

iama
world premiere

SEASON 17

laughing through
the dark



THE VERY BEST PEOPLE

written by john lavelle
directed by melissa coleman-reed

ABOUT IAMA THEATRE COMPANY

IAMA THEATRE COMPANY is an award-winning, Los Angeles-based ensemble of artists committed to cultivating new voices, creating new works that push boundaries and take risks, and building an inclusive community that inspires and supports a new generation of theatre-makers and audiences. Designated by Playbill as one of “20 regional houses every theatre lover must know,” IAMA develops and produces new plays and musicals by emerging and established playwrights, including over 40 World, West Coast, and Los Angeles premieres. Current and upcoming Broadway productions that first started at IAMA include Max Wolf Friedlich’s *JOB THE PLAY* and Leslye Headland’s *CULT OF LOVE*. Plays generated at IAMA have also gone on to productions Off-Broadway, including at Second Stage and Playwrights Horizons, and continue to be performed regionally and internationally. Since 2007, IAMA has modeled change and possibility for the American theatre by championing a diverse and robust Los Angeles theatre landscape, sharing our ensemble driven ethos in partnership with other like-minded theatres, and challenging our audiences with an authentic experience that reflects our complex modern world. Learn more at www.iamatheatre.com.

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WELCOME TO IAMA SEASON 17!



Dear friends,

In a time where the only constant is change, we find ourselves, as theatre makers, in process. We are in the throes of uncertainty, with the road split into multiple paths ahead. The possibilities are thrilling and terrifying. The landscape is expansive and daunting. This is where IAMA Theatre Company thrives.

IAMA is a company IN PROCESS, dedicated to developing new works IN PROCESS, in a world that is, most certainly, IN PROCESS. We are excited to commit our 17th season to exploring what that means. Our 17th season will showcase IAMA's development process, highlighting how a new play moves through our pipeline from an idea to a reading to a workshop to a world premiere production.

We kick off our season with the world premiere production of THE VERY BEST PEOPLE, written by IAMA ensemble member John Lavelle. This play has been with IAMA since its inception in our Basecamp new play lab, and we are so proud to bring this frighteningly funny, timely new work from the page to the stage.

In December, our New Works Festival returns in a newly expanded version, thanks to a generous award from the National Endowment for the Arts. This year's festival will feature staged readings of eight new plays, along with additional compensation to the artists and reduced ticket prices for the public.

Then in 2025, we are excited to present two workshop productions: DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR by Douglas Lyons and TRAUMA PLAY by Abigail Miller. With this new workshop model, we invite you, our audiences, into a space somewhere between the rehearsal room and opening night, where we can all be a part of what it means to develop a new play.

And finally, this season IAMA is also represented on Broadway with two shows developed through our pipeline: JOB THE PLAY by Max Wolf Friedlich, which was written in IAMA's Emerging Playwrights Lab, and CULT OF LOVE by Leslye Headland, which had its world premiere at IAMA in 2018. CULT OF LOVE is the final play in Headland's Seven Deadly Plays cycle, which all world premiered at IAMA.

We are committed to creating an even stronger pipeline for our artists and celebrating that process with you, our community. Thank you for being an essential part of our process!

With love and appreciation,
Stef & Cara

STEFANIE BLACK
IAMA Artistic Director

CARA GREENE EPSTEIN
IAMA Executive Director

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I began writing this play in the winter of 2020. I, like so many, had been sparring with family and childhood friends on the virtual battlefield that is Facebook over issues both political and social, where misinformation and memes could buttress the structure of dubious "truths". Then suddenly, Qanon ideology linked to partisan violence intensified, and I began to be physically threatened by people I had known for decades. The threats were specific and detailed. I was privately warned about the violence I would encounter if I returned home, and that no one would save me when the civil war came. I thought, why not write a play about these people getting to act out their violent fantasies?

I finished my first draft on January 5th, 2021. The next day, many of the people I was writing about were at the capital playing out their fantasies In Real Life. Tonight, with the help of IAMA, The Inkwell Theatre, and my frequent collaborator Melissa Coleman-Reed, I too carry out my fantasy of resistance.

I wrote this play hoping to make sense of where I come from, the contradiction of my "home" to where my heart lives now. I hope it is both a call to action and healing, rather than simply polarizing further. I hope that as you watch it, you will both laugh very hard and think about the very thin line between hypothetical violence and physical violence. We all have met the very best people in our lives, but I don't think we get a chance to meditate on how dangerous they really are, and how willing to carry out their plans. - JL

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Three years ago, John Lavelle shared with me that he had new pages for a play based on true events from his experiences of 2020. He sent them, I started reading, stopped cold after twenty pages, and walked away. This world was too charged/raw/frightening. I had to simply breathe after the lightning bolt discovery that this place, this bar, is not a space for me.

Stepping back in, I understood this fly-on-the-wall sensation he's crafted for us, allowing the people of this play to be their fullest-truest selves, inviting us to witness a truth that thrives behind some closed doors, especially when you are not wanted or welcome.

John's aim at creating an anti-racist play that does not feature Folx of Color, sparked me. The true ignition point for me in this piece is RAGE. Very specifically, rage in white men of all ages, that goes unchecked, unexamined, and which is ultimately protected and so often celebrated.

Sitting inside this world, I hope for us, the discovery of a feeling of reaching out to find each other in the darkness as we negotiate a world that twists on a dime, reveals ugly truths, and often hurts to be in. How do we hold on, stand up, link arms, push forward. Good works only exist with real action. I'm thrilled to continue this fantastic journey with John, Stef and IAMA. Special thanks to William & my wonderfully supportive family!

With So Much Love,
MCR



IAMA THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

THE WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF

THE VERY BEST PEOPLE

Written by **John Lavelle***

Directed by **Melissa Coleman-Reed**

TIME **December 2020**

PLACE **Angelina's Irish Pub, Staten Island, NYC**

CAST

Jak	Bryan Langlitz*	Joey	James Luster
Brian Anthony	Adrián González*	Fanny	Andria Kozica*
Women of Joey's Life	Margaux Susi*	Patrick Michaels	Seth Leighton Hale
Joey/Jak U/S	Matt Hill	Brian Anthony U/S	Amitai Porat
Fanny/Women of Joey's Life U/S	Sam Bianchini	Patrick Michaels U/S	Tyler Hansen

THE TEAM

Associate Producer Quinn O'Connor*	Production Stage Manager Roella Dellosa	Associate Director Celia Mandela Rivera*
Set Designer Christopher Scott Murillo	Assistant Set Designer Carter Vickers	Lighting Designer Benedict Conran
Associate Lighting Designer/Programmer Erica Ammerman	Costume Designer Samantha C. Jones	Associate Costume Designer/ Wardrobe Supervisor Morgan Whittam
Sound Designer Erin Bednarz	Properties Designer Nicole Bernardini	Video Designer Zander Eckhouse
Associate Video Designer Jonathan H. To	Intimacy & Fight Director Celina Lee Surniak	Dialect/Character Coach Lauren Lovett
Assistant Stage Manager Athena Saxon	Technical Director Zachary Phaneuf	House Managers Margaret Franckhauser, Jenn O'Brien
Publicist Courtney Heimbeck, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing	Casting Director Jordan Bass, CSA	Photographers Makela Yopez, Jeff Lorch

** Indicates ensemble member of IAMA Theatre Company*

ABOUT THE CAST



Bryan Langlitz* *he/him* (Jak) Broadway: *Memphis*. Off-Broadway: *The Comedy of Errors*. National: *Million Dollar Quartet*. Select LA Theatre: IAMA, *The Odyssey*, *Indie Chi*, *Third Route*, and *Workspace Hollywood*. Select TV: *House of Cards*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *The Looming Tower*, and *Secrets of Sulphur Springs*. He is a popular audition coach and educator, the founder of The Langlitz Studio, and a lecturer at UC Santa Barbara. A graduate of The University of Michigan, and currently pursuing an MFA in Performance Pedagogy from Loyola Marymount University.



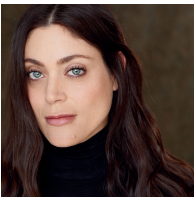
James Luster *he/him* (Joey) is an actor, writer, comedian and recent transplant from Portland, Oregon. He's worked with such notable Portland theaters as Bag&Baggage, Portland Shakespeare Company, Oregon Children's Theater, Theatre Vertigo, Action/Adventure Theater and many more. He was also part of IAMA's 2024 Actors Summer Intensive cohort and is honored to be working with them again on such a fantastic project. His life is full of joy with his partner Holly and three legged kitty Ramona.



Adrián González* *he/him* (Brian Anthony) LA THEATRE: *Psycho Beach Party* (HorseChart/ Matrix); *Arrowhead* (IAMA Theatre) *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Argonautika*; *Othello* (A Noise Within); *Tar* (Playwright's Arena); *Fixed* (Echo Theatre); *Lord of the Underworld's Home for Unwed Mothers* (Skylight Theatre); *Colony Collapse* (Boston Court); *Lorca in a Green Dress* (CASA 0101). FILM/TV: *With Love* (Amazon); *The Garcias* (HBO Max); *Vida* (Starz); *Superstore* (NBC); *The Affair* (Showtime); *Kevin From Work* (Freeform); *Your Family or Mine* (TBS); *The Bridge* (FX); as well as smaller roles on *NCIS*, *NCIS LA*, and *The Mentalist* (CBS) EDUCATION: Northwestern University, BS in Theatre and Psychology



Andria Kozica* *she/her* (Fanny) is a native of Chicago and a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. IAMA credits include Helen in *Smile*, Ariel in *Celestial Events*, Jill in *The Last Bohemian* and Katie Lee in *A Man Named River*. Other recent theatre includes Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Downtown Rep), La Marquise de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Spotlight Theatre), Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing* (Little Fish Theatre), Queen in *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare by the Sea), Roxanne in *The Understudy* (Bull & Bearer Theatre Co), and Actor #3 in *Lebensraum* (HCLAB, Ovation Nomination). andriakozica.com / ig: @andikoz



Margaux Susi* *she/her* (Women of Joey's Life) is a Cuban-Jewish actor & director from Miami, FL. She's the Associate Artistic Director of IAMA Theatre Company in LA where she currently resides. Favorite IAMA credits include *Species Native to California* and *Celestial Events*. You also know Margaux from the hit improv show 'The Blind Date Project'; having completed sold-out runs in NYC, Edinburgh, Cincinnati, and Williamstown, the show played in LA for over three years. Selected TV/FILM: FX'S *Better Things*, Netflix's *Dear White People*, Apple TV's *Central Park*, Disney's *Olaf's Frozen Adventure*. As a director, Margaux's films have played Sundance, Tribeca, Palm Springs, and more. All my love to the very best people in my life. You know who you are. www.margauxsusi.com IG @snapthisbitch



Seth Leighton Hale *he/him* (Patrick Michaels) is an actor from Cleveland, Ohio. After spending 5 years in NYC studying and working as a stage actor, he moved to Los Angeles in 2020 to pursue film and television. At the end of 2023 he graduated from the Ruskin School of Acting, where he studied the Meisner technique for 2 years. He is beyond grateful and excited to be back on stage with IAMA! Thank you to John Lavelle, and Melissa Coleman-Reed for this incredible opportunity!



Matt Hill *any pronouns* (Joey/Jak U/S) is a recent transplant from the Bay Area and is currently pursuing his MFA in Performance Pedagogy from LMU. He must tell you: IAMA and this team are fiercely passionate about actualizing their mission and values and he couldn't be more grateful to be making his LA theatre debut with this company. Matt believes that all theatre should be community theatre and he is honored to be a part of this community.



Amitai Porat *he/him* (Brian Anthony U/S) is a west coast native, born and raised in Sunnyvale, California. After graduating from UCLA, he stayed in Los Angeles to chase his artistic pursuits. He is thrilled to be making his IAMA debut as the understudy for Brian Anthony. Dedicating himself as a student at the Marjorie Ballentine Studio, Amitai is thriving and living his best life in Los Angeles. He gives a special thanks to his family for their unwavering support along his journey. Selected TV/FILM: *A Classic Spy* (Netflix), *Paul T. Goldman* (Peacock).



Sam Bianchini *she/they* (Fanny/Women of Joey's Life U/S) is an actress and director who has appeared on stage and screen in Chicago, NYC, and LA. She received her BFA in Acting from Chicago College of Performing Arts and her MFA from UCLA. Select LA Theatre: *Vanda in Venus in Fur* (AVT), *The Odyssey*, *The Road*. Select TV+Film: *Chicago Fire*, *The Next Big Thing*. She conceived of and directed the critically acclaimed *Romeo+Juliet* w/*The Family Crest*, an immersive play/concert/party in Chicago in 2019, and recently directed Ren Farren's music video, "Take Touch". Outside the theatre, she is an international yoga teacher and psychedelic therapy facilitator. Sam is thrilled to be back in LA, and honored to make her debut with IAMA. All my love to Tony and Guy. @samdarlin



Tyler Hansen *he/him* (Patrick Michaels U/S) is an actor, writer, and filmmaker from North Carolina. He is thrilled to be making his IAMA debut with TVBP! He most recently won the Midsummer Scream Screamiest award for Hollywood Fringe 2024's production of *Final Girl: The Musical*, which he directed. FILM: *Scream Therapy*, *Nanny Surveillance*. TV: *SWAT* (CBS). REGIONAL THEATRE: *Bad Jews*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Dog Sees God*, *Draining the Swamp* (World Premiere, Paris). BFA: Elon University. Established Artists.

ABOUT THE TEAM



John Lavelle* *he/him* (Playwright) spent much of his acting career appearing on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Regionally, and at The Royal Shakespeare Company. He is the author of several plays including *Inhalation* (Two Time O'Neill Finalist, Max Lerner Award), *Gertrude* (Max Lerner Award, O'Neill Semi-Finalist), *Sinner's Laundry* (IAMA), *Would Coulda Shoulda* (IAMA Reunion), *Forever Brentwood* (23 Hour Playfest), *Love in the time of Robots* (One Day Plays), *Before the Storm After the Fall* (Sam French OOB Finalist), and his work has appeared in the ABC Discovers Talent Showcase. John received a Drama Desk Award for his performance in *The Royale* at The Lincoln Center Theatre. He has appeared on TV and Film in numerous roles, most notably portraying Roy Reed in Ava DuVernay's Academy Award nominated film *Selma*. He is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and an IAMA Company member.



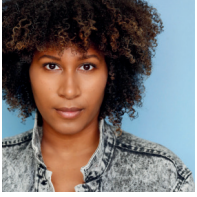
Melissa Coleman-Reed *she/her* (Director) is an international theatre maker: director, actor, producer, facilitator. She is focused on the development and production of new works to expand the canon of the American theatre. Facilitating works that foster activism, grow international collaborations, while highlighting stories from folk of Color, the Queer community and Black Culture. She is passionate about cultivating spaces for collaborators to meet, train, and create. Directing credits include: *The Lonely Few*, book by Rachel Bonds, music and lyrics by Zoe Sarnak, (Associate Director to Trip Cullman and Ellenore Scott, Geffen Playhouse), *Beneath the Bowtie* by Katie Lindsey, Tova Katz, and AK Kalinowski (workshop associate director, Geffen Playhouse), *Untitled Baby Play* by Nina Braddock (associate director, IAMA Theatre Company), *You Didn't Die* by John Lavelle (IAMA), *Paradise Blue* by Dominique Morisseau (Glendale Community College), *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage, *Men On Boats* by Jaclyn Backhaus, *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First One Hundred Years* (New Village Arts). Producer for *I Sell Windows* by Kacie Rogers, *Outside In / Bottle Tree Theatre* which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Summer 2024. Her artistic connections/collaborations also include: CalArts, Cal State LA, Ammunition Theatre Company, The Blank, The Road Theatre Company, The Inkwell Theatre Lab, BGB Studios, and SITI Company.



Quinn O'Connor* *she/they* (Associate Producer) is a disabled producer and stage manager who has worked at various institutions across the country, including Williamstown Theatre Festival, East West Players, Center Theatre Group, L.A. Dance Project, and the LA Philharmonic. Quinn also teaches Stage Management at the L.A. County High School for the Arts and is the Company Manager for L.A. Contemporary Dance Company. Quinn works at the intersection of performance and disability access, both in audience experience and representation by consulting with arts organizations and approaching access through a lens of disability justice. They are involved in various modes of advocacy, ranging from representation in the arts to accessibility in higher education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Disability Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. IG: @quinnfelisa



Roella Dellosa she/her (Production Stage Manager) Highlights: World Premiere of *Pang Spa* (Chalk Repertory Theatre), *The Last Bohemian* (IAMA), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Porters of Hellsgate), and the West Coast Premiere of *Do You Feel Anger?* (Circle X Theatre Co.). Roella is excited and grateful to be working with this wonderful group of theater makers. She would especially like to thank her family for giving her the space to dream and play.



Celia Mandela Rivera* she/her (Associate Director) Celia is a Black Latinx/Caribbean director, actor, and creative disruptor. In her work, she seeks to center and amplify Black & Brown voices and experiences. She is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on this incredible play. Celia is also IAMA's Theatre Company's Literary Manager and a company member. Select Directing: Deaf West, AMMO Theatre, Skylight Theatre, Boston Court Pasadena, Echo Theatre, IAMA Theatre, Ensemble Studio/LA, Art of Acting Studio. IG: @CeliaMandela @BLKLST_LA



Christopher Scott Murillo he/him (Set Designer) is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. Recently, his stage designs have been seen at Chance Theater, Latino Theatre Company, Playwrights' Arena, and East West Players. As a production designer for television, his work can be seen on Paramount+ on *Halo the Series: Declassified* and *The Ready Room* with Wil Wheaton. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship. Currently, he is on faculty at UC RIVERSIDE in the Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production.



Carter Vickers he/him (Assistant Set Designer) is super excited to be working on *The Very Best People!* Carter is primarily a scenic designer, having recently graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelor's Degree in both Theatre Arts (focus in Scenic Design) and Film, Television, and Media Studies. This summer, Carter was the Set Design Intern at *The Munny* in St. Louis. Many thanks to Chris Murillo and the rest of the wonderful production team! @cartervickers.design



Benedict Conran he/him (Lighting Designer) is an LA-based lighting and media designer specialising in new works and immersive theatre. Recent works include *The Body's Midnight* - Boston Court, *Every Brilliant Thing* - The Geffen Playhouse, *The Talented Tenth*, *Man's Favour Devil's Plan* - Robey Theatre Company, *The Consul*, *Tosca* - Angels Vocal Art, *Homefront* - Victory Theater. Associate credits include *Little Shop Of Horrors* - South Coast Rep, *Mitridate* - Boston Lyric Opera, *Redwood* - La Jolla Playhouse, *Quixote Nuevo* - South Coast Rep, *The Recital*, *Romance of the Rose* - Long Beach Opera, *Traif*, *Power of Sail* - The Geffen Playhouse. benconrandesign.com



Erica Ammerman *she/her* (Associate Lighting Designer/Programmer) is thrilled to be back with IAMA this season. She is an LA based lighting designer, production manager, and tap dancer. Recently, she has been assistant designing regionally at the Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory. Other recent projects include Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights (Master Electrician) and *Pretty Perfect Lives* Off-Broadway (Production Manager). ammermanerica.com

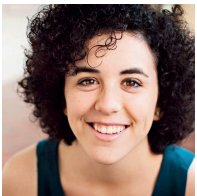
Samantha C. Jones *she/her* (Costume Designer) is a Costume Designer and educator with previous design credits at Center Theatre Group, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Huntington Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, MCC, Manhattan Theatre Club, McCarter Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Jackalope Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Alley Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, First Stage Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Peninsula Players Theater, and others. Her work can be viewed at samanthacjones.com.



Morgan Whittam *she/her* (Associate Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor) is a Los Angeles based Costume Designer and Artisan. She is a graduate of USC's School of Dramatic Arts with a BFA in Costume Design. Favorite credits from USC include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Urinetown*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. In addition to costume design, Morgan is passionate about needlecrafts and runs a small business selling embroidery, knitting, and crochet creations. www.morganwhittam.com



Erin Bednarz *she/her* (Sound Designer) works in sound, music, production, and performance. Awards: LA Drama Critics Circle, Bay Area Critics Circle, Gregory (Seattle, WA), Broadway World (Regional). Press mentions: Wall Street Journal, New York Times. Off-Broadway: *MAC BETH* (Red Bull, Hunter Theater Project), *The Convent* (Rattlestick). California: *Smile* (IAMA), Sara Porkalob's *Dragon Cycle* (Geffen Playhouse, Marin Theatre Company, Center Rep, Diversionary); *Lavender Men* (Skylight). Teaching: Pomona College, Cal Poly, NYU, Cornish College of the Arts, University of Washington. @play__pranks



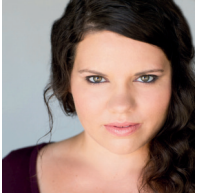
Nicole Bernardini *she/her* (Properties Designer) is a graphics/props designer and set decorator who loves crafting weird spaces. Favorite projects include *Psycho Beach Party* (with Horschart @ the Matrix Theatre), *Arrowhead* (IAMA), *Fefu & Her Friends* (George G. Golleher Alumni House), *Hungry Ghost* (Skylight Theatre), and *Lottie Platchett Took a Hatchet* (with OutsideIn Theatre and the Los Angeles LGBT Center). See more at nicolebernardini.com



Zander Eckhouse *he/him* (Video Designer) is an LA based cinematographer whose work includes commercials and documentaries. In addition, Zander heads up content and marketing for Aepnus Technology, an Oakland based battery recycling company. He enjoys teaching film production in his free time as a public outreach volunteer, and professionally as a public high school teacher in the San Fernando Valley. He is a graduate of the directing program at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.



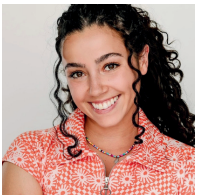
Jonathan H. To *he/him* (Associate Video Designer) has been a filmmaker and independent theatre creator practically from birth. His greatest passion in life is to continue finding ways to cross these mediums he loves so much. Recent theatre credits include directing Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman* and lead producing *California Suite* by Neil Simon and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* for Season 10 Stage Productions, where he is a founding member and director of finance.



Celina Lee Surniak *she/her* (Intimacy & Fight Director) is a Fight/Intimacy Director for stage, as well as a Stunt/Intimacy Coordinator for Film & Television. Based in Los Angeles, she is passionate about creating safe, organic choreography. Recent stage credits include *Happy Fall* (Rogue Artists Ens.), *Arrowhead* (IAMA), *Wolf at the Door* (PCPA), and *Angels in America* (Foolish Production Co.). Celina is thrilled to be part of this production and wishes the cast and crew a fantastic show!



Lauren Lovett *she/her* (Dialect/Character Coach) Lauren is a voice and dialect coach and a consultant for intimacy and consent-based practices for TV film and theater. Education: The Juilliard Drama Division (Group 23), Somatic Experiencing Institute, Hypnotherapy Institute, Integrative Health Coaching and Jungian Studies. Voice and dialect work and/or consent-based practices: Broadway Asia, The Old Globe Theater, Goodspeed Opera House, The La Jolla Playhouse, Diversionary Theater, IAMA Theater Company and The Antaeus Company, *Mayor of Kingstown*, *Red One*, *Haunting In Venice* and more.



Athena Saxon *she/her* (Assistant Stage Manager) is an actor and independent producer from the SF Bay Area. After graduating from Chapman University with an emphasis in Television Writing and Production, she became a freelance production assistant and coordinator on several network TV shows. She continues to dive deeper into the LA theater community, working with IAMA Theatre Company, Rogue Machine, and Producing with Season 10 Stage Productions, which she founded in 2023. When she isn't in the theatre or on set she is hanging with her two puppies Emma and Charlie and her cat Henry.



Zachary Phaneuf *he/him* (Technical Director) is a writer, director, and technical director from Northern Virginia. He has worked with many theaters in LA including Antaeus Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, The Wallis, StarKid Productions, and IAMA. His work as a painter can be seen on the current seasons of *The Food That Built America* and *The Mega-Brands that Built America* on The History Channel. He also runs a small film production company with his wife, named after his dog, Pretty Penny Media. www.zachphaneuf.com



Jordan Bass *he/him* (Casting Director) is a partner in bass/casting, a bi-coastal casting company that specializes in curating strong ensemble casts across film, television, theatre, and new media. Select feature credits include *Wind River* starring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olson; Amazon's *Chemical Hearts*; New Line's *Annabelle*, Lionsgate's *The Last Exorcism*; Blumhouse's *Martyrs*; HBO/Project Greenlight's *The Leisure Class*, and Wayfarer Studios' *Love You Anyway* as well as indies *Izzy Gets he F*ck Across Town* starring Mackenzie Davis, Carrie Coon, LaKeith Stanfield, and Alia Shawkat; and *A Violent Separation* starring Brenton Thwaites, Gerald McRaney, and Ted Levine. Select TV credits: *Ghosts of Beirut* (Showtime); *Spartacus: Blood & Sand* (Starz); *Big Time Rush* (Nickelodeon); *Beerfest: Thirst for Victory* (CW Seed); *Hyperlinked* (YouTube/Disney); *The 5th Quarter* (Go90); and Vin Diesel's *The Ropes* (Crackle). Select Theatre: *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Kirk Douglas Theatre, IAMA), *Arrowhead* (IAMA), *Happy Fall* (Rogue Artists Ensemble), *A Kid Like Jake* (Pasadena Playhouse, IAMA) *Canyon* (IAMA, KDT), *The Bottoming Process* (IAMA, LA LGBT Ctr), and *The Untitled Baby Play* (IAMA). Proud Union Member. basscasting.com

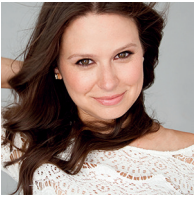
SPECIAL THANKS

Okieriete Onaodowan, The Inkwell Theatre, Josh Bywater, Daniel Franzese, Johnathan Tchaikovsky, Triptyk Studios, Chloe Whiteford, Randee Trabit, Scott Myrene, RogueLike Tavern, The Asian Network, Ben Epstein, Kristen Rodriguez, Oscar Avila, Jordan Don, Sharlee Taylor, and Megan Conrad.

CREW

Scenic Charge Artist:	Aven Gonzalez
Master Electrician:	Stephanie Sandler
Electricians:	Kat Denning, Matthew Perelman, Myckinnon Forsythe, Ezra Muthiah
Lead Carpenter:	David Warren
Carpenter:	Chris Kuhn

ABOUT IAMA LEADERSHIP



Katie Lowes* she/her (Chair, IAMA Board of Directors) is best known for starring as 'Quinn Perkins' for the entire 7 seasons of the ABC hit series *Scandal*. Lowes also portrayed 'Rachel' in Shonda Rhimes' popular Netflix series *Inventing Anna*, starring alongside Anna Chlumsky, Julia Garner and Laverne Cox. In 2022, Katie made her return to network television in CBS' half-hour comedy *How We Roll*, starring opposite comedian Pete Holmes. That same year, she also starred in HULU's original movie *Merry Kiss Cam* and lent her voice to Netflix's animated film *VIVO*. No stranger to animation, she also recorded voices for the Disney features: *Frozen*, *Wreck It Ralph*, *Big Hero 6*, *Feast*, and *Zootopia*. In 2018, Lowes made her Broadway debut singing and dancing as 'Dawn' in the Tony Nominated Musical *Waitress* with Katharine McPhee. Katie also hosts the popular podcasts *Unpacking The Toolbox*, which is produced by Shondaland Audio in partnership with iHeartRadio.



Stefanie Black* she/her (IAMA Artistic Director) is one of the original founding members and current Artistic Director of IAMA Theatre Company. She has overseen over 20 world premiere productions, as well as five west coast premieres. Her dedication to supporting emerging playwrights and directors has become the calling card of IAMA. Her tenure at IAMA has seen the creation of the Rhimes *Unsung Voices* Playwriting Commission and over eight other commissions, as well as the IAMA Emerging Playwrights Lab, an investment in the next generation of Los Angeles based playwrights. As an actor, director and filmmaker, Stefanie is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA, AEA, and Film Fatales.



Cara Greene Epstein* she/her (IAMA Executive Director) isn't a doctor, but she has played one on TV. As a theatre-maker, Cara has worked with theater companies from coast to coast, including The Old Globe, Steppenwolf, Lookingglass, New York Theatre Workshop, and the American Theater Wing. Cara wrote and co-directed the award-winning feature film *Dragonfly*, currently streaming on Amazon Prime, and is an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Screenwriting Fellow. In her viral TED Talk *How Theater Weathers Wars, Outlasts Empires, and Survives Pandemics* (1M+ views), Cara focuses on how we can use the arts to build a better world together, onstage and off. She holds an honors degree in Theater Arts from Cornell University, an MFA from The Old Globe/USD, and is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA.



Lara Myrene* she/her (IAMA Producing Director) began her theater career as a child. As a part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival's Frantic Redhead Productions, Lara worked as an actor, stage manager and associate producer. After graduating from the University of Washington with degrees in Drama and Swedish, Lara worked for several theater companies in Seattle including Seattle Children's Theatre. After moving to Los Angeles, she split her time between stage management and film production. In 2015, Lara joined IAMA's Ensemble and from 2017-2023, she served as IAMA's Managing Director.

SUPPORT IAMA THEATRE COMPANY

IAMA is a little theatre company that does big things, but we couldn't do them without you.

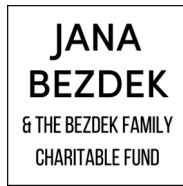
In just the last few years, IAMA has experienced tremendous growth - we've produced seven world premieres, launched an education program providing master classes, mentorship, and over \$15,000 in scholarship support to emerging artists, and expanded our New Works Festival with support from the NEA. Plus, IAMA is represented by two shows on Broadway this season - Max Wolf Friedlich's *JOB the Play* and Leslye Headland's *Cult of Love* - both of which originated at IAMA!

None of this would be possible without the tangible support of our audiences and donors.

Your donation to IAMA both enables our success and allows us to give back to our community. When you donate to IAMA, your contribution goes directly to:

- New Play Development and Production
- Livable Artist Wages
- Education & Student Scholarships
- Parent Artist Childcare Stipends
- Audience and Community Engagement, including Pay What You Can and Affinity Night Performances

Become an essential part of our IAMA community today!



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IAMA SPECIAL PRESENTATION

MY RIGHT WING UNCLE

written and performed by
graham sibley

directed by jeff perry

iama

special presentation

two nights only!
wednesdays oct 16 & 23 @ 8pm
Atwater Village Theatre

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IAMA Theatre Company is based in Los Angeles on the sacred site of the Tongva/Gabrielino Nations who have lived and continue to live here. We recognize the Tongva/Gabrielino Nations and their spiritual connection as the first stewards and the traditional caretakers of this land. We honor them as the first storytellers of our Los Angeles community and we thank them for their strength, perseverance, and resistance. We respect and value the many ways their cultural heritage and beliefs continue to have significance to the living people and remind us about the sacred and spiritual relationship that has always existed here.

world premiere production

THE VERY BEST PEOPLE

written by john lavelle
directed by melissa coleman-reed

sept 29–oct 27, 2024



reading series

7TH ANNUAL NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

with support from the NEA

december 5–15, 2024

workshop production

DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR

written by douglas lyons
directed by velani dibba

february 13–24, 2025

workshop production

TRAUMA PLAY

written by abigail miller
directed by diana wyenn

may 22–june 2, 2025

SEASON



laughing through
the dark

24/25

Atwater Village Theatre

www.iamatheatre.com

BECOME PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Scan to learn more about our work, upcoming shows and events, and how to get involved!

