



INANIMATE

BY NICK ROBIDEAU  
DIRECTED BY COURTNEY ULRICH  
FEATURING THE BATS  
AUG 21 THRU SEPT 24  
TICKETS START AT \$15

the  
flea



# **THE FLEA THEATER**

**NIEGEL SMITH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**CAROL OSTROW, PRODUCING DIRECTOR**

**PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF**

# **INANIMATE**

**BY NICK ROBIDEAU**

**DIRECTED BY COURTNEY ULRICH**

**FEATURING THE BATS**

**LACY ALLEN, MAKI BORDEN, PHILIP FELDMAN,  
ARTEM KREIMER, TRESSA PRESTON,  
MICHAEL OLOYEDE, NANCY TATIANA QUINTANA,  
MARCUS ANTONIO JONES, ALEXANDRA SLATER**

**YU-HSUAN CHEN SCENIC DESIGN**

**SARAH LAWRENCE COSTUME DESIGN**

**BECKY HEISLER MCCARTHY LIGHTING DESIGN**

**MEGAN CULLEY SOUND DESIGN**

**CLAIRE EDMONDS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**GINA SOLEBELLO PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

# CAST

Erica..... Lacy Allen  
Kevin ..... Maki Borden  
Dee..... Philip Feldman  
Trish ..... Tressa Preston  
Chorus 1..... Artem Kreimer  
Chorus 2..... Nancy Tatiana Quintana  
Chorus 3..... Michael Oloyede

# UNDERSTUDIES

Chorus 1..... Marcus Antonio Jones  
Chorus 2..... Alexandra Slater

# SPECIAL THANKS:

Caitlin Cassidy for LubDub Theatre Company

# ABOUT THE PLAY:

*Erica, shy and more than a little socially awkward, is in love with Dee. The problem is that her politician sister, her only and equally awkward new friend, and the nosy residents of their small town in Massachusetts don't understand at all, because Dee... well, Dee is a Dairy Queen sign. INANIMATE is a play that explores objectum sexuality, feeling like an outsider, listening to your heart and finally, finding your tribe.*

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the city council.

# CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright .....	Nick Robideau
Director .....	Courtney Ulrich
Scenic Design.....	Yu-Hsuan Chen
Costume Design .....	Sarah Lawrence
Lighting Design.....	Becky Heisler McCarthy
Sound Design .....	Megan Culley
Assistant Director .....	Claire Edmonds
Production Stage Manager .....	Gina Solebello

# FLEA STAFF

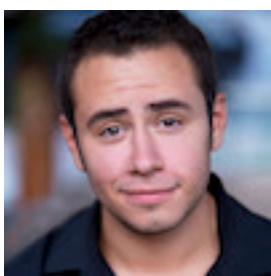
Artistic Director .....	Niegel Smith
Producing Director .....	Carol Ostrow
General Manager.....	Erica Laird
Capital Project Manager .....	Tim Catlett
Company Manager .....	Emilie Pass
Marketing and Events Associate .....	Charlie Madison
Audience Development Associate .....	Aleesha Nash
Development Associate .....	Shannon Buhler
Technical Director .....	Ali Akbarian
Assistant Technical Director.....	Dan Hoskins
Wardrobe Supervisor .....	Sarah Lawrence
Box Office Coordinator.....	Joseph Sanchez
Director of Dance Programming .....	Lisa Reilly
Director of Music Programming.....	Lauren Alfano-Ishida
Literary Assistant .....	Drayton Hiers
Graphic Designer.....	Ellie Philips
Videographer.....	Crystal Arnette
Photographer.....	Hunter Canning
Accountant.....	Joel Faden & Company, Inc.
Attorney.....	Carol M. Kaplan/Loeb and Loeb
Development Consultant .....	Rachel Colbert
Theater, Technical & Production Consultant.....	Kyle Chepulis
Press Representative .....	Ron Lasko/Spin Cycle



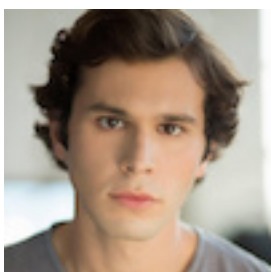
# CAST



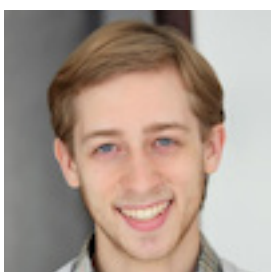
**LACY ALLEN** (Erica) was first seen at The Flea as Lucifer in *B.B.'s Inferno* (Serials at The Flea/ The PIT). Select New York credits: *Thin Mints* (BOOM! Theater Co.), *F The Summit* (The Dirty Blondes), *Naked Holidays* (Endtimes), *Hearts of Europe* (Dramatic Adventure Theatre), *Swell* (The Brick), and *World Wide Children's Play Festival* (Writopia Lab). Lacy has performed and continues to develop her solo show *Cindy is Right Now* (SoloCom at The PIT). Favorite regional roles: Lauren in *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Oregon Contemporary Theatre), Phil's Girl in *Bobrauschenbergamerica*, and Irina in *Three Sisters*. Born and raised in Mill Valley, California, Lacy is a founding member of the collaborative theater company The Revel Yell based in Humboldt, CA. She studied at American Conservatory Theater (ACT), Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB), Bay Area Theatresports Improv (under Keith Johnstone), The People's Improv Theater (The PIT), Tres Artis and The Growing Studio. Lacy is a graduate of University of Oregon. [www.thelacyallen.com](http://www.thelacyallen.com)



**MAKI BORDEN** (Kevin) After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, Maki moved to New York and became an Acting Fellow at the Labyrinth Theater Company. His favorite roles include Debo in Adam Rapp's *Wolf in the River* (The Flea), a Dandy Minion in Taylor Mac's *A 24 Decade History of Popular Music* (St. Ann's), And Ivanka Trump in *Queen Latina & Her Power Posse vs the Evils of Society!* (Cherry Lane/LAB). Maki is a proud member of The Bats at The Flea and is privileged beyond hell to play in this new space with such talented motherfuckers.

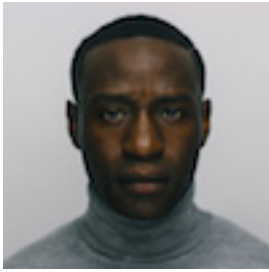


**PHILIP FELDMAN** (Dee) Phil Feldman is a Native New Yorker, Actor, Singer and Pizza Enthusiast. He was last seen at The Flea in *The Trojan Women*.



**ARTEM KREIMER** (Chorus 1, u/s Kevin) is so happy to open the brand new Flea after five years as a Bat. Prior Flea shows include Adam Rapp's *Wolf in the River*, *The Cutthroat Series*, a reading of *Celia*, *A Slave*, and many many workshops, readings, and #serials. Outside credits include *Usual Girls*

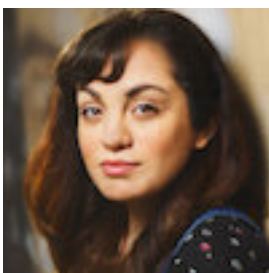
(Signature/Columbia), *Wicked Clone*, *Wrinkle*, *Boy Crazy Till the Day I Die* (EST/Youngblood), *Three Sisters* (Columbia), *Psycho Beach Party* (Piper), *Ariadne on the Island* (Cutout), and *A Doll's House* directed by Sam Gold (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Aspirations include tax preparation for artists and owning a giant dog. — [www.artemkreimer.com](http://www.artemkreimer.com)



**MICHAEL OLOYEDE** (Chorus 3, u/s Dee) is a London born, Atlanta raised, New York City based actor and is excited to be in the first show of the season at The NEW Flea Theater. Off Broadway credits include: *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* (St Luke's Theater), *Bella Napoli* (Gallery Players), *Chokehold* (14 St. Y), *Master Harold And The Boys*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Wow Theater). Films and TV credits include *Silent Morning*, *Curtis*, and Michael currently stars as the lead in the web-series *Brooklyn Blue Sky*. Oloyede received training from the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City.  
[www.michael-oloyede.com](http://www.michael-oloyede.com)

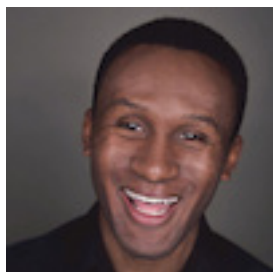


**TRESSA PRESTON** (Trish) is a performer, director, writer, and educator originally from Ashland, Kentucky. In addition to being a Bat at The Flea, she is a Resident Company Member and Artistic Associate with TITAN Theatre Company, currently in residence at the Queens Theater in Flushing Meadows Park, where she most recently performed the role of Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. She holds a MFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Georgia.

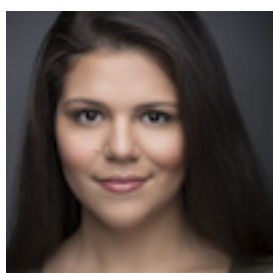


**NANCY TATIANA QUINTANA** (Chorus 2, u/s Erica) is a baby Bat and a recent graduate of LIU Post's Musical Theater program and is proud to make her Flea Theater seasonal debut. Is currently involved in *CEREALS @ The Flea*. Previous NY credits: No Frills Theater, and *Occupy Verona*. Some favorite roles include: Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde*, The Artful Dodger in *Oliver*, The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, and The Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. She'd like to thank everyone involved in the show for the wonderful opportunity and experience! She's like to send all of her love to her Mom and best friend.

# UNDERSTUDIES



**MARCUS ANTONIO JONES** (u/s Chorus 1, Chorus 3) is a native southerner from Texas. There he received his BFA from Midwestern State University. Shortly after college, he moved to NYC to further his acting career. Marcus has been a member of The Bats for several months. He loves the exciting, groundbreaking and interesting work that is produced at The Flea. *Inanimate* is such a powerful piece, and he is honored to be a part of the cast. Marcus would like to thank his family and friends for their support along the way.



**ALEXANDRA SLATER** (u/s Chorus 2, Trish) is a Panamanian born, New York City trained actress who received her BFA in Acting at Brooklyn College. She is stoked to be in her first Flea show as a Bat! Recent credits include, #Serials at the Flea, *Gone in 60* International Play Festival, *The Monster in The Frankenstein Project* (Smith Street Stage), and *Anna* in *The Baltimore Waltz* (New Workshop Theater). She'd like to thank God, everyone at The Flea, the cast + crew, and (of course) her mom. @AlexandraSl8r

# CREATIVE TEAM

**NICK ROBIDEAU** (Playwright) is a Brooklyn-based playwright, originally from Massachusetts. Some of his plays include *The Sampo* (Title:Point), *Prophet in Pink* (FringeNYC), *Robot Heaven* (Pipeline Theatre Company), and *Everything* (HB Studio). Nick recently received his MFA in playwriting from Hunter College, where he studied under John Baker, Tina Howe, Sam Hunter, and Arthur Kopit.

**COURTNEY ULRICH** (Director) is a New York-based director. Directing credits include *The Feast* by Cory Finley (The Flea) and Time Out Critic's Pick *White Hot* by Tommy Smith (The Flea), *Sousepaw: A Baseball Story* (Shelby Company, FringeNYC 2015 Award for Overall Excellence in Directing), *The Mysteries* (The Flea, Assoc. Director). She has directed and developed work at New Dramatists,

Ensemble Studio Theater, Ma-Yi, Samuel French Festival (Finalist), Pipeline Theater, Shelby Company, The Tank, 24 Hour Plays, Old Vic New Voices. Courtney is a recipient of the 2015 SDC Observership Fellowship and is an Associate Artist at The Flea Theater.

**YU-HSUAN CHEN** (Scenic Design) is a New York based set and production designer, originally born and raised in Taiwan. She received her MFA in Design for Stage and Film at Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. Selected theater credits include: *Great Expectations* (Everyman Theatre, MD), *Have Sari. Will Travel* (Theaterlab, NYC), *SKiNFoLK: An American Show* (Ars Nova, NYC) , *Hummm* (Dixon Place, NYC), *How to Field Dress an Android* (University Settlement, NYC), *Sister Son/Ji* (Center of Arts and Culture- Bed Stuy, NYC), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (5th Floor Theater, NYC), *The Seven Deadly Sins* (Shapiro Theater, NYC), *A Bright Room Called Day* (Shubert Theater, NYC). Visit [www.yuhsuanchendesign.com](http://www.yuhsuanchendesign.com) to check out her work.

**SARAH LAWRENCE** (Costume Design) A graduate of Parson's The New School for Design, Sarah is a Brooklyn based artist, costume designer, and stylist. While pursuing her design degree and creating her own sustainable hand-crafted fashion line ([www.gravexsl.com](http://www.gravexsl.com)), Sarah found her way into theater as Assistant Costume Designer for Thomas Bradshaw's *Fulfillment* produced by The Flea Theater in the fall of 2015. She has since joined The Flea's staff as resident Wardrobe Supervisor and continues to costume shows like Witness Relocation's *The Loon*, New York Times Critics Pick *Two Class Acts* by the late A.R. Gurney, and Royal Family's *Under The Bodhi Tree*. Sarah is thrilled to be working on The (New) Flea's inaugural production of *Inanimate!*

**BECKY HEISLER McCARTHY** (Lighting Design) is a lighting designer based in New York City. Previous design credits include *Another Year*, *Another Christmas* with Haberdasher Theater at the Access Theater, *Every Brilliant Thing* at the Spoleto Festival USA, *A Brief History of the Soviet Union* with The Hive Theater, and the world premieres of dance pieces *Bamboula! Musician's Brew* in Denver and *Mor Dance Season III*, with *Season V* in the works in New York City. She holds a BFA in Technical Theater with an Emphasis in Lighting Design from Penn State. To see her work, please visit [beckyheisler.com](http://beckyheisler.com).

**MEGAN CULLEY** (Sound Design) is a New York based Sound Designer and Composer. She is originally from Cleveland, Ohio and holds an MFA from Ohio



University. Her sounds and music have been heard in productions at the Public Theater, 59E59, HERE Arts Center, NYMF, and many more throughout New York and Ohio. [www.meganculley.com](http://www.meganculley.com)

**CLAIRE EDMONDS** (Assistant Director) is a New York City based director. Recent projects include: *Romeo & Juliet & Anybodys* (Know Theatre, Critic's Pick, Cincinnati Fringe Festival 2017) *Spring Awakening* (Swirnow Theatre, Johns Hopkins University) Upcoming project include: *Red Light Winter* (The Robert Moss Theatre, Bridge Production Group.) University of California, Irvine, Honors in Directing. [www.claireedmonds.com](http://www.claireedmonds.com)

**GINA SOLEBELLO** (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with The Flea Theater for *Inanimate!* She holds a Bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre from Marywood University, and moved to NYC in 2014 to pursue a career in the arts. Gina is the Co-Director of THE CREATORS COLLECTIVE, a Brooklyn-based multi-disciplinary arts collective. Gina stage manages for the InVersion Theatre Company, and is a member of their Artistic Associate Advisory Committee. Most recently, Gina worked directly with the stage management team of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a production assistant for three consecutive seasons. Gina's recent stage management credits include: *Bone on Bone* (Broadway Bound Theatre Festival), *Twinkle Tames A Dragon* (Vital Theatre Company), and *Gregor* (InVersion Theatre Company). This fall, Gina will be stage managing of the tour of *Miss Nelson Is Missing* (Two Beans Productions).

**CAITLIN CASSIDY/ LUBDUB THEATRE COMPANY** (Movement Consultant) LubDub is a physical theatre company animating stories of science, magic, and myth. Grown out of relationships formed among Queen of the Night original cast members and alumni of Georgetown University, the company has since developed to include an expanding ensemble of multidisciplinary artists. LubDub has just returned from a 2017 residency at The Orchard Project, where it expanded its production of *The Doubtful Guest*. Learn more and get in on the happenings at [www.LubDubTheatre.org](http://www.LubDubTheatre.org).

# THE FLEA STAFF

**NIEGEL SMITH** (Artistic Director) is a theater director & performance artist. His theater work has been produced by Classical Theatre of Harlem, HERE Arts Center, Hip Hop Theatre Festival, The Invisible Dog, Luna Stage, Magic Theatre, Mixed Blood, New York Fringe Festival, New York Live Arts, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, The Public Theater, Summer Play Festival, Todd Theatre and Under the Radar, and his participatory performances have been produced by Abrons Arts Center, American Realness, Dartmouth College, Elastic City, The Invisible Dog, Jack, The New Museum, Prelude Festival, PS 122, the Van Alen Institute and Visual AIDS. He often collaborates with artist Todd Shalom and playwright/performer Taylor Mac.

Smith, a graduate of Dartmouth College, was the associate director of the Tony Award winning musical FELA!, assistant directed the off-broadway production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and both the Broadway and off-Broadway productions of Tony Kushner's *Caroline, or Change*. He has received residencies, grants and/or fellowships from Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Sundance Theatre Lab, Theater Communications Group, Tucker Foundation, Van Lier Fund and VoxFest. Before surviving high school in Detroit, he grew up in the North Carolina piedmont, fishing with his dad, shopping with his mom and inventing tall-tale fantasies with his two younger brothers.

**CAROL OSTROW** (Producing Director) joined founder Jim Simpson at the helm of The Flea in 2001 and *The Guys* marked her return to Off-Off-Broadway. She was the OBIE-award winning Producing Director of the Classic Stage Company as well as the founder and original Producing Director of The Powerhouse Theater at Vassar, now in its 32nd season. In between, she has been an adjunct professor of theater at Vassar College, Chatham College and McGill University. For The Flea, Carol has produced 16 seasons of world premiere productions and has been responsible for the sound management of the theater's increasing programming and budget. She is also overseeing The Flea's capital campaign that has resulted in a new performing arts center for The Flea, launched this year. Carol is a graduate of Vassar College and the Yale Drama School. She is a new trustee of Vassar and she also serves on the Board of Advisors of the Yale Drama School. Beyond her alma maters, she is a member of the board of Central Synagogue, the National Psoriasis Foundation, the MacDowell Colony and LAVA, an acrobatic dance collective in Brooklyn. She is also a Wall Street Journal Expert, where she writes on small business for the paper's online edition. Married and the mother of four incredible and launched young adults, she and her family count Pittsburgh, London, Montreal and now New York City once again as home.

**ERICA LAIRD** (General Manager) joins The Flea after seven years as Managing Director with The Builders Association where she oversaw all the company's operations and

produced the development, premieres and touring of *HOUSE / DIVIDED*, *SONTAG: REBORN* and *ELEMENTS OF OZ*. Previously she was Marketing and Residency Manager at the Cutler Majestic Theater in Boston (now ArtsEmerson), and Senior Associate at NYC international booking agency Micocci Productions, where she booked tours for companies including STREB, Big Dance Theater, SITI Company and Mabou Mines. Erica is a graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles, and a native of Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii.

**TIM CATLETT** (Capital Project Manager) Tim Catlett's life has involved many twists and turns. A military upbringing took him around the world preparing him for the crazy life of a theater professional. Back in New York after almost 30 years, his time was spent in national touring, television, radio, independent and studio films, and no little amount of his first love; the stage, variously as designer, technical director, and/or director. He is a WI-certified Theater Teacher; a dearly loved 16 years of the hardest theater ever. He also has a passion for being creative safely, consulting and lecturing on theater safety programs. Additionally, he has been a magician and magic consultant for over 30 years. Most importantly, he is the proud father of a young lady who is a Shakespeare fanatic, and a young man who thinks working backstage would be awesome. He relishes the prospects of his time to come with The Flea.

**EMILIE PASS** (Company Manager) Prior to The Flea, Emilie was Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Company Management Fellow, the Box Office Manager for the Hollywood Fringe Festival, and an independent producer and director. She is passionate about creating opportunities for artists to take risks, and is thrilled to have the chance to do just that at The Flea! Emilie is a proud graduate of Wesleyan University and a Los Angeles native.

**CHARLIE MADISON** (Marketing and Events Associate) is a graduate from Brandeis University, where he majored in both Psychology and Musical Theater Writing. While at Brandeis, Charlie wrote and directed an original play, *LOST GIRLS*, and an original full length musical, *GRACE*. Other notable accomplishments include music directing his undergraduate a cappella group, Company and serving as Programs Assistant in the Brandeis Office of the Arts. Charlie began his experience in not-for-profit theater as an Artistic Intern at Central Square Theater (Cambridge, MA); since then he has served as the inaugural Summer Apprentice at the Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia, PA) and was Manhattan Theatre Club's Fall 2015 Institutional Giving Intern. Out the office, Charlie enjoys singing his heart out, writing musicals and plays, and thrifting: his inspirations include Jeanine Tesori, Janet Jackson, Adam Guettel, and the one and only Mariah Carey.

**ALEESHA NASH** (Audience Development Associate) is a New York City based playwright and director who is passionate about sharing stories that help others gain consciousness

about the world we live in. She joins The Flea as the Audience Development Associate with a well-rounded set of skills, drawing on her background in non-profit fundraising, marketing, and event planning. Aleesha holds a master's degree from New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, & Human Development.

**SHANNON BUHLER** (Development Associate) Before joining the team at The Flea, Shannon worked just up 6th Avenue at HERE, first as the Development Intern and then as the Assistant General Manager. She's a Kansas native and a proud University of Kansas graduate, where she received a degree in Theatre Performance and served as the Theatre Department's Administrative and Marketing Associate.

**ALI AKBARIAN** (Technical Director) Born in Canada, Ali has always been captivated by the mechanics of his surroundings and curious as to how things work on the inside; logically and emotionally. After a glimpse of potential in 2006, Ali set out to the University of Florida and found a path in theatre. Immediately following his graduation at the top of his class in Scenic Design; he was contracted for a year long residency at one of the most successful regional theatres in the southeast, The Hippodrome. Ali was contracted as Production Manager by a leading Event Decor company in the southeast region months before the end of his residency. Excelling in the commercial market while managing over eight productions a week with over thirty staff members and over-hire in multiple spaces; Ali's future in theatre was fading away quickly. On December 20th, 2015 this realization was cemented into his soul and so the following week he sold his motorcycle, car, and three quarters of his apartment. By December 27th, 2015 Ali moved home, Brooklyn, New York!

**DAN HOSKINS** (Assistant Technical Director) A recent graduate of Earlham College, Dan is thrilled to start his professional career with The Flea. Dan has long had a passion for crafting stories and bringing them to life which, along with a love for the community that it creates, led to his decision to join the theater lifestyle in high school. Though he specializes in lighting, Dan believes strongly in the holistic view of theater and the benefit in learning many different aspects of tech to support the art as a whole.

**SARAH LAWRENCE** (Wardrobe Supervisor) A recent graduate of Parson's The New School for Design, Sarah is a Brooklyn based artist, fashion maker, and costume designer. While pursuing freelance design work and creating her own sustainable hand-crafted fashion line ([www.gravexsl.com](http://www.gravexsl.com)), Sarah found her way into theater as Assistant Costume Designer for Thomas Bradshaw's FULFILLMENT produced by The Flea Theater. She has since joined the Flea Staff as Wardrobe Supervisor and continues to put her degree in Integrated Design to good use!

**JOSEPH SANCHEZ** (Box Office Coordinator) is excited to be part of The Flea Theater's



team. Over the course of many years, he has managed several historic Off-Broadway Theatre box offices including The Actors' Playhouse, 45 Bleecker and The Cherry Lane.

**LISA REILLY** (Director of Dance Programming) Lisa Reilly's extensive work in the non-profit arts community includes positions as the Executive Director of the Emelin Theatre, the Managing and Artistic Director of the College of Staten Island Center for the Arts (CFA), and the Executive Director of the Earlville Opera House. In addition, she served as the Executive Director of Westbeth, an artists' housing project in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. Lisa has taught at Syracuse University and served as a consultant for dance and theatre organizations in the specialty areas of marketing, fundraising, board development, grantwriting, executive searches, and curriculum. Reilly has served on and chaired panels for the New York State Council on the Arts, the Council on Arts and Humanities for Staten Island, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour program, the Performing Arts Exchange Conference, ArtsWestchester, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and many others. Lisa is a board member for Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre, Blessed Unrest theater company, and Racoco Productions, a modern dance company. She has been awarded scholarships from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. Recently, Lisa has been delighted to be part of projects with The Bang Group, Heidi Latsky Dance, and Compagnia de' Colombari.

**LAUREN ALFANO-ISHIDA** (Director of Music Programming) is thrilled to be joining the team of The Flea as the Co-Director of Music Programming. She is the soprano half of the ensemble Duo Moderne with whom she presents concerts of new and rediscovered song. Recent operatic performances include the title role in Handel's Alcina, and Cleopatra in Giulio Cesare. Lauren has performed dozens of premieres by composers from the USA, Europe, and Japan. Upcoming projects include collaborations with musicians from the Universidad de Costa Rica (Costa Rica) and Conservatorio di Bari "N. Piccini" (Italy). In addition to singing, Lauren is the Production Manager for the Hunter Opera Theater, the opera ensemble in residence at Hunter College specializing in contemporary American opera. She directs the Children's Music Program at Park Avenue United Methodist Church in NYC and maintains an active private voice studio.

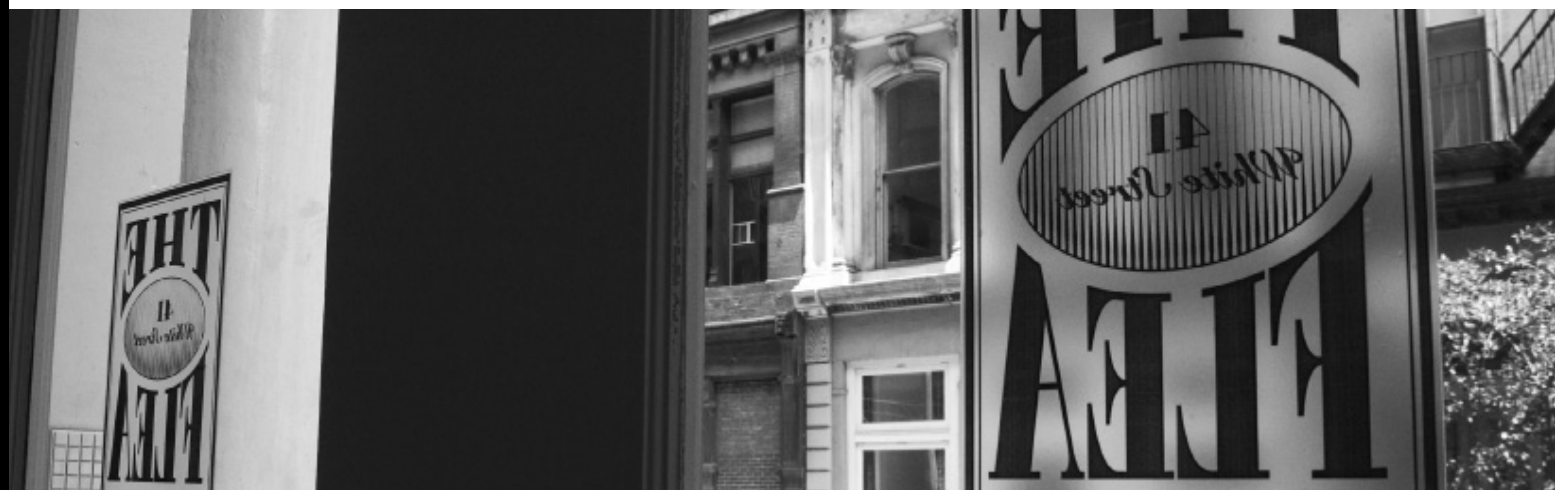
**DRAYTON HIERS** (Literary Assistant) In addition to his work at the Flea, Drayton is a Literary Associate of Yellow Earth Theatre, where he leads writing workshops and has guided plays to readings at the Finborough and Soho Theatres, receiving an Olwen Wymark Award from the Writer's Guild of Great Britain for his work in play development. He was the Artistic Director of LoNyLa Singapore, which developed four original plays, and he taught playwriting with Jean Tay at Singapore Repertory Theatre. Drayton teaches Script Analysis and directs new student plays at Marymount Manhattan College. He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from Tisch Asia.

# WHAT IS THE FLEA?

The Flea is our theater: three unique and intimate performance spaces, located at 20 Thomas Street in TriBeCa. But The Flea is also an award-winning producing organization, founded in 1996, that offers more than 250 cutting-edge theatrical and multi-disciplinary performances each year and gives voice to some of the most exciting and innovative writers of our time.

Founded from the purely artistic impulse to create “joyful hell in a small space,” our body of work has earned us accolades from across the globe including two Obie Awards for Best Production, an Otto for Courageous Political Theater, and a Drama Desk Award Special Award for our commitment to adventurous theater. Our 2001 production of *The Guys*, a raw artistic response to the events of 9/11, became a phenomenon that played to sold-out houses for 13 months and quickly cemented our leadership role in the downtown, Off-Off-Broadway and Lower Manhattan communities.

The Flea is a beacon for adventurous audiences and creative artists of all stripes, from the young striver to the legendary veteran. More than 150,000 people have come to The Flea to witness the rare spark created when artists are given free rein to play, experiment and invent—often in ways that the commercial theater can’t support. And it is that spark that fulfills our mission, pure and simple: to embody the spirit of adventure and excitement that has defined Off-Off-Broadway since its inception.



# WHO & WHAT ARE THE BATS?

The Bats is our critically acclaimed resident company, cast anew each year from over 1,000 aspiring young actors. Voted “Best Off-Off-Broadway Company to Act In” by Backstage, being a Bat offers young artists the rare opportunity to break into the field with real life experience, performing in front of an audience on a regular basis and working to support The Flea and its visiting artists. All in one night, a Bat may tear your ticket, pour you a drink and rivet your soul to the stage.



# WHAT IS OFF-OFF-BROADWAY?

Dating back over fifty years, Off-Off-Broadway began informally--an alternative, non-commercial environment where new ideas and projects were born out of energetic and often happenstance encounters. Hundreds of well-known artists credit this adventurous and free-spirited time with their falling in love with theater, and getting good at what they do.

**Visit [www.theflea.org](http://www.theflea.org) for information on all things Flea!**

**Find The Flea Theater on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & Tumblr.**

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Basil Walter

Sigourney Weaver

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# THE FLEA I.P.'S



In June of 2009 The Flea launched a unique patron program called The Flea IPs - an elite and dedicated group that helps to make the dreams of The Flea a reality. Flea IPs gain insider access through exclusive events including private talk-backs, intimate artist dinners, master classes and first-look readings. Flea IPs commit their support by generously pledging \$5,000 each year.

Interested? We'd love to make you a Flea IP too!

Please contact Carol Ostrow at 212.226.0051 x104 or [carolo@theflea.org](mailto:carolo@theflea.org) for more information.

The Flea proudly salutes our Flea I.P. members and thanks them for their unwavering support.

## THE FLEA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Twenty years ago The Flea's founders undertook an artistic experiment, renting an old TriBeCa factory in the wilds of Lower Manhattan and opening the doors to the most iconoclastic and talented artists they could find. Since then The Flea has evolved into an award-winning theater known for presenting the very best of Off-Off-Broadway theater, music and dance.

We have also become an emblem for the resilience of Lower Manhattan, drawing more than 150,000 people to the area since the 9/11 attacks. To continue in that leadership role, we purchased a site nearby that is now our permanent new home. Our goal is to continue producing our own intimate and exhilarating work while providing stability to dozens of other artists and performance groups. We are grateful to the following for their lead gifts to the project:

### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

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List as of 10/5/16

We apologize if you have been left off this list.  
 Please contact Shannon Buhler at  
 ShannonB@theflea.org for any corrections.

# THE FLEA ANNUAL FUND

Flea productions and programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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List as of 8/28/17



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 Marc Kirchner  
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 John Langdon  
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 Laurence Mitchell  
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 Peter Turo  
 J. Marvin Watts  
 Casimir J. Yanish

List as of 8/28/17

We apologize if you have been left off this list. Please contact Aleesha Nash at [AleeshaN@theflea.org](mailto:AleeshaN@theflea.org) for any corrections.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Our theater is tiny and we sell out fast. Members are the first to receive information on Flea events, news, tickets and special offers. We have different membership levels, starting at just \$25, and all are 100% tax-deductible.

For more on how to become a member and all things Flea, email or call our Audience Development Associate, Aleesha Nash.

email: [AleeshaN@theflea.org](mailto:AleeshaN@theflea.org) phone: 212-226-0051 ext. 107

# FLEA REWARDS

Use your Flea Member Card or ticket stub to take advantage of these special offers from our downtown partners.

Petrarca (34 White St.)  
212-625-2800 / petrarcatribeca.com  
Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar  
Receive a 10% discount on your bill

Da Mikele (275 Church St.)  
212-925-8800 / damikele.com  
Neapolitan-Inspired Italian Restaurant  
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Souths (273 Church St.)  
212-219-0640 / southsnyc.com  
Neighborhood Bar and Restaurant  
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Billy's Bakery (75 Franklin St.)  
212-647-9958 / billysbakerynyc.com  
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Sun In Bloom (165 Church St.)  
212-791-6700/suninbloom.wordpress.com  
Gluten-Free, Vegan & Raw Food Kitchen in Tribeca & Brooklyn- 10% off with your membership card!

CHECK **THEFLEA.ORG** OR CALL  
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THE LATEST UPDATES & DEALS.

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## THE FLEA THEATER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Get Special Attention. Support The Flea. Be a Member.

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No booking or convenience fees  
Exchange tickets up to 24 hours in advance  
Exclusive Members-Only Pre-Sale

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Invites to Flea Hangouts - we'll keep the bar open after the show, so you can have a round on us while chatting with fellow Fans & Bats!

### \$100+ Flea Friend

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### \$250+ Flea Friend (Enhanced!)

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Invitations to Flea Fetes, and unlimited house seats to any Flea performance!

### \$5,000+ Flea I.P.'s

All of the above, plus:  
Invitation to select Opening Nights and Board Nights  
Access to house seats for most Broadway Shows

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Interested?

Email [aleeshan@theflea.org](mailto:aleeshan@theflea.org) for more information!

CALL 212.226.0051 x107 to join!