HYPER MAN
A BREAK BEAT PLAY
BY IDRIS GOODWIN
DIRECTED BY KRISTAN SEEMEL & NIEGEL SMITH
FEATURING THE BATS
THE FLEA THEATER
NIEGEL SMITH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
CAROL OSTROW, PRODUCING DIRECTOR

PRESENTS THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF

HYPE MAN
a break beat play

BY IDRIS GOODWIN
DIRECTED BY KRISTAN SEEMEL & NIEGEL SMITH

FEATURING THE BATS
TAY BASS, CONOR BELL, SONJA CIRILO,
JUSTIN JORRELL, MATT STANGO, SHAKUR TOLLIVER

ANTON VOLOVSEK SCENIC DESIGNER
SARAH LAWRENCE COSTUME DESIGNER
XAVIER PIERCE LIGHTING DESIGNER
WENDELL HANES MUSIC COMPOSER/SUPERVISOR/EDITOR
KEENAN HURLEY SOUND DESIGNER
JACOB BASRI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
HALEY GORDON STAGE MANAGER
CAST

Pinnacle ................................................................. Matt Stango
Peep One ................................................................. Tay Bass
Verb ................................................................. Shakur Tolliver
Pinnacle (U/S) .......................................................... Conor Bell
Peep One (U/S) ........................................................ Sonja Cirilo
Verb (U/S) .............................................................. Justin Jorrell

SPECIAL THANKS

Ilana M. Brownstein, Nurri Hazard, New Georges The Room, Jim Gerding and the crew at Ryan’s Daughter, Jørgen Skjærvold (Performance Space New York), Park Boulevard Productions, tinc productions

ABOUT THE PLAY

In HYPE MAN: a break beat play we meet Verb, a young black man who hyps the crowd and Pinnacle, a white front man who writes and rhymes. They’ve been best buddies since they were kids, growing up together on the same mean streets. Now, with the addition of Peep One, a mixed-race, female beat maker, the trio is about to make it big as America’s next hip hop crew. But the shooting of an unarmed black man in their hometown throws them off their beat. Their friendship is tested. Their moral compass is challenged. HYPE MAN immerses audiences in a chilling conversation amongst the beats and rhymes of pulsating hip hop.

PLAY DEVELOPMENT

HYPE MAN was awarded the 2017 Blue Ink Playwriting Award from American Blue Theatre. It received development at: The Lark Playwriting Center, Kennedy Center College Theater Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, and American Blues Theater. HYPE MAN received a world premiere production at Company One Theater in Boston, January 2018.

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.................................................................Idris Goodwin
Directors........................................................................Kristan Seemel & Niegel Smith
Scenic Designer...........................................................Anton Volovsek
Costume Designer.........................................................Sarah Lawrence
Lighting Designer........................................................Xavier Pierce
Music Composer/Supervisor/Editor....................................Wendell Hanes
Sound Designer..........................................................Keenan Hurley
Assistant Director ..........................................................Jacob Basri
Stage Manager............................................................Haley Gordon
Wardrobe Supervisor....................................................Shannon O’Donnell
Lighting/LED Crew.........................................................Janak Jha & Daniel Orians

FLEA STAFF

Artistic Director ..........................................................Niegel Smith
Producing Director ................................................................Carol Ostrow
General Manager .........................................................Leah Abrams
Director of Production & Facilities .................................Karl Franklin Allen
Production Manager ......................................................Kris Bergbom
Company Manager & Producing Associate ......................Emilie Pass
Development Manager ..................................................Charlie Madison
Audience Development Associate ....................................Aleesha Nash
General Management Associate ..................................Shannon Buhler
Marketing Associate .....................................................Jamie Brewer
Company Dramaturg ......................................................Drayton Hiers
Technical Directors ......................................................Dan Hoskins & Keenan Hurley
Costume Shop & Wardrobe Manager ...............................Sarah Lawrence
Box Office Coordinator ..................................................Austin Sanders
Director of Dance Programming ....................................Lisa Reilly
Director of Music Programming ....................................Lauren Alfano-Ishida
Graphic Designer ..........................................................Ellie Philips
Videographer ...............................................................Crystal Arnette
Photographer ...............................................................Hunter Canning
Attorney .................................................................Carol M. Kaplan/Loeb and Loeb
Development Consultant .................................................Rachel Colbert
Theater, Technical & Production Consultant .....................Kyle Chepulis
Press Representative .....................................................Ron Lasko/Spin Cycle
CAST

TAY BASS (Peep One) is thrilled to be making her Flea debut with this incredible company. It is a gift to work with such committed and giving artists everyday. She was last seen as Rosalind in HID’s All-Female+ As You Like It at El Barrio’s Artspace. She would like to thank to her friends and family for their endless support. LIU Post MT ‘17 www.taybass.com

CONOR BELL (Pinnacle U/S) recently appeared in SERIALS at The Flea. A fresh baby bat, he is positively stoked to be included in the conversation put forth by HYPE MAN. He recently acted in a short independent film, a commercial for Chase Sapphire, and is appearing in Buckshot Production’s upcoming feature film Bad Tidings. He studied at the National Theater Institute and has recently trained with Christopher Bayes and Jim Calder. In his free time, Conor is a voracious consumer of music and writes for an independent zine started by his friends.

SONJA CIRILO (Peep One U/S) is an actor from St. Croix USVI. She is excited to be a part of the HYPE MAN cast at The Flea Theater. Her stage credits include: Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang, Mother Courage and her Children by Bertolt Brecht, Oleanna by David Mamet, Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov (Randolph College), and From the Valley to the Peak (Black Theatre Assemble). Sonja obtained her BFA in theater performance from Randolph College in 2015. After graduation, she moved to New York City to continue her training with the Atlantic Acting Theater Company’s full-time Conservatory. www.sonjacirilo.com
JUSTIN JORRELL (Verb U/S) is from Charlotte NC, is a New York City based actor and is excited to be a new Bat at The Flea Theater. Most recently he has been Off-Broadway at the Tank Theatre and St. Luke’s Theater. Justin is also a well-known Master of Ceremony in the NYC area, as well as the southern east coast. He is looking forward to adding his talents and strengths as an MC to Hype Man.

SHAKUR TOLLIVER (Verb) is happy to be making his Flea debut alongside this cast and creative team. A New York and New Jersey based actor, Shakur is excited to be a part of The Bats. A graduate from Drew University, where he majored in theatre and philosophy, Shakur has recently been seen in: *This Is Modern Art* (Seven) by Idris Goodwin, *The 88* (The Usher), *Tiers* (Earl / Bimbo) by reg e gaines, and *Down Neck* (John) by Pia Wilson. These performances are dedicated to his late mentor Rodney M. Gilbert and his Momma.

MATT STANGO (Pinnacle) was born and raised in New York, where he attended LaGuardia High School and SUNY Purchase for Acting. Matt joined The Bats in 2013 when he was cast in *The Mysteries*. Since then, his Flea credits include *Agnosiophobia* and *But i cd only whisper*. He’s also the producer and host of SERIALS @ The Flea. He has performed at various other theaters across New York City including The Signature, Dixon Place, The New Ohio, The Tank, UCB and The Magnet. He’d like to thank Mr. Goodwin for writing this play. For more information visit www.MattStango.com

CREATIVE TEAM

IDRIS GOODWIN (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright, director, orator and educator. He is the Producing Artistic Director of Stage One Family Theater in Louisville, KY for which he penned the widely produced *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*. Other widely produced plays include: *How We Got On, This Is Modern Art* co-written with Kevin Coval, *Bars and Measures, The Raid, The*
Way The Mountain Moved, commissioned as part of Oregon Shakespeare’s American Revolutions series. His work has been produced by or developed with The Actor’s Theater of Louisville, Steppenwolf Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Denver Center for The Performing Arts, Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Children’s Theater, Nashville Children’s Theater, Boulder Ensemble Theater, TheaterWorks, Berkeley Rep’s Ground Floor Program, La Jolla Playhouse, The Eugene O’Neill Center, The Lark Playwriting Center and New Harmony Project. He’s received support from the NEA, The Ford, Mellon and Edgerton Foundation, and is the recipient of InterAct Theater’s 20/20 Prize and The Playwrights’ Center’s McKnight Fellowship. www.idrisgoodwin.com

KRISTAN SEEMEL (Director) before coming to New York, was a freelance director in Oregon for the better part of a decade. While on the other coast, he worked for eight seasons at Portland Center Stage, first as a Literary Associate and later as Corporate Development Associate during the organization’s transition into the historic Armory Theater, a world-renowned Green Building project. Kristan came up in the theater working on new plays, serving as dramaturg on a score of premiere productions and developmental workshops. His passion for new American writing is clear from his direction of premiers such as Mary-Kate Olsen is in Love by Mallory Avidon and The Electric Lighthouse by Ed Himes (The Flea). Other new plays Kristan has directed include Mutt by Lava Alapai (Many Hats Collective) and The Verspiary by Matthew Zrebski (Stark Raving Theatre) as well as NW regional premieres of Carlos Murillo’s Mimesophobia (Sand & Glass Productions), The Long Christmas Ride Home by Paula Vogel (TheatreVertigo) and Mac Wellman’s A Murder of Crows (defunkt theatre). He has developed new plays with Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb (SuperLab), The Lark, Brave New World Repertory Theater, Spookfish and The Barn Arts Collective. Kristan is a graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA program in directing and, while in Providence, he helmed workshop productions Oh Guru Guru Guru by Mallory Avidon and The Darkson Chronicles by Theo Goodell. Favorite revivals include Brecht & Weill’s The Threepenny Opera, John Webster’s The Duchess of Malfi (Brown/Trinity Rep) and Hamlet (CoHo Productions). Kristan’s staging of Gertrude Stein’s Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights (defunkt theatre) garnered him a Portland Dramatic Critics Circle award (Drammy) for Outstanding Direction. Some of his favorite assisting credits include Gurney’s AJAX, The Mysteries (The Flea), A Raisin in the Sun, A Christmas Carol and Camelot (Trinity Rep). Kristan is a proud alumnus of the 2012/13 Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and the SDCF Observership Program. www.kristanseemel.com
Niegel Smith (Director) is a theater director and performance artist who sculpts social spaces into unique communal environments where we make new rituals, excavate our pasts and imagine future narratives. Directing credits include *Father Comes Home From the Wars* (Parts 1, 2 & 3) (Goodman Theatre, 2018), *Syncing Ink* (Alley Theater, 2017; The Flea, 2017), *Take Care* (The Flea, 2015-2016), *Hir* (Magic Theatre, 2014; Mixed Blood, 2015; Playwrights Horizons, 2015), *A 24 Decade History of Popular Music…* (New York Live Arts, et al., 2015), *The Perils of Obedience* (Abrons Arts Center, 2013–ongoing), and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater, 2010). His participatory performances have been produced by American Realness, Dartmouth College, The New Museum, Prelude Festival, PS 122, and the Van Alen Institute, among others. He is the Artistic Director of The Flea Theater in lower Manhattan; Associate Artistic Director of Elastic City; and ringleader of Willing Participant — an artistic activist organization that whips up urgent poetic responses to crazy stuff that happens. [www.niegelsmith.com](http://www.niegelsmith.com)

Anton Vologsev (Scenic Designer) is a Michigan born, New York City based freelance scenic designer. Recent design credits include: *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (City College of New York), *Hair, Celebration, Working* (NYU-New Studio on Broadway), *The Women, Rapture Blister Burn* (Stella Adler Studio of Acting), *The Perfect Monster* (TADA! Youth Theater), *Curse of the Starving Class* (PTP, Williamstown Theatre Festival), *A Man of No Importance* (University of Michigan). Recent associate credits include: *Blue Ridge* (Adam Rigg, Atlantic Theatre Company), *Good Grief* (Jason Ardizzone-West, Vineyard Theatre), *Sweat* (Wilson Chin, The Public). Graduate of the University of Michigan. Go Blue! You can find more of his work at [www.antonnedward.com](http://www.antonnedward.com).

Sarah Lawrence (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).
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XAVIER PIERCE (Lighting Designer) Theater credits include Othello, Shakespeare in Love (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); Native Gardens, Harvey, Blithe Spirit (The Guthrie); Smart People, Native Gardens (Arena Stage), The Roommate (Steppenwolf Theatre) Yours Unfaithfully, A Day by the Sea (Mint Theatre NYC), Misery (Cincinnati Playhouse), Noises Off! (Syracuse Stage) Fences (Long Wharf and the McCarter); Pipeline (Indiana Repertory Theatre) Peter and the Starcatcher, 4000 Miles, The Mountaintop, Detroit ’67 (PlayMakers Rep); Two Trains Running (Arden Theatre) Outside Mulingar (Arizona Theatre Company), The Piano Lesson (Olney Theatre Center), Fly (Florida Studio Theatre); Common Enemy, Red (Triad Stage); A Raisin in the Sun (Westport Country Playhouse); Two Trains Running (Two River Theater Company), Everybody, The Glass Menagerie, black odyssey, Fences (California Shakespeare Theatre); Hamlet, Pippin (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre).

WENDELL HANES (Music Composer/Supervisor/Editor) is an award winning music composer and owner of VOLITION SOUND BRANDING. He recently scored Oscar winning director James Cameron’s feature documentary The Game Changers. He has scored over 2,000 television commercials and 27 feature films. He coined the jingle melodies for McDonald’s “Lemme Get a Mcpick 2” while doing arrangements for the famous “ba da ba ba ba” tags. He holds the honor of producing the flagship musical themes for ESPN SportsCenter, The NBA on ABC, and Sunday NFL Countdown. Currently Hanes and his company are scoring a new documentary on ballerina Misty Copeland, as well as the new Netflix sitcom Family Reunion starring Tia Mowry (Sister, Sister) and Loretta Divine. Hanes is excited to work with director Niegel Smith on HYPE MAN and hopes to continue working with him in the future.

KEENAN HURLEY (Sound Designer) 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.

H A L E Y G O R D O N (Stage Manager) graduated in 2018 from Dartmouth College. Recent positions include a fellowship with the Hopkins Center for Performing Arts in Operations and Events, student production coordinator for VOXFEST theater festival 2018 and the stage management intern for the New York Theatre Workshop Residency at Dartmouth. As a production intern, she worked with Primary Stages and the Walnut Street Theatre.

J A C O B B A S R I (Assistant Director) is a director who works on new plays and classics. He is an alum of the Williamstown Theatre Festival Directing Corps. The 2017/2018 Van Lier Directing Fellow at Playwrights Horizons, and a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Directing credits include *Hedda Gabler, Crimes of the Heart* (Sarah Lawrence College), *Monkey* (Wow Haus), *Sad Americana* (The Tank), *Many People Believe, The Spy, Hunger* (Williamstown Theater Festival), and numerous short plays and readings at The PIT, Writopia Play Festival, Tiny Rhino, A.R.T. New York, and Ensemble Studio Theatre. More can be found at jacobbasri.com.

T H E F L E A S T A F F

N I E G E L S M I T H (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 Tearrance 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 YOUARENOWHERE 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,
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Public Relations, and Arts and Cultural Management while interning at Wharton Center for Performing Arts. Jamie is thrilled to be at a theater that sparks important conversations and promotes new voices.

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 (Technical Director) 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), 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.
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 for information on all things Flea!

Find The Flea Theater on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & Tumblr.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 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
The Shana Alexander Charitable Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Booth Ferris Foundation
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The Fran & Ray Stark Foundation
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ANGELS ($250K+)
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Sigourney Weaver & Jim Simpson

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Linda Schupack & David Good
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    in memory of David Prittie
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Israel Margalit
Marla Mayer & Chris Ahearn
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Robert & Evelyn Miller
Susan Monserud & Ric Sonder
Harry Moses & Randy Lehrer
Bernard W. Nussbaum
Gilbert Parker
Juliet & Michael Patsalos-Fox
David B. Pearce, M.D.
Mary Ann & Bruno A. Quinson
Ivan Reitman
    in Memory of Harold Ramis
Deborah Schneider & Jim Tilley
Eleanor Shakin
Jonathan Sheffer
Barry Skovgaard & Marc Wolinsky
Niegel Smith
Bernadette Speach & Jeffrey Schanzer
Andrew & Julie Stanton
Scott & Dhuane Stephens
Michael & Marjorie Stern
Holland Taylor
David & Deborah Trainer
Victoria G. Traube
Ginny & Bob Walther
Emmeline Wexer
Marguerite C. Whitney
Rachael Worby
F.A. Zunino

List as of 11/7/18

We apologize if you have been left off of 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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FLEA MEMBERS

Flea IP ($5,000+)
Lois Chiles
Tracy Chutorian Semler & Eric Semler
Distracted Globe Foundation
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The Ettinger Foundation
A.R. & Molly Gurney
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Cassie Murray & William Plapinger
Nancy & Fred Poses
Linda Schupack & David Good
Stephanie Stiefel & Robert Cohen

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John & Gaily Beinecke
Jackie Brody
Claudia Brown & Terry Gruber
Beth Burnam
Lisa & Michael Dell
Rejeanne Desrosiers & James Stewart
Polly Draper & Michael Wolff
Elizabeth Duggal & Alain Taghipour
Robyn Field & Anthony O’Carroll
Jill & Howard Fife
Melanie Francis
Bobby & Vicki Freeman
Karen & Edward Friedman
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Elizabeth Jacobs Kapp
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Ed Trach
Donna & Paul Ullman
Esme Usdan
George Vanderploeg
David Weiner
Susan Wilen
Dan & Cammy Zamlong
Barbara Zinn Krieger & Paul Krieger

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Blossom Crawford
Vanessa & Joseph F. DeSimone
Stephanie Garry & Art Tatge
Emily C. Graff
Ray Griffiths
Jan M. Guifarro
Evie Gurney & Chris Bumcrot
John Kander
Debra Kozee & Roy Hjelm
Ronald Laeremans
Douglas & Nancy Ostrow
Marylin Prince
Leo & Antoinette Pulito
Milbrey Rennie
Ellen & Norman Roth
Beth Shabto
Jonathan West

Flea Friend ($250+)
Anonymous
José Arredondo
Alice Bianco
Ellen Davis
Kendra Decious & Curt Child
Sue B. Dorn
Fred & Sara Epstein
Deborah Engelakos
Amy Frankel
Michael & Deborah Goldberg
Bruce Goodrich
Nancy Hanna
Cynthia King Vance & Lee Vance
Brad Learmonth & Jon Gilman
Michael & Gabrielle Palitz
Midge & Simon Palley
Randolph & Rona Nelson
Mary Salter
Marcia Santoni
Eve Slater
Nathaniel Speer & Seth Meyer
Peter Stamos
Jerome Florists

**Flea Friend ($100+)**
Anonymous
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Millie & Sunil Arora
Aurora Theater
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Ellie & Bob Berlin
Deborah Berman
Susan Bernfield
Barbara & Gary Bloom
Lucy & David Carson
Bryn Carter
Burton & Susan Closson
Margaret Coleman
  in memory of David Prittie
William Cress
Sarah East Johnson
Francesca Falzone
Charles A. Forma
Henry Fraimow & Jacqueline French
Karen & Barry Frankel
Walter Gilbert
John Githens
Bonnie Graff
Jesse Graff & Molly Steinblatt
John B. Haney
Mary Hardin
Jonathan Harrison
Garrett Hayward
Carla Hoke-Miller
Emily Johnson
Margot Kenly
Julia Kneeland
  in honor of David Prittie
Eugene Kramer
Mia Leo & Dick Kuczkowski
Rosanne Kumins
Loren Lemelle
Giselle & Mike Mahoney
Dobbi & Jeff Massey
Asena Mckeown
Evelyn G. Miller
Jeff Muscatello
Cherrie Nanninga
Nicholas Niepce
Carole Pesner
Elizabeth Propp
Christopher & Lynne Ramsey
Lisa Reilly
Jeannette Rossoff
Peter & Lee Scott
Alicia Sears
Eleanor Shakin
Caroline & Kevin Smith
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Sharon Tomaselli & Wayne Ransier
Dylan Tramontin Izen
David VanEgmond
Sturgis Warner
Edward B. Whitney
Chris Weikel
Neil Woodgate

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Vicki & Bill Abrams
A. Figment
James Carter
Diane Eisenstat
Annette Ferstenberg
Helene Foley
Kenneth Hitz
Suzanne Hurring
Stuart N. Hutchison III
Marc Kirchner Nadal
Ann Krsul
Lee Ping Kwan
Lorraine & John Langdon
Stephen Marchetta
John Mascola
Teri & Stuart Rogers
Todd & Tiffany Tyson
Dan Venning & Emma Halpern
J. Marvin Watts
Ruth S. Zachary

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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
Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar
Receive a 10% discount on your bill with purchase of an entrée.

**Da Mikele** (275 Church St.)
212-925-8800 / damikele.com
Neapolitan-Inspired Italian Restaurant
Receive a 10% discount on the bill with the purchase of an entrée.

**Billy’s Bakery** (75 Franklin St.)
212-647-9958 / 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)
212-920-6270 / anejotribeca.com
Mexican
A complimentary Plata margarita with any food purchase.

**TriBeCa Grill** (375 Greenwich St.)
212-941-3900 / myriadrestaurantgroup.com
American Grill
Enjoy a complimentary sommelier’s choice glass of wine with dinner.

**Nish Nush**
(88 Reade Street, corner of Church)
212-964-1318 / nishnushnyc.com
Fresh hummus, falafel, baklava and more. 10% off with your membership card!

**Sun In Bloom** (165 Church St.)
212-791-6700 / suninbloom.com
Gluten-Free, Vegan & Raw Food Kitchen
10% off with your membership card!

CHECK THEFLEA.ORG OR CALL 212-226-0051 x107 FOR THE LATEST UPDATES & DEALS.
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:
• Invitations to exclusive Flea events — the first two are on us!
• Up to 6 house seats to any and all Flea performances, arranged for you by our Development Associate.

$5,000+ Flea I.P’s - all of the above, plus:
• Access to house seats for most Broadway shows
• Invitations to attend all exclusive Flea events as our special guests.

Interested?
Email aleeshan@theflea.org for more information!
CALL 212.226.0051 x107 to join!