

59E59 THEATERS

PRIMARY STAGES
AT 59E59 THEATERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ERIN DALEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SHANE D. HUDSON

FOUNDER
CASEY CHILDS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE

DAVID SAINT
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

EDGAR HERERRA
MANAGING DIRECTOR

AND BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
DARYL ROTH
TED SNOWDON

IN ASSOCIATION WITH JAMIE DeROY

PRESENTS

Ibsen's Ghost

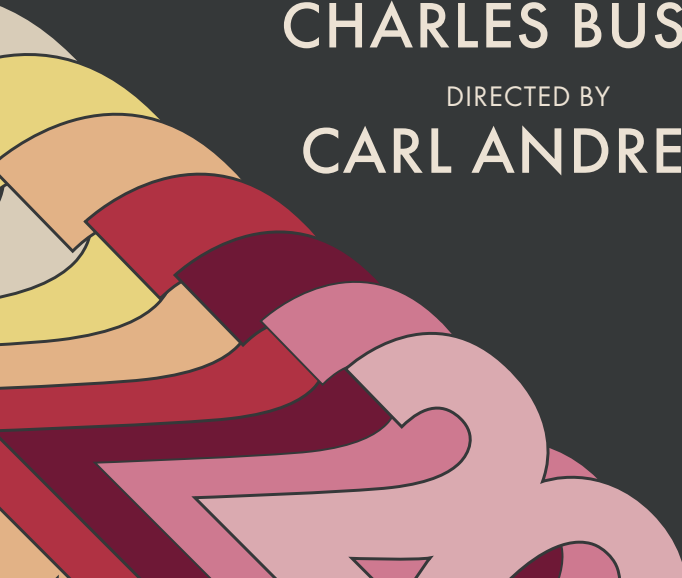
AN IRRESPONSIBLE BIOGRAPHICAL FANTASY

WRITTEN BY AND STARRING

CHARLES BUSCH

DIRECTED BY

CARL ADDRESS



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WELCOME TO *IBSEN'S GHOST!*

Welcome to Primary Stages and our production of *Ibsen's Ghost: An Irresponsible Biographical Fantasy* by Charles Busch and directed by Carl Andress!

For decades, Charles' unique blend of wit, theatricality, and camp has been delighting audiences with downtown cult classics like *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and *Psycho Beach Party*, his Broadway hit *The Tale Of The Allergist's Wife*, and of course, *The Confession of Lily Dare* and *The Tribute Artist* here at Primary Stages.

Now, after years of lovingly skewering Hollywood classics, Charles now trains his satiric crosshairs on one of theater's most revered figures – Henrik Ibsen.

With timeless works like *A Doll's House*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *An Enemy of the People*, Ibsen made a name for himself as the "father of realism," inspiring the likes of George Bernard Shaw, Anton Chekhov, and Eugene O'Neill. He was known for his provocative social commentaries with complex heroines, and somber psychological brooding.

In this "Ibsen play that Ibsen never wrote," instead of being dragged into Ibsen's dark emotional turmoil, Charles archly parodies these aristocratic dramas. With a refracted lens, he invites us to laugh at their frivolity and delight in spectacle. A master of camp, Charles has the ability to unveil the serious as silly and the silly as serious. This in turn allows us to open our imagination, poking fun at ourselves, and the society and conventions we take as customary.

This is why we go to the theater, to have someone show the world around us in a new light...and have fun doing it! We are so grateful to artists like Charles who are so unapologetically themselves and can share their world with us with such generosity. And we are so grateful to audiences like you, who are eager to dive right into the fun!

Thanks for being here and enjoy the show!



A stylized, cursive signature in black ink that reads "Erin Daley".

ERIN DALEY

Artistic Director, Primary Stages



A stylized, cursive signature in black ink that reads "Shane D. Hudson".

SHANE D. HUDSON

Executive Director, Primary Stages



PRIMARY STAGES

AT 59E59 THEATERS

in association with
GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
and by special arrangement with

DARYL ROTH
TED SNOWDON

in association with
JAMIE deROY

presents

Ibsen's Ghost

AN IRRESPONSIBLE BIOGRAPHICAL FANTASY

Written by and Starring

CHARLES BUSCH

Directed by

CARL ADDRESS

Ibsen's Ghost

AN IRRESPONSIBLE BIOGRAPHICAL FANTASY

WRITTEN BY AND STARRING
CHARLES BUSCH
DIRECTED BY
CARL ANDRESS

CAST

in order of appearance

Gerda	JEN CODY
Suzannah Ibsen	CHARLES BUSCH
George Elstad / The Rat Wife	CHRISTOPHER BORG
Magdalene Thoresen	JUDY KAYE
Wolf	THOMAS GIBSON
Hanna Solberg	JENNIFER VAN DYCK
Standby for Suzannah Ibsen	KATE HAMPTON
Production Stage Manager	AVERY TRUNKO
Assistant Stage Manager	KELLY HATFIELD
Scenic Design	SHOKO KAMBARA
Costume Design	GREGORY GALE
Lighting Design	KEN BILLINGTON
Sound Design	JILL BC DU BOFF & IEN DeNIO
Hair, Wig, and Makeup Design	BOBBIE ZLOTNIK
Dialect Coach	REBECCA SIMON
Key Art Photographer	MICHAEL WAKEFIELD
Casting	McCORKLE CASTING
General Press Representative	PRINT SHOP PR

General Manager **DEAN A. CARPENTER**
 Production Manager **WILL DUTY**
 Director of Education and Strategic Planning..... **SARAH MATTEUCCI**
 Company Manager..... **CLAUDIA McCOY**
 Education and Community Outreach Manager **BRI NG SCHWARTZ**
 Director of Development **ERICA RAVEN-SCORZA**
 Communications Manager **ALEX VALDEZ**

PRODUCTION

Associate Scenic Designer **MADELINE GODDARD**
 Associate Costume Designer **NATALIE LOVELAND**
 Assistant Lighting Designer..... **GARETT PEMBROOK**
 Assistant Sound Designer..... **EVDOXIA RAGKOU**
 Production Electricians..... **JOHN ANSELMO, DAN MULLINS**
 Lighting Programmer..... **JEFFREY D'AMBROSIO**
 Production Audio **HAYDEN BEARDEN**
FIVE OHM PRODUCTIONS
 Wardrobe Supervisor..... **MOESHA PEREZ**
 Wig Supervisor **HILARY SHIELDS**
 Wardrobe Crew..... **AMAAN KHAN**
 Lighting Board Operator **JASON GUILLAUME**

Setting: Oslo, Norway. June, 1906.

Run time: 1 hour, 45 minutes including an intermission

Understudies and standbys never substitute for performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of performance.

Lead support for this Primary Stages production is provided by the Garfield Family Fund in memory of Johanna Garfield, The A.R. Gurney Theater Fund, and The Andrew Leynse Legacy Project at Primary Stages.

Additional production support provided by Margot Astrachan, Stefany and Simon Bergson, Scott Durkin, Jim Kierstead, and Riki Kane Larimer.

Major season support provided by the Estate of Anne Bernstein, The Howard Gilman Foundation, the Laurents/Hatcher Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

CHARLES BUSCH

(Playwright/Suzannah Ibsen)



Charles Busch is an actor, playwright, and drag legend. He is the author and star of many plays, including **Vampire Lesbians of Sodom**, one of the longest running plays in Off Broadway history. His play **The Tale of the Allergist's Wife** played 777 performances on Broadway and received a Tony nomination for Best Play. He wrote and starred in the film versions of his plays **Psycho Beach Party** and **Die, Mommie, Die!**, the latter of which won him the Best Performance Award at the Sundance Film Festival. He has been honored with a special Drama Desk Award for career achievement as both performer and playwright, and received the Flora Roberts Award for Sustained Achievement in the Theater by the Dramatists Guild. As a cabaret entertainer, he is a two-time Manhattan Cabaret Award winner, a Bistro Award honoree, and has appeared in many cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, Paris, and New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center's American Songbook series. His autobiography, *Leading Lady: The Memoir of a Most Unusual Boy*, is published by BenBella books.

www.charlesbusch.com

CARL ANDRESS

(Director)



Carl Andress is an American theater and film director and producer who is proud to have staged over 15 original productions of critically acclaimed plays written by and starring Charles Busch, including **The Tribute Artist**, **The Confession of Lily Dare**, **The Divine Sister**, **Die, Mommie, Die!**, and the films *The Sixth Reel* and *A Very Serious Person*, both distributed by Wolfe Releasing. He has directed many New York and regional productions, such as **Rum & Coke** (Abingdon Theater) and **FAKE** (Miami New Drama) by Carmen Pelaez, **Still at Risk** by Tim Pinckney (Theater for the New City), Matthew Lombardo's **Who's Holiday!** starring Lesli Margherita (Westside Theater), Joe Godfrey's **Romance Language** (Ars Nova), **Crush the Infamous Thing - the Adventures of the Hollywood Four** (Coconut Grove Playhouse), **My Fair Lady** (Tent Theater), Paul Rudnick's **I Hate Hamlet** (Dorset Theater Festival), and Douglas Carter Beane's **The Cartells** (Drama Dept). Additionally, he has directed many developmental workshops of new works, as well as staging numerous galas and special events such as the annual *Broadway Belts* for the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, Literacy Partners' Evening of Readings, and the NY concert premieres of **The Visit**, **A Wonderful Life**, **Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol**, and **Valley of the Dolls** all to benefit The Entertainment Community Fund (formerly The Actors' Fund) on Broadway. Carl is a recipient of Primary Stages 2022 Einhorn Mentorship Award, and he is the artistic director of the Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, CT.

www.carlandress.com

CHRISTOPHER BORG

(George Elstad/*The Rat Wife*)



In collaboration with Charles Busch and Carl Address: **The Confession of Lily Dare** (2020 Nomination, Lucille Lortel Award - Outstanding Featured Actor), **Judith of Bethulia** (Urdamani the Eunuch), **Red Scare on Sunset** (staged reading). Other Off Broadway: **Penny Pennyworth**, **The Play About the Naked Guy**, Doric Wilson's **Street Theatre**, **And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little**, **Off the King's Road**, **The Complete & Condensed Stage Directions of Eugene O'Neill Vol. 2**, **The Infinite Wrench**, **Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind**. Regional: Shakespeare's **R&J** (Juliet), **Gross Indecency**, **Raised in Captivity**, **Bent**, **Pterodactyls**.

JEN CODY

(*Gerta*)



Broadway: original companies of **Shrek**, **Urinetown**, **Taboo**, **Seussical**, **Pajama Game**. Also: **Grease**, **Cats**, **A Christmas Story**, and **Beauty and the Beast**. TV: **Blue Bloods**, **Younger**, **The Good Fight**, **Instinct**, **Bull**, **American Dad**, **New Amsterdam**. Annie Award winner for voicing Charlotte LaBouff in Disney's **The Princess and the Frog**, and so much more.

www.jen-cody.com

THOMAS GIBSON

(*Wolf*)



Theater: NYSF, MCC, EST, TFANA, MTC, En Garde Arts, Circle in the Square. Film: **Eyes Wide Shut**, **Psycho Beach Party**, **Barcelona**, **Sleep With Me**, **Stardom**, **Love and Human Remains**, **Far and Away**. Television: **Tales and More Tales of the City**, **The Inheritance**, **Chicago Hope**, **Dharma and Greg**, **Criminal Minds**.

JUDY KAYE

(*Magdalene Thoresen*)



Judy Kaye is a two-time Tony Award recipient (**Phantom of the Opera** and **Nice Work If You Can Get It**). She has been nominated for **Mamma Mia** and for her performance as Florence Foster Jenkins in **Souvenir**. She played the role of Queen Elizabeth in **Diana**, and most recently played Mary in 'Til Death Off Broadway. In a career spanning five decades, Ms. Kaye has played roles ranging from Lily Garland in **On the Twentieth Century** and Mrs. Lovett in **Sweeney Todd** to Rizzo in **Grease**, as well leading roles in **Cinderella**, **Wicked**, and **Anastasia**, all on Broadway. For more, Google!

JENNIFER VAN DYCK

(*Hanna Solberg*)



11th collaboration with Charles Busch and Carl Address, including **The Confession of Lily Dare** (Outer Circle Critics Award). Broadway: **Hedda Gabler**, **Dancing at Lughnasa**, **Two Shakespearean Actors**, **The Secret Rapture**. Film/television: **Law & Order**, **Blindspot**, **Madam Secretary**, **Bull**, **The Good Wife**, **The Blacklist**, **Elementary**, **Person of Interest**, **Too Big to Fail**, **Michael Clayton**, **Across the Universe**.

KATE HAMPTON

(*Standby for Suzannah Ibsen*)



Broadway: **Birthday Candles**, Gore Vidal's **The Best Man**, **The Deep Blue Sea**. First national tour: **Spring Awakening**. Off Broadway: **The Master Builder** (BAM), **The Typographer's Dream** (Clubbed Thumb), **All My Sons** (Roundabout). Regional Favorites: **A Doll's House, Part 2**, **God of Carnage**,

Fallen Angels, Boeing, Boeing, Noises Off, Pride and Prejudice (Asolo Rep); *An Inspector Calls, How the Other Half Loves, The Cocktail Hour* (Florida Rep); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Palm Beach Dramaworks); *Talley's Folly, Absurd Person Singular* (Peterborough Players); *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Humana).

SHOKO KAMBARA

(*Scenic Designer*)

Recent theater: *Bees and Honey* (MCC), *Having Our Say* (George Street Playhouse), *Little Girl Blue* (New World Stages), *Fairycakes* (Greenwich House), *Ring of Fire* (Geva Theatre), *Native Gardens* (Syracuse Stage/Geva Theatre/Portland Stage). Opera: *The Prince of Players* (Houston Grand Opera-world premiere), *The Barber of Seville* (Opera Philadelphia, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Opera Omaha, and many more around the US). Art department work: *Eileen, The Good Nurse, The Trial of the Chicago 7, Cavan, Summer Fridays*. Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute: *In America: A Lexicon of Fashion, In America: An Anthology of Fashion*. MFA: NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

GREGORY GALE

(*Costume Designer*)

Gregory Gale is a multidisciplinary designer working in film, television, theater, opera, and dance. Gale has won two Lucille Lortel Awards for *Fairycakes* and *The Voyageur Inheritance*. Gale's nominations include two Tony Awards: *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Rock of Ages*, five Lucille Lortel Awards, three Drama Desk Awards, five Henry Hewes Design Awards, and the recipient of the Irene Sharaff Young Master Award. Opera designs include *La Rondine* and *An American Soldier* (OTSL), *The Prince of Players, El Milagro del Recuerdo*, and *Romeo et Juliette* (HGO). Recent films include *The Mental State* (Apple TV) and *Real Drag*.

KEN BILLINGTON

(*Lighting Designer*)

Over 100 Broadway productions, including *New York, New York*, the original production of *Sweeney Todd, Waitress, Sunday in the Park with George* (2008 & 2017). His Tony Award-winning lighting for *Chicago* has been seen worldwide. Other projects: NYC's 54 Below and Tavern on the Green. Ken is a member of the Theater Hall of Fame.

JILL BC DU BOFF

(*Sound Designer*)

Broadway: *Summer 1976, Derren Brown: Secret, Heidi Chronicles, Hand to God, Disgraced, Picnic, Wit, Other Desert Cities, Good People, Bill Maher: Victory...* Off Broadway: Lincoln Center, MTC, Atlantic, Vineyard, MCC, Playwrights, The Public, Second Stage, NYTW, Signature, Clubbed Thumb. Podcasts: Radiolab, New York Radio Hour, many podcasts for Marvel. Drama Desk, Henry Hewes nominations. Awards; Ruth Morley Design Award, Lilly, Obie. Head of Sound Design at Yale/DGSD. Love to Adam, Milo, and Mabel.

IEN DeNIO

(*Sound Designer*) (*they/them*)

Ien DeNio is a two-time Drama Desk-nominated enbee who leaves their umbrella at home when it is actively raining. This makes their mother make that one exasperated noise. That one. Bet you just heard it in your head. Sound Designed. Buahaha-[Wilhelm-Scream]. [Neverbugs... little ones.]

www.iendenio.com

BOBBIE ZLOTNIK

(*Hair, Wig, and Makeup Design*)

Off Broadway: *Emojiland* (Drama Desk nom), *Fairycakes, Disenchanted, Forbidden Broadway*, and many more. National tours: *On Your Feet, Emojiland, Cocomelon LIVE*.

Regional: PCLO, Tuacahn, Cape Playhouse, Gulfshore Playhouse, PCPA, Bucks County Playhouse, Penguin Rep. Film/TV: *The Gilded Age*, *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Getting Curious With Jonathan Van Ness*.

www.bobbiezlotnik.com

REBECCA SIMON

(Dialect Coach)

Voice and dialect coaching credits include *A Walk on the Moon*, *American Hero*, *Trying*, and *Little Girl Blue: The Nina Simone Musical* (George Street Playhouse), The McCarter Theatre, Bristol Riverside Theatre, and Forestburgh Playhouse, among others. Rebecca is an assistant professor of Voice, Speech, and Acting at East Carolina University. She also maintains a private studio with clients from all over the globe.

www.rebeccasimonvoice.com

AVERY TRUNKO

(Production Stage Manager)

Broadway: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Off Broadway: *Belfast Girls* (Irish Repertory Theater); *Dig*, *The Confession of Lily Dare* (Primary Stages); *Hangmen*, *On the Shore of the Wide World* (Atlantic Theater Company); *Privacy*, *Julius Caesar* (Public Theater); *Eureka Day* (Colt Coeur). Select regional: Hartford Stage Company, Oklahoma City Rep, Dorset Theatre Festival, Hudson Valley Shakespeare. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

KELLY HATFIELD

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Select credits include: *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Still, Misery* (Dorset Theater Festival); *9 to 5: the Musical*, *Witch*, *Pippin*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Metamorphoses* (Vassar College). BA from Vassar College.

McCORKLE CASTING:

PAT McCORKLE, CSA; REBECCA WEISS, CSA
(Casting Director)

McCorkle Casting continues to strive for inclusivity and social awareness during its 35-year history in casting. Broadway: over 50 productions, including *On The Town*, *Amazing Grace*, *End of the Rainbow*, *A Few Good Men*. Off Broadway: over 60 productions, including *Tribes*, *Our Town*, *Driving Miss Daisy*. Regional: Guthrie, Barrington Stage, CATF, City Theatre-Pittsburgh, Olney, among many others. Film and TV highlights: *Premium Rush*, *Ghost Town*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Californication* (Emmy Nomination).

www.mccorklecasting.com

GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE

Under the leadership of Artistic Director David Saint since 1997, George Street Playhouse produces groundbreaking new works, inspiring productions of the classics, and hit Broadway plays and musicals that speak to the heart and mind, with an unwavering commitment to producing new work, notably *Proof*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *The Toxic Avenger*, *Gettin' The Band Back Together*, *Clever Little Lies*, and *Little Girl Blue*. Entering its 50th season, the organization has a rich history of producing nationally renowned theater. The Playhouse continues to fill a unique theater and arts education role in the city, state, and greater metropolitan region. George Street Playhouse recently announced the appointment of Edgar Herrera as Managing Director. In 2019, George Street Playhouse moved to the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center in downtown New Brunswick. Featuring two state-of-the-art theaters—The Arthur Laurents Theater and The Elizabeth Ross Johnson Theater—and myriad amenities, the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center marks a new era in the esteemed history of George Street Playhouse.

DARYL ROTH

Daryl Roth is honored to hold the singular distinction of producing 7 Pulitzer Prize-winning plays: *Anna in the Tropics*; *August: Osage County* (Tony Award); *Clybourne Park* (Tony Award); *How I Learned to Drive*; *Proof* (Tony Award); Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women*; and *Wit*. The proud recipient of 13 Tony Awards and London's Olivier Award, her over 130 productions both on and Off Broadway include *Kinky Boots* (6 Tony Awards); *Absolute Brightness*; *Angels in America*; *Between the Lines*; *Blindness*; *Buyer & Cellar*; *Company*; *Curtains*; *Funny Girl*; *Gloria: A Life*; *Edward Albee's The Goat or Who is Sylvia*; *Indecent*; *Into the Woods*; *It Shoulda Been You*; *Life of Pi*; *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*; *The Normal Heart*; *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*; *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*; and *The Year of Magical Thinking*. Honors include The New Dramatists Outstanding Career Achievement, New York Living Landmarks, and the Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award. She is a Trustee of the Kennedy Center, an honorary Trustee of Lincoln Center Theatre, and is proud to have been inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame.

TED SNOWDON

Ted Snowdon has Broadway producing credits reaching back to 1979's Tony Award-winning *The Elephant Man*, with many others such as Chita Rivera in *The Visit*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Tyne Daly in *Master Class*, *The Mountaintop*, *Time Stands Still*, *Reasons To Be Pretty*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Souvenir* starring Judy Kaye. More recent Broadway offerings include two White House plays, *The Great Society* starring Brian Cox as LBJ, and Selina Fillinger's farce *POTUS* at the Shubert. With Primary Stages, Ted's co-productions include two previous Charles Busch capers, *The Tribute Artist* and *The Confession of Lily Dare*, along with *Daniel's Husband*, *On That Day in Amsterdam*, A.R. Gurney's *Black Tie* and *The Fourth Wall*, plus

Terence McNally's *The Stendhal Syndrome*. Other Off Broadway includes Michael Urie in Jon Tolins's *Buyer & Cellar*, David Ives's *Mere Mortals*, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, *Cock*, David Cromer's staging of *Our Town*, *My Parsifal Conductor*, Robert Montano's solo hit *Small* last summer, and this season's acclaimed Sondheim-Ives-Mantello musical collaboration at The Shed, *Here We Are*.

JAMIE deROY

Jamie deRoy started producing theater by accident... which has led to 12 Tony Awards and credits on 100+ Broadway and Off Broadway shows including: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Spamalot*, *Gutenberg The Musical*, *Parade*, *Good Night Oscar*, *Leopoldstadt*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, among others. Upcoming: *Stereophonic*, *Water for Elephants*, and *Tommy*. Additional awards include nine MAC Awards, 12 Drama Desk Awards, four Audience Choice Awards, 11 Drama League Awards, three GLAAD Awards, four Back Stage Bistro Awards, numerous Telly Awards, and CaB Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been honored by Theatre Works/USA, Albert Einstein Spirit of Achievement, Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Award, and Primary Stages – twice! A frequent presence on the New York cabaret scene, Jamie has produced a series of nine *Jamie deRoy & friends* CDs on Harbinger and PS Classics. Her long-running variety shows have benefitted The Entertainment Community Fund. She also hosts a TV variety show, which has been on the air for well over 30 years. Onstage, she appeared with René Auberjonois in *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Drunkard* with musical direction by Barry Manilow, and as the magician McTrix in *Someone's Kissing Daddy*. Jamie's television producing credits include *Jamie deRoy & friends*, *CityArts: The Biggest Little Operas in Town* (Emmy nomination), and the documentaries *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Broadway: Beyond the Golden Age*, and *Left Alone Rhapsody*.

LEGACY SUPPORTERS



**ANNE L.
BERNSTEIN**

Anne L. Bernstein had a life-long passion for the theater. She was a constant and generous supporter, and Primary Stages was one of her favorite companies. Anne was always ready to jump in with help or ideas. Nothing was too small or too large; she would gladly contribute whatever was needed, from food to finance. Anne was always happy to listen and to brainstorm; her many and varied contributions were greatly valued by her friends at Primary Stages.



**JOHANNA
GARFIELD**

Johanna Rosengarten Garfield (1930-2021) was a long-time supporter of Primary Stages and many other arts and music programs throughout New York City. She was also an author who published two books and many articles on a range of subjects. Theater and literature were her passions, and we are thrilled that her family has established a production support fund at Primary Stages in her name.



**A.R.
GURNEY**

A.R. Gurney wrote over 50 plays, including Primary Stages productions of *The Fourth Wall*, *Buffalo Gal*, *Strictly Academic*, *Indian Blood*, *Black Tie*, and *Final Follies*. Gurney was a great supporter of Primary Stages and other Off Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway organizations. Prior to his passing, A.R. Gurney established a fund to support new work by American playwrights in the New York City area.

PRIMARY STAGES

Primary Stages is an Off Broadway not-for-profit theater company dedicated to inspiring, supporting, producing, and sharing the art of playwriting. We operate on the strongly held belief that the future of American theater relies on nurturing playwrights and giving them the artistic support needed to create new work. Since our founding in 1984, we have produced more than 135 new plays.

Our productions and artists have received critical acclaim, including numerous Tony, Obie, Lortel, Off Broadway Alliance, AUDELCO, Outer Critics' Circle, Drama League, and Drama Desk awards and nominations. Primary Stages supports playwrights and develops new works through commissions, workshops, readings, and our education and engagement programs: the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group, Marvin and Anne Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA), Creative Access Grants, the Echoes Writers Group, our Free Student Matinee Program, and the Primary Stages Off Broadway Oral History Project. Through these programs, Primary Stages advocates for our artists, helping them make important—and often transformative—connections within the theater community.

For more information on Primary Stages and our various programs, please visit us at www.primarystages.org.

ERIN DALEY (*Artistic Director*)

Erin Daley first joined Primary Stages in 2016, rising to her current role in 2024. Previously she was Company Manager at The Flea, where she worked on *The Mysteries* (featuring the work of over 50 playwrights), *Wolf in the River* by Adam Rapp, *the place we built* by Sarah Gancher, and many others. Prior to New York, she was an Allen Lee Hughes Producing Fellow at Arena Stage, and cut her teeth in film/commercial production at La Banda Films. She is a proud graduate of Skidmore College and a Massachusetts native.

SHANE D. HUDSON (*Executive Director*)

Shane D. Hudson is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and Emerson College. Shane has served as Director of Development at Elevator Repair Service, Managing Director of the Yale Cabaret, Associate Director of Development at PlayMakers Repertory Company, General Manager/Marketing Director for Blue Man Group, Theater Manager of the Charles Playhouse, and Executive Director of StageSource. He is an adjunct professor at Marymount Manhattan College.

CASEY CHILDS (*Founder*)

Casey Childs founded Primary Stages in 1984 and has directed many productions for the company. He served as the Artistic Program Director for the New Dramatists from 1981-1985 and was the recipient of the Carnegie Mellon Commitment to New Playwrights Award, as well as two Emmy Awards and many nominations for his extensive work in television. He is a past Vice President of the Directors' Guild of America and a past trustee of The National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. Casey has a BFA in acting and an MFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University.

PRIMARY STAGES STAFF

ERIN DALEY Artistic Director
 SHANE D. HUDSON Executive Director
 CASEY CHILDS Founder
 ANDREW LEYNSE Artistic Director, *in memoriam*

SUE BREGER Government and Education Affairs
 DEAN A. CARPENTER General Manager
 WILL DUTY Production Manager
 WILLOW FUNKHOUSER Script Reader
 DAVID L. GOLDSMITH IT and Rentals Manager
 SARAH MATTEUCCI Director of Education and Strategic Planning
 CLAUDIA McCOY Company Manager
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 ALANIS MEDEIROS Development and Communications Intern
 SALLY PLASS Off-Broadway Oral History Project Director
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 ERICA RAVEN-SCORZA Director of Development
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 SOFIA VILCHES Development and Communications Assistant

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Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group BENJAMIN BENNE,
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Louise Rockwell Scholars AMY CROSSMAN, JEN JARNAGIN,
 IMANI JONES, ANTHONY 'ANT' LOGRANDE, CHINSOOK KIM MOORE

Accountants WITHUMSMITH+BROWN, PC
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SPECIAL THANKS

The Staff of 59E59 Theaters, PRG, Five Ohm Productions, Western Costume Company,
 The Costume Shop at George Street Playhouse, Katherine Carr, Nathan Johnson,
 Caroline LaPorta, Jonathan Mills, David Noh, Doug Plaut, Cathy Rocchio, Matthew Ryan,
 June Torres, Michael Wakefield.

Charles Busch's costumes built by Eric Winterling, Inc.



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The Designers at this Theatre are Represented by United Scenic Artists - Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees



The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ANDREW LEYNSE

“Andrew Leynse was one of the finest people I’ve ever met. Kind, clear-eyed, enthusiastic, generous, a smiling rock of decency in a world that needed it badly, his passionate belief in the transformative power of the theater and theater artists knew no bounds. We will not see his like again.

Unless each of us agrees to embody it. Have a little faith.”

–Theresa Rebeck



In January 2023, Primary Stages lost our beloved Artistic Director, Andrew Leynse. Andrew was our light and our heart, and his passing diminishes us all. We are grateful for every day we had with him, and know he touched so many of you, our audience and community, both personally and artistically.

As Artistic Director of Primary Stages for 21 seasons, Andrew was responsible for the New York and World Premieres of more than 70 new plays. He brought audiences the latest works of established writers such as Charles Busch, Horton Foote, David Ives, Terrence McNally, and Theresa Rebeck, and championed new voices such as Clarence Coo, Danai Gurira, Kate Hamill, Deborah Zoe Lauffer, Jiehae Park, Nikkole Salter, Billy Porter, and Sharon Washington.

The Andrew Leynse Legacy Project was created to support productions that Andrew had been planning prior to his death and works by artists with whom Andrew had a strong artistic relationship.

To learn more about The Andrew Leynse Legacy Project, and help ensure that Primary Stages can provide the support that playwrights need to have a successful production, please visit www.PrimaryStages.org.

Andrew’s dedication to playwrights and the theater launched dozens of careers and brought hundreds of new plays to life. His work had an incredible and indelible contribution to the American theater, and his vision and generosity will never be forgotten.

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To learn more about becoming a Primary Partner and other giving opportunities, please visit us online at

www.primarystages.org/support.

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omissions or errors. Due to space limitations,
we are unable to list all contributors. Primary
Stages wishes to thank all of our generous
donors.

CURATOR'S NOTE

Resident Company, Primary Stages, returns to 59E59 Theaters, delighting us once again with their unerring focus on the art of playwriting. We're thrilled to serve as their theatrical home and to support their mission to support the vision of playwrights at all levels.

The legendary Charles Busch needs no introduction, but his achievements demand recognition. For decades, he's broken theatrical ground as a playwright, director, actor, and drag icon. His multifaceted talents come to life with *Ibsen's Ghost*, a production we're both honored and excited to host.



Val

VAL DAY

Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported through highly-subsidized rental rates, as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenne-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenne-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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