

# Emma and Max

A World Premiere written and directed by

**Todd Solondz**

featuring

Ilana Becker, Zonya Love,  
Matt Servitto and Rita Wolf



October 1 through 28

the  
flea

[www.theflea.org](http://www.theflea.org)





# **THE FLEA THEATER**

**NIEGEL SMITH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
**CAROL OSTROW, PRODUCING DIRECTOR**

**PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF**

# **EMMA AND MAX**

**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY**

**TODD SOLONDZ**

**FEATURING**

**ILANA BECKER, ZONYA LOVE,  
MATT SERVITTO AND RITA WOLF**

**JULIA NOULIN-MÉRAT** SCENIC & PROPERTIES DESIGNER

**ANDREA LAUER** COSTUME DESIGNER

**BECKY HEISLER MCCARTHY** LIGHTING DESIGNER

**ADAM J. THOMPSON** VIDEO DESIGNER

**FABIAN OBISPO** SOUND DESIGNER

**COOKIE JORDAN** WIG DESIGNER

**ANN GOULDER** CASTING DIRECTOR

**SHEENA ROSE** POSTER ARTIST

**KRIS BERGBOM** PRODUCTION MANAGER

**GINA SOLEBELLO** PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

**RAZ GOLDEN** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

# CAST

Britney.....Zonya Love  
Brooke .....Ilana Becker  
Jay.....Matt Servitto  
Mira/Padma ..... Rita Wolf

# VIDEO CAST

Famke ..... Lacy Allen  
Emma..... Sawyer Manning  
Max ..... Mason Goldstein

# SPECIAL THANKS

Alex Artaud, Brad Bergbom, Thomas Bradshaw, Julia Levy and Ari Edelson, Peter Fanti and Briana Rudick, David Ferdinand (One Dream Productions), Colin Gold, Arielle Gonzalez, Cody Hom, The Nerenberg-Taubman Family, The Lewis Family, Artrece Johnson, Jen Manning, Desre Goldstein, Dan Orians, Kathryn Perry, Shelby Ramsey, Rebecca Shumel, Elliot Williams, Rusty Zimmerman

# ABOUT THE PLAY

*Emma and Max turns a critical eye on New Yorkers, exploring the illusions and delusions, hopes and despair of the city’s well-off and worn down. Parenting and marriage, kids and vacation, devastation and survival – the quotidian stuff of life. In his typical fashion, Todd Solondz spares no one and skewers everyone in a play about privilege, race and the intersection of black and white.*

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

Actors and Stage Managers appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association.

# CREATIVE TEAM

|                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Playwright & Director.....        | Todd Solondz                     |
| Scenic & Properties Designer..... | Julia Noulin-Mérat               |
| Costume Designer.....             | Andrea Lauer                     |
| Lighting Designer.....            | Becky Heisler McCarthy           |
| Video Designer.....               | Adam J. Thompson                 |
| Sound Designer.....               | Fabian Obispo                    |
| Wig Designer.....                 | Cookie Jordan                    |
| Casting Director .....            | Ann Goulder                      |
| Poster Artist.....                | Sheena Rose                      |
| Production Manager.....           | Kris Bergbom                     |
| Production Stage Manager.....     | Gina Solebello                   |
| Assistant Director .....          | Raz Golden                       |
| Assistant Set Designer.....       | Nick O’Leary                     |
| Assistant Costume Designer.....   | Sarah Lawrence                   |
| Assistant Lighting Designer.....  | Eric Haufschild                  |
| Assistant Video Designer.....     | Jess Medenbach                   |
| Assistant Sound Designer.....     | Jorge Olivo                      |
| Assistant Stage Manager.....      | Louisa Pough                     |
| Video Shoot Coordinator.....      | Courtney Ulrich                  |
| Scenic Supervisor.....            | Bruno Baker                      |
| Props Master.....                 | Connor M O’Leary                 |
| Sound Board & Video Operator..... | Keenan Hurley                    |
| Wardrobe Supervisor.....          | Shannon O’Donnell                |
| Video Photographer.....           | Alfonso Herrera                  |
| Production Assistants.....        | Laura Zamsky & Julianna Cricchio |

# FLEA STAFF

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Artistic Director .....                     | Niegel Smith        |
| Producing Director .....                    | Carol Ostrow        |
| General Manager.....                        | Leah Abrams         |
| Director of Production & Facilities.....    | Karl Franklin Allen |
| Company Manager & Producing Associate ..... | Emilie Pass         |
| Development Manager .....                   | Charlie Madison     |
| Audience Development Associate.....         | Aleesha Nash        |

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| General Management Associate .....              | Shannon Buhler                |
| Marketing Associate.....                        | Jamie Brewer                  |
| Technical Director .....                        | Dan Hoskins                   |
| Associate Technical Director .....              | Keenan Hurley                 |
| Costume Shop & Wardrobe Manager .....           | Sarah Lawrence                |
| Box Office Coordinator.....                     | Joseph Sanchez                |
| Director of Dance Programming .....             | Lisa Reilly                   |
| Director of Music Programming.....              | Lauren Alfano-Ishida          |
| Company Dramaturg .....                         | Drayton Hiers                 |
| Graphic Designer.....                           | Ellie Philips                 |
| Videographer.....                               | Crystal Arnette               |
| Photographer.....                               | Joan Marcus                   |
| Attorney.....                                   | Carol M. Kaplan/Loeb and Loeb |
| Development Consultant.....                     | Rachel Colbert                |
| Theater, Technical & Production Consultant..... | Kyle Chepulis                 |
| Press Representative .....                      | Ron Lasko/Spin Cycle          |

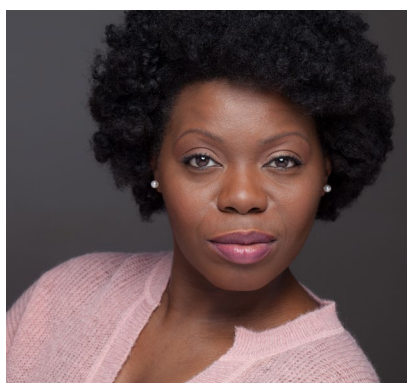
## CAST



**ILANA BECKER** (Brooke) is thrilled to be at the Flea with this brilliant team of collaborators. Her recent TV appearances include *HBO’s Crashing* (dir: Judd Apatow), *Gotham*, *Kevin Can Wait*, *GIRLS*, *Orange is The New Black*, *Odd Mom Out*, *Mysteries of Laura*, *Amazon’s Alpha House*, *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver* and *MTV’s Girl Code* as well as hosting original programming for Nickelodeon and PopSugar. Her work in commercials has earned many of her campaigns Clio and international acclaim - most notably her personification of Irritabelle in national ads for Viberzi. Recent films include *Future ‘38* (Slamdance Audience Award), *Love Magical* (world premiere alongside Selma - Urbanworld Film Festival), *Good Enough* (world premiere Boston International Film Festival) and the independent feature *Fishbowl*. To Todd, thank you for making every day of this experience the ‘best day of my life.’ There aren’t enough words of gratitude. Thank you to Buchwald, Katie, MJ and Patrick, her beautiful ensemble, Carol, Niegel and the entire Flea Family, M & D, and her brand new hubby who was more than fine with her taking their honeymoon on the Flea Stage. More at [www.ilana-becker.com](http://www.ilana-becker.com)!



**RITA WOLF** (Mira / Padma) *The Flea: O, Jerusalem* by A.R. Gurney, Dir. Jim Simpson. Recent NY Theatre: *An Ordinary Muslim* by Hammad Chaudhry, Dir. Jo Bonney at NYTW. *The Profane* by Zayd Dohrn, Dir. Vivienne Benesch at Chautauqua Theatre Co. *The Rug Dealer* by Riti Sachdeva, Dir. Lee Sunday Evans WPT Pipeline festival. Other Theatre Includes: *Homebody/Kabul* by Tony Kushner, (World Premiere) at NYTW also Mark Taper and BAM. *The American Pilot* by David Grieg at MTC, Dir. Lynne Meadow (Drama Desk nom.) *Stuff Happens* by David Hare at The Public Theater, Dir. Daniel Sullivan. Television: *Law and Order*, *The Good Wife*.



**ZONYA LOVE** (Britney) is humbled and honored to make her Flea Theater debut. Broadway: *The Color Purple* (Celie). Off Broadway: *Avenue Q* (Gary Coleman) Some favorite credits: First National Tour of *Avenue Q*, *The Devil's Music* (Bessie Smith) at Milwaukee Rep, *The Wiz* (Evilene) at Maltz Jupiter, *The Parchman Hour* (Lucretia Collins/Others) at The Guthrie, *Lil Shop* (Crystal) at Broadway at Music Circus, *Intimate Apparel* (Mayme) at Nevada Conservatory. Television: *Blue Bloods*, *Smash*, *The David Letterman Show*. Romans 8!



**MATT SERVITTO** (Jay) Recent stage work includes Tony Kushner's *Intelligent Homosexual....* at the Public, the Keen Company's revival of *I Never Sang fo My Father*, John Patrick Shanley's *Cellini* at NYS&F and *Lydie Breeze* by John Guare at NYTW. His TV work has included series regular roles on *The Sopranos*, *Banshee* and most recently as "Satan" on *Your Pretty Face is Going to Hell* on Adult Swim. Other TV work includes recurring roles on *Billions*, *Homeland*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Harry's Law*, *The Blacklist* and *Brotherhood* for Showtime. Select recent film credits include: *Vox Lux* (TIFF '18), *The Night Watchmen*, *Compliance* (Sundance), *Going the Distance*, *Enchanted*, *No Reservations*, *Hitch*, *Melinda & Melinda*, *I Do and I Don't*, *Big Fan*, and *Two Family House* (Sundance).

# CREATIVE TEAM

**TODD SOLONDZ** (Playwright & Director) was born in Newark, New Jersey. He has written and directed the movies *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, *Happiness*, *Storytelling*, *Palindromes*, *Life During Wartime*, *Dark Horse*, and *Wiener-Dog*. This is his first play.

**JULIA NOULIN-MÉRAT** (Scenic & Properties Designer) is an international production designer and the founder of Noulin-Mérat Studio, an intrepid NYC production design firm that specializes in Theater, Film & TV, with an emphasis in Opera and immersive site specific theatre. In addition to her work as Associate Producer for Boston Lyric Opera, Julia is the Director of Design and Production for Guerilla Opera, and resident set designer for the Attic Theater. She has designed over 350 opera, theater and television productions, including 16 new operas and 22 new plays. Last season's credits include *Rigoletto* with Minnesota Opera, *The ThreePenny Opera* and *Tosca* with Boston Lyric Opera, *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Music Academy West; Falstaff and *Tosca* with Opera Omaha, Neverland an immersive 13,000 square feet tour, with China Broadway. Julia is an adjunct professor at Pace University. [noulinmeratstudio.com](http://noulinmeratstudio.com)

**ANDREA LAUER** (Costume Designer) Andrea Lauer is a costume/set designer and fashion stylist. Recent credits include Richard The II at The Old Globe, Lovely Rita, a multi- media event in celebration of the Beatles 50th release of Sgt. Peppers, and A Chorus Line at the MUNY. Her work has been seen on Broadway (*American Idiot*, *Bring it On*), around the country and internationally. Upcoming projects this year are the world premiere of Christopher Oscar Peña's *The Strangers* (set and costumes), an Evening with Meow Meow with London Philharmonic at the Royal Festival Hall (production design), and a new interpretation of *Cyrano* at The Goodspeed Opera (costumes). Working as a stylist for various artists, commercials, and publications, her work can be seen in Rolling Stone, Vogue, Interview, OUT Magazine, The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards, The Tony Awards, red carpet events, and music videos.

**BECKY HEISLER MCCARTHY** (Lighting Designer) is a New York City based Lighting Designer for opera, theatre, and dance who enjoys the challenges and discoveries new works provide. She has premiered works in New York, across the country, and internationally, working with companies such as BEDLAM, MorDance, Spoleto Festival USA, the Dance Department at the University of



Nevada Las Vegas, and of course The Flea. She holds a BFA in Technical Theater with an Emphasis in Lighting Design from The Pennsylvania State University. To see more of her work, please visit [beckyheisler.com](http://beckyheisler.com).

**ADAM J. THOMPSON** (Video Designer) is a designer working with video in live performance. Recent credits: design for *Pato, Pato, Maricón (Ars Nova)*, *the 63rd Obie Awards* (Terminal 5), *I'm Very Into You* (OutFest Austin), *Alkestis* (CMU); direction and design for *Venice Double Feature* (HERE), *Searching for Sebald* (Gowanus Art & Production), *The Orpheus Variations* (Under the Radar, HERE, others); and associate design for *The Emperor* (TFANA), *This Ain't No Disco* (Atlantic Theatre Company) and *He Brought Her Heart Back in a Box* (TFANA). Upcoming design: *I'm Very Into You* (LAX Festival, LA & Wattis Institute, SF), *Pipeline* (City Theatre). [adamjacobthompson.com](http://adamjacobthompson.com).

**FABIAN OBISPO** (Sound Designer) Recent theatre credits include The Public's *Oedipus El Rey*, *Teenage Dick* (with MaYi), CSC's *Doctor Faustus* and MCC's *Don't Go Gentle*. Off-Broadway: Manhattan Theatre Club, Atlantic Theatre Company, Vineyard Theatre, The New Group, New York Theatre Workshop, Theatre for a New Audience, Primary Stages, Women's Project and The Acting Company. Regional: Arena Stage, Goodman Theatre, Guthrie Theater, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Kennedy Center, American Conservatory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Huntington Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Westport Country Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, Folger Theatre and Indiana Repertory Theatre among others.

**COOKIE JORDAN** (Wig Designer) Broadway: *Side Show*, *After Midnight*, *Fela!*, *The Motherf\*\*ker With the Hat*, *The Pee-wee Herman Show*, *The Miracle Worker*, *A View From the Bridge*, *South Pacific*, *Lombardi*. The Public: *Eclipsed*, *The Library*, *King Lear*, *Neighbors*. Additional Off-Broadway: *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep); *The Wiz* (City Center). Other credits: *Aida* (Met); *Carousel*, *Le Grand Macabre*, *The Cunning Little Vixen* (NY Philharmonic); *Fela!* (London). Tours: *Fela!* (national and European), *Flashdance* (national), *Dirty Dancing* (national) and *High School Musical* (national and European).

**ANN GOULDER** (Casting Director) has cast the Todd Solondz films *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, *Happiness*, *Storytelling*, *Palindromes* and *Dark Horse*. Other film credits include *We The Animals*, *Nerve*, *10,000 Saints*, *Chinese Puzzle*, *Girl*



*Most Likely, Adventureland, American Splendor, The Nanny Diaries, The Door in the Floor, Requiem for a Dream*, and the HBO films *Taking Change* and *The Laramie Project* (Emmy nomination for casting). Television credits include co-casting for the HBO series *Bored to Death* and the first three seasons of the FX series *Louie*.

**GINA SOLEBELLO** (Production Stage Manager) is happy to be back for another production at The Flea! She holds a Bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre from Marywood University, and is the Co-Director of THE CREATORS COLLECTIVE, a Brooklyn-based multi-disciplinary arts collective. Gina was the Production Assistant for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, where she worked directly with the stage management team for over two years. Her most recent stage management credits include: *ms. estrada* (The Flea Theater), *Miss Nelson is Missing!* (Two Beans Productions), *Inanimate* (The Flea Theater), *Bone on Bone* (Broadway Bound Theatre Festival), *Twinkle Tames A Dragon* (Vital Theatre Company), and *Gregor* (InVersion Theatre Company).

**RAZ GOLDEN** (Assistant Director) is an East Coast-based theatre director, he is excited to be working on his first play with The Flea. Past directing credits include *East of the Sun, In The Same Space* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Directing Studio) *New Voices Aloud* (reading, McCarter Theatre Center), *Guts* (Turnaround Theatre Company), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Scotch'n'Soda Theatre). Assistant directing credits include *Dangerous House* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, dir. Saheem Ali) *Crowns* (McCarter Theatre, dir. Regina Taylor), *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre, dir. Adam Immerwahr), *The Royale* (City Theatre, dir. Stuart Carden).

**NICK O'LEARY** (Assistant Set Design) is a New York based theater maker and director. Born and raised in New England, he has developed new work with The Flea, Guerilla Opera, Dixon Place, Neon Nature, Seattle's Dacha Theatre, and more. Recent directing credits include *Dreamers Often Lie* (The Brick Theater), *The Bee Man of Orn* (Piknik Theatre), and *#SERIALS* at The Flea. More at: [nickoleary.com](http://nickoleary.com).

**ERIC HAUFSCILD** (Assistant Lighting Designer) is an New York-based lighting designer, and is excited to be working on his first play with The Flea. Past designing credits include *Taiga in the Berkshires* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Community Works) *Love, Love, Love* (Cockroach Theatre Company, Las Vegas), *Pagliachi* (Sin City Opera, Las Vegas), *Tar and Feathers* (Williamstown

Theatre Festival, PTP) *Disgraced* (Nevada Conservatory Theatre, Las Vegas). Assistant lighting design credits include *W;t* (A Public Fit Theatre Company, Des. Elizabeth Kline) *Curse of the Starving Class* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Des. Brandon Bagwell) *Kiss Me Kate* (Nevada Conservatory Theatre Des. Elizabeth Kline).

**JESSICA MEDENBACH** (Assistant Video Designer) is a video and media designer, filmmaker, editor and producer originally from The Hudson Valley in Upstate New York. Jess's work ranges from media for theater, opera and live events to Augmented and Virtual Reality applications, short films, music videos and video installations. Jess has worked throughout the United States and Europe, had work displayed in Times Square and written about in The New York Times and The Creators Project. Jess holds a MFA in Video and Media Design from Carnegie Mellon University and a BFA in Film Production and Electronic Arts from Bard College.

**JORGE OLIVO** (Assistant Sound Designer) is an NYC born sound designer and audio engineer. He is excited to be working the flea for the first time. Recent Credits include "The Signature Project" at The Sheen Center, "Nu Works" with Pan Asian Rep and "Remains" at Theaterlab. He recently won Best Sound Design at United Solo for "Hide Your Fires" with Ren Gyo Soh. He can also be found mixing shows, recently "Teenage Dick" with Ma Yi at the public and currently "A lovely Sunday at Crever Couer" with La Femme Productions.

**SARAH LAWRENCE** (Assistant Costume Designer) 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 in the fall of 2015. She has since joined The Flea's staff as resident Wardrobe Supervisor and costumed shows like Witness Relocation's *The Loon* (2016) and New York Times Critic's Pick *Inanimate* (2017).

**LOUISA POUGH** (Assistant Stage Manager) Selected credits: *Set It Off Live; With Love, Marilyn; A Strange Loop; Bastard Jones, Stoopdreamer* (the cell); *17 Again; Dust Can't Kill Me* (NYMF); *I'm Looking for Helen Twelvetimes; Pirates of Penzance* (Encores, NYCC); *Bandstand; Angelina Ballerina Holiday* (Vital, NYC & Tour); *Bureau of Missing Persons; Offending the Audience, 44 Plays for*

*44 Presidents*, (Muhlenberg); *Macbeth* (Pulse). Thank you to Gina, Todd, Ken, JK Meowling my gracious family, and my glorious friends for keeping me sane and smiling.

**BRUNO BAKER** (Scenic Supervisor) is a NYC based American/Brazilian multidisciplinary stage director specializing in Theatre and Opera. For the past 4 years, he has enjoyed being a studio associate at Noulin-Mérat Studio where he has worked on over 30 productions. As a Director, Mr. Baker has directed *The Glass Menagerie*, *Thyestes*, *Strange Interlude* (NYU). In addition to directing, Mr. Baker is a resident artist at the Attic Theater Company. Recent directing assisting credits include *Jericho* (Attic Theatre Company), *The Threepenny Opera* (Boston Lyric Opera), *Kiss Me Kate* (Summer Theatre of New Canaan), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Argyle Theatre), and *Proving Up* (Opera Omaha, Miller Theatre).

**CONNOR M O'LEARY** (Props Master) is a newly New York City based props artisan and master. He is excited to be working on his first show at The Flea Theater. New York Credits include: *Dreamers Often Lie* (Scenic Design and Props Master), and *Me Prometheus* (Puppets / Projection Design). Other Favorite Credits include props design for *Violet on a bus* (American Repertory Theater) and scenic and props design for The New Voices Festival 2018 (Actors Theatre of Louisville).

**KEENAN HURLEY** (Sound Board & Video Operator) Keenan Hurley is a New York based writer, theater maker, and designer. As a sound designer he has worked with artists such as Sibyl Kempson, Dawn Akemi Saito, Erin Markey, and Church of the Millennials at venues such as The Kitchen, Abrons Arts Center, The Bushwick Starr, The Whitney Museum, Mount Tremper Arts, BAX, and Dixon Place. Additionally, he has worked extensively as a technician and audio engineer at Performance Space New York/PS122. His theatrical works include original plays as well as separate collaborations with Kedian Keohan and Peter McNally that have been presented and developed at JACK, 59E59, Judson Church, FEAST: A Performance Series, The Playwriting Collective, and The Edinburgh Fringe. He is a graduate of the theater program at Fordham University where he concentrated in playwriting. He joined The Flea as Associate Technical Director in 2018.



**SHANNON O'DONNELL** (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a Florida native, now New Jersey based costumer and is so thrilled to be working with The Flea for the first time! Shannon just served as Wardrobe Supervisor for *Red Emma and the Mad Monk* at The Tank and the Adirondack Theatre Festival for their 2018 Summer Season where she also designed one of their main stage productions. Other regional Wardrobe Supervisor credits include: *Sister Act*, *Ghost the Musical*, and *The Christians*. Shannon was also part of the design team as an assistant and stitcher for the 2018 A Chorus Line International Tour. Shannon earned a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BA in Theatre Education from Catawba College in 2015. Jeremiah 29:11

## 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 33rd 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 17 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.

**LEAH ABRAMS** (General Manager) Leah comes to The Flea after two decades as the executive director (and co-founder) of The Custom Made Theatre Company, based in San Francisco. She has produced over a hundred shows, including the world premieres of Kurt Vonnegut's *Mother Night*, Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* (novel adaptations), Gino Dilorio's *Sam & Dede*, or *My Dinner with Andre the Giant* and Rachel Bublitz's *Of Serpents and Sea Spray*, along with the SF regional premieres of Tarrance Chisholm's *Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies*, Amy Herzog's *Belleville*, Lucas Hnath's *Isaac's Eye*, and Adam Rapp's *Red Light Winter*. In New York, she has worked at such venues as 59E59, Dixon Place, Theater 80 St Marks, and Urban Stages. Leah is also a director, theatre educator, and recovering actor. A graduate of Clark University, she is a recipient of their Distinguished Young Alumni Award and has returned as an Alumna-in-Residence and theatre workshop instructor.

**KARL FRANKLIN ALLEN** (Director of Production & Facilities) Karl joins The Flea after several years as Production Manager at Performance Space New York (formerly Performance Space 122, formerly PS122), supervising the outfitting of their new theater spaces during a historic renovation and overseeing the inaugural performances. Previously he was the Production Manager and Technical Director for the international tour of *YOU ARE NOWHERE* by Andrew Schneider as well as touring PM/TD for Mabou Mines on Lucia's Chapters on various stops around the world. Karl has also been Technical Manager of the Duke at New42nd St, Technical Director of the Bryn Mawr College Theater program, and the Technical Director at PS122 prior to renovations.

In previous lives Karl has also worked as an exhibit designer at The Montclair Art Museum and the American Museum of Natural History as well as a performer with Richard Foreman (*Astronome*) and Jay Scheib (*This Place is a Desert*, *Untitled Mars*), among others.

**EMILIE PASS** (Company Manager & Producing Associate) 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** (Development Manager) has worked at The Flea since 2015, serving from 2017-2018 as Marketing & Events Associate. A graduate from Brandeis University, where he double-majored in Psychology and Musical Theater Writing, Charlie wrote and directed an original play *Lost Girls* for Brandeis Ensemble Theater and an original full-length musical *Grace*. Since moving to New York, Charlie has written for ThinyRhino, performed with the Astoria Choir, and music directed a benefit performance for The Flea. Charlie has interned at Central Square Theater (Cambridge, MA), Manhattan Theatre Club (New York, NY), and served as the inaugural Summer Apprentice at the Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia, PA).

**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** (General Management 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.

**JAMIE BREWER** (Marketing Associate) Coming off a marketing apprenticeship at Hartford Stage, Jamie is ecstatic to have landed in New York at The Flea. She is a proud graduate of Michigan State University where she studied Journalism, Public Relations, and Arts and Cultural Management while interning at Wharton Center for Performing Arts (East Lansing, Mich.) Jamie is thrilled to be at a theater that produces timely and important work.

**DRAYTON HIERS** (Company Dramaturg) Now in his second year at The Flea, Drayton supports the development and production of new plays, manages the literary office, and runs the Serials Writers Room. As a Literary Associate of Yellow Earth Theatre in London, he spent four years leading writing workshops and mentoring emerging British East Asian playwrights, receiving an Olwen Wymark Award from the Writer's Guild of Great Britain. He teaches at Marymount Manhattan College, and has previously taught at NYU Tisch Asia and Singapore Repertory Theatre. MFA in Dramatic Writing from Tisch Asia.

**DAN HOSKINS** (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.

**KEENAN HURLEY** (Associate Technical Director) Keenan Hurley is a New York based writer, theater maker, and designer. As a sound designer he has worked with artists such as Sibyl Kempson, Dawn Akemi Saito, Erin Markey, and Church of the Millennials at venues such as The Kitchen, Abrons Arts Center, The Bushwick Starr, The Whitney Museum, Mount Tremper Arts, BAX, and Dixon Place. Additionally, he has worked extensively as a technician and audio engineer at Performance Space New York/PS122. His theatrical works include original plays as well as separate collaborations with Kedian Keohan and Peter McNally that have been presented and developed at JACK, 59E59, Judson Church, FEAST: A Performance Series, The Playwriting Collective, and The Edinburgh Fringe. He is a graduate of the theater program at Fordham University where he concentrated in playwriting. He joined The Flea as Associate Technical Director in 2018.

**SARAH LAWRENCE** (Costume Shop & Wardrobe Manager) 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 in the fall of 2015. She has since joined The Flea's staff as resident Wardrobe Supervisor and costumed shows like Witness Relocation's *The Loon* (2016) and New York Times Critic's Pick *Inanimate* (2017).

**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.

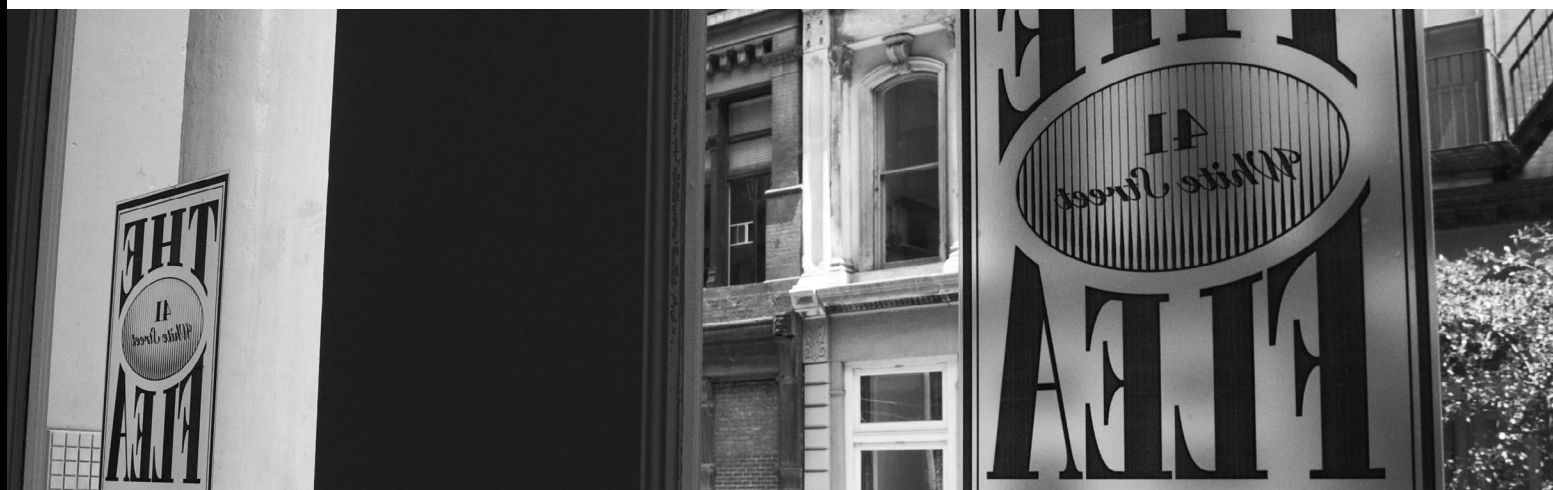
**JOSEPH SANCHEZ** (Box Office Coordinator) is excited to be part of The Flea Theater's team. Over the course of many years, he has managed several historic Off-Broadway Theatre box offices including The Actors' Playhouse, 45 Bleecker and The Cherry Lane.

# 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.

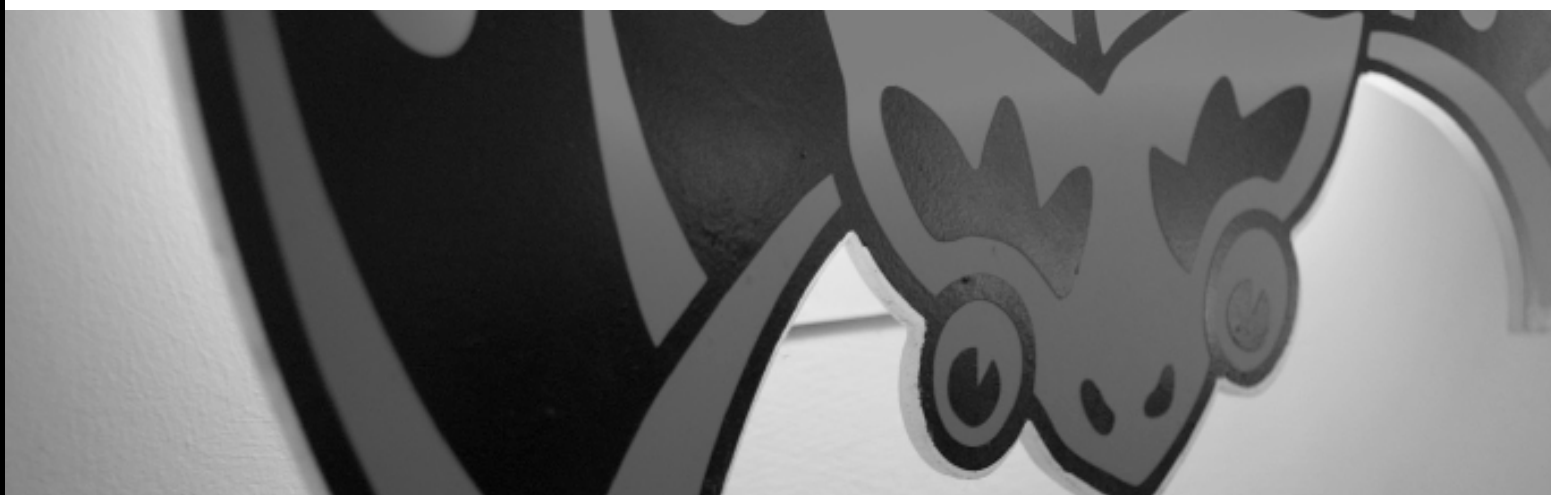
The Flea is a beacon for adventurous audiences and creative artists of all stripes, from the young striver to the legendary veteran. More than 150,000 people have come to The Flea to witness the rare spark created when artists are given free rein to play, experiment and invent—often in ways that the 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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Tony Tramontin

Sigourney Weaver

Stephen Weinroth

## **Emeritus / In Memoriam**

David Prittie

# 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

Over 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 10/1/18

We apologize if you have been left off this list.  
 Please contact Charlie Madison at  
 CharlieM@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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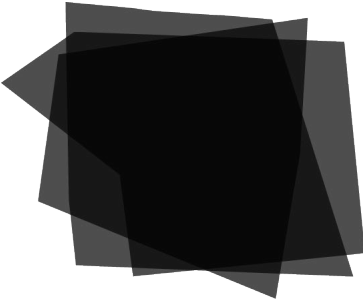


**Council on  
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# FLEA REWARDS

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](http://petrarcatribeca.com)  
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Receive a 10% discount on your bill with purchase of an entrée.

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**Billy's Bakery** (75 Franklin St.)  
212-647-9958 / [billysbakerynyc.com](http://billysbakerynyc.com)  
Deserts and Other Baked Goodies  
Indulge in desserts and other baked goodies at Billy's Bakery, where you can get 10% off if you are a member!

**Añejo** (301 Church St. at Walker)  
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Mexican  
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**TriBeCa Grill** (375 Greenwich St.)  
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Enjoy a complimentary sommelier's choice glass of wine with dinner.

**Nish Nush**  
(88 Reade Street, corner of Church)  
212-964-1318 / [nishnushnyc.com](http://nishnushnyc.com)  
Fresh hummus, falafel, baklava and more.  
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**Sun In Bloom** (165 Church St.)  
212-791-6700 / [suninbloom.com](http://suninbloom.com)  
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CHECK [THEFLEA.ORG](http://THEFLEA.ORG) OR CALL  
212-226-0051 x107 FOR  
THE LATEST UPDATES & DEALS.

# BECOME A MEMBER

## THE FLEA THEATER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

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

### **\$25+ Member**

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

### **\$50+ Flea Fan** - all of the above, plus:

- Invites to Flea Member Nights! Each production will have a special night, just for you. You'll have a chance to hang with your fellow fans before you take your seats and chat up the artists after, and we'll provide the drinks and snacks.
- Your name in our digital program.

### **\$100+ Flea Friend** - all of the above, plus:

- One complimentary drink at our bar before every show.

### **\$250+ Flea Friend (Enhanced!)** - all of the above, plus:

- One complimentary drink you and **all of your guests**, at every show.

### **\$500+ Flea Friend (Super Enhanced!)** - all of the above, plus:

- Unlimited complimentary drinks at our bar.
- Reserved seats when you attend a Flea production!
- Invites to Flea Reads, where you'll have a chance to listen in as Resident Artists and Bats read and discuss new works.

### **\$1,000+ Flea Favorite** - all of the above, plus:

- Invitations to exclusive Flea events with artists; the first one is on us!
- 2 house seats to one Flea performance of your choice, arranged for you by our Development Associate

### **\$2,500+ Flea Favorite (Enhanced!)** - all of the above, plus:

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---

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CALL 212.226.0051 x107 to join!