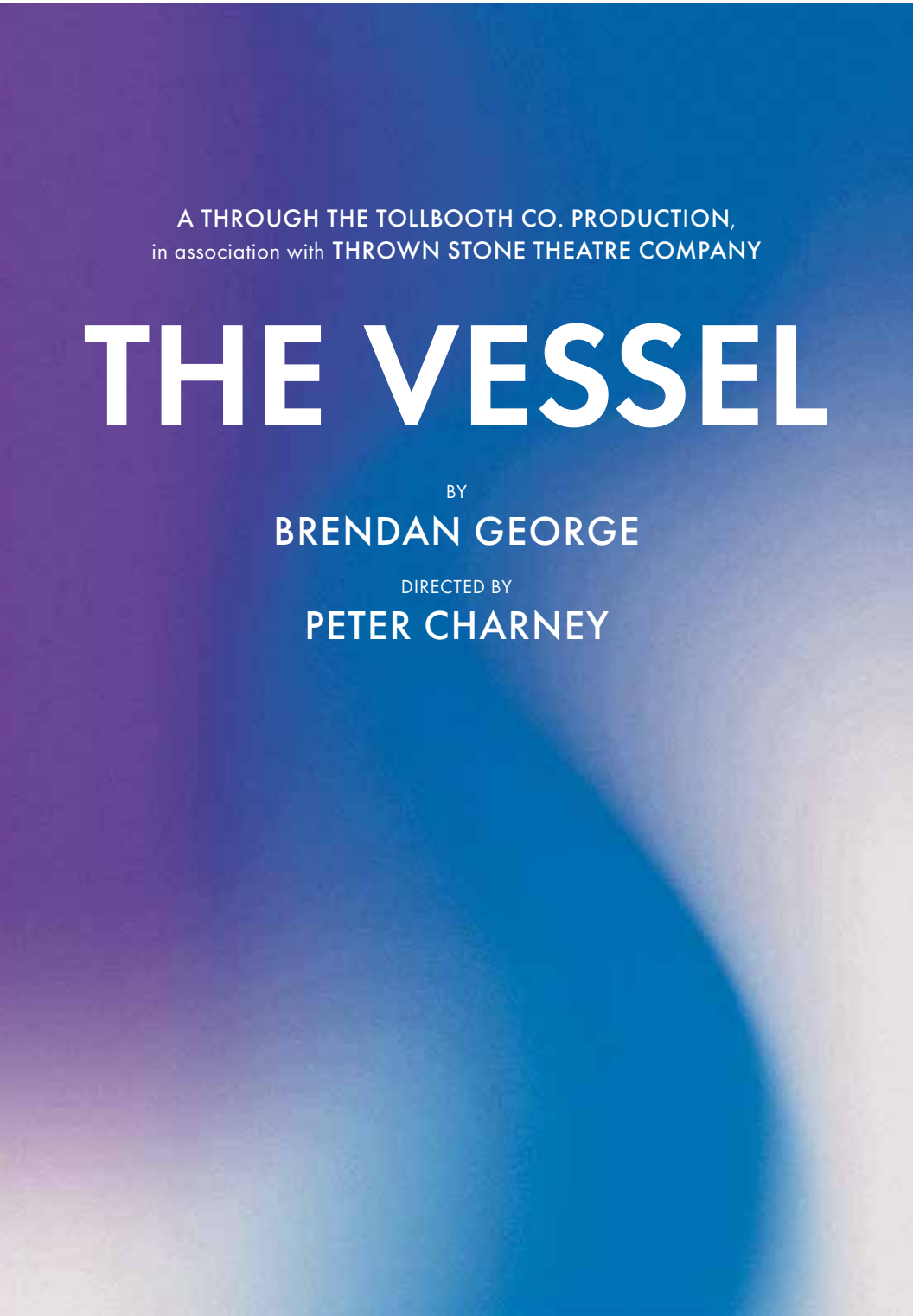

A THROUGH THE TOLLBOOTH CO. PRODUCTION,
in association with THROWN STONE THEATRE COMPANY
THE VESSEL
BY
BRENDAN GEORGE
DIRECTED BY
PETER CHARNEY

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A THROUGH THE TOLLBOOTH CO. PRODUCTION,
in association with THROWN STONE THEATRE COMPANY

THE VESSEL

BY
BRENDAN GEORGE

DIRECTED BY
PETER CHARNEY

– CAST –

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Drake ..... SOFONYAS
Missy ..... ANASTASIA LOCKE
Vïggo ..... WILL INGRAM

– CREATIVE TEAM –

Playwright ..... BRENDAN GEORGE
Director ..... PETER CHARNEY
Associate Director ..... TALYA BRAVERMAN
Scenic Design ..... TONY DiBERNARDO
Lighting Design ..... YIYUAN LI
Sound Design ..... EMMA HASSELBACH
Stage Manager ..... R. S. DENNIS
Props Design/Production Assistant ..... NICOLE YAGAR
Set Construction ..... TOM CARROLL SCENERY

Run time: 90 minutes with no intermission

CONTENT WARNING

This play discusses heavy subject matter including concerns of mental health and suicide.
If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, resources are available.
Call or text 988 to connect with a trained counselor, 24/7.



NON-FICTION BEHIND THE FICTION

A 150-foot tall structure of interconnected stairs and landing platforms was erected in Hudson Yards, New York City, and opened to the public in March of 2019. It became known simply as "Vessel." Vessel has 8 levels, 80 landings, and over 2,500 steps which form a honeycomb-like beehive architecture. Vessel closed on January 11th, 2021, reopened on May 28th, and closed once again, indefinitely, on July 29th, 2021, due to fatal incidents at the site. It next reopened October 21st, 2024 with a steel mesh encasing the structure. It remains open today.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Hey! Thanks for coming to the show. It's great to have you. And you should celebrate being here! Think about what you've gone through just to be here...

In the last thirty years (my young lifetime), we've faced reality star presidencies, natural disasters, a pandemic, militarization of law enforcement, privatization of healthcare, gun violence, housing crises, egotistical capitalists, inflation, bigotry, attacks on research, science, education, arts, empathy, creativity, inclusivity – *just* within our own borders. We've also built a media landscape that brings it all to our fingertips, eyes, and ears every second of every day!

That's a lot. And yet, in spite of pervasive brainrot and unprecedented un-precedents, we find our way forward. This play is about how we find our way forward. It is about how we reconcile our individual lives with apathetic, oppressive structures and how we love, aspire, hope, laugh, and dream in spite of a world filled with so much pain. It is horrible, and beautiful, and... I find it remarkable, I really do.

In 2022, right before I started writing this play, Peter and I went to Edinburgh Fringe with a modest solo show, ***A Eulogy For Roman***. I woke up at 7AM each morning, put on my black suit, and – cradling an urn in my arms – took the bus into town to talk to passersby about the piece. Our first performance was for an audience of four, and we gave them their tickets for free. At the time, I thought, why am I here? What's the point? Does anything I do matter?

It does. As Ellie Goulding would say: "Anything could happen."

BRENDAN GEORGE, *Playwright*

WILL INGRAM

(Vïggo)



Will Ingram is a New York-based actor from Austin, Texas. He is thrilled to be joining the company of the world premiere of ***The Vessel***! Seen recently in ***World's Greatest Lover*** (CDB) at Edinburgh Fringe and Adversary (Phill). Thank you so much to ***The Vessel*** team, 59E59 Theaters, and Robert and Megan at Lohne/Graham! Special thanks to his family, friends and Mya!

www.will-ingram.com
@will.ingram

ANASTASIA LOCKE

(Missy)



Anastasia Locke is ecstatic to be making her Off Broadway debut with 59E59 Theaters in ***The Vessel***! She is a graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts, where she trained with Atlantic Theater Company and Stonestreet Studios. Theater: ***By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*** (Atlantic Theater Company) and ***She Comes Home*** (The Tank). Television/new media: *Your Friends & Neighbors* (Apple+), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *FBI: Most Wanted* (CBS), *CIA* (CBS), *Entrepreneurs* (Make Mischief Productions), and *NORK* (Pineloft Productions). Film: *Fire Girls* (Seed Collective), *Buyback* (Untold Productions), and *CHEEKBIT* (Goose Pictures).

@helloooanastasia

SOFONYAS

(Drake)



Sofonyas is an actor, comedy sketch writer, and overall chill guy making his Off Broadway debut. He is also a recent graduate from Emerson College. New York: ***Romeo and Juliet*** (Court Square Theatre). Boston: ***The Pillowman*** (Harvard Signet Theatre), ***Romeo and Juliet*** (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); ***Pass Over***, ***The Effect***, ***Metamorphosis***, ***Confederates***, ***True West***, and ***The Great God Pan*** (Emerson Stage). Awards include the Dennis Krausnick Fellowship at Shakespeare and Company, Outstanding Lead Perf. (EVVY Awards). His films have also received recognition at festivals: *Now, Be Still* (Chicago International Film Fest.), *The Man With the Water* (Beverly Hills and Big Apple Film Fest). I attribute all my success to the glory of God and am thankful to my family, friends, and mentors who have been blessings to me throughout my journey.

@sofonyasc

BRENDAN GEORGE

(Playwright)

Brendan George is a writer and actor based in New York City. He previously wrote and performed ***A Eulogy For Roman*** (Edinburgh Fringe; Drama Desk nom.) here at 59E59. Other full-length plays include ***The Dog Park*** and ***Real Eyes: Reality Island***. NYC performance credits include ***The Family Dog*** (Clubbed Thumb), ***Richard II*** (Red Bull Theater), ***Bleach*** (Wilson Lounge), ***The Crisis Actor*** (Laurie Beechman), and new works development all around town. TV/Film: *The Wrath of Othell-Yo!* (Tribeca), *Youthful Pleasures* (upcoming), and *Gunhild Borkman* (upcoming). BA: Brown University; MFA: NYU Tisch Graduate Acting.

www.brendangeorge.com
@curiousbgeorge

PETER CHARNEY

(Director)

Peter Charney is a generative director for the stage and screen whose work was recognized with a 2024 Drama Desk nomination for ***A Eulogy for Roman*** (59E59 Theaters & Edinburgh Fringe). Peter has directed new theater across a variety of NYC venues, including The Space at Irondale, Dixon Place, 54 Below, NYU Tisch, La MaMa, and The Tank. Upcoming projects include his first feature film, *Everyone's Here*. Peter also plays a key role in live television broadcasts, assisting directors on productions such as *The Tony Awards*, *The Oscars*, *SNL50: The Homecoming Concert*, *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, and the first-ever live telecast of a Broadway play, ***Good Night, and Good Luck*** on CNN. He holds a BFA in Theatre Directing from Hofstra University and is an alum of The Nilan Internship at The Drama League, The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals, and the Yale Summer Directing Intensive.

www.petercharney.com

TALYA BRAVERMAN

(Associate Director)

Talya Braverman is a multidisciplinary theater maker, currently serving as artistic associate at Colt Coeur. Most recently, Talya wrote and directed ***it's my sister's***, an absurd short play produced by the Chain Theatre. Other directing/

assistant directing credits include ***Jesus Christ Superstar***, ***Heroes of the Fourth Turning*** (dir. Joan Sergay), and ***Lungs*** (dir. Seth Roseman). Recent new-play dramaturgy work includes Victoria Lynne Barclay's ***Camping*** (dir. Adrienne Campbell-Holt), Brendan George's ***The Dog Park*** (workshop dir. Peter Charney), and Lola Bodé's ***Crave; or how to freeze the phantasmagoria*** (dir. Talia Hartman-Sigall). BA Northwestern University.

R. S. DENNIS

(Stage Manager)

R. S. Dennis is a stage manager, writer, and artist originally from New York City. Recent work includes the Apex Festival at The New School and ***The Burning Cauldron of Fiery Fire*** at Vineyard Theatre. More temporally and geographically distant credits include ***Garry Starr: Classic Penguins*** and ***Pop Off, Michaelangelo!***

TONY DiBERNARDO

(Scenic Design)

Tony DiBernardo is a New York City–based scenic designer. Previous design credits include ***American Idiot***, ***The Drowsy Chaperone***, ***Nine***, and ***The Ripple, The Wave That Carried Me Home***. He spent nearly a decade at the Derek McLane Studio, where he served as an associate designer on Broadway productions including ***Othello***, ***MJ the Musical***, and ***Moulin Rouge!***. Tony is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a proud member of USA 829.

EMMA HASSELBACH

(Sound Design)

Emma Lea Hasselbach is a multidisciplinary theater artist based in NYC working as a sound designer, director, and composer. Select sound design: ***I want to hold onto something beautiful and empty, MEOW!*** (Exponential); ***Slaughter City*** (ART NY), ***Oedipus*** (University of Rochester), ***Pretty Perfect Lives*** (the Flea). Associate sound design: ***The Mushroom***, ***Letters to Tyra*** (Exponential); ***2 Sisters Find a Box of Lesbian Erotica in the Woods*** (Rattlestick); ***Camino Real, Spirit of the People*** (WTF). FCLC 2019 + Yale DGSD 2029.

@theemlea

YIYUAN LI

(Lighting Design)

Yiyuan Li is a Chinese lighting designer currently based in New York City. Select credits: ***Blue Window*** and ***Deep Blue Sound*** (USC School of Dramatic Arts), ***The Master and Margarita*** (Colgate University), ***The Last Days Of Judas Iscariot*** (NJIT), ***Garside's Career*** (Mint Theatre Company), ***Cymbeline*** (NAATCO, Classic Stage Company), ***The Heart Sellers*** (Cape Rep Theatre), ***Richard II*** (Mark O'Donnell Theatre), ***Red Maple*** (Curtain Call Theatre), ***Love's Labour's Lost*** (Carroll Park), ***The Moors*** (NYU, Theatre C), ***Dancing at Lughnasa*** (Lenfest Center for the Arts), ***Story of A Bird*** (Shanghai Changjiang Black Box Theatre). Second Ave Dance Company resident lighting designer (2022-2023). Education: MFA, Design for Stage and Film, NYU Tisch. Outside of design, she enjoys walking on the street with her camera to observe and capture stories.

NICOLE YAGAR

(Props Design/Production Assistant)

Nicole Yagar is a Ukrainian-Turkish theater artist and creator based in New York, working in stage management, production assistance, and props design. Select work: ***Obit.*** (East Village Basement), ***Hope Springs Internal*** (The Makers' Space), ***Gathering*** (The Shed), ***King Kirby*** (upcoming, Tom Kane Theatre). Props design: ***Kiyawat V. God***, ***Thoughts on Girlcock***, and ***The Amethyst and The Peridot*** (Fordham Studio). Off Broadway debut!

THROUGH THE TOLLBOOTH CO.

Through The Tollbooth Co. produces new works that transport audiences to vibrant, carefully constructed worlds. We seek to awaken, challenge, and inspire by tapping into the imagination and uniting viewers through a shared experience. Previously: ***A Eulogy For Roman*** here at 59E59 Theaters.

THROWN STONE THEATRE COMPANY

Thrown Stone Theatre Company is the only professional theatre in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to new work. Founded in Ridgefield in 2016 and now based at the Crystal Theatre in South Norwalk, the company anchors its year-round season with professional premieres of new plays. Additional programs include the CT Short Play Fest, commissions, and workshops. Thrown Stone is proud to serve as associate producer of ***The Vessel***.

www.thrownstone.org

SPECIAL THANKS

Scott Illingworth, Raquel Chavez, Peter McNally, Brandon Dial, Ra'Mya Aikens, Griffin Carpenter, Michael Greene, Sam Kamelhar, Dominic Galiotto, Cheri Charney, Tom Lawler, Jacquelyn DiBernardo, Jake White, The Space at Irondale, The Drama League, NYU Tisch Graduate Acting.

CURATOR'S NOTE

This play made a pit stop right here, as part of our SpaceLab development program. The moment this story jumped off the page, I knew it needed to be shared with you. Brendan and Peter are perfectly matched collaborators—as anyone who saw their previous gem here, ***A Eulogy for Roman***, can attest.

This time, they've turned their empathetic, deeply humorous lens toward the people that sightseers tend to overlook. I was completely drawn into this nearby but profoundly different world, captivated by its sharp banter, awkward bonding, and unsettling revelations. I hope you will be, too.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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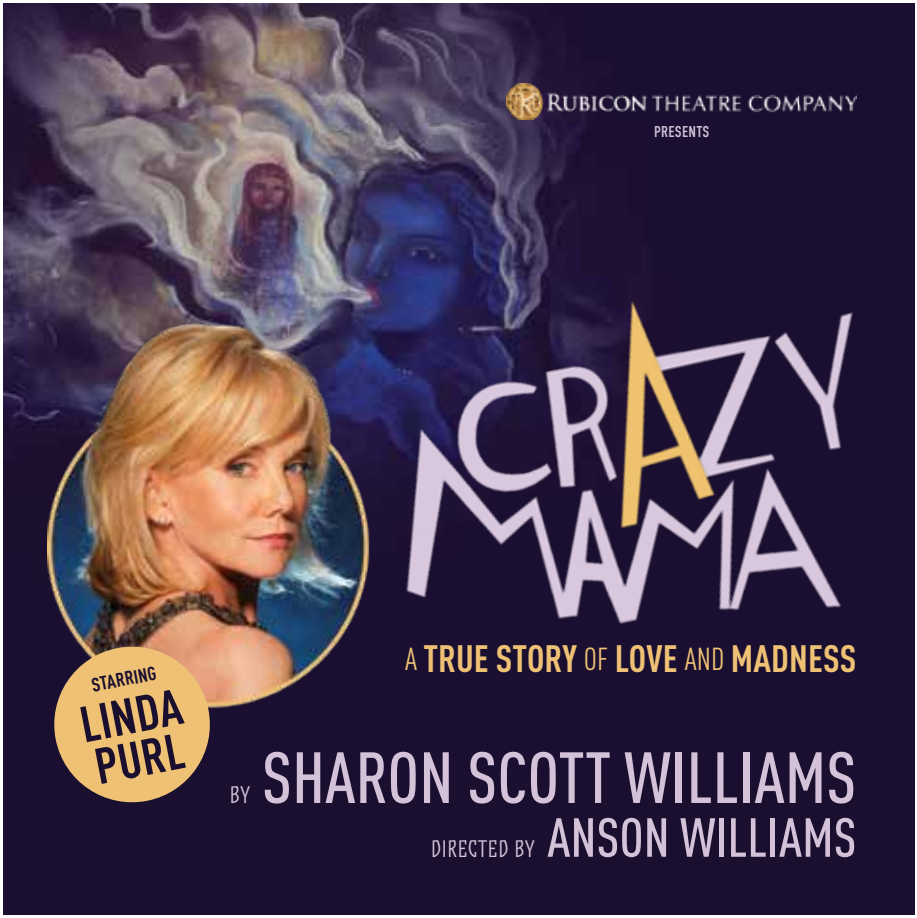
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OUR MISSION

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. 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.

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