The Flea Theater presents a World Premiere
Book and Lyrics by Elizabeth Swados and Erin Courtney

The NOMAD

Composed and Directed by Elizabeth Swados

Choreography by Ani Taj

Musical Direction by Trevor Bachman

Musical Arrangements by Kris Kukul

February 19 through April 6 @ The Flea 41 White St. Tribeca
THE FLEA THEATER

JIM SIMPSON Artistic Director  CAROL OSTROW Producing Director
presents the WORLD PREMIERE of

THE NOMAD

Book and Lyrics by ELIZABETH SWADOS and ERIN COURTNEY
Composed and Directed by ELIZABETH SWADOS
Co-Directed by MOLLY MARINIK
Choreography by ANI TAJ
Musical Direction by TREVOR BACHMAN
Musical Arrangements by KRIS KUKUL
Set, Props, Costume, & Puppet Designer LYDIA FINE
Lighting Designer DAISY LONG
Sound Designer JANIE BULLARD
Production Stage Manager JILL WOODWARD

Technical Director REECE ARTHUR
Press Representative RON LASKO/SPIN CYCLE
CAST

Ensemble .......................................................... Kyra Atekwana
Ensemble .......................................................... Tommy Bernardi
Young Isabelle ................................................... Sydney Blaxill
Murderer/Ensemble ............................................ Matthew Bovee
Mother/Ensemble .............................................. Glenna Grant
Ensemble .......................................................... Ryan Neal Green
Ensemble .......................................................... Michael Lapinsky
Isabelle ............................................................. Teri Madonna
Ensemble .......................................................... Mike Nelson
Slimene/Ensemble ............................................. Neil Redfield
Ensemble .......................................................... Dave Resultan
Ensemble .......................................................... Ben Schrager
Vava/Ensemble ................................................ Ryan Stinnett

MUSICIANS

Trevor Bachman
Keyboard/Conductor

Brian Adler
Tabla, Djembe, Pandeiro, Deconstructed Drum Set, Bells,
Pipes, Shakers, Woodblocks, Drone Boxes

Ryan Kerr
Flute, Piccolo, Alto Flute, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet

John Kruth
Mandolin, 12 String Guitar, Ney, Carcaba,
Andalusian Shepherd’s Flute

Ethan O’Reilly
Double Bass, Bass Guitar
CREATIVE TEAM

Book and Lyrics ....................... Elizabeth Swados and Erin Courtney
Composer and Director ...................... Elizabeth Swados
Choreographer ........................................ Ani Taj
Co-Director ............................................ Molly Marinik
Music Director ...................................... Trevor Bachman
Music Arranger ....................................... Kris Kukul
Set, Props, Costume, & Puppet Designer .... Lydia Fine
Lighting Designer ...................................... Daisy Long
Sound Designer ....................................... Janie Bullard
Production Stage Manager ................. Jill Woodward
Assistant Choreographer .................... Trevor F. Salter
Set and Props Design Assistant .......... Kelly Davis
Puppet Design Assistant ..................... Nick Lehane
Set and Props Design Assistant .......... Ivey Long
Costume Design Assistant .................. Lindsey L. Vandevier
Lighting Design Assistant .................. Becky Heisler
Assistant Stage Manager ...................... Sarah Brown
Assistant Stage Manager ...................... Matthew Luppino

SPECIAL THANKS

ABOUT ISABELLE

Isabelle Eberhardt [1877-1904] was an enigmatic rebel. Born in Switzerland, she dreamt of living an adventurous life in the Sahara and she convinced her mother to move when she was 19. Isabelle was a practicing Muslim and she eagerly converted upon her arrival. She also dressed as a man and called herself Si Mahmoud Essadi so she could have the freedom to travel and work. A writer and journalist by trade, she was both an associate of the French colonists and an advocate for the disenfranchised citizens. As her influence rose, she faced repression, persecution and threats against her safety. Documenting her experiences through her writing, Isabelle approached her life with ambition, strength, and absolute conviction until she was killed in a flash flood at age 27.

FLEA STAFF

Artistic Director ................................................................. Jim Simpson
Producing Director ............................................................. Carol Ostrow
General Manager .............................................................. Joshua Cohen
Technical Director ............................................................ Reece Arthur
Company Manager ........................................................... Erin Daley
Marketing Manager ........................................................... David Sernick
Development Associate .................................................. Alvin C. Taylor
Audience Development Associate ................................. Ellen Joffred
Assistant Technical Director ............................................ Brandon Stock
Graphic Designer ................................................................. WIDE
Videographer ................................................................. Crystal Arnette
Photographer ................................................................. Isaiah Tanenbaum
Wardrobe Supervisor .................................................... Josh Boerman
Theater, Technical & Production Consultant ........ Kyle Chepulis
Accountant ................................................................. Joel Faden & Company, Inc.
Attorney ...... Carol M. Kaplan/Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Development Consultant .................................................. Rachel Colbert
CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Kyra Atekwana (Ensemble) Flea debut. Kyra is a recent graduate of Harvard University where she studied Social Anthroplogy and Music. Her stage credits include playing Carrie in Carousel at the A.R.T.’s Club Oberon and Deb in Ordinary Days. Since moving to New York, she has had the pleasure of performing at Ars Nova, the Laurie Beechman Theatre, Symphony Space, the New York Musical Theatre Festival, and now, The Flea! She’s so excited to be a part of The Bats and The Flea family.

Tommy Bernardi (Ensemble) Flea debut. Tommy is beyond thrilled to join this crazy family at The Flea. Theater: Animal Crackers, Coach Darling (Williamstown); Fancy Nancy: The Musical (Vital Theatre Co.), Death of a Salesman (Always Love Lucy), The School For Lies (Boxed Wine), Ten Blocks on the Camino Real (NYU), The Wanderer (Jamie McGonagill), New Songs Now (Joe’s Pub). Film: The Nappers, Momentum, Writing Lessons, Destination Elsewhere (NYU Film). Web Series: Dorm Therapy, Work In Process. Training: BFA, NYU Tisch.

Sydney Blaxill (Young Isabelle) is a recent NYU Tisch graduate and is thrilled to be making her post-grad debut at The Flea with Liz Swados and The Bats! Previous theater credits include: Merrily We Roll Along (Beth), The House of Yes (Jackie-O) at the Lee Strasberg Institute; As You Like It (Celia), The Tempest (Sebastian, Stephano), Julius
Caesar (Calpurnia, Lucius) at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. “Everything was beautiful, and nothing hurt.” KV


Glenna Grant (Mother/Ensemble) is thrilled to be back onstage at The Flea, and returning to her musical roots. The Flea: Sarah Flood in Salem Mass, These Seven Sicknesses, The Electric Lighthouse, #serials@theflea, The Cutthroat Series: Gore, The Shakes: Romeo and Juliet. Other Theater: Unexplored Interior (The Public), Project ’68 (LAByrinth Theater). Glenna recently spent a month teaching theater in rural Ecuador with Dramatic Action Theater Company. She holds a BFA in Acting from Purchase College.

Ryan Neal Green (Ensemble) Ryan is excited to join The Flea community with The Nomad! NYC: Bending All The Rules: The Musical (MITF), Kikki & Grandpa & Baby (American Theatre of Actors), Honestly Abe the Musical (Abe Lincoln). Favorite credits include: Mame (with Andrea McArdle), Chicago (Fred Casely), Grease (Sonny), The Boy Friend (Tony) and a stint as a jazz singer at Tokyo Disney Resort.
Love to Mom, Dad, and Judi. BFA MT Shenandoah Conservatory. www.ryannealgreen.com

Michael Lapinsky (Ensemble) Flea debut. Regional: Avenue Q. NYC: Urinetown, Miles & Me, and several performance installations with La MaMa-based Pioneers Go East Collective. As a composer: Jolly the Christmas Walrus, House & Variations, Beyond The Tracks (short silent film), and multiple new musicals created with 2nd and 3rd graders in upper Manhattan. Music director and teaching artist at Bank Street School for Children. Proud performing member of the Musical Theatre Factory (mtf.nyc). BFA, NYU Tisch. Check him out at michaellapinsky.com!

Teri Madonna (Isabelle) Flea debut. She is a performer, sound designer, teaching artist, and creator of original work. Upcoming: Piano Bar by Elizabeth Swados at Joe’s Pub. Teri has previously appeared at Geva Theatre Center, HERE Arts, Dixon Place, Atlantic Theater Company, the Incubator, Jack, and The Bushwick Starr, among others. Favorite past productions include Blue Wizard/Black Wizard (by Dave Malloy and Eliza Bent, dir. Dan Safer), and Le Balcon, an experimental narrative co-created with Jessica Almasy and JP Faienza.

Mike Nelson (Ensemble) Flea debut. He is a Brooklyn based actor and singer/songwriter. He studied Songwriting and Pre-Med at The New School and Columbia Universities and studied The Meisner Technique at The Deena Levy Theater Studio. Past credits include Last
Days of Judas Iscariot (Judas), Rent (Angel), and The Rocky Horror Show (RiffRaff). His work has been performed across the country and locally. He has performed in Our Hit Parade at Joe’s Pub, Singer Songwriter Sessions at The Bitter End, and as a featured artist at The Knitting Factory. His songwriting work is sometimes credited under the alias, “Ponyboy, My One True Love”

**Neil Redfield** (Slimene/Ensemble) Flea debut. Favorite credits include Huck Finn in Big River (Cameo Theater, San Antonio); Readymoney Matt/Candy in The Threepenny Opera, and Hamlet (REP at UD). A native of San Antonio, TX, he studied Anthropology and Theatre Performance at University of Delaware. He has trained with SITI Company and the Berkshire Theatre Group. www.neilredfield.com

**Dave Resultan** (Ensemble) Born and raised in the Philippines, Dave moved to NYC in 2005. He received his BA in Theater Performance from Wagner College in 2013. Favorite credits include Rent (Tom Collins; directed by Tony-winner Michele Pawk), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Lysander), Godspell (Lamar) and Legally Blonde (Padamadan/Kiki). Prior to The Nomad, he travelled the world as a singer/actor for Celebrity Cruises for a year. Dave is also a composer/lyricist. Check out his contemporary works at www.daveresultan.com.

**Ben Schrager** (Ensemble) Flea debut. NY/Regional: The 24 Hour Plays, Workplace Professional (World Premiere), and Two Gentlemen of Verona (Delaware Shakespeare Festival). Training: BFA, NYU-Tisch (Atlantic...
Acting School and RADA). Favorite Tisch shows include: Execution of Justice, Middletown, The Real Thing, Columbinus, and As You Like It. Ben has also performed in readings, workshops, and cabarets at Williamstown Theatre Festival, New Dramatists, and Joe’s Pub. He previously worked with Liz on Books Cook! at NYU. BenSchrager.com

Ryan Stinnett (Vava/Ensemble) was most recently seen as Dr. Goudron in The Cutthroat Series. Other work at The Flea includes #serials@theflea as well as workshops of The Mysteries and The Unchangeable Spots Of Leopards. He has performed at The Invisible Dog, The Brooklyn Lyceum, and 3LD. His Stand-Up Comedy has been seen at Broadway Comedy Club and Eastville Comedy Club. Improv Team: Real.Good.Spies. MFA: University of Virginia.

MUSICIANS

Brian Adler (Percussion) had his first musical experience at the age of five, reciting classical Indian drum syllables and playing the corresponding finger patterns on his knees. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from The New England Conservatory and has since collaborated with some of the world’s most acclaimed jazz, world music and theater artists/composers, including Elizabeth Swados on the film Of Many. Theater credits include: You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown, Once On This Island, Little Shop of Horrors, Map Maker’s Opera, West Side Story, and Sistas. He is thrilled to be a part of The Nomad at The Flea! Visit: www.brianadler.com for more info.

Ryan Kerr (Woodwinds) is a multi-instrumentalist and writer
holding degrees in music composition (UCSB) and musical theater writing (NYU). He has played winds and keyboards in pits with Shrunken Head Productions (CA), Mount Carmel Theatre Company (Brooklyn), and 54 Below, and has served as musical director for high schools, colleges, and most recently a piece at the York’s Developmental Reading Series. Recently published pieces include *Jenny* for choir with music by Nick Myers. Upcoming works include an industrial trance zombie apocalypse musical entitled *Hypertrophic Lacework*, a trilogy of epic fantasy operas, and an album of original Japanese pop. ryanhkerr.com

**John D. Kruth** (Guitar) is a singer/songwriter/troubadour/bandleader/poet/multi-instrumentalist (including mandolin, guitar, banjo, flute, harmonica and sitar) music educator, journalist and author of three musical biographies to date. *To Live’s To Fly*, his 2007 biography of Townes Van Zant was the recipient of the prestigious Deems Taylor Award. John has recorded nine solo projects as well as five albums with his world music group TriBeCaStan and most recently formed the gothic folk ensemble Villa Delirium. As a sideman Kruth has performed and collaborated with John Prine, Laurie Anderson, Violent Femmes, King Missile, Hal Willner, Patti Smith, Allen Ginsberg, Sam Shepard and Ornette Coleman.

**Ethan O’Reilly** (Bass) began playing the bass at the age of eleven. He continued his music education in 2007 at William Paterson University, where he was awarded a jazz scholarship. While attending school, he was chosen to tour China with students and faculty from William Paterson University, performing and teaching in Nanjing and Hangzhou. Ethan has performed with Mulgrew Miller, Jimmy Heath, Freddy Cole, and Steve Wilson among others. He received his Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music in 2013. He currently resides in New York City.
and performs regularly as a part of a diverse range of musical projects including The Andrea Wood Band, BAAM, Cowboys & Frenchman, The Aleksi Glick Trio, Jam Tones, and Silver Arrow Band.

CREATIVE TEAM

Elizabeth Swados (Book, Lyrics, Composer and Director) has composed, written, and directed theater for over thirty years and is perhaps best known for her Broadway and international hit Runaways. Her short animated documentary My Depression: The Up and Down and Up of It will premiere on HBO in the spring of 2015 in tandem with the release of the paperback version of My Depression: A Picture Book. Aside from The Nomad, Ms. Swados’ newest musical Piano Bar will be featured at Joe’s Pub this spring and her horror opera based on the story of the Golem will open next fall at NYU’s Abe Burrows Theater. Swados has had over thirty works performed in New York as well as in festivals and tours around the world. She also does workshops with at risk teenagers and people who suffer from cranial facial disorders. She is a full time teacher in the drama department at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. Her articles have been published in the New York Times, New York Times Magazine, and Vogue. Her awards include five Tony nominations, three Obie Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, Ford Fellowship, Helen Hayes Award, Lila Acheson Wallace award, and a Special International PEN Citation. Her most recent awards include Best Book for Young Adults from New York Public Library and the Gaudium Award for enhancing the lives of others through art.

Erin Courtney’s (Book, Lyrics) play A Map of Virtue, produced by 13P and directed by Ken Rus Schmoll, was awarded an Obie and described as “one of the most terrifying plays of the past
decade” by Alexis Soloski in the New York Times. Her newest play
I Will Be Gone will be part of the 2015 Humana Festival at The
Actors Theater of Louisville and will be directed by Kip Fagan.
Ms. Courtney’s other plays include Honey Drop, Black Cat Lost,
and Demon Baby. Her work has been produced and developed by
the Theater Ninjas, Clubbed Thumb, The Flea, The Atlantic, New
York Stage and Film, Adhesive Theater, Soho Rep, The Vineyard,
and The Public. She has collaborated with Elizabeth Swados on
the opera Kaspar Hauser. She has been awarded a Guggenheim
Fellowship, was a resident at the MacDowell Colony, a recipient
of a NYSCA grant and two MAP Fund grant from the Rockefeller
Foundation. Demon Baby is published in two anthologies; New
Downtown Now, edited by Mac Wellman and Young Jean Lee and
published by University of Minnesota Press, and Funny, Strange,
Provocative: Seven Plays by Clubbed Thumb edited by Maria Striar
and Erin Detrick and published by Playscripts, Inc. A Map of Virtue
and Black Cat Lost are published by 53rd State Press. She is an
affiliated artist with Clubbed Thumb, a member of 13P, and a
member of New Dramatists. She teaches in the MFA playwriting
program at Brooklyn College and is a co-founder of Brooklyn
Writers Space. Mac Wellman’s MFA program at Brooklyn College,

Molly Marinik (Co-Director) is a freelance director and dramaturg,
and a resident director at The Flea. Her work has been seen at
Dixon Place, The Lark, Atlantic Acting School, NYU Tisch, The Flea,
The Brick, The Secret Theater, and 59E59 Theatres, among others.
Molly is the literary manager at Barefoot Theater Company. She’s a
reader for Atlantic Theater Company and the Jewish Plays Project.
Founder and editor, Theatre Is Easy (Theasy.com). MA Brooklyn
College.
Ani Taj (Choreographer) is a choreographer, performer, music-head and founder of The Dance Cartel. Ani has choreographed contemporary musicals, plays, concerts, music videos, art parties, flash mobs and more. She is fueled by research trips to Brazil and loves to make dances inspired by Carnaval. Since 2012, The Dance Cartel has presented Ani’s choreography in residency at the Ace Hotel New York with the immersive dance event OntheFloor. Ani’s choreography has also been presented at The Brooklyn Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, MAD (Museum of Art & Design), The Manderley Bar at the McKittrick Hotel, Le Poisson Rouge, Ars Nova, littlefield, Glasslands, Art in Odd Places, Espaco Xisto (Salvador da Bahia, Brazil), Summer on the Hudson, Red Hook Festival. The Dance Cartel received and LMCC MCAF grant for a series of site-specific pop-up performances in 2014, as well as studio support from a BAX Summer Residency and the New York Live Arts Studio Series. Ani’s work has recently been featured and in music videos for Yoko Ono, Reggie Watts, Vic Mensa. Upcoming: Velocity Dance Center (Seattle, WA); New York Live Arts Studio Series (March), LaMama Moves (May). Theater: Better for Night (prod. Randy Weiner – in workshop), Good Men Wanted by Kevin Armento (AntFest @ Ars Nova), Love’s Labour’s Lost (Shakespeare in the Park 2013 - Asst. Choreo), and Jesse Eisenberg’s Asuncion (Rattlestick Theatre).

Trevor Bachman (Music Director/Keyboard/Conductor) is a composer and performer. Swados collaborations include: Piano Bar, The Golem, Marat/Sade, Books Cook, NYU in Abu Dhabi, and several others. Compositional work: Pyre Cantata (HERE/Bushwick Starr), Coromandel (HERE/DixonPlace), The Lobotomist (Ars Nova). Music Direction/Arranging: A Fable (Rattlestick/Cherry Lane), NYU Tisch, NYMF, AMAS. A concert of his work was recently performed at Joe’s Pub. Catch him singing and playing his own arrangements of Liz Swados tunes in “Piano Bar”, an
elegy to gentrification, at Joe’s Pub May 10th and 11th. For more, trevorbachman.com

Kris Kukul (Music Arranger) The Flea: Kaspar Hauser, Jabu, Ashley Montana. Recent work The Heart of Robin Hood (Toronto/ Winnipeg/A.R.T.), St. Joan (the Public), The LaMama Cantata (LaMama), The Last Goodbye (The Old Globe), June Moon and Animal Crackers (WTF), From The Fire (Edinburgh), In The Footprint (Civilians), Revolting Rhymes (The Atlantic/Lortel). Music Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival (10 Seasons) including the Late-Night Cabarets. He has composed music for Wing It! and Camp Monster (WTF), Beauty Queen (3 Graces), Dash Dexter (MTC), Midsummer Night’s Dream (National Theatre of Greece). International work: LaMama Cantata (Istanbul, Skopje, Japan, Spoleto, Zagreb, Belgrade), Heracles (dir. Andre Serban), Bikan (Festival Iberoamericano Bogota), The Bacchae (Warsaw) and The Frogs (Epidauros Festival). Graduate of NYU/Tisch School of the Arts, Playwrights Horizons. Adjunct faculty NYU/Tisch.

Lydia Fine (Set, Props, Costume, & Puppet Designer) is a Brooklyn based designer. She is interested in highly collaborative and environmental work and has worked in various mediums creating worlds for theatre, dance, film, music videos and web content. She frequently collaborates with Pigpen Theatre Company, most notably on their production The Old Man and The Old Moon. She also does work for top brands, most recently an immersive theatre event for RayBan in London. www.lydiafine.com

Daisy Long (Lighting Designer) The Flea: Smoke. Recent: 17 Orchard Point; I Wanna Destroy You (The Beckett; Theatre Row); The Physicists; Platonov (Columbia University); The Witchelor (Atlantic Acting School; Ars Nova); Phaeton; The Trojan Women (NYU); Redshift (The Wild Project); Here Be Sirens (Dixon Place).
Janie Bullard (Sound Designer) is an NYC based sound designer. Currently: SHESH YAK at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater. Upcoming: Assistant Sound Design for Hand To God on Broadway and What I Did Last Summer at The Signature. Recent: I See You (The Flea), Carnival Kids (Lesser America), Jane the Plain, Sans Merci and Honey Fist (Flux Theatre Ensemble), Stockholm (One Year Lease at 59e59), The Cottage (APAC), Slipping (Rattlestick in LA) Headstrong (Ensemble Studio Theatre). Janie was the recipient of the USITT/LDI Rising Star Award for 2014, and was named an Indie Theatre Person of the Year for 2013. She also received 3 Best Sound Design nominations for the 2014 NYIT awards. Janie received her MFA in Theatre Sound Design from the North Carolina School of the Arts. www.janiebullard.com

Jill Woodward (Production Stage Manager) is a New York - based freelance stage manager from the foothills of Arkansas. Previous credits include The Seagull (Axial Theatre), No One Asked Me (FringeNYC Encore), Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me (Next in Line Productions), Tchaikovsky: None but the Lonely Heart, Dracula: Forever is a Long Time to Live, Jekyll & Hyde (Ensemble for the Romantic Century). ASM for Unlock’d (Prospect TheaterCompany). Future: Dead Man’s Cell Phone (Axial Theatre). jillwoodwardsm.com

Trevor F. Salter (Assistant Choreographer) is a Manhattan-based choreographer, actor, and director, and graduate of NYU’s TSOA. His choreography has been seen at Judson Memorial Church, the Irondale Arts Center, The Sheen Center, and The Robert Moss Theater. Performing credits include the original Off-Broadway production of Here Lies Love at The Public Theater, and Revolting Rhymes at The Lucille Lortel.
Kelly Davis (Set and Props Design Assistant) Excited to be involved with her second production at The Flea. First production was as Props Designer for *I See You*. A 2014 graduate from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in Scenic Design. Her previous design work can be seen on her website at www.kellymdavis.net, including the World Premiere of *In The Bones, Into The Woods, The Coming World*, and other projects.

Lindsey L. Vandevier (Costume Design Assistant) is a freelance costume and scenic designer in NYC. She received her MFA in Theater Design from Carnegie Mellon University in 2013 and her BFA from Syracuse in 2007. Recent credits include: costumes/scenery for the World Premiere of *The Accidental Caregiver* (NYC), costumes and scenery for *Old Times* (MD), and costumes for productions of: *Madwoman of Chaillot* (NYC), *Sapin* (NYC), *Hamlet* (NYC), and *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure* (OH). Lindsey is thrilled to be part of this exciting new production at The Flea.

Becky Heisler (Lighting Design Assistant) is a Lighting Designer based in New York City. She has BFA in Lighting Design from Penn State. Her previous credits include Lighting Designer for *We Are Animals 3: Secrets We Didn’t Tell Our Parents, Dear Deirdre, and A Brief History of the Soviet Union*. She has also acted as Assistant Lighting Designer on *Madame Infamy* during NYMF 2014 and Broadway Cares’ *Easter Bonnet 2014*.

Sarah M. Brown (Assistant Stage Manager) is so thrilled to be part of this production of *The Nomad*. Recent NYC credits include: *The Good Boy* (Abingdon Theatre company), *Ethel Sings* (Undercover Productions), *Fix Me Jesus* (Abingdon Theatre Company), *Candida* (Boomerang Theater Company), *ZWERGE* (Little Shadow Productions), *Among Others*. Proud Graduate of Rider University Westminster College of the Arts. Thank you to friends and family.
Matthew Luppino (Assistant Stage Manager) is a NYC/NJ-based stage manager and recent graduate of The College of New Jersey. NYC credits include: *Run For Your Wife* (The Gallery Players). Additional credits include: *The Alchemist* (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (STNJ- Next Stage Ensemble); and *Metamorphoses, Lysistrata, Footloose* (TCNJ). Matthew has also interned with the stage management team of the Broadway Company of Wicked, and has worked as a stage manager for the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Thanks to Mom and Dad for all you’ve done, and shoutout to my friends in the audience!
THE FLEA STAFF

Jim Simpson (Artistic Director and Founder) Jim was a child actor in his hometown of Honolulu, as a teenager worked with Jerzy Grotowski in Poland, and holds degrees from Boston University School for the Arts and the Yale Drama School. He's worked at many venues in New York City, Nationally and Internationally. Drama Desk cited for Downtown Adventurous Theater, Two-time OBIE-award winner, National Board of Review Excellence in Filmmaking, and cited for artistic leadership in Downtown New York by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Carol Ostrow (Producing Director) joined 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 28th 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 dozens of world premieres and has been responsible for sound fiscal management of the theater’s $1.3 M budget for thirteen years. She is also overseeing The Flea’s capital campaign that will result in a new performing arts center for The Flea to be launched in the fall of 2015. Carol is a graduate of Vassar College and the Yale Drama School. She serves on the President’s Advisory Council of Vassar College and the Board of Advisors of the Yale Drama School, and on the Board of Central Synagogue as well as the National Psoriasis Foundation and Lava. She is also a Wall Street Journal Expert, where she writes on small businesses 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.
Joshua Cohen (General Manager) previously worked at Roundabout, holds degrees from Amherst College and NYU/Tisch, and has been a stage manager/lighting designer in downtown modern dance. He is also a writer for the theater, a Jonathan Larson Grant winner whose work includes *The Thirteenth Commandment* (Libra Theater Co., seven NYIT Award nominations, two wins); lyrics, *Keep On Walkin’* (Anna Zornio Children’s Theater Playwriting Award); and book/lyrics, *Tamar of the River* (Prospect Theater Co., two Drama Desk nominations; world premiere recording, Yellow Sound Label). He lives in Washington Heights with his wife Anne and daughter Miriam.

Reece Arthur (Technical Director) Reece Arthur has been living and working in New York for the past three years, and this is his first production at The Flea. Past credits include Our Lady Of Kibeho and And I And Silence, at The Signature Theater, The Three Penny Opera at The Atlantic, and has been a regular electrician for the BAM Fisher venue. I would like to thank The Flea for this opportunity and I’m looking forward to many more.

Erin Daley (Company Manager) Prior to The Flea, Erin produced the Eugene O’Neill festival at Arena Stage and spent three years as a coordinator in Los Angeles working in film and commercials. After cutting her teeth as an independent producer and director, Erin is thrilled to have found a home at The Flea where she can continue to work with exciting and innovative artists. Erin is proud to have graduated from Skidmore College, Class of 2008.

David Sernick (Marketing Manager) graduated from Indiana University with a BA in Political Science, Theatre & Drama along with a Certificate in Arts Administration. From 2009 – 2012 David was the Marketing Associate at Barrington Stage Company where he cultivated younger audiences with new media strategies thanks to a Future Audiences Grant
David founded Black Swan Theatre Project in Grand Rapids, MI and InPulse Productions in Bloomington, IN where he directed, produced and occasionally acted.

**Ellen Joffred** (Audience Development Associate) is thrilled to be joining The Flea! Having worked in locations as disparate as Norristown, PA and Toulouse France, Ellen is now happily rooting herself in NYC. Most recently, she worked for two years in CAA’s Theatre Department. Ellen is a member of LMDA, NAMP, TCG and The Plumes. She holds a BA in French and Theatre from Dickinson College, and an MFA in Dramaturgy from Columbia University.

**Alvin C. Taylor** (Development Associate) comes to The Flea Theater from Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute where he served as their first Fellow. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Instrumental Music from Mississippi State University and a Masters of Education in Higher Education Administration from The University of Southern Mississippi. He also serves as Program Assistant for Jazz at Lincoln Center’s youth music education program, WeBop. Alvin is excited to call New York City and The Flea home. He currently lives in the Upper West Side with his wife, Annie, a lighting designer and production manager.
WHAT IS THE FLEA?

The Flea is our theater: two unique and intimate performance spaces, located here at 41 White 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 almost 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 for information on all things Flea!

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THE FLEA CAMPAIGN

Fifteen 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 recently purchased a site nearby that is soon to become 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:

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Please contact Alvin C. Taylor at alvint@theflea.org for any corrections.
For more information on our Capital Project, please contact Carol Ostrow, (212) 226-0051 x104
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 for more information.

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

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