









THRESOME

By Yussef El Guindi Directed by Chris Coleman



June 2015 Volume 11, No. 6



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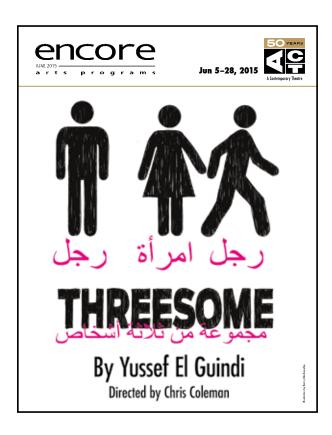
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HENRY ART GALLERY

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KURT BEATTIE LOOKS BACK

BY KURT BEATTIE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I first got involved with ACT as a patron back in the late Sixties, a young artist still in school at the University of Washington going to ACT productions. I remember most vividly Waiting for Godot, with Bill Ross, Robert Loper, Stanley Anderson, and Arne Zaslove. My debut at ACT was in 1975, in Brecht's The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, as the gangster Givola, a thinly veiled portrait of Hitler's right-hand man, Joseph Goebbels. And the show remains one of my favorite experiences in 40 years or so of witnessing and participating in ACT productions. Among other favorite shows at ACT that I was personally involved with as either a director, actor, or writer were Alan Ayckbourn's A Chorus of Disapproval; Red Noses by Peter Barnes; Steven Dietz' God's Country and Becky's New Car; the Young



© MARK GSELLMAN

ACT Company's adaptation of Homer's *The Odyssey*, performed for kids all over the state, and still produced around the country; as well as *The Pillowman*; *Ramayana*; *The Pitmen Painters*; and Tom Stoppard's *Rock'n' Roll*. But there are many more than these, if I had space to list them.

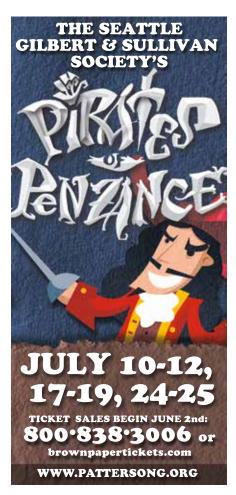
The 2015 season, my last as Artistic Director, has been chosen to demonstrate the sort of miraculous continuum that the art form itself represents, an on-going cultural meditation on how human beings live: what we have been, are, and possibly will become. So we are reviving one of the great plays from our past, by one of the

The 2015 season, my last as Artistic Director, has been chosen to demonstrate the sort of miraculous continuum that the art form itself represents.

enduring great playwrights of the modern era, Tennessee Williams. And from there we begin looking forward to the future with Anne Washburn's brilliant, dystopian Mr. Burns, Jeanne Sakata's locally-steeped Hold These Truths, and two World Premieres: Bloomsday, by one of America's greatest contemporary playwrights and a beloved ACT colleague, Steven Dietz, and Seattle playwright Yussef El Guindi's funny and probing new play, Threesome. Each one of these plays, in its own way, is an immediate and highly imaginative description of our society and its place in the world today. My hope for the future of ACT is that it will continue to be what it has always been: courageous, entertaining, unpredictable, a font of new art and ideas that are renewing for the audience, a place of stellar performance and creation, and a theatre constantly interested in the living past, the presence of human life and art as it was lived and made and continues to be lived and made in the present.









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Collaboration is key to success at ACT; in fact one might suggest the acronym "ACT" really stands for A Collaborative Theatre. Particularly since the advent of ACTLab in 2007 (then known as Central Heating Lab), ACT has become a hub of creative collaboration with a goal of fostering and supporting local artists and companies. Over the years since ACTLab first opened its doors, it has seen countless projects that have allowed ACT to build lasting relationships with theatre makers in the community.

In 2015 ACT joined the National New Play Network (NNPN) as an Associate Member, increasing our commitment to the promotion and production of new work for the American stage. The NNPN is the country's foremost alliance of non-profit professional theatres, championing the development, production, and continued life of new plays. The missions of our two organizations are a perfect meld of philosophy and action: since ACT's founding in 1965 we have produced close to 40 world premieres; and NNPN, since its founding in 1998, has supported more than 150 new plays nationwide through its Continued Life of New Plays Fund, which supports Rolling World Premieres. ACT is delighted to be the first LORT Theatre in the Pacific Northwest to join the NNPN, connecting us to theatre companies across the US, and bringing contemporary theatre theatre of the moment—to our city.

The pages that follow are a sample of some companies and projects that have grown and developed within these walls.

THEATRE



Don Quixote & Sancho Panza: Homeless in Seattle

© STEPHANIE MALLARD COUCH

ESE TEATRO

Founded in 2010 and participating in ACTLab since 2011, the company empowers local Latino artists to create and produce professional theatre in both English and Spanish that explores language, history, and cultural roots. In addition to the development of new work, eSe restages and reimagines classic works of literature (including drama) for contemporary audiences. In ACTLab, eSe has held staged readings and full productions alike. Their first full production was Luis Alfaro's Oedipus El Rey, which was staged in The Eulalie Scandiuzzi Space in 2012. The work's passionate and striking execution demonstrated the company's great promise. Their collaboration with ACTLab has provided eSe experience working on largerscale and more professional productions, and has launched their work to reach a broader audience. eSe brings fierce and ambitious creativity to ACTLab's stage, most recently in the 2014 production of *Don Quixote & Sancho* Panza: Homeless in Seattle. This original production developed through a series of staged readings and with input gleaned from extensive community outreach.

In addition to collaborating with ACT, eSe's Artistic Director Rose Cano has worked with ACT to establish the NW Latino Theatre Auditions, in partnership with the NW Regional Latino Theatre Alliance. Now in their second year, these auditions help bolster diversity in casting at theatres around the Northwest, and were recently hosted at ACT on April 18, 2015.

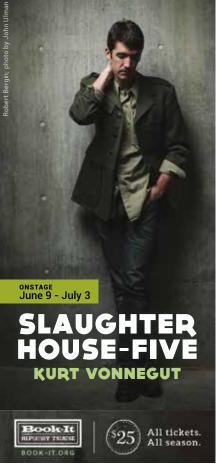
THE SEAGULL PROJECT

Now a much-beloved resident company at ACT, The Seagull Project began as a simple group of actors with a shared passion for Chekhov. When Julie Briskman, founding Producer and co-Artistic Director of the Project, first approached ACT, she was simply looking for a stage on which she and her fellow actors could explore Chekhov's work. ACTLab provided the space and structural support needed for the company to take shape—and as The Seagull Project held open (public) rehearsals of The Seagull, they invited ACT's audiences into their exploration of the classic text. In January of 2013, The Seagull Project staged their production of *The* Seagull in The Falls Theatre. Met with great success, that first production planted the seed of what is now an exciting and ongoing collaboration: the company has established a goal of producing each of Chekhov's works at ACT and then, subsequently taking each of them abroad. In 2014, they traveled with The Seagull to Tashkent, where they performed on Chekhov's native soil. In early 2015, the company dove into The Three Sisters, kicking off the 2015 ACTLab season with their striking and beautiful production. The Seagull Project plans to take this production on the road, before returning to Seattle and bringing their next Chekhovian masterpiece to the ACTLab stage.



The Seagull

© CHRIS BENNION









THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE

Each year, ACT and The 5th Avenue take turns selecting the next musical co-production for Mainstage. One artistic team presents an idea so they can look at budget, scope, and how it fits with other titles in their respective seasons, and then come to an agreement about what the next year's show will be. The goal is to find new, underrepresented, or even celebrated titles that neither organization could successfully produce on their own. With ACT's intimate theatre spaces, audiences have an opportunity to be up close with the art—a benefit for many wonderful musicals that may not be suited for the larger auditorium at The 5th Avenue Theatre. The close proximity of the two companies located just two blocks from each other-makes it easy for 5th Avenue subscribers to travel up Union Street to ACT once a year.

Vanities, in 2011, was the inaugural co-production and the regional premiere of a new musical based on the 1975 hit play that ran for five years in New York. Three of Seattle's favorite musical ladies— Cayman Ilika, Jennifer Sue Johnson, and Billie Wildrick—brought a trio of lifelong Texas girlfriends to life for a 10-week run. 5th Avenue Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong has an eye for stories that have the potential to sing, and in 2012 he brought forward the idea of a world premiere musical with a creative team The 5th Avenue Theatre had been following for some time. Being a company dedicated to new works, ACT decided it was the right time to take on a project of that scale. A full year of workshops and three times the usual number of previews paid off: First Date was a runaway hit with Seattle audiences and then made it all the way to Broadway in 2013.

ACT's Artistic Director Kurt Beattie selected and directed the



Jacques Brel is Alive and Well & Living in Paris

© M. KITAOKA

musical *Grey Gardens* in 2013, performed in-the-round in ACT's Allen Theatre. Audiences in The Allen are never more than eight rows away from the stage, and being so close to the bizarre Beales and their dilapidated living space brought audiences right into their bedroom, close enough to see the steam rising from the corn on Big Edie's hot plate.

In 2014, the Off-Broadway smash *Little Shop of Horrors*, was a show that both organizations knew audiences would relish revisiting. Director Bill Berry assembled a topnotch cast and creative team to bring the songs and characters (and maneating plants) you know and love to The Falls Theatre.

This year's production features a show that has made the final list of potential projects every year since this collaboration began. Jacques Brel is Alive and Well & Living in Paris, a musical revue celebrating the songbook of legendary singer/ songwriter Jacques Brel, ran for four years Off-Broadway in the late 1960s and '70s. The emotional power of Brel's songs—including "Ne Me Quitte Pas," "Madeleine," "La Chanson de Jacky," and "Marieke" —has inspired hundreds of artists, from David Bowie and Neil Diamond to Celine Dion and Nirvana, to cover his work. David Armstrong, who has directed several productions of the piece in his career, takes us through this very special evening of classic songs and vignettes.

ACT – A Contemporary Theatre presents



By Yussef El Guindi

Directed by Chris Coleman

Beginning Jun 5, 2015 • Opening Night Jun 11, 2015

CAST

Alia Attallah* Leila Quinn Franzen* Doug Karan Oberoi* Rashid

CREATIVE TEAM

Chris Coleman Director

Alison Heryer Costume Designer
Peter Maradudin Lighting Designer

Casi Pacilio Sound Designer

Brendan Patrick Hogan Associate Sound Designer

JR Welden* Stage Manager
Ruth Eitemiller Production Assistant

Running Time: This performance runs approximately two hours. There will be one intermission.

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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Katharyn Alvord Gerlich, Eulalie M. & Gian-Carlo Scandiuzzi, Nancy Alvord, Gregory & Diane Lind, Chuck Sitkin, Chap & Eve Alvord, Brian Turner & Susan Hoffman, David & Joyce Veterane, Eric & Margaret Rothchild

Audience members are cordially reminded to silence all electronic devices. All forms of photography and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Please do not walk on the stage before, during, or after the show. Patrons wearing Google Glass must power down the device if wearing them in the theatre.



Kurt Beattie

WELCOME to ACT

It's with great pleasure that ACT is co-producing Yussef El Guindi's delightfully provocative *Threesome* with Chris Coleman and Portland Center Stage. Since the premiere of Yussef's *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World*, and his co-authorship of *Ramayana* with Stephanie Timm, ACT audiences have fallen in love with his gift for storytelling, his expansive world view and intellect, and his wit. And now Portland has, too.

Threesome delves into the complexities of male/female relationships, sexuality, and cultural taboos, both from an American perspective and an Egyptian one. The play's young, attractive people, nestled in their plush many-threaded sheets, probably of the finest Egyptian cotton and most likely bought at Bloomingdale's, appear at first to be single-mindedly experimenting with sex, and, thanks to Yussef, with delicious comic ineptness. But what lies beneath is something else again, as in all of Yussef's plays: in *Threesome*, he demonstrates a gift for creating real characters who also are expressive of something larger than themselves. An ancient history somehow bleeds quietly from their young bones while they chat, and the dark currents of today's global struggles surge through their yearning for connection. Old wounds and new perspectives brew together in their sweat, and the result is theatrically and unpredictably exciting.

My thanks to Chris Coleman and his artistic team for delivering such a beautifully rendered first production of this play, and of course to Yussef El Guindi, for conceiving it with such humanity and fearlessness.

Kurt Beattie, Artistic Director

Thut Beath

COMING SOON TO ACT





These

TRUTHS

By Jeanne Sakata

Directed by Jessica Kubzansky

Jul 17-Aug 16



Dirty Jun 10-29

A smart and driven entrepreneur tries to create an ethical, philanthropic porn company, but can such a thing really exist in America? A fully-staged production selected from The Construction Zone 2014 series and co-presented with Washington Ensemble Theatre.



The Construction Zone Jun 16, Aug 25

Caution-plays under construction! Join ACT and Live Girls! Theater for their second and third readings in 2015 of exciting new work before one of the selections for the series comes to the stage in the 2016 ACTLab



2015 ACT New Play Award Jun 27-28

The 2015 New Play Award recipient is Moby Pomerance, for The Piano Men, the true story of an American spy working on the Manhattan Project. The ACT New Play Award is sponsored by a \$20,000 gift from Gian-Carlo and Fulalie Scandiuzzi.



Endangered Species Project Jul 13, Aug 10

Explore the great plays you seldom see. This summer features Brendan Behan's The Hostage, followed by George Bernard Shaw's Getting Married.



Dance Like a Man Jul 24-Aug 9

Set in the world of Indian classical dance, Pratidhwani brings us Mahesh Dattani's story of relationships and human weaknesses framed by the age-old battle between tradition and youthful rebellion.



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A Note from Director Chris Coleman

In Yussef El Guindi's play *Threesome* we enter unfamiliar terrain: the bedroom of an Egyptian couple. Granted, one of those Egyptians was born and raised here in the States, but it's still a new experience. And the terrain we are traveling is made even

"Tell me it didn't change everything."

-LEILA, IN THREESOME more intriguing by adding a third party to the landscape. With all that has happened since the Arab Spring, and the headlines we read every day about conflicts unfolding in the Middle East, a bedroom farce might seem an unlikely entry point to a conversation on the topic.

But Yussef El Guindi, the playwright, has a few things on his mind—only one of which is sex. Born in Cairo, raised in Cairo and London, and spending most of his writing career split between the U.S. and Egypt, Yussef views the

events of our day from a unique vantage point. The notion that relationships between a couple, relationships between men and women—and their bodies—can become such a flashpoint in the huge political and social battles being waged, is at the heart of the conversation he is taking on. It's layered, meaty, provocative material that I am extremely proud to bring to the Northwest in its world premiere. *Threesome* was developed at the JAW Festival at Portland Center Stage, and it is an honor to see its life continue to unfold here in Seattle.

BENEATH THE SHEETS

YUSSEF EL GUINDI ON *THREESOME*

BY MEGAN WRAPPE, COURTESY OF PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Playwright Yussef El Guindi took a moment to shed some light on his provocative new play, *Threesome*, originally developed at Portland Center Stage's JAW: A Playwrights Festival in 2013. He answered these questions about *Threesome* from Egypt, where he was working on an adaptation of the Japanese epic *The Tale of Heike* with playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, along with another new play, *The Talented Ones*.

How would you describe Threesome in three sentences?

YEG: Threesome is essentially about a woman, Leila, trying to reclaim her own sexuality, and the province of her own body, after a violent sexual assault. If the first act is above-the-bedcover lightness, in the second act we slip beneath those bedcovers, so to speak, and learn about the emotional turmoil and devastation that informed the actions of the three characters in the first act. The physical bodies we are amused by initially become flayed to reveal the damaged emotional lives beneath later on.

Could you tell us a little about how this story came about? What was your impetus for tackling this topic?

YEG: My imagination, that slithers about out-of-conscious-sight most of the time, knows more about the plays I start writing than my conscious self does. I don't outline; I follow some impulse and see where it leads. So I sort of play catch-up with what my imagination starts spewing out onto the page. So with this play, without quite knowing what's what, I found two people in bed chatting. By the end of that first page, I realized they were waiting for a third person to join them in bed. Two or three pages in, and I had a sense of who these characters were, what was going on, and a sense of how it would end. While I don't outline, I do like to have a sense of the overall arc of a play. I usually get that pretty early on in the process.

What informs my plays is usually some abiding and festering sense of injustice about something. I came to understand the play was about a woman asserting her right to her own body—after being sexually assaulted. The character Leila is an Egyptian. During the Egyptian revolution, a number of women experienced sexual assaults in the crowd. My sense was that whatever the revolution brought about, it could not really call itself a revolution until the mindset, the societal license that unofficially sanctioned these assaults—at least among certain elements in that crowd—were radically changed. (There was also a strong countermovement that

arose among the protestors to address those assaults.)

As always when I write plays that involve Middle Eastern characters, I try to find parallels that a Western audience might be able to relate to. In this case, it would be that the violence some Egyptian women experience is also experienced by American women in other contexts. Straddling two worlds, I find the self-righteousness of some commentators on the Middle East a little galling as they attempt to paint a picture of the "Other," in this case Arabs and Muslims, as somehow being a special kind of animal. "They engage in this kind of reprehensible behavior," pundits will posit, "while we are so much more civilized and treat our women differently—with respect, and greater equality," et cetera. When the fact is, of course, that American women experience the exact same kind of violence, sexual and otherwise. There is male privilege and a diminution of women right here in the States as well, in spite of all the rhetoric and stated policies.

The first act of Threesome starts out as a comedy, but you end up tackling such difficult subjects. Explain your use of comedy as an entryway in this play. How do you think it serves the way the story unravels for viewers?

YEG: I didn't start out to write a comedy. I have sometimes begun a play with the intention of writing a comedy, but not with *Threesome*. In general, I have an amused point of view with most things I write about. I think we're funny as a species (almost as funny as cats). So even when I stray into dark areas, I still find human behavior weird and comical at times. The comedy in *Threesome* is situational. We become a little funnier when we're naked, and sexually awkward—in that we make ourselves so very vulnerable in those situations. A slight turn (new information, a different context) and that vulnerability can also then become heart-wrenching. But the intention was not to be funny. It's that the characters find themselves in a very awkward, and somewhat comical,



©GIGI IBRAHIN

EGYPTIAN ARAB SPRING

Beginning in December 2010, unprecedented mass demonstrations against poverty, corruption, and political repression broke out in several Arab countries, challenging the authority of some of the most entrenched regimes in the Middle East and North Africa. Such was the case in Egypt, where in 2011 a popular uprising forced one of the region's longest-serving and most-influential leaders, President Hosni Mubarak, from power.

In Egypt, demonstrations organized by youth groups, largely independent of Egypt's established opposition parties, took hold in the capital and in cities around the country. Protesters called for Mubarak to step down immediately, clearing the way for free elections and democracy. As the demonstrations gathered strength, the Mubarak regime resorted to increasingly violent tactics against protesters, resulting in hundreds of injuries and deaths. Mubarak's attempts to placate the protesters with concessions, including a pledge to step down at the end of his term in 2011 and naming Omar Suleiman as vice president—the first person to serve as such in Mubarak's nearly three-decade presidency—did little to quell the unrest. After almost three weeks of mass protests in Egypt, Mubarak stepped down as president, leaving the Egyptian military in control of the country.

Although protesters in Egypt focused most of their anger on domestic issues such as poverty and government oppression, many observers noted that political change in Egypt could impact the country's foreign affairs, affecting long-standing policies. Central elements of Egypt's foreign policy under Mubarak and his predecessor as president, Anwar el-Sadat, such as Egypt's political-military alignment with the United States and the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty, embraced by Egypt's leaders but unpopular with the Egyptian public, could be weakened or rejected under a new regime.

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situation. When their situation shifts, so does the tone of the play.

There is a point in *Threesome* when what laughter there is ceases. We are smack-dab in the middle of two people's pain. It's a hard transition. But for me, the play is all of one piece. We just discover, as the play progresses, that what we laughed at sits atop a painful history.

Would you speak a little about what it has been like being an Egyptian American during such a turbulent time in Egypt?

YEG: I left Egypt when I was four. I returned to do my undergraduate degree there and have been back frequently since (I return once a year). Given that my formative years were spent outside Egypt, my perspective has always been that of a "khawaga" (foreigner). It is both my birthplace, a very familiar place, but it's also emotionally a very complicated place for me. Home, but not quite home. I have, of course, followed closely the ups and downs of life there, post-revolution. While I have experienced the country's vicissitudes on a visceral level, I am still not quite in the thick of it. Which is both a relief and a loss.

It would be a very different experience to witness Threesome as a movie or television show, compared to seeing it live in a theatre. How much do you think about that when you're writing? Why do you think the live theatrical experience works as an effective vehicle for this story?

YEG: I am first and foremost a writer for the stage, for all the usual reasons theatre artists give for live performances. It is live! It lives there and then, as you witness it. And as you witness it, you are in dialogue with the play unfolding. There is a direct and immediate interaction between theatre artists and audience, and that interaction informs the experience of the evening for both parties. While I have been involved in some film/TV projects, I still find those media somewhat impersonal. They reach wider audiences of course, which is nice, but I still prefer my storytellers to be in the same room with me in real time. Theatre will never go

away—in spite of reports of it being rushed into the emergency room now and again. The social intimacy of live performance speaks to something very primal in us.

With *Threesome* in particular, we are right there as the characters experience the sexual awkwardness that takes place. It makes that awkwardness—and the pain the characters expose to each other later on—all the more visceral. Film might give you an equally valid visceral ride (the close-up is very handy), but there's no substitute for live actors on stage flaying their emotional selves in real time. Or wondering how to get a threesome going.

The character of Leila is such a challenging and powerful role. Could you talk a little about your inspiration for this character?

YEG: I come from a family of very strong women. While there is of course a strong paternal/patriarchal paradigm in place in a lot of areas around the world, including Egypt, I think it's a Western Orientalist tic to want to perceive Middle Eastern women as passive individuals waiting to be rescued by Western enlightenment. A lot of women from that region would beg to differ. The situation is much more complicated and nuanced on the ground. When one talks of writing threedimensional Middle Eastern characters, one is really just talking about presenting characters that have their own moral agency (and are not mere background props for the Westerner-inthe-Middle-East narrative). Also, something as simple as having the right to engage in conversations that aren't fraught with the latest Western headlines about the region, or to fall into any of the tropes Westerners have of the region, and of the sexes there (e.g., all Middle Eastern women are fragile, abused, put-upon creatures, and somewhere in the play/film/TV show, the Arab/Muslim male is sure to slap her, because, well, according to these stories, that's just what Arab/Muslim males do. They can't help themselves. Or so we are led to believe).

I've wanted to introduce more layered and nuanced Middle Eastern characters in my plays. There seems to be a dearth of them in most entertainment in the West.

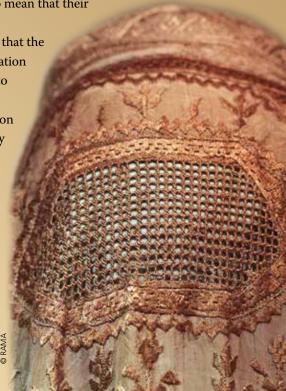
THE BURQA

The *burqa* is a type of garment grouped into a category called *hijab*, an Arabic word which means "to veil or cover," and which refers specifically to clothing that covers a woman's head and body. The *hijab* takes many forms. In Saudi Arabia, women wear a loose robe called *abaya* and a face veil called *niqab*. In nations like Tunisia or Turkey, Muslim women tend to wear only a headscarf. In Iran, all women are mandated to wear loose clothing—preferably a black or white robe called a *chador*—when going out, and are also instructed to wear either a full face veil or scarf. The Afghan *burqa*, the use of which was enforced by the Taliban, covers the entire body in loose clothing, with the face—including the eyes—covered, and only a grille for women to look through.

There is disagreement in Islamic circles about the extent to which the Quran advocates the wearing of the *burqa*, since it isn't specifically mentioned. Instead, men and women are instructed to dress and behave modestly in society. Modern-day Muslims look to the *hadith*, the collected traditions of life in the days of the prophet Muhammad, as the authority regarding the use of the *burqa*.

In recent years debates have been raised over whether the Western world should ban the *burqa*. These debates often assume that Muslim women are forced by men to wear it. In many Muslim countries, women lack equality and basic rights that other women enjoy; therefore, the *burqa* may seem to be just one more example of patriarchal control. There is also some evidence that women in particularly conservative countries are forced to wear a *burqa* or *niqab* out of fear of beatings, arrests, or honor killings. However, many women in strictly Islamic countries and Western countries alike have insisted to countless reporters that wearing a full body covering is their choice and their right. As faithful Muslims, they interpret their holy text to mean that their

faces must be covered. Many women also feel that the hijab isn't a tool of subjugation at all, but rather a means to equality. They feel that in public, they aren't judged on their appearance, that they are free from unwelcome male advances and objectifying leers. Additionally, some women say they continue to wear the veil for purposes of group identity, feeling that it is a badge of honor and solidarity in a world full of negative opinions about Islam.



Who's Who in *Threesome*



Alia Attallah (*Leila*)
A Minnesota native,
Alia received her B.F.A.
from the University of
Minnesota/Guthrie
Actor Training
Program. In the years

that followed she acted in various professional projects, such as King Lear and Ibsen's Ghosts. In 2014, Alia received her M.F.A. in Acting from New York University. Some highlights of Alia's graduate career include being directed in Samuel Beckett's Rockaby by JoAnne Akalaitis, and appearing as Masha in Richard Feldman's (Juilliard) production of *The Seagull*. Alia has also studied in London, where she worked with John Barton (Royal Shakespeare Company) and studied clowning at the London Institute for the Performing Arts (LISPA). In 2010, Alia traveled to India to be part of a cultural immersion project focused on training American actors in the ancient discipline of Kathakali theatre. Under the tutelage of Ruben Polendo (NYU Abu Dhabi) and Guru Kal, she learned the 2,000-year-old practice of performing theatrical ballads from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Vedic texts. Alia also worked with Eve Ensler (author of The Vagina Monologues) on a performance festival in 2006. Alia is thrilled to be making her ACT debut, and to be in a city that takes drinking coffee so seriously!



Quinn Franzen

(Doug) is very happy to be bringing this fabulous new play home to Seattle. A member of the Satori Group, Quinn

codeveloped and performed in Returning to Albert Joseph, reWilding, and Fabulous Prizes. Other Seattle credits include: Louis in Angels in America, Romeo in Romeo and Juliet, Frank in Dirty Story (Intiman Theatre Festival), Stapleton in Hound of the Baskervilles (Seattle Repertory Theatre), Cassio in Othello, Algernon in Importance of Being Earnest (Seattle Shakespeare Company), and the title role in Crash (Seattle Children's Theatre). He has done a number of smaller commercial and television projects, including a spot on NBC's Grimm. He has trained with Pig Iron, The Market Theatre in Johannesburg, Shakes and Co., and LAMDA. Quinn holds

a B.A. in theatre from Williams College. Next up: *Threesome* goes to 59e59 Theaters in NYC.



Karan Oberoi

(Rashid) starred in the dramatic play Masked (Neptune Theatre), The Importance of Being Earnest (Brant Theatre), The Laramie Project

(Theatre Passe Muraille), *Dracula* (Casa Loma), and *Lovers and Other Strangers* (Alumnae Theatre). Select television credits include: *NCIS, Borealis, Combat Hospital, Covert Affairs, The Listener, The Border*, and the upcoming *Containment*. Select film credits include *Displacement* and *The Last Supper*.



Yussef El Guindi

(Playwright) Yussef's most recent productions include Ramayana (co-adapted with Stephanie Timm) at ACT; Pilgrims Musa

and Sheri in the New World (winner of the Steinberg/American Theater Critics Association's New Play Award in 2012; Gregory Award, 2011; The Seattle Times' "Footlight Award" for Best World Premiere Play, 2011) at ACT, and at Center Repertory Company (Walnut Creek, CA), 2013; and Language Rooms (Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, as well as ACT's New Play Award), coproduced by Golden Thread Productions and the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco; at the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia (premiere): and at the Los Angeles Theater Center. Our Enemies: Lively Scenes of Love and Combat was produced by Silk Road Theater Project and won the M. Elizabeth Osborn Award. His plays, Back of the Throat (winner of L.A. Weekly's Excellence in Playwriting Award in 2006), as well as Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World, Jihad Jones and The Kalashnikov Babes, Such a Beautiful Voice is Sayeda's, and Karima's City, have been published by Dramatists Play Service. The latter one-acts have also been included in The Best American Short Plays: 2004-2005, published by Applause Books. Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith (winner of Chicago's "After Dark/John W. Schmid Award" for Best New Play in 2006) is included in Salaam/Peace: An Anthology of Middle-Eastern American Playwrights,

published by TCG, 2009. *Our Enemies: Lively Scenes of Love and Combat* is included in the anthology *Four Arab American Plays* published by McFarland Books. *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World* was included in the September 2012 issue of *American Theatre Magazine*. And *Language Rooms* was published in Rain City Projects' anthology, Manifesto Series Volume 3. Yussef is the recipient of the 2010 Middle East America Distinguished Playwright Award. He holds an M.F.A. from Carnegie-Mellon University and was playwright-in-residence at Duke University.

Chris Coleman (Director) Chris joined Portland Center Stage (PCS) as artistic director in May, 2000. Before coming to Portland, he was artistic director at Actor's Express in Atlanta, a company he cofounded in the basement of an old church in 1988. Chris recently returned to Atlanta to direct the world premiere of Edward Foote at Alliance Theatre. He also directed Phylicia Rashad and Kenny Leon in Same Time *Next Year* at True Colors Theatre Company in Atlanta in 2014. Favorite PCS directing assignments include Threesome, Dreamgirls, Othello, Fiddler on the Roof, Clybourne Park, Sweeney Todd, Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline (which he also adapted), Anna Karenina, Oklahoma!, Snow Falling on Cedars, Ragtime, Crazy Enough, Beard of Avon, Cabaret, King Lear, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Man and Superman, Outrage, Flesh and Blood, and The Devils. Chris has directed at theatres across the country, including Actor's Theater of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, ACT Theatre, The Alliance, Dallas Theatre Center, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, and Center Stage in Baltimore. A native Atlantan, Chris holds a B.F.A. from Baylor University and an M.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon. He is currently the board president of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition. Chris and his husband Rodney are the proud parents of an 18-lb. Jack Russell/Lab mix, and a 110-lb. English Blockhead Yellow Lab.

Alison Heryer (Costume Designer) Alison is a costume designer for theatre, film, and print. Her theatre credits include The Bluest Eye (New Victory); The Fall to Earth, A Lesson Before Dying, Orange Flower Water, and World Set Free (Steppenwolf Theatre); Pippin, The Whipping Man, A Little More Alive, and The Who and The What (Kansas City

Rep); The King and I, 33 Variations, RENT, and Doubt (ZACH Theatre), Jackie and Me (Indiana Repertory Theatre); and Bum Philips All-American Opera (La MaMa). Recent awards include the Austin Critics' Table Award and the ArtsKC Inspiration Grant. Upcoming projects include The Price (Artist Repertory Theatre) and Three Days of Rain (Portland Center Stage). Alison is a faculty member at Portland State University. She is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Texas at Austin, and a member of United Scenic Artists.

Peter Maradudin (Lighting Designer) Peter is pleased to return to ACT, where previous work includes Temporary Help and L'Universe. On Broadway, he designed the lighting for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Kentucky* Cycle, and off-Broadway Hurrah at Last, Ballad of Yachiyo, and Bouncers. Peter has designed more than 300 regional theatre productions, for such companies as the Kennedy Center, the Guthrie Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Old Globe Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, Steppenwolf, Dallas Theater Center, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is the Studio Director of the architectural lighting group StudioK1, and is the author, under his pen name Peter Alexei, of the novels The Masked Avenger and The Queen of Spades.

Casi Pacilio (Sound Designer) Casi keeps busy with a variety of work and play in Portland and around the country. Portland Center Stage credits include Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Dreamgirls, The Last Five Years, Othello, A Small Fire, Chinglish, Twist Your Dickens (2013) and 2014), The Mountaintop, Fiddler on the Roof, Oklahoma!, The North Plan, Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline, Black Pearl Sings!, Opus, futura (with composer Jana Losey), Ragtime (PAMTA Award 2010), The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps, Snow Falling on Cedars, Crazy Enough, The Little Dog Laughed, Sometimes a Great Notion, Cabaret, The Pillowman, I Am My Own Wife, West Side Story, Celebrity Row, and eight seasons of JAW. National shows: Holcombe Waller's Surfacing and Wavfinders. Hand2Mouth Theatre credits: Left Hand of Darkness, My Mind is Like an Open Meadow

(Drammy Award 2011), Something's Got Ahold Of My Heart, and PEP TALK. Other theatrical credits include Squonk Opera's Bigsmorgasbord-WunderWerk (Broadway, PS122, national and international touring); I Am My Own Wife, I Think I Like Girls (La Jolla Playhouse); Playland, 10 Fingers and Lips Together, Teeth Apart (City Theatre, PA). Film credits include Creation of Destiny, Out of Our Time, and A Powerful Thang. Recordings: Glitterfruit's fruit snacks.

Brendan Patrick Hogan (Associate Sound Designer) Brendan was the Resident Sound Designer at ACT from 2009 to 2014, during which time he designed over 50 mainstage and limited-run productions on ACT stages, including a number of world premieres. In addition to his work at ACT, other designs and compositions have been heard at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Arizona Theatre Company, George Street Playhouse, Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Washington Ensemble Theatre. Brendan teaches sound engineering and sound design at Cornish College of the Arts.

JR Welden (Stage Manager) has stage managed The Invisible Hand, Uncle Ho to Uncle Sam, Mary Stuart, One Slight Hitch, Eurydice, The Underpants, and A Christmas Carol at ACT. He stage managed 10 seasons at Intiman Theatre, working on productions including The Grapes of Wrath, Nickel and Dimed, and The Mandrake Root, with Lynn Redgrave. At Seattle Repertory Theatre, his credits include Blue Door, The Chosen, and Pygmalion.



Kurt Beattie (Artistic Director) has been creating theatre for Puget Sound audiences for over 40 years as an actor, playwright, and

director. His productions at ACT include Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike; Grey Gardens; Ramayana (with Sheila Daniels); The Pitmen Painters; Double Indemnity; In the Next Room, or the vibrator play; The Lieutenant of Inishmore; Rock 'n' Roll; Becky's New Car, Intimate Exchanges; First Class; The Pillowman; Mitzi's Abortion; The Underpants; Bach at Leipzig; Vincent in Brixton; Black Coffee; Alki; Moon for the Misbegotten; Fuddy Meers; Fully Committed;

Via Dolorosa; and the holiday classic, A Christmas Carol. Elsewhere, he has directed at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Empty Space Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, University of Washington, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Alley Theatre in Houston, and Ojai Playwrights Festival. As an actor, he has appeared in leading and major roles at ACT (most recently as Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol), Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Empty Space Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, as well as many regional theatres throughout the country. Beattie is a recipient of the Theatre Puget Sound Gregory A. Falls Sustained Achievement Award, and the Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Award from ArtsFund.



(Executive Director) is a founder of Agate Films

Carlo Scandiuzzi

and Clear Pictures, producing such films as Prototype, Dark Drive, Outpatient, and

The Flats, and Indieflix, a distribution company. In 1979, Scandiuzzi started Modern Productions, bringing to Seattle such legendary bands as The Police, Devo, Nina Hagen, Iggy Pop, The Ramones, John Cale, Robert Fripp, James Brown, Muddy Waters, and many more. He performed in several plays at The Empty Space, including Aunt Dan and Lemon, The Return of Pinocchio, and Dracula. In the early '80s, he collaborated with many Seattle performance artists, such as Norman Durkee, Alan Lande, and Jesse Bernstein. He also acted in various films, including Bugsy, The Public Eye, Another You, Casanova's Kiss, and Killing Zoe. He graduated from the Ecole Supérieure D'Art Dramatique of Geneva. Carlo currently serves as a member of the Seattle Arts Commission.

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Food is not allowed in the theatre. Tuxedos & Tennis Shoes is the exclusive caterer of ACT.

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Wheelchair seating is available. The theatre is equipped with the Williams Sound® Listening System for the hard of hearing; headsets are available from the house manager for use, free of charge, with a valid ID and subject to availability. ACT offers captioned and audiodescribed performances. For more information, email service@acttheatre.org.

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[†] Denotes staff member has worked at ACT for 10 years or more

SPOTLIGHT BY NICKY DAVIS, ACT LITERARY INTERN

As Producing Director at ACT since 2003, Joan's first experience working with ACT was as a stage manager. "I worked on four, maybe five shows, some 20 years ago. That was my first experience here. And that was in the old building, so I was a little familiar with the place," she says. Now, of course, her responsibilities are much wider in scope. As Producing Director, Joan runs and oversees all the production elements of each show, from creative teams working on costumes, sets, lights, and sound, to the physical production components themselves. "That's pretty much it in a nutshell," she smiles, as though that's a simple task. And it's clear in talking to her why Joan is great at her job. Over the course of our brief conversation, several different staff members pop their heads into her office to ask questions and run over ideas, and Joan responds effortlessly to each with calm kindness. Though she does it with great composure, Joan says the hardest part of her job is balancing everything. "There's a lot of moving pieces," she explains, "You're trying to reconcile the past, and manage what needs to happen day-to-day, while also looking ahead to the future."

Joan studied theatre at UCLA, and after graduation got her first job as an assistant stage manager at the Los Angeles Actor's Theatre in Hollywood. She worked on several shows on what was known as their "half stage," a theatre with a seating capacity of 99, to ensure it met with "equity waiver" standards. "Everyone knew what that meant, you know," she laughs. "It means you basically have fifteen dollars to put the show up. But it was great." The thing Joan most loved about working with what she called the LA A-Team, was working on new plays. "We didn't think about the new plays as different or special. We just worked on the play, and the playwright was there ... it was great. Lots of world premieres, lots of really



© CHRIS BENNION

wonderful plays." It's her love of new work that drew her to ACT.

During her time at ACT, Joan has seen a number of productions move through the building. When asked about her favorite, she borrowed a saying from former costume director, Carolyn Keim, "you fall in love every time. With every new show you work on.' And it's true. You do." A show that stands out in her memory, however, is *The Trip To Bountiful* by Horton Foote, which she recalls as a "beautiful production of a really warm and lovely play." When asked what excites her most about the 2015 season, she mentioned Mr. Burns, which she thinks will no doubt be a fun and exciting piece for the theatre, but also Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, adding, "you can't ignore a big, beautiful Tennessee Williams piece like that one."

Since ACT has so many different performance spaces, the production needs for each show vary depending on which space it's in. Over the years she has really come to love seeing shows in The Allen. "I

get why people like to be that close to the stage. It's really a sort of magical space to see a play."

But at the end of the day, she says, the best part of the job is the wonderful production staff of talented artisans and craftspeople. "People may not know this, but we build all the Mainstage shows here. In this big maze of a building, all our shops are on the seventh and eighth floors," she says. And in a theatre with five performance spaces under one roof, that's no short order. Automated pieces, lifts, and mechanical pieces can be recycled again and again, but everything else is built specifically for each show. "We design everything from the ground up. With costumes, we have a pretty big stock, but do we go in and pull out a box labeled 'Jacques Brel costumes'? Of course we don't. It's all designed for that specific show." It's an incredible effort put forth by the whole production team to bring each show to life on ACT's many stages and it's a team of which Joan is proud to be a part.



Old Times in The Pinter Festival, 2012

© CHRIS BENNION

THE PINTER FESTIVAL

Local playwright and actor Frank Corrado initially approached ACT with an idea for a Harold Pinter reading series. A longtime admirer of Pinter, Corrado was inspired to celebrate the playwright's legacy after the former's death in 2008. Corrado wanted to create a project that would give actors the chance to work on Pinter plays that they might otherwise never encounter. The project developed into a hit reading series, known as Pinter Fortnightly. Pinter Fortnightly brought in both longtime fans of Pinter's work and audiences who'd never heard of him before. In 2010, Corrado worked with several other local actors, including Victor Pappas and Suzanne Bouchard, to stage two of Pinter's one-acts, A Kind of Alaska and Ashes to Ashes, in The Bullitt Cabaret. Called Two by Pinter, the popular program ran alongside the reading series at ACT. By the time Pinter Fortnightly concluded, Corrado's project had read nearly all of Pinter's plays-and there was still a call for more. In light of this demand, ACT mounted The Pinter Festival in 2012, a month-long series that included full productions of four of Pinter's plays (Celebration, Old Times, The Dumb Waiter, and No Man's Land), as well as discussions, readings, film screenings, and a Pinter party in celebration of the influential British playwright. The Festival was a remarkable feat of theatre, a triumph for audiences, and a major critical success. The Festival is a wonderful example of how an ACTLab project can grow, evolve, and become a featured attraction in ACT's Mainstage.

ICICLE CREEK NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

Beginning in 2008, ACT has partnered annually with Icicle Creek New Play Festival (ICNPF, formerly known as the Icicle Creek Theater Festival). The ICNPF gives playwrights a chance to develop new plays in partnership with actors and directors in a workshop setting that culminates in a reading series at the



Icicle Creek reading of *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World* by Yussef El Guindi.

Snowy Owl Theatre (part of the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts in Leavenworth, Washington). Through its relationship with ICNPF, ACT provides workshop opportunities for playwrights whose work is under consideration for production on ACT's stages. Several of ACT's Mainstage plays have been developed at Icicle Creek, including the 2015 World Premiere of Steven Dietz' *Bloomsday*.

HEDGEBROOK

ACT has hosted the Hedgebrook Women Playwrights FestivalTM since 1998, before ACTLab even began. The Festival is the culmination



of a two-week retreat at the Hedgebrook writing center on Whidbey Island. Each year, participants in the Festival are invited to the retreat by partner theatres around the country, in an effort to support female playwrights in the development and production of their work. Playwrights such as Theresa Rebeck, Lynn Nottage, and Sarah Ruhl have all had developed their plays at Hedgebrook and have participated in ACT's Festival. ACT was proud to partner with Hedgebrook to once again bring these voices to the Seattle stage on May 18, 2015, for the Festival's 18th year.

RAMAYANA

This staggeringly rich 2012 production actually began as a series of events within ACTLab. The flexibility of ACTLab and its focus on process and exploration was crucial to the development of this piece. Artistic Director Kurt Beattie brought in local playwrights Yussef El Guindi and Stephanie Timm to adapt and modernize the Sanskrit epic for ACT's audiences. Maureen Whiting, a local dancer who began her affiliation with ACTLab with a 2009 residency, joined the project team as choreographer. The script underwent a lengthy process of workshopping and

revision through ACTLab over the course of the next two years, and culminated in a Mainstage production directed by Beattie and Sheila Daniels that incorporated puppetry, music, dance, and lavish spectacle. The production was surrounded and supported by extensive immersion programming events, including dance performances and lecture series that introduced ACT audiences to the history and cultural context of the epic tale. *Ramayana* was an immense critical and popular success, and remains one of ACT's proudest world premiere productions.

AZEOTROPE

Founded in 2010, Azeotrope is a unique Seattle theatre company that seeks to increase representation of marginalized voices and bring "visibility to the invisible." The company was invited to bring their distinct practice and mission to ACTLab—through which, in 2012, they mounted an award-winning production of Jesus Hopped The A Train in The Eulalie Scandiuzzi Space. Following that first acclaimed collaboration, Azeotrope returned to ACT in 2013 with a remount of their first production, Adam Rapp's Red *Light Winter*, which they ran in repertory with a production of 25 Saints by Joshua Collins. Azeotrope's bold artistic style showcases the edgier side of the ACTLab's mission.

NEW CENTURY THEATRE COMPANY

New Century Theatre Company (NCTC) is another bold voice



among ACTLab's partners. The mission of the company is to produce work that challenges the audience with questions of morality and humanity, and to do so with the integrity and craft of a cohesive and dynamic ensemble of actors and theatre makers. Though NCTC is an independent theatre company, the organization approached ACT in 2008 in search of a space in which to mount their first production. Their inaugural performance of *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice was also among the first full productions to be presented as part of ACT's Central Heating Lab program. Since that first production, NCTC has continued to grow and expand, all the while maintaining a strong partnership with ACTLab: in 2009, they produced Orange Flower Water by Craig Wright in The Bullitt Cabaret, and in 2010 the company brought their first world premiere play, On The Nature of Dust by local playwright Stephanie Timm, to The Falls Theatre. As the company continues to develop, they have turned to other theatrical venues to house their productions, but in 2014 they returned to ACT, presenting Timm's risqué new play, Tails of Wasps, in Buster's Space.

THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

The Construction Zone series was initially developed by dramaturg and director Christine Sumption and ACT Literary Manager Anita Montgomery, in 2013. From its inception, the series has provided ACT the invaluable opportunity to collaborate extensively with a partner organization to curate and present readings of new plays-in-development. In 2014, ACT and producing partner Washington Ensemble Theatre created a new model for the readings that emphasized play development over a two-year program cycle. During the first season, the partnering theatre, with



Azeotrope's Jesus Hopped the A Train.

© JESSICA MARTIN

support from ACT, selects four new plays by distinct playwrights. Each playwright comes to ACT for a workshop and reading of their play, which provides them with insight into their play's development while offering audiences an intimate look into the process of playmaking (including postplay discussions with the playwrights). After The Construction Zone readings are complete, one of the four plays is chosen for a full production in the following ACTLab season. ACT partnered with Washington Ensemble Theatre and in 2014 selected Andrew Hinderaker's play, *Dirty*, for production in the 2015 ACTLab season. ACT is excited to be hosting readings of four new plays by women this season, as The Construction Zone partners with Live Girls! Theater for 2015.





ACT THROUGH THE

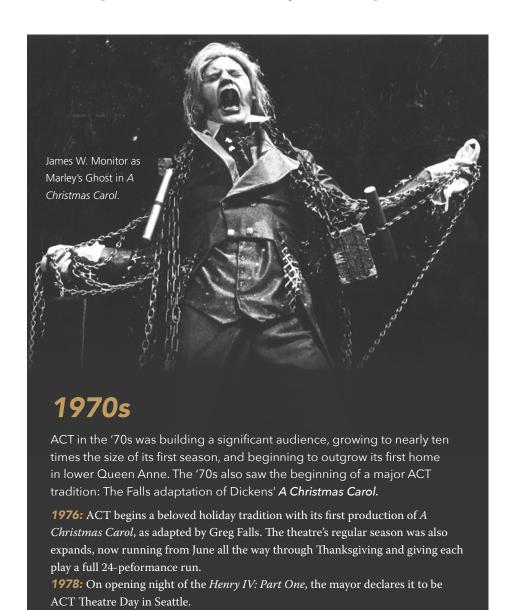
A Contemporary Theatre

1960s

The '60s saw the birth of ACT. Beginning as just an experiment during the summer season, over the course of the decade Gregory A. Falls' brainchild bloomed into an established home for bold contemporary theatre in Seattle.

1965: ACT's first season, a summer season run by Greg Falls as a new Seattle theatre experiment. ACT becomes incorporated as a non-profit organization with a board of directors.

1966: ACT expands to a seven-show season running from June to September.





Jeff Steitzer in rehearsal for *Red Noses*.

© CHRIS BENNION

1980s

The '80s was a decade of transition for ACT, with the retirement of Greg Falls after 23 years, handing over the reins to Jeff Steitzer. Additionally, the '80s was the theatre's final decade in Lower Queen Anne.

1982: ACT is now considered to be one of the six major cultural institutions in Seattle, alongside the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Seattle Art Museum.

1988: Falls retires from his 23-year run as Artistic Director, to be replaced by ACT Resident Director, Jeff Steitzer. Steitzer turns the theatre's focus toward the production of new works by English and American playwrights.

DECADES

1990s

The '90s at ACT saw three different artistic directors (from Steitzer to Shannon to Edelstein) and two different theatre spaces. The theatre moved into the heart of downtown in the middle of this decade, making the '90s a period of resettling and reimagining the possibilities for Seattle's contemporary theatre.

1994/1995: Peggy Shannon takes over the reins as Artistic Director at ACT. 1996/1997: ACT stages its final performance in its Lower Queen Anne home: Laughter on the 23rd Floor by Neil Simon, and transitions into the downtown location. ACT opens the doors at its new multiplex style home in the former Eagles' auditorium in the heart of downtown Seattle, launching the new space midseason with Tom Topor's Cheap. ACT and the Seattle theatre community suffer a major loss when Greg Falls passes away at age 75.



Kurt Beattie in rehearsal for Ramayana.

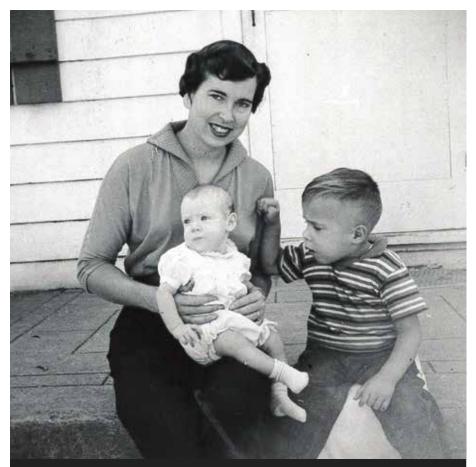


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FAMOUS FACES

Over the decades, many of the talented artists who have been part of the ACT family have gone on to become well-known celebrities.

Do you remember seeing any of these artists on the Mainstage?

JANE ALEXANDER, Actor MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA (2002) A Tony Award winner and two-time Emmy Award winner

DARYL ANDERSON, Arts

Administrator THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI (1975) Actor and Photographer for TV series, Lou Grant (1977-1982). Since 1995, he has produced the annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

STANLEY ANDERSON, Actor EH?, ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN, THE LION IN WINTER, BLACK COMEDY, A DELICATE BALANCE, WAITING FOR GODOT (1968),

Numerous TV and Film roles—notably *The Drew Carey Show*.

JILL ANDRE, Actor

AND ECHOES (1972)

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE (1970) Broadway, Off-Broadway, Film and Television

DENIS ARNDT, Actor

HENRY IV, PART 1; THE SHADOW BOX; BALLYMURPHY; MAKASSAR REEF (1978); OTHERWISE ENGAGED (1979); THE PILLOWMAN (2006); ROCK 'N' ROLL (2009) Numerous Film and Television roles

CANARY, Actor THE SEA HORSE (1978)

Numerous televisions shows, notably *Bonanza* and *All My Children*



David Canary in The Sea Horse (1978)

MICHAEL CRISTOFER, Playwright NO PLACE TO BE SOMEBODY, THE CONTRACTOR (1973)

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright; Film and Television actor

ALEXIS DENISOF, Actor A CHRISTMAS CAROL (1978),

HOLY GHOSTS (1979) Film and Television notably Buffy the Vampire Slayer



Alexis Denisof in Holy Ghosts (1979)

PATRICK DUFFY, Actor

MARAT-SADE (1969),THE BALCONY, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE, MOONCHILDREN (1972) Television—notably Dallas

MIREILLE ENOS, Actor MOURNING

BECOMES ELECTRA (2002) Film and Television notably The Killing; Broadway Tony Award-

nominated Actress



Mireille Enos in Mourning Becomes Electra (2002)

JUDD HIRSCH, Actor BELOW THE BELT (2009)

Film and Television Actor-notably Taxi

SAMUEL L. JACKSON, Actor A SOLDIER'S PLAY (1983)

Film Actor

MEL JOHNSON, JR., Actor SIZWE BANSI IS DEAD (1976)

Film Actor

JUDITH LIGHT, Actor

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ENTIRE WORLD AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF COLE PORTER (1973)

Tony Award-winning Broadway Actress; Television–Notably *Who's The Boss*

HERSHA PARADY, Actor

THE TRIAL OF THE CATONSVILLE NINE (1972), THE HOT L BALTIMORE, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (1974), GETTING OUT (1981)

Television Actress–notably Little House on the Prairie

RICHARD RIEHLE, Actor

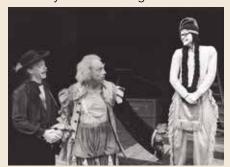
CLOUD 9 (1983), TRUE WEST, MAYDAYS (1985)
Film and Television Actor

ARMIN SHIMERMAN, Actor

MAKASSAR REEF (1978)
Film and Television—notably Star Trek:
Deep Space Nine

J.K. SIMMONS, Actor

THE FANTASTICKS (1979)
Academy Award-winning Actor



J.K. Simmons in *The Fantasticks* (1979) PHOTO BY CHRIS BENNION

MARC SINGER, Actor

ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN (1968), THE HOMECOMING, RHINOCEROS, MARAT-SADE, PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME (1969), THE BIRTHDAY PARTY, THE BALCONY, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE (1970) Film and Television Actor

JEAN SMART, Actor A CHRISTMAS CAROL (1977, 1978)

Film and Television Actor

HOLLAND TAYLOR, Actor

BLACK COMEDY, A DELICATE BALANCE (1968) Film and Television Actor

2000s

Turmoil and rebirth marked the early 2000s at ACT, taking a brief hiatus during a financial crisis in 2003, and then coming back with clarity and precision to close out the decade. 2007 saw the beginning of the Central Heating Lab (now ACTLab), which has since become an integral part of the ACT experience.

2002: Edelstein leaves ACT in the hands of his Associate Artistic Director, Kurt Beattie. 2007: Kurt Beattie and ACT's Executive Director Carlo Scandiuzzi open the doors of the Central Heating Lab, an experiment designed to foster new work and fill up the five theatre spaces available in ACT's new building.

2010s

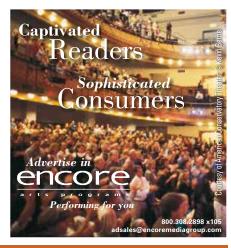
ACT continues to grow and change, increasing and strengthening its presence as a home for bold, provocative voices in theatre, and challenging audiences with works both old and new. In 2015, ACT celebrates its 50th anniversary and its 40th year of A Christmas Carol.

2011: ACT begins a musical co-production relationship with The 5th Avenue Theatre. **2015:** ACT celebrates its 50th anniversary, opening the season with a throwback from its very first season in 1965, Tennessee Williams' Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Kurt Beattie ends his 12-year run as Artistic Director at the end of another season of great theatre, leaving ACT in the hands of Associate Artistic Director John Langs as it moves into the future.

Joshua Carter in Little Shop of Horrors @TRACY MARTIN







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