Southern Promises

We’re finally free.

By Thomas Bradshaw
Directed by Niegel Smith

Featuring The Bats

THE FLEA THEATER
NIEGEL SMITH, artistic director
CAROL OSTROW, producing director
PRESENTS

Southern Promises

by THOMAS BRADSHAW
directed by NIEGEL SMITH

Featuring The Bats
ADAM COY, DARBY DAVIS, MARCUS JONES, TIMOTHY PARK,
YVONNE JESSICA PRUITT, JAHSIAH RIVERA, ANA SEMEDO,
LAMBERT TAMIN, SHAKUR TOLLIVER, ADRAIN WASHINGTON,
SELAMAWIT WORKU, BRITTANY ZAKEN

JASON SHERWOOD scenic designer
CLAUDIA BROWN costume designer
JORGE ARROYO lighting designer
FABIAN OBISPO sound designer
NIKIYA MATHIS hair/makeup designer
ROCIO MENDEZ violence/intimacy choreographer
ANNA KOVACS stage manager
TYLER THOMAS assistant director
CAST
(In Order of Appearance)
Isaiah.................................................................Darby Davis
Elizabeth..........................................................Brittany Zaken
Benjamin............................................................Shakur Tolliver
Charlotte.........................................................Yvonne Jessica Pruitt
David..................................................................Jahsiah Rivera
John...................................................................Marcus Jones
Doctor......................................................................Timothy Park
Imaginary Slave / Emmanuel / David (U/S) / Benjamin (U/S) ....... Adrain Washington
Sarah / Charlotte (U/S)...........................................Selamawit Worku
Atticus....................................................................Adam Coy
Elizabeth (U/S) / Sarah (U/S).................................Ana Semedo
John (U/S) / Isaiah (U/S)........................................Lambert Tamin

SPECIAL THANKS
Bill Kennedy, Joey Truman, Silovsky Studios, Andrew Goebol, Tribeca Lighting,
Aaliyah Stewart, Sarah Murphy, Melo Davis, Michael Hernandez, Rebecca Shumel,
The Public Theater Costume Shop, Ruth Sternberg, Angel Brice, Genea Thomas

ABOUT THE PLAY
Provocateur Thomas Bradshaw revisits his incendiary 2008 play Southern Promises
in a new production helmed by The Flea’s Artistic Director, Niegel Smith. On his
deathbed, a plantation owner vows to set his slaves free, but when his wife rejects the
request chaos erupts on the plantation. Based on slave narratives and featuring an
all PoC company of actors, Southern Promises is a brilliant examination of the deeply
disturbing and utterly corrupting power of American slavery and its lasting grip on
our country’s hearts and institutions.

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

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright............................................................................Thomas Bradshaw
Director..................................................................................Niegel Smith
Scenic Designer........................................................................Jason Sherwood
Costume Designer....................................................................Claudia Brown
Lighting Designer.....................................................................Jorge Arroyo
Sound Designer........................................................................Fabian Obispo
Violence/Intimacy Choreographer...........................................Rocio Mendez
Hair/Makeup Designer..............................................................Nikiya Mathis
Stage Manager..........................................................................Anna Kovacs
Assistant Director......................................................................Tyler Thomas
Assistant Scenic Designer/Properties Master.........................Courtney Kuperschmidt
Costume Assistant ....................................................................Tekla Monson
Costume Construction .............................................................Asa Thompson
Assistant Lighting Designer.....................................................Ethan Olsen
Assistant Sound Designer........................................................Keenan Hurley

Casting by MUNGIOLI THEATRICALS, Arnold J. Mungioli, CSA
Casting Director.........................................................................Arnold Mungioli
Casting Associate.....................................................................Lindsey Bristol

FLEA STAFF

Artistic Director .........................................................................Niegel Smith
Producing Director .....................................................................Carol Ostrow
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
Company Dramaturg ..................................................................Drayton Hiers
Technical Directors .....................................................................Dan Hoskins & Keenan Hurley
Costume Shop & Wardrobe Manager.........................................Taelen Renae Robertson
Box Office Coordinator ..............................................................Austin Sanders
Co-Directors of Dance Programming.........................................Jeffrey Kazin & David Parker
Director of Music Programming...............................................Jason Cady
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
Interns ....................................................................................Malamin Canten & Blossom Johnson
CAST
(In Order of Appearance)

DARBY DAVIS (Isaiah) is a New York based actor from Jacksonville, Florida. He is excited to work on his first full production at The Flea and share this work with all of you. Former New York theatre credits include And She Would Stand Like This (The Movement Theatre Company) and As You Like It (Cradle Theatre Company). Darby received his training from Fordham University acting track and is a recipient of the Denzel Washington Scholarship.

BRITTANY ZAKEN (Elizabeth) is a born and raised New Yorker thrilled to be making her Flea main stage debut during the Color Brave season. She recently appeared in the all-female Middle Eastern cast of Bee at HB Playwrights Theater. She has been on stage at New York Theatre Workshop and La MaMa. She trained at NYU Tisch School of the Arts via the Stella Adler Studio and across the pond in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Brittany is committed to creating work that responds to issues affecting marginalized communities and the current state of the world.

SHAKUR TOLLIVER (Benjamin) is thrilled to be in another production during the Color Brave season at The Flea. A New York and New Jersey based actor, Shakur graduated from Drew University, where he majored in theatre and philosophy. Shakur has recently been seen in HYPE MAN: a break beat play (The Flea) and This Is Modern Art (Next Door at NYTW) by Idris Goodwin; The 88 (The Usher), Tiers (Earl / Bimbo) by reg e gaines. These performances are dedicated to his late mentor Rodney M. Gilbert and his Momma. @ss_tolliver
YVONNE JESSICA PRUITT (Charlotte) is a Brooklyn born and raised, New York City based actor. She is excited to be in her first show at The Flea as a new Bat. A recent graduate from Seton Hall University, her credits included: Steel Magnolias, As You Like It, Learned Ladies, Radium Girls, and The Way of the World (SOPAC), Two Gentlemen of Verona, and The Women of Lockerbie. Many thanks to family and friends for their unwavering support!

JAHSIAH RIVERA (David) is a mixed-raced actor, whose roots hail from Curacao and Puerto Rico. He was born and raised in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. He is a recent graduate of Rutgers University, where he earned his B.F.A in Acting at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. His most recent credits include: Rosalind at Shakespeare’s Globe in London, Leonardo in Blood Wedding at Rutgers University, and Florizel in Winter’s Tale at the WOW Café Theater. Jahsiah is proud to be making his Flea debut in Southern Promises.

MARCUS JONES (John) NYC based actor, Marcus Jones, is a proud graduate of Midwestern State University in Texas (2012). After college, he began working with Shakespeare Dallas appearing in A Midsummer’s Night Dream. He is a member of the improv group Improvers of a Certain Age. He’d like to personally thank his family and friends for the unconditional support they have given him throughout the years. He feels extremely privileged to be sharing the stage with this talented cast and crew of Southern Promises.

TIMOTHY PARK (Doctor) is a New York City based actor who is excited to be in the first show of the season at The Flea. He has worked with David Van Asselt (Rattlestick) and James Franco. Off Broadway credits include: Comfort Women: A New Musical (St. Clements Theatre), Removal (Manhattan Repertory Theatre), Romantic Fools (AlphaNYC Theater), Run For Your Wife (Gallery Players Theater) which was nominated by the Innovative Theatre Awards for Outstanding Ensemble. Films and TV credits include Homicide City, Playing with Matches directed by Neil Leifer. He received training from the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City and Studio 4.
ADRAIN WASHINGTON (Imaginary Slave/Emmanuel/David(U/S)/Benjamin (U/S)) is an award winning New York City based American actor with a commanding presence on screen, stage, and television. He is excited to be a part of Southern Promises. Off Broadway credits include: A Soldier’s Play (Negro ensemble Company), Osage Ave. (Cherry Lane Theater), Orlando Dances (Arthur Seleen Theater), Macbeth (Classical Theater of Harlem). Film and TV credits include: Bred, Stud, Reconquista, Pride Fighter, and Good Dads. Adrain is currently cast in a biopic as a young blues musician.

SELAMAWIT WORKU (Sarah/Charlotte (U/S)) is an Ethiopian-American tri-lingual actor, singer and producer. Raised in Northern Virginia and currently based in Brooklyn, she’s excited to be a new Bat in her first full production at The Flea! Education: Two-Year Evening Conservatory (Stella Adler Studio of Acting), Summer Professional Musical Theater Program (CAP21), AAA in Jazz/Pop Music (NVCC-Virginia), BA - International Affairs/Spanish (GWU - D.C.). Acting Credits (not limited to): Nesting (Film - 2019), Crumbs (Film - 2018) Yellow Card Red Card (New Ohio Theatre/Ice Factory Festival 2017), Makeup to Breakup (recurring role on award-winning web-series). Producer credits: Crumbs (Film - 2018), Voices Inside (Theaterlab - 2018), Strings (The Access Theater - 2017), Norma Jeane Was A Brunette (Manhattan Repertory Theatre - 2017), A Mother’s Heart (Stella Adler Studio - 2016), 4th Rib From The Right (IATI Theater - 2016). To learn more: www.selamawitworku.com

ADAM COY (Atticus) is a New York based actor, originally from San Antonio, TX. Regional: Romeo and Juliet (Westport Country Playhouse) New York: Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill, Fill, Cosmicomics (The Flea), Lilia (New Dramatists), Blood Bag (Ramshackle productions). Syracuse University: Laura and the Sea, Constellations, Measure for Measure, Dog Sees God. Adam is a proud member of The Flea’s acting company, The Bats and the SDC Foundation Observership Class. Training: Syracuse University BFA Acting '17 Instagram: @Adammcoy
ANA SEMEDO (Elizabeth (U/S) / Sarah (U/S)) was born in Portugal and raised in Providence, RI. She is a graduate of the William Esper Studio’s Two-Year Acting program, where she studied with Terry Knickerbocker and is currently a member of The Freeman Studio. She is excited to be making her off-Broadway debut in Southern Promises. Film & TV credits include Die (Dee), Expats, Love Seat and Horizon.

LAMBERT TAMIN (John (U/S) / Isaiah (U/S)) is a New Jersey native and a graduate of the William Esper Studio in NYC. Credits include appearances at the Theater at St. Clement’s, Theater for the New City, The Episcopal Actor’s Guild, Luna Stage, The Theater Project, the John Drew Theater at Guild Hall, and most recently as Archidamus/Hooded Figure in Winter’s Tale at The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey. TV: “Pandora’s Box: Unleashing Evil”, “Mysteries at the Museum” Film: On the Hook, Not Without A Lionzo, I Want More I Want Less, The Ballad of Bobby Carr, and On The Floor. Lambert is thrilled to be part of his first production as a member of the Bats! And would like to thank his friends and family for their support.

CREATIVE TEAM

THOMAS BRADSHAW (Playwright) His notable plays include: Thomas and Sally which premiered at Marin Theater Company in September 2017; Carlyle which premiered at the Goodman Theatre as part of their 2015-16 season; and Fulfillment which co-premiered at The Flea and American Theater Company (Chicago) in fall 2015. His other plays include Job and Dawn (The Flea); Intimacy and Burning (New Group); Mary (Goodman Theatre); The Bereaved (Crowded Fire, Partial Comfort and the State Theater of Bielefeld in Germany); Southern Promises (PS122). He is the recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, the 2010 Prince Prize, a Foundation for Contemporary Arts award in 2012, a Doris Duke Implementation Grant in 2016, and a PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theatre Award in 2017. Mr. Bradshaw has been featured as one of Time Out New York’s 10 playwrights to watch and was named “Best Provocative Playwright” by the Village Voice. A compilation of his
work *Intimacy and Other Plays* was recently published by TCG. Mr. Bradshaw is an Associate Professor at Northwestern University. He is currently under commission from The Royal National Theater in London, The Goodman/Second City in Chicago, and The Foundry Theater in New York.

**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 *Scraps* (The Flea, 2018), *How To Catch Creation* and *Father Comes Home From the Wars* (Parts 1, 2 & 3) (Goodman Theatre, 2018-2019), *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)

**JASON SHERWOOD** (Scenic Designer) previously designed *The Mysteries* and *Two Class Acts* at The Flea. He is a Drama Desk Award, Lucille Lortel Award, and Henry Hewes Design Award nominee. He recently designed *RENT Live* on Fox, Sam Smith’s Arena World Tour and campaign TV appearances (including Grammy’s, SNL, Ellen), The People’s Choice Awards on E!, and The View UpStairs Off-Broadway. Upcoming: The Spice Girls World Tour, and the Broadway revival of *The Secret Garden*. More designs at New York Theatre Workshop, Playwright’s Realm, Rattlestick, the Old Globe, American Repertory Theatre, Guthrie, among many others. [@JasonSherwoodDesign](https://www.instagram.com/jasonshered/)  

**CLAUDIA BROWN** (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for theater, dance and film. She has worked in New York City theaters for thirty years largely on new works by contemporary playwrights at The Flea, The Signature Theater, Playwrights Horizon, The Alley Theater, MCC Theater Company, and En Garde Arts. She has designed costumes for Lava Dance, Hartford Ballet, and Arizona Ballet. She is a graduate of The Yale School of Drama.
Jorge Arroyo (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer based in the New York area and has worked in a variety of disciplines, ranging from theater, dance, corporate events, concerts, and television. His work has been seen at venues such as The Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, The Public Theater, Westport Country Playhouse, TheatreSquared, The People’s Light and Theatre Company, and others. He has previously served as the Resident Lighting Designer for Dreamcatcher Repertory Theater, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, and Luna Stage. He has created designs for over 50 shows at both the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center for artists such as Alicia Keys, Bill Cosby, Gabriel Iglesias, the Wayans Brothers, the Chieftains, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Paquito D’Rivera, Phoebe Snow, Stanley Jordan, Kenny Garrett, Jackie Mason, and others. He has also worked with choreographer Stacey Tookey, three-time Emmy nominee for her choreography on FOX’s So You Think You Can Dance, on her production of Moments Defined in both New York and California. In 2004 he was selected by Lighting Dimensions Magazine for feature in an article on “designers to watch” and has co-authored the last three versions of the Lightwright manual and tutorial, the industry standard software for tracking lighting paperwork. Jorge received his MFA from New York University and is currently the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at Boston University and is a member of USA Local 829. www.jorgearroyo.com


Nikiya Mathis (Hair/Makeup Designer) Nikiya Mathis (Hair & Wig Designer) is the owner of ActTRESSES Hair, a wig/hair design company that specializes in styling actors of color in film, TV and theater. Celebrities she’s styled for include John Torturro, Andre Holland, Susan Kalechi Watson, and Dewanda Wise, among others. Her wigs and hair designs have been seen on Luke Cage, She’s Gotta Have It, Jessica Jones, and Charmed, et al. Theaters she’s designed/
styled for include The Public Theater, Signature Theatre, NYTW, MCC, Soho Rep, Ars Nova, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Classical Theater of Harlem, National Black Theater, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre, Berkshire Theatre, Theatre Works, and NYU Tisch School of the Arts. @our_black_tresses

ROCIO MENDEZ (Violence/Intimacy Choreographer) is an actor/fight director/teacher from Hell’s Kitchen, NYC. Fight Direction credits include: good friday (The Flea), Marian, or The True tale of Robin Hood; Hearts Like Fists (Flux Theater Ensemble), A Streetcar Named Desire (Princeton University), House of Desires, Marisol (The New School), Romeo and Juliet, Comedy of Errors (Maine Stage Theater). Film credits include: Clandestiny, Tied Up, Hurt Filling. Nominee for two New York Innovative Theater Arts Award - Outstanding Choreography and Movement, Winner for Artemis “Women In Action” Film Festival - Special Recognition Award. www.rociomendez.com

ANNA KOVACS (Stage Manager) Born in Cincinnati Ohio, Anna moved to the big apple just this year! She’s more than honored to be a part of this incredible production for her first show with The Flea. Some of her credits include: Stage Manager for Bernard Pomerance’s: Spin Off with New York Creative Women, Stage Manager for the Miles Square Theatre Dance Concerts (2018 Season), Stage and Production Manager for Celebrity Cruises (2016-2018), Production Intern for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre’s original production of Tug-Of-War : Civil Strife (2016), Production Manager for the Monomoy Theatre in Cape Cod, MA (2014,2015). She graduated with her BFA in Stage Management from Ohio University (2016).

TYLER THOMAS (Assistant Director) is a NYC-based theater director and choreographer, focused primarily on developing ensemble-driven, multidisciplinary work that reframes marginal space, narrative, and event. Her work has been shown at the The Flea Theater, New York Musical Festival, HERE Arts Center, Paradise Factory, The Performing Garage, and at various theaters across NYU. She is a former SDCF Observer, member of the Lincoln Center Directors’ Lab, Visiting Artist at the Athens Conservatoire in Greece, and current Resident Director at The Flea Theater. Upcoming: Blanks (Columbia University/Signature Theater) and assistant directing In the Green (LCT3).

COURTNEY KUPFERSCHMIDT (Assistant Scenic Designer/Properties Master) is delighted to be working with The Flea for the first time. In New York, she has worked as a props master for New York Deaf Theatre, Columbia University, and
Black Lab Theatre, as well as Technical Director for Ma-Yi Theater and Strange Sun Theater, and Production Crew for The Public, Mint Theater Company, and NYTW. She recently graduated from the Technical Theatre program at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, where she studied scenic carpentry and design. ckupferschmidt.com

TEKLA MONSON (Costume Assistant) was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and recently graduated from Wesleyan University. Tekla was a resident at the Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Musicals in 2018. Recently, Tekla was the scenic designer for The Neon Coven’s OSCAR at The Crown at 3 Dollar Bill, Cliplight Theater’s Maverick at The Connelly and Everyday Inferno’s Quicksand at IRT Theater. teklamonson.com

ETHAN OLSER (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a NYC based professional lighting designer for stage and television and an artistic director. His design experience includes over 100 productions in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Utah. He worked on the 72nd Tony Awards, and the 2018 MTV VMA’s. He has also worked with The Lighting Design Group on many regularly televised productions. He is an alumnus of Tisch Design for stage and film.

KEENAN HURLEY (Assistant Sound Designer) is a New York based writer and designer. As a sound designer he has worked with artists such as Sibyl Kempson, Dawn Akemi Saito, Erin Markey, Caborca, and Church of the Millennials at venues such as The Kitchen, Abrons Arts Center, The Bushwick Starr, The Whitney Museum, Mount Tremper Arts, The Flea, BAX, and Dixon Place. 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. keenanhurley.com

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 18 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.

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, Public Relations, and Arts and Cultural Management while interning at Wharton Center for
Performing Arts. She 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 Technical Director in 2018.

**TAELEN RENAE ROBERTSON** (Costume Shop & Wardrobe Manager) is excited to join The Flea team this winter and spring. Her work has been nomadic in type and location, branching into all aspects of costume, from design and construction to wardrobe and teaching. Originally from Northern California, Taelen is a graduate of Bennington College after transferring from her beloved UC Santa Cruz; in her heart she will always be a Banana Slug. Most recently, she was in Boston working with multiple theatres including Lyric Stage Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, and Boston Midsummer Opera.

**AUSTIN SANDERS** (Box Office Coordinator) is very proud to be joining the amazing group of artists at The Flea. Austin has over ten years of customer service experience including working as the Customer Service Director for OvationTix, a national ticketing agency. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in Speech & Theater and works regularly as a producer/director with the creative writing nonprofit group, The Story Pirates.
JEFFREY KAZIN (Co-Director of Dance Programming) is a founding member and director with David Parker of The Bang Group (1995). He has created and performed signature roles for the company throughout North America and Europe, working also as David Parker’s assistant in the creation of new works and setting of TBG repertory for companies, colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Kazin is the founding producer of the Soaking WET dance series on NYC’s Upper West Side (2003). Additionally, he has danced for Doug Elkins (creating the role of the Captain in Fraulein Maria), New York Theatre Ballet, Amber Sloan, Sara Hook and Monica Bill Barnes. Mr. Kazin is a board member of the Peculiar Works Project theater company and an advisory board member of Gina Gibney Dance. He is a graduate of Connecticut College and the National Theater Institute.

DAVID PARKER (Co-Director of Dance Programming) David Parker and Jeffrey Kazin direct The Bang Group, a New York-based, rhythm-driven, genre-nonconforming dance troupe which spans contemporary and percussive forms. Parker is a Guggenheim Fellow in choreography and his work has been supported by several theaters, foundations, festivals and universities both here and abroad. The Bang Group has been a ubiquitous presence in New York City’s “downtown” dance scene through regular seasons presented by New York Live Arts, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Symphony Space, Harkness Dance Festival, Dig Dance at the 92nd Street Y and DANCE NOW NYC. TBG tours widely and is particularly well-known for its comic/subversive, neo-vaudeville production of The Nutcracker called Nut/Cracked which will appear at The Flea in December 2019.

JASON CADY (Director of Music Programming) is a composer and librettist. He performs on pedal steel and modular synthesizer. Pitchfork called him a “mod-synth mastermind…funny and engaging.” Anthony Tommasini, in the New York Times, described his video opera, I Screwed Up the Future, as ”charming fantasy…drably comic and spacey.” Opera News described his one-act opera I Need Space as “delightfully weird…hilarious, dry and detached performances made this futuristic, retro story of love and rejection endearingly poignant.” Cady’s CDs have been released on Lockstep Records and Peacock Recordings and his podcast opera, Buick City, 1:00 AM is available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, and Spotify. The Brooklyn Arts Council, New Music USA, free103point9, The Casement Fund, Lighton International Artists Exchange and the American Music Center have funded his projects. He has lectured on his music at NYU, New School University, Wesleyan and ASU. He has been interviewed on WBEZ, WNYC, WKCR, WPIR, KMFA and East Village Radio. NPR featured him in “The Mix: 100 Composers Under 40.” Cady is the Artistic Director of Experiments in Opera, which has presented the music of over 40 composers, including Robert Ashley, Pauline Oliveros, and John Zorn. He has an M.A. in composition from Wesleyan University, where he studied with Alvin Lucier and Anthony Braxton, and a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance from Arizona State University. He was born in Flint, Michigan and now lives in New York City.
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.
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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 Charlie Madison at 212-226-0051 x110 or charliem@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:

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

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A complimentary Plata margarita with any food purchase.

CHECK THEFLEA.ORG OR CALL 212-226-0051 x107 FOR THE LATEST UPDATES & DEALS.
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Interested?  
Email aleeshan@theflea.org for more information!  
CALL 212.226.0051 x107 to join!