at the Theatre and Dance Department of the University of California, San Diego, where he still teaches Directing and History of Directing. He has been the General and Artistic Director of the Hungarian Theatre of Cluj since 1990 (a member of the Union of the Theatres of Europe (UTE) since 2008).

He studied stage and film directing at the I.L. Caragiale Theatre and Film Academy in Bucharest. He has staged more than 100 plays and produced 100 more in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Serbia, Czech Republic, Canada, South Korea, and the U.S. in addition to Romania and Hungary, in English, French, German, Romanian, Hungarian, Catalan, and other languages. His performances are frequently presented in major festivals like those of Avignon, Bogota, Sarajevo, and Seoul. His feature film, *Chinese Defense* (1999), a Hungarian-Romanian-French coproduction has been presented at the Festivals of Berlin, Karlovy Vary, São Paulo, Trieste, Istanbul, Budapest, Soci, and has been awarded the Best First Feature in Salerno, Italy.

From 1990–1995 he was Head of Directing at the Theatre Academy in Târgu Mureș; in 1991 he founded the Theatre and Drama Faculty in Cluj-Napoca. He has taught classes and workshops for actors and directors in Spain, the UK, Germany, Hungary, France, and South Korea.

From March 2006 to April 2008, he was an individual member of the Union of the Theatres of Europe. In 2007, he founded the biennial Interferences International Theatre Festival in Cluj and currently serves as the Artistic Director.

KATE JOPSON

Assistant Director/Stage Manager

Kate Jopson is Associate Artistic Director of Circle X Theatre Co. Directing credits include ***Candide*** (Santa Cruz Shakespeare), ***Fefu and Her Friends*** (Circle X Theatre/J.U.S.T. Toys Productions, LA), ***1984*** (Greenway Court Theatre, LA), ***An Accident*** (Griot Theatre, LA), ***Twelfth Night*** (Coeurage Theatre Co. LA), ***Second Skin*** (The West/The Flagship Ensemble), ***A Willow Grows Aslant*** (La Jolla Playhouse–Without Walls Fest.), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, ***A Doll's House***, ***Casagemas***, ***Elizabeth I***, ***Cry Old Kingdom*** (UCSD), and ***Jesus, She Said*** (Marin Fringe Festival: Critic's Choice, Best Director). BA: UC Berkeley. MFA in Directing from UC San Diego.
www.katejopson.com

ELISA BENZONI

Costume Designer

Elisa is thrilled to have worked on ***TOYS***. Select credits include ***Sex with Strangers*** (Geffen Playhouse), ***The Who and The What***, ***Our Town***, ***Tall Girls***, ***Brahaman/I***, ***Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir*** (La Jolla Playhouse), ***Constellations*** (Old Globe), ***Pericles***, ***Prince of Tyre***, ***Reckless***, ***Much Ado About Nothing***, and ***Measure for Measure*** (USD/Old Globe), ***Fox on the Fairway*** (Nominated for a Craig Noel Award), ***Chapatti***, ***Last of the Red Hot Lovers***, ***Hedda Gabler***, ***The Illusion***, ***Spitfire Grill***, ***Travels With My Aunt***, ***Marjorie Prime*** (North Coast Repertory Theatre), ***Emilie***, ***Sylvia***, ***Much Ado About Nothing*** (New Village Arts), ***Snakeskin***, ***Lifeblood Harmony***, ***Chagall***, ***A Man Found Wanting*** (Malashock Dance). Assistant costume credits: ***Dialogues des Carmelites*** (Teatro Petruzzelli, Bari), ***Paradise Found*** (Menier Chocolate Factory, London), ***Milk Like Sugar*** (La Jolla Playhouse), ***As You Like It***, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (The Old Globe). Elisa holds a costume design MFA from UCSD where she is currently an adjunct lecturer.
www.elisabenzoni.com

ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK

The New York run of *TOYS: A Dark Fairy Tale*
is made possible through the generous support
of the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York.