

20  + PLAYCO

HOUND DOG



BY
MELIS AKER
WITH MUSIC & LYRICS BY
**MELIS AKER
& THE LAZOURS**
DIRECTED BY
MACHEL ROSS



HOUND DOG

FEATURING

(in alphabetical order)

Ayse	OLIVIA ABIASSI
Flaming Sultan/Drums/Vocals	ASHLEY BAIER
Hound Dog	ELLENA ESHRAGHI
Flaming Sultan/Bass/Synth/Vocals	MEL HSU
Mr. Callahan	MATT MAGNUSSON
Lead Singer/Flaming Sultan	SAHAR MILANI
Baba	LAITH NAKLI
Yusuf	JONATHAN RAVIV
Flaming Sultan/Guitar/Vocals	MAYA SHARPE

THE TEAM

Written by	MELIS AKER
Music & Lyrics by	MELIS AKER & THE LAZOURS
Directed by	MACHEL ROSS
Orchestrations by	AVI AMON, DANIEL LAZOUR & THE HOUND DOG BAND
Music Director & Sound Designer	AVI AMON
Set Designer	FRANK J. OLIVA
Costume Designer	QWEEN JEAN
Lighting Designer	TUÇE YASAK
Props Designer	PATRICIA MARJORIE
Wig Designer	TOMMY KURZMAN
Casting by	THE TELSEY OFFICE DESTINY LILLY, CSA
Production Stage Manager	BRYAN BAUER
Assistant Stage Manager	CAREN CELINE MORRIS

*Support for this production provided by the Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation.
This work was commissioned by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.*

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Ars Nova & The Play Company operate on the unceded land of the Lenape peoples on the island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape Homeland.

We acknowledge the brutal history of this stolen land and the displacement and dispossession of its Indigenous people. We also acknowledge that after there were stolen lands, there were stolen people. We honor the generations of displaced and enslaved people that built, and continue to build, the country that we occupy today.

We invite you to join us in acknowledging all of this as well as our shared responsibility: to consider our way forward in reconciliation, decolonization, anti-racism and allyship. We commit ourselves to the daily practice of pursuing this work.



Olivia AbiAssi



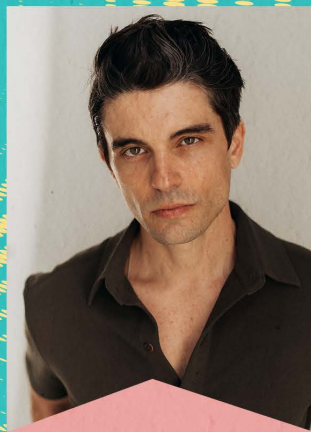
Ashley Baier



Ellena Eshraghi



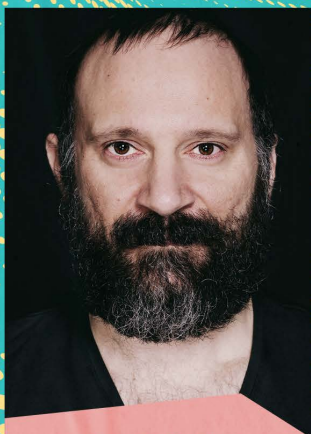
Mel Hsu



Matt Magnusson



Sahar Milani



Laith Nakli



Jonathan Raviv



Maya Sharpe

THE TEAM

MELIS AKER (Writer/Composer) is a writer, actor, and musician from Turkey, based between London and New York, and was recently named a “Woman to Watch” by the Broadway Women’s Fund, and the LaunchPad resident playwright for the Signature Theatre Company. She currently has a series in development with Skybound Entertainment, and the upcoming London premiere of musical play *Hundred Feet Tall* with Benjamin Scheuer and Jemima Williams, adapted from their eponymous children’s book. She will also be voicing a role in a new audio series from the creators of “Archive 81.” Melis is the recipient of the Sundance Interdisciplinary Program grant and the New York Community Trust/Van Lier Fellowship. She has had writing commissioned by and developed at Atlantic Theater Company (Middle East Mixfest), Ars Nova (Play Group member), New York Theater Workshop (2050 fellow), Dramatists Guild (DGF fellow), The Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, National Alliance for Musical Theatre, Goodspeed, New Group, Roundabout Space Jam, LaMaMa, the Lark, Noor, Golden Thread Productions, 24 Hour Plays, Homebound Project, Magic Theatre and BRICLab in the U.S., as well as the Finborough and Park theatres in the U.K. Melis’ screenplay “ARI” (Bee) was at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival as part of Maison des Scenaristes, and her series pilot for “MANAR” was selected for the Orchard Project’s Episodic Lab, and IFP week. She has also worked on the development of a screenplay with Revelations Entertainment headed by Morgan Freeman. Her works include: *HOUND DOG*, *Scraps and Things*, *Field*, *Awakening*, *Dragonflies*, *AZUL*, *When My Mother was a Hittite*, *Fractio Panis*, *Manar*, *Indigo Dreams*, *OPET Diaries*, and *Gilded Isle*. She has taught at NYU, The New School, and King’s College London. Education: King’s College London (PhD), Columbia University (MFA), Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Acting), Tufts University (BA). Representation: CAA and Brillstein Entertainment Partners.

THE LAZOURS (Composers/Orchestrations) Daniel and Patrick Lazour are brothers and music theater writers. Their musical *We Live in Cairo* premiered at the American Repertory Theater in May 2019 directed by Taibi Magar. Their album *Flap My Wings (Songs from We Live in Cairo)* was recorded in quarantine and features the Lazours as well as major activist-songwriters from across the Arab world. Their new musical community

project, *Night Side Songs*, about cancer treatment, patients and caretakers was workshopped at the Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Theatre, Yaddo and is being developed with the American Repertory Theater and Harvard University. They are working with Ritesh Batra to adapt his film *The Lunchbox* for the stage, commissioned by Lincoln Center Theater. Their movie musical *Challenger: An American Dream* is about Teacher in Space Christa McAuliffe and the Reagan White House; and they are developing a 60-minute song titled *Romulus & Remus, or How We Came to Live in the Festering Wound of the West*. Patrick and Daniel were 2015-16 Dramatists Guild Fellows, MacDowell Fellows and are New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspects. They were artists-in-residence at the American University in Cairo and are teaching artists at Lincoln Center Theater. @frereslazour

MACHEL ROSS (Director) (she/her) is a Dominican American director and creative collaborator based in NYC, who specializes in the development of new work and aesthetic world building. Regardless of medium, she’s invested in generating rigorous images, in support of framing stories to their fullest potential. She’s developed work with Aziza Barnes (*NANA*), Agnes Borinsky (*A Song of Songs*) Daniella De Jesús (*Mambo Sauce*), Deaf West (*T*), PigPen Theatre Company (*Phantom Folktales*), Ellen Winter (*This House Is your Home*), and directed the world premiere of Jeremy O. Harris’ *Black Exhibition* at The Bushwick Starr, where she is now the Associate Artistic Director. Machel is a 2022 Lily Award winner, a 2020-2022 WP Directing Fellow, a 2020 Sundance Theater Lab fellow, and a 2019 grant recipient of the Women’s Fund for Film, TV and Theatre for her short film *Signs He Made at Home*. BFA-NYU Playwrights Horizons Theater School.

AVI AMON (Music Director & Sound Designer/Orchestrations) is an award-winning, Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects at: Atlantic Theater, The Civilians, Festival de Cannes, HERE Arts, Johnny Mercer Writer’s Grove at Goodspeed, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New Harmony Project, The New Victory, PlayCo, Roundabout Theater, St. Louis REP, and Tribeca Film Festival. Avi will release a new album soon, and is composing

music for an audio series created by Claire Kiechel and Sarah Einspanier for Spotify/Gimlet. He also recently scored the short film, *INCOMPLETE* (directed by Zoey Martinson), which is out on Hulu now. Avi is the resident composer at the 52nd Street Project, an inaugural fellow with THE WORKSHOP at the Hendel Center for Justice & Ethics, and teaches at NYU Tisch. aviamon.com

FRANK J. OLIVA (Set Designer) is a Cuban-American Stage Designer. With Machel Ross: *Black Exhibition*, *A Song of Songs* (Bushwick Starr) *Bernarda Alba* (Playwrights Downtown), *Tiny Desk* (NPR), and others. Recent work with The Shed, Clubbed Thumb, Weston Playhouse, Geva Theatre, Two River Theatre, Miami New Drama and The Cincinnati Symphony. Associate Designer: *Hangmen*, *Oklahoma!* and *West Side Story*. Executive Committee Member of Wingspace, Member of USA Local 829 and graduate of NYU. frankjoliva.com

QWEEN JEAN (Costume Designer) is a New York City based Costume Designer who has fully committed her voice to the advocacy of marginalized communities, emphasizing Black Trans people. Recent theatre: *soft*, *Corsicana*, *Wedding Band*, *On Sugarland*, *Black No More*, *I Need Space*, *Macbeth In Stride*, *Semblance*, *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*, *Siblings Play*, *Amen Corner*, *Rags Parkland Sings The Songs For The Future*, *Good Grief*, *Othello*, and the acclaimed *What to Send Up*, *When it Goes Down*. MFA from NYU Tisch. Black Trans Lives Matter!

TUÇE YASAK (Lighting Designer) has been following light in NYC since her move from Istanbul to New York in 2009, creating over 100 site-specific light installations for performance in the US and abroad. Yasak received the 2018 BESSIE (...Memoirs of a... Unicorn by Marjani Forte-Saunders at Collapsible Hole and NYLA) and 2019 BESSIE (Oba Qween Baba King Baba by Ni'Ja Whitson at Danspace) for Outstanding Visual Design with her lighting design. She has been collaborating with Raja Feather Kelly and the feath3r theory since 2015. Among her recent collaborations: *Wednesday*, *UGLY*, *HYSTERIA* and *BLUE* by Raja Feather Kelly (New York live Arts, Bushwick Starr and ImpulsTanz), *This Bridge Called My Ass* by Miguel Gutierrez (The Chocolate Factory/ NY, Montpellier Danse Festival/France, The Walker Center/Minneapolis, PICA/Portland), *We're Gonna Die* written by Young Jean Lee, directed by Raja Feather Kelly (2nd Stage Theater/NYC), *M---ER* by Autumn

Knight (On The Boards and Abrons Arts Center), *JoyUS JustUS* by Contra Tiempo (national tour and Jacob's Pillow), *Cannabis* among others. Light, movement and architecture intertwine in Yasak's work to support space-making and story-telling. Her Light Journals were presented in March 2021 by Ars Nova and her first solo installation "light is generous" was presented by Five Myles Gallery in July 2022. HOUND DOG is her first collaboration on a play from her homeland in her 13 years in the USA.

PATRICIA MARJORIE (Props Designer) is a Brazilian Multidisciplinary theatre artist based in New York with focus on set design, props and directing. Recent works: set designer for *Re MEMORI* by Nambi E. Kelley (WP theater); props for *Eva Luna* by Repertório Espanhol; *Notes on Killing Seven Oversight* by Mara Velez Melendez (Soho Rep.), *The Seagull* and *Ulysses* for Elevator Repair Service; *7 Minutes* (Waterwell, dir. Mei Ann Teo); *Wolf Play* (Soho Rep), *Black Exhibition* by Jeremy O. Harris dir by Machel Ross, *SKiNfoLK* by Jillian Walker, *In the Southern Breeze* (Rattlestick). Patricia has also recently directed *What Will Become of Kaaron?* (The Tank) and her own work as a playwright *A Song to Keep the Wolves Awake* (The Tank).

FEDERICA BORLENGHI (Associate Director) is an Italian-born Writer, Director and Producer based in BK. Federica's work surrounds multicultural and multilingual experiences. Her education is rooted in the fine arts and in the digital universe. Her multidisciplinary interests heavily influence the way she presents theatrical productions, which culminate into sensorial experiences featuring live music, movement and visual art. She has vast experience in developing new plays. federicaborlenghi@gmail.com

MICHAEL RUIZ-DEL-VIZO (Assistant Set Designer) is a Scenic Designer based in New York and Miami. Michael earned his BFA in Production Design at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Selected Credits: *Randy's Dandy Coaster Castle* (Egg&Spoon), *The Bluest Eye* (Theatreworks), *ON YOUR FEET!* (Carol Morsani Hall), *Sense and Sensibility* (SCAD). Michael is an avid fan of Drag, comedy, and podcasts and is an all-around nice person. His work is available at michaelruizdelvizo.com and you can follow them @mikyle91.

AMELIA CAMILO (Assistant Costume Designer) (she/her) is a New York based Costume Designer and artist. Her design work has previously been seen in productions such as *Gumiho*, *Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead*, and *Memphis*. Recent assisting credits include *On Sugarland*, *Black No More*, and *Corsicana*. She holds a BFA in Costume Design from Pace University. You can find more of her work online at ameliacamilo.com or on Instagram: @ameliacamilodesign

ROYA ABAB (Associate Lighting Designer) (she/her) Roya is an Iranian-American freelance lighting designer, lighting director and programmer based in New York City. She is the Lighting Director for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Vail Dance Festival. Roya is a long time collaborator of Tuçe Yasak and is thrilled to be a part of the *HOUND DOG* team.

JAMIE TIPPETT (Associate Sound and Systems Designer) (they/he) is a sound designer and engineer. Off-Broadway: *Little Girl Blue* (New World Stages). Regional: *Orlando* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Summer's Soldier* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Assistant design and engineering credits include work at New York Theater Workshop, Atlantic Theater Company, Theatre For a New Audience, Audible @ Minetta Lane Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and more. Education: Stanford University, B.A. & B.S.

BRANDON FILLETTE (Music Assistant/Copyist/Keyboard Programmer/Rehearsal Pianist) is a freelance artist for hire, working as an arranger, transcriber, musician, actor, music producer, and music director. A recent graduate of BerkleeNYC '22 (Writing and Design for Musical Theatre), he is interested in telling new and exciting works, supporting other creative artists to bring their stories to life. He is thrilled to continue working on *HOUND DOG* through Ars Nova!

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.

BRYAN BAUER (Production Stage Manager) Broadway: *Slave Play*. Off-Broadway: *Mrs. Murray's Menagerie*, *KPOP* (Ars Nova); *Richard III* (The Public Theater); *Slave Play* (New York Theater Workshop); *The Things That Were There* (The Bushwick Starr); *Tambo & Bones*, *Selling Kabul*, *Dance Nation*, *Miles for Mary*, *Bella: An American Tall Tale*, (Playwrights Horizons); *We're Gonna Die* (2ST). Regional: *The Black Clown* (A.R.T/ Lincoln Center); *Skeleton Crew* (WCP); *A Christmas Carol* (Lyric Theatre); *Bernstein's MASS* (Canterbury Chorale Society). Dance: Oklahoma City Ballet, Vail Dance Festival. OCU Alum.

CAREN CELINE MORRIS (Assistant Stage Manager) (she/her/hers) is a multidisciplinary theater artist from The Bronx. She aims to promote inclusion, diversity, and accessibility in all of her projects. Caren has worked on projects with The Tank, The Shed, Ping Chong & Company, Derek Fordjour Studios, The Public Theater, and The Bushwick Starr.

JONATHAN RAVIV (Yusuf) is thrilled to be joining Ars Nova and the crew in the world premiere of *HOUND DOG*. An Emmy Award winner and original cast member of the 10-time Tony Award-winning musical, *The Band's Visit*, Jonathan has extensive off-Broadway and regional theater, television and film credits and has done voice over, commercial and motion capture work. Follow him: @jonathanraviv.

ASHLEY BAIER (Flaming Sultan/Drums/Vocals/Orchestrations) An avid theater musician, percussionist/drummer Ashley Baier has performed on Broadway with *Six* and *The Lightning Thief*, appeared at La Jolla Playhouse and on tour with *Hundred Days*, and toured nationally with *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. A proponent of new musical theater, she originated the drum books for several musicals including *Interstate*, *American Morning*, and *Pryor Rendering*. She can be seen playing throughout NYC with Brass Queens. ashleybaier.com

ELLENA ESHRAGHI (Hound Dog) Originally from Southern California, Ellena moved to New York to earn her BFA in Drama and Dramatic Writing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts— where she studied at the Atlantic Acting Studio and Stonestreet Studios.

She served as a member of NYU's premier sketch comedy group Hammerkatz for four years, serving as the director of the group for two years. *HOUND DOG* is her New York stage debut. ellenaeshraghi.com
[@ellenaesh](https://www.instagram.com/ellenaesh)

OLIVIA ABIASSI (Ayse) (she/her) is a Lebanese-American actor + writer based in Brooklyn. Recent theater credits include: *First Down* (59E59), *Eh Dah? Questions For My Father* (NYTW Next Door), and *The Commons* (59E59). Additionally, she is working on a new motion-capture video game project, performing stand-up, and co-writing/producing her first comedy pilot. IG: [@justoliviadoingthings](https://www.instagram.com/justoliviadoingthings).

LAITH NAKLI (Baba) is a Syrian actor/writer. He studied acting at the William Esper Studio and made his stage debut in *War* at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater Company. Other credits include *Cry of the Reed* (Huntington Theatre), *Inana* (Denver Center), *Aftermath* (NYTW), *Food and Fadwa* (NYTW). His play, *Shesh Yak*, premiered at the Rattlestick Playwrights. He can currently be seen as Uncle Naseem on the HULU series *Ramy* and Sheikh Abdullah on MARVEL's *Ms Marvel*. Film & TV credits: *Swallow*, *12 Strong*, *The Wall*, *The Long Road Home*, *The Blacklist*, *Third Watch*, *The Sopranos*, among others.

MATT MAGNUSSON (Mr. Callahan) is thrilled to be making his Off-Broadway debut. Other favorite credits include: *Mr. Holland's Opus* (World Premiere), *Jersey Boys* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *Grease* (ElginWintergarden Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Over the Moon Prod.), *American Idiot* (Glory Struck Prod.), *Floyd Collins* (La Miranda PAC). Film: *American Girl*, *Nightingale: A Melody of Life*, *The Secret Life of College Girls*, *Saint*, *Hallpass Nightmare*. When not acting Matt is writing and recording music with his wife in their band Big Sur Bound.

MEL HSU (Flaming Sultan/Bass/Synth/Vocals/Orchestrations) is a sonic painter of impossible worlds. As a multi-instrumentalist, Mel often ventures from her classical roots as a cellist into unexpected, cross-disciplinary collaborations. Rooted in Philadelphia, Mel's restless spirit finds

adventure across time zones and oceans as musical and administrative support for others who inspire her. Mel is a spreadsheet nerd, a slow reader, and a shameless instigator of kitchen dance parties. melaniehsu.com

SAHAR MILANI (Lead Singer/Flaming Sultan/Orchestrations) is a Lebanese-Iranian actor, singer, and musician based in Brooklyn. Off-Broadway: *The Visitor* (The Public Theater), *Borders* (York Theatre), *7 Doors* (BAM), *Akhenaten the Musical* (Triad Theater). TV: "The Endgame" (NBC), "Let the Right One In" (Showtime), "Law & Order" (NBC). Upcoming Film: "The Visitor", starring alongside Kevin James. So much gratitude and love to the Flaming Sultans Band and everyone on Team Music for their trust, guidance, and genius. For my Dad, always.

MAYA SHARPE (Flaming Sultan/Guitar/Vocals/Orchestrations) is a multi-passionate maker and thinker. Maya's passion lies in exploring simplicity in humanity through composition to demonstrate that there is more of a connection and love between everything than the politically derived disconnect and hatred. Maya has been seen on stage in such things as; *HAIR* (The Public Theater, Broadway & West End), *Anything That Gives Off Light* (The TEAM), *La MaMa Cantata* (La MaMa), *1969: The Second Man*. (NEXT DOOR @nytw), *Animal Wisdom* (Bushwick Starr) and many others. Maya has a band called *Maya Sharpe & The Natural*, performed in various venues in NYC and Los Angeles. mayasharpe.com

GREENWICH HOUSE was founded in 1902 with a mission to help New Yorkers lead more fulfilling lives through social and health services and cultural and education programs. Annually, nearly 15,000 people are served at our Senior Centers, Music School, Pottery, After-School and Summer Camp, Nursery School and clinics addressing behavioral health for seniors, adults overcoming addiction and for victims of child abuse. greenwichhouse.org

SPECIAL THANKS

Mike Brun, Ian Kagey, Emily Shooltz, John McCullough, John Starmer and the team at Power Station at BerkleeNYC.

FOR HOUND DOG

Associate Director
Intimacy Choreographer
Casting

FEDERICA BORLENGHI
FAY SIMPSON
THE TELSEY OFFICE/DESTINY LILLY, CSA
& MILES KNIGHT

Audio Technicians (cont.) **JOY CHEEVER, TJ O'LEARY,**
COLTEN LANGFITT,
THEO SHIER, SAM KIM,
ALEX ATTALA

HOUND DOG Key Art Designer
Music Production & Supervision
Music Assistant, Copyist, Keyboard
Programmer & Rehearsal Pianist

ANDREA NEGRETE
AVI AMON
BRANDON FILLETTE

& REBECCA WERNER
Deck Hand **DEVIN McCALLION FLETCHER**

Assistant Scenic Designer
Assistant Technical Director

MICHAEL RUIZ-DEL-VIZO
JESSIE BLACKMAN

Production Assistants **MEG MESCHINO, NED GAYNOR,**
BELLA ANIDJAR, JEN JERONE
& LEROI RICHARDSON

Scenic Charge
Carpenters

JACOB CAIRE
SAM SPEAR, SAM KERAN,
TREVOR BUNCE, AJ TAYSOM,
RORY DENNIS, IZZY OLGAARD,
JESSIE HAMILTON, COURTNEY
BISSONETTE, CECILIA GARCIA,
VIVIAN DE VOE & EMILY TABLER

Drivers **CHRIS VOEGELS, NED GAYNOR**
& SCOTT SHEPPARD

Scenic Artists

ABBIE PEREZ, MADELEINE DIETERLE,
KENDALL DAVILA
& OWEN NUSS

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JULIANA SUAIDE
& MADSON SCHIMITZ

Audio Equipment provided by
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MITCHELL KURTZ
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YEGANEH, TAYLOR REY

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Wardrobe Supervisor
Costume Coordinator

AMELIA CAMILO
KT HARRIS
DEVON AUSTIN

Front of House
RAY ACHAN FRANCIS MADI
CAROL ALMONTE BRITTANY MASHEL
DEVON AUSTIN SYDNEY PRINCE
ABRI BERG MICHAEL RAMIREZ
ARIANA NICOLE CALDERON KINME REEVES

Associate Lighting Designer
Production Electrician
Lighting Programmer

ROYA ABAB
ISABELLA OLGAARD
ROYA ABAB

JOLEE COHEN RENATO RENGIFO
LIZA COUSER TAYLOR REY
TERESA CRUZ CORINNE SCOTT
DENIZ DEMIRKURT TERRAN SCOTT

Light Board Operator/Programmer
Electricians

CHRIS VOEGELS
RICKY GARCIA, ANTIGONA GONZALEZ,
MELISSA ORE, WILL ROSSITER,
ERIC SANFORD, KEVIN MALLOY,
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JESSIE HAMILTON
& ROBIN EDIGER-SETO

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MAYA ILAGAN TINA SIMPSON
JOANNY JIMENEZ FRANKIE SULLA
ANDREW JONES ALEXANDRA VANZWIETEN
TJ LEWIS NIKKI VEGA
GALE LINARES NEDA YEGANEH

Associate Sound & Systems Designer
Production Audio
Audio Mixer
Deck Audio
Audio Technicians

JAMIE TIPPETT
BRANDON BULLS
THEODORE SHIER
COLTEN LANGFITT
SHANNON BAILEY,
ISAIAH HOWELL,
FRANCO GIACOMARRA,



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



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



United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection designers in Live Performance.

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ABOUT ARS NOVA

Ars Nova exists to discover, develop, and launch singular theater, music and comedy artists in the early stages of their professional careers. Our dynamic slate of programs supports outside-the-box thinking and encourages innovative, genre-bending new work. Dubbed by The New York Times as a “fertile incubator of offbeat theater,” Ars Nova blurs genres and subverts the status quo. With our feverish bounty of programming, we are the stomping ground and launching pad for visionary, adventurous artists of all stripes. By providing a protective environment where risk-taking and collaboration are paramount, Ars Nova amplifies the voices of a new generation of diverse artists and audiences, pushing the boundaries of live entertainment by nurturing creative ideas into smart, surprising new work.

Ars Nova has been honored with an Obie Award and a Special Citation from the New York Drama Critics’ Circle for sustained quality and commitment to the development and production of new work. Notable past productions include: three-time Lortel Award-winner *Oratorio for Living Things* by Heather Christian, directed by Lee Sunday Evans; “Outstanding Musical” Lortel Award-winner and The New York Times’ “Best of 2018,” *Rags Parkland Sings the Songs of the Future*, created by Andrew R. Butler, directed by Jordan Fein; *The Lucky Ones*, created by The Bengsons and Sarah Gancher, directed by Anne Kauffman; “Outstanding Musical” Lortel Award-winner *KPOP*, created by Jason Kim, Max Vernon, Helen Park, and Woodshed Collective, directed by Teddy Bergman; “Best New American Theatre Work,” Obie Award-winner and “one of the best new plays in the last 25 years” (The New York Times), *Underground Railroad Game* by Jennifer Kidwell and Scott R. Sheppard, directed by Taibi Magar; The New York Times’ and New York Post’s “Best of 2015,” *Small Mouth Sounds* by Bess Wohl, directed by Rachel Chavkin; the Tony Award-winning smash-hit *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* by Dave Malloy, directed by Rachel Chavkin; the world premiere of the 2009 season’s most-produced play *boom* by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, directed by Alex Timbers; the show that put Bridget Everett on the map, *At Least It’s Pink* by Everett, Michael Patrick King, and Kenny Mellman, directed by King; and Lin-Manuel Miranda and Thomas Kail’s first New York production, *Freestyle Love Supreme* by Anthony Veneziale and Miranda, directed by Thomas Kail (Broadway 2019).

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ABOUT PLAYCO

We are an award-winning off-Broadway theatre that has brought a global perspective to American stages for over twenty years. We commission, develop, and produce timely new plays from every corner of the globe; foster cross-cultural exchange between international and U.S. based artists, and nurture new and marginalized voices through a joyful and collaborative creative process. We support ambition and experimentation in both form and content. We commit to affordable access and collaborative community engagement, welcoming artists and audiences to join us in creating a vibrant, global community that reaches beyond national borders to advance a more inclusive and expansive American theatre.

PlayCo received a 2007 Obie Award for our “unique contribution to the Off Broadway community”. Our organization, artists, and shows have been honored with Obie, Lucille Lortel, American Theatre Wing, Drama Desk, and Drama League awards and nominations. We have produced 40 new plays from the United States, Central and South America, Europe, the Russian Federation, South and East Asia, and the Middle East. Recent productions include Ebru Nihan Celkan's *Will You Come With Me?*, Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas' *Recent Alien Abductions*, Stefano Massini's *Intractable Woman: A Theatrical Memo on Anna Politkovskaya*, Amir Nizar Zuabi's *This Is Who I Am* and *Oh My Sweet Land*, Guillermo Calderón's *Villa*, Christopher Chen's *Caught* (Obie Award), Kyle Jarrow & Lauren Worsham's *The Wildness* (with Ars Nova!), debbie tucker green's *generations*, Aya Ogawa's *Ludic Proxy*, Antonio Vega's *Django in Pain* and *The Duchamp Syndrome*, and more.

PlayCo's office space on the island known as Mannahatta (Manhattan), and the rehearsal and performance spaces we use throughout New York City, are located in Lenapehoking, the homeland of the Lenape people.

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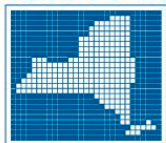
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Fall 2023

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Pictured: **Intractable Woman** (2018, Italy)

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Written by Stefano Massini, Directed by Lee Sunday Evans

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