

GROUP REP PLAYBILL

THE LONNY CHAPMAN THEATRE

Unhidden Figures

Acknowledging Amazing African-American Women from all walks of life.



**Brave
Bess**



**Surgery
and
Divorce**



**Black
Bow**



**Mary
and
Sylvia &
Hercules**



**Piano
in the
Dark**



**Black
Flower
in the
White
House**



**Class
Project**



**Kizzy:
The Real
Wonder
Woman**



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Doug Haverty

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**KAPLAN-LORING
FOUNDATION**

the**GROU**prep
presents a Virtual Production celebrating Black History Month

UNHIDDEN FIGURES

BLACK BOW
by Matthew Guthrie

BLACK FLOWER IN THE WHITE HOUSE
by Tom Lazarus

BRAVE BESS
by Denise Downer

CLASS PROJECT
by Craig Holland

KIZZY: THE REAL WONDER WOMAN
by Doug Haverty

MARY AND SYLVIA & HERCULES
by Stevie Stern

PIANO IN THE DARK
by Doug Haverty

SURGERY AND DIVORCE
by Bert Emmett

Opening Sequence Animation and Transitions Animated by **Hartley Powers**
Artistic Council Advisor: **Debi Tinsley**

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Doug Engalla

Produced for the Group Rep
by **Kathleen Delaney, Brooklyn Sample & Melanie Lee**

SEQUENCE



BRAVE BESS
(1926)

Written by **Denise Downer**
Directed and Edited by **Katelyn Ann Clark**

With:
Juanita Dilla Olivo as Bess Coleman
Victor D'wayne Little as Robert S. Abbott



SURGERY AND DIVORCE
(1963)

Written by **Bert Emmett**
Directed by **Victor D'wayne Little**

With:
Keyara Milliner as Lorraine Hansberry
Adam Smith as Robert Nemiroff

Edited by **Doug Engalla**
Zoom Technical Engineering by **Russ Little**



BLACK BOW
(1965)

Written by **Matthew Guthrie**
Directed by **Kathleen Delaney**

With:
Maria Kress as Helene
Tristan Cunningham as Constance

Edited by **Matthew Guthrie, Jr.**



PIANO INTHE DARK (1988)

**BLACK FLOWER
IN THE WHITE HOUSE**
(2008)

Starring:
Maegan McConnell as Condoleezza Rice
Michael Gabiano as Muammar Gaddafi

CLASS PROJECT

(2020)

KIZZY:
THE REAL WONDER WOMAN
(2021)

With:

Bita Arefnia as Tameka
Todd Andrew Ball as Dr. Ward
T. Ryan Brennen as Dr. Russell
Cynthia Bryant as Rhonda Brooks
James J. Cox as Dr. Fauci
Peyton Kirkner as Janet Bryant
Rudy McCollum as Dr. Graham
Bruce Nehlsen as Dr. Baric
Diane Tomlin as Dr. Kizzmekia (Kizzy) Corbett



Who's Who

ACTORS

Bitá Arefnia (Tameka/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): Bitá Arefnia is a Persian actress from Austria. She recently graduated from the New York Film Academy earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting for Film. She's currently enrolled in the Master's program for Film and TV productions at USC. Group Rep productions she acted in include *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *A Twisted Christmas Carol* and *The Nine Winning One Acts 2020*. She has also assistant directed GRT productions such as *In My Mind's Eye*, *London Suite* and *Top Of The Tree*.

Todd Andrew Ball (Dr. Ward/ Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): Todd Andrew Ball (Dr. Andrew Ward): GRT credits include *Barrymore*, *Loose Knit*, *The Secret of Chimneys*, *Lone Star*, *Rumors*, *A Dull Pain Turned Sharp*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and *Tiger By The Tail*. Other theatre credits include William Gillette (*The Game's Afoot*), Jack (*Leading Ladies*), Hercule Poirot (Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee*), Lov Bensey (*Tobacco Road*), and Emperor Joseph (*Amadeus*).

Landon Beatty (Dennis/Piano in the Dark): Landon Beatty grew up in Alabama before attending UNC School of the Arts, graduating with a BFA. Professionally, Landon has performed with Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance, Providence Ballet Theatre, Les Ballet Grandiva, and Donn Arden's Jubilee in Las Vegas. Since moving to Los Angeles, Landon has performed with multiple theatre companies, various short film and TV projects, and performed in a feature film recognized by the IFS Film Festival for Best LGBTQ Film.

Karole Bennett (Kaylee/Class Project): Karole Bennett is a 2020 graduate of the LACC Theatre Academy. After joining the

Group Rep., she performed in "Hallways" and "Wine & Squeeze".

T. Ryan Brennan (Dr. Russell/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): T. Ryan Brennan is delighted to be working his acting chops once again. Most of his career in entertainment has been behind the scenes in production, predominately on the show *The Big Bang Theory*. His first gigs in the business were around age 5 when he was cast in a couple of TV commercials and he has been acting on and off ever since. University years were spent in New Zealand (where he now resides) at the University of Otago where he earned a Bachelor of Arts with double majors in Performing Arts Studies and Theatre Arts Studies and where he performed and directed numerous productions. He is incredibly grateful to GRT for giving him the opportunity to rekindle his love for acting.

Cynthia Bryant (Rhonda/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): A native of Erie Pennsylvania, I studied stage, television and film 5 years. I have appeared at GRT in *Going to Beal*; *Sunshine Boys* as Nurse; *Robert Johnson Trick the Devil* as Georgia; *The Time is Out of Joint* as Hecuba; *The Brothel* as Ethel; *God Bring Me a Miracle* as Mimi; *Not One More Foot of Land* as a Spirit; *Inspecting Carol* as Inspector; *Stepping Out* as Rose; *Stories About the Old Days* as Ivy, and recently *A Nice Family Gathering*, as Mom Helen. Also *Loose Knit* as Paula, and *Strangest Kind of Romance* as neighbor. At the Ebel in L.A., *What's Good for the Goose* as Ella. I also appeared on TV Show People's Court w/Gloria Allred as defendant character.

James J. Cox (Dr. Fauci/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): JAMES J. COX is an actor and a writer and is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA and Actors' Equity. His most recent stage production was the critically acclaimed solo show, "Love, Madness, and Somewhere in Between" which he wrote, performed and produced at the Hudson

Theatre. Other recent stage credits include "The Man Who Saved Everything", "Six Characters in Search of an Author", and "The Diary of Anne Frank". James dedicates his performance to his late mother, Lucille who loved every show he was in.

Tristan Cunningham (Constance/Black Bow): Tristan Cunningham "turns in a tour de force of portraits" as quoted by the San Francisco Chronicle. "Cunningham steps so fully into each character that with each snap of a transformation you hold your breath, as if observing a magic trick", SF-Gate. She has won the 2016 TBA Outstanding Performance Award and the 2016 BATCC Excellence in Theater Award. Her Bay Area credits include California Shakespeare Theater, Aurora Theater, SF Playhouse, Marin Shakespeare Company and more. Most recently she was in Season 2 of *Family Reunion* on Netflix, Season 1 of *All Rise* on CBS, and she will be in Season 1 of *The Fugitive* starring Kiefer Sutherland on Quibi TV. She is also featured in television shows *Lethal Weapon*, *Solve*, and *Bit*

Michael Gabiano (Muammar/Black Flower in the White House): NYC Theatre: World premieres of *Awaken the Wolves* (New Village) Steven McElroy, dir., *The Amazing Colossal Thing* (Vital Theatre), David Hilder, dir. LA: *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Group Rep) Bruce Kimmel, dir., *Hillary and Monica*, Joel Zwick, dir., *Reunion*, Kay Cole, dir., *Saturday Night at Grossinger's*, Susan Morgenstern, dir. Michael has performed on stages in 46 of the contiguous states. Television: "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend", "General Hospital", "Days...", "Sean Saves the World".

Kimberly Green (Brenda/Piano in the Dark): An Indiana University graduate. Her recent live virtual performances include "True Colors" with The Braid, "Snowflake", with the Road Theatre, and "So that Happened", "Finding the Way" and "Checkmate" with Smartphone Theatre. Notable past Theater credits include "It's Just Sex", (2017 Valley Theatre Best Featured Actress, 2018 NAACP Theatre Awards nominee Best Ensemble Cast). "Can God's Love" (2019 NAACP The-

atre Awards nominee Best Musical). TV and film credits include *Lucifer*, *The Young and the Restless* and *The Hot Chick*.

Peyton Kirkner (Janet/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): Peyton Kirkner is excited to play the role of Janet and help bring Kizzy's story to the world. She recently appeared in two shows at The Group Rep Theatre, most recently as Patty in *In My Mind's Eye* (2020) and before that as Trina in *A Carol Christmas* (2018). Peyton is also a regular in Kritzerland shows and benefit concerts for GRT. A sophomore in high school in Orange County, Peyton enjoys musical theatre, choir and being a member of her school's Thespian Club.

Maria Kress (Helene/Black Bow): Maria is overjoyed to be back working with The Group Rep in *Black Bow*. Last year, she played Lola Henderson in Doug Haverty's *In My Mind's Eye*. She was a member of Theatre West's ON THE AIR Players, who performed a live radio drama production of *It's A Wonderful Life*. Recent Zoom plays at Theatre West include *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other favorite incarnations: Mary Haines in *The Women*, Meredith in *Thicker than Water*, Elizabeth in "Not Relative" and Jeannette in *Without Annette*.

Victor D'wayne Little (Abbott/Brave Bess): (Actor, Director, Costumer) from St. Louis and a graduate of Central State University in Wilberforce, OH. Little has appeared in HBO's *Native Son*, as Pastor McJullian. As a member of The Group Rep, Little, directed and performed in, *Nine Winning One Acts* and *Homeward LA*. Also, Costumer, for, *Otherwise Engaged* and Asst Dir, *Agatha Christie's Secret of Chimneys*. Member of SAG, AEA, VME.

Rudy McCollum (Dr. Graham/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): Rudy McCollum is an actor from Los Angeles. He has been appearing in theater plays, block buster films and television since his early teens. He's appeared in Japanese movies, as well as video games. He thrives on creativity and hard work. Recently, he has been doing a

lot of work behind the camera. His favorite quote is, "Let's do it!"

Maegan McConnell (Condoleezza/Black Flower in the White House): Favorite roles include Maria (West Side Story), Johanna (Sweeny Todd), Petra (A Little Night Music), Ann Deever (All My Sons), Gwendolyn (The Importance of Being Earnest), Mabel (Pirates of Penzance), Lucy Brown (Three Penny Opera) Sharon/Sophie de Palma (Masterclass), Catherine (Pippin). Maegan has worked Off Broadway, with The 5th Avenue Theatre, South Coast Rep, The Old Globe, CTG, TUTS, Garry Marshall Theatre, McCoy-Rigby, East West Players, A Noise Within, The Troubadour Theater, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, among others. Maegan is thrilled to be involved with this project and really excited to work with The Group Rep.

Rosibel Mejia (Mary/Mary and Sylvia & Hercules): Rosibel Mejia grew up in NYC and graduated with a degree in Theatre Art from Scripps College in CA. Most recently she played Abuela in "In the Heights" & Mrs. Greer and Sophie the Kettle in "Annie" with the Miami Acting Company. She owns a business selling high value goods into Latin America and writes short stories in her free time. She lives in Miami; is happily married and has two wonderful teenage children.

Keyara Milliner (Lorraine/Surgery and Divorce): Keyara Milliner is a bicoastal actress working out of Los Angeles and New Orleans. Most recently Keyara appeared in the regional premiere of *The Wolves* at Southern Rep Theatre in New Orleans. She can also be seen on *NCIS: New Orleans*, *13 Reasons Why* and *Sydney To the Max*! Keyara aspires to tell the extraordinary stories of women and minorities as well as to champion the untold perspectives of new and innovative voices on screen.

Bruce Nehlsen (Dr. Baric/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): (Actor/Writer/Director): Bruce's favorite stage roles include Inspector Hearne in *Witness for the Prosecution*; Allen Dulles in *The Tragedy of JFK*; Cardinal

Zambelli in *Becket*; McWilliams in *Boy in the Backroom*; Dr. Baugh in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; The Lion in the *Wizard of Oz*; Roy in Plaza Suite; Snow in *First Monday in October*; Weller in *The Gin Game*; and Costello in *The Departed*. Directing credits include *I knew it* (Award winning one acts) Bruce's TV and Film roles include Guest in *Father*; Collin Rogers in *My Crazy Ex*; Jon Hudson in *Sunny Side Up*; Uncle Bruce in *The Greatest Cooking Show*; and Jimmy in *The Funeral*. Bruce is a member of The Group Repertory and Movable theater companies and an observer at the Actors Studio.

Juanita Dilla Olivo (Bessie/Brave Bess): Juanita Dilla Olivo is making her Zoom debut and excited to work with professionals from across the country. A graduate of FIU with some national touring experience, she's enjoying exploring this new medium of virtual theater from her very own home and would like to thank human ingenuity for making it possible for artists to connect and work together to bring art to everyone during these interesting times.

Michele Schultz (Ms. Hansen/Class Project): Michele Schultz was last seen on the Group Rep stage as "Lottie Lomax" in *The Secret of Chimneys* and is currently in rehearsal to play "Diana Nichols" and "Mrs. Sitgood" in Neil Simon's *London Suite*. She has appeared at Theatre 40 in the world premiere of *Sunday Dinner* as "Margaret Guardino," in *Bus Stop* as "Grace Hoylard" and in *26 Pebbles*, demonstrating her physical and vocal versatility in the multiple roles of "Georgia," "Kat," and "Carrie," for which she received both LA Broadway World and Valley Theatre nominations. She has received nominations as well for playing "Marguerite Oswald" in the world premiere of *Alf* by Julio Vera, "Dr. Elizabeth Woolley" in *Write Me a Murder* (Theatre Palisades), "Miss Meacham" in *Separate Tables* (Theatre 40), and "Mrs. Mayhew" in *Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution* (Group Rep). Other recent roles include "Mrs. Baines" in *Major Barbara* (for which she received a Scenie Award), "Madge" in *The Dresser*, and "Hippolyta" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Michele

is a member of the Group Rep Theatre, Theatre 40, and the Antaeus Academy, and lives in Los Angeles with her husband and animal children. She earned her MFA in Acting from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. She has studied with Armin Shimerman, Geoffrey Wade, and Avery Brooks, among others. She still practices entertainment law, with a degree from Yale Law School.

Adam Smith (Robert/Divorce and Surgery): Adam is excited to be back on stage in ... Oh wait!

Adam is thrilled to be performing in front of a live audience once again ... No, that's not right either. Adam is making his virtual stage debut, and happy he bought stock in ZOOM!!! Lol. This is Adam's second production with GRT. He was seen in 2019's *Nine Winning One Acts*. Other favorite credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cabaret*, *The Producers*, *Angeles In America*.

Cathy Diane Tomlin (Kizzy/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): Recent theater credits include: *Holiday Traditions and Trappings: Santa Claus Wanted* (The Group Rep), *Blossoming 2020: The Virtual Edition* (The Vagrancy), *Loose Knit* (The Group Rep), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (The Group Rep), *Lizzy* (Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA), *Pattens* (Theatre 40); TV credits: "Nightmare Best Friend" (Lifetime), "Twin Betrayal" (Lifetime), "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" (The CW), "Adam Ruins Everything" (TruTV), "Grey's Anatomy" (ABC-TV); Films: "Red Wing" (opposite Frances Fisher), "Michael Clayton" (opposite George Clooney), "Anabolic Life". Member AEA, SAG-AFTRA. www.cathydianetomlin.net.

WRITERS

Denise Downer (Playwright/Brave Bess): Denise has worked in children's television animation for most of her career. Her television writing experience covers all age groups, having written for such shows as *AVENGERS BLACK PANTHER'S QUEST*, *MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN*, *POWER RANGERS*, *DC SUPERHERO GIRLS*, *CARE BEARS*, *PUPPY DOG PALS*, *FANCY NANCY*, *BARBIE DREAM-*

TOPIA, *MOTOWN MAGIC* and *SPLASH AND BUBBLES*, to name a few. In addition to television, Denise has written for publication. *TOMBSTONE TWINS* is a darkly comedic, children's graphic novel published by Stone Arch Books. She has also tried her hand at playwriting, a creative form she truly loves. Denise is happy to be part of the Group Repertory Theater where she hopes to bring her scripts to the stage. She has studied improvisation at Upright Citizens Brigade and Journalism at San Jose State University.

Bert Emmett (Playwright/Divorce and Surgery): A long standing member of The Group Rep, Bert has performed in numerous productions at GRT including *Cobb*, *Lombardi*, *Sherlock's Last Case*, and *The Armadillo Necktie*. In 2016, he wrote and performed in his original short play *American Zarathustra* in GRT's "Puttin' on Your Shorts". He was also recently featured in the *Gem of the Ocean* and *Alice in Wonderland* at A Noise Within in Pasadena. He has directed *Breadcrumbs* and *Unfathomable* for GRT and is the Executive Director.

Matthew Guthrie (Playwright/Black Bow): Matthew Guthrie was born in Aurora, Illinois. With a Midwest upbringing, Mr. Guthrie was accepted in the theater program at the University of Illinois. Moved to Massachusetts with his family and continued his education in the screenwriting program at New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Mr. Guthrie has written and produced several plays: *Band Aid Rushes*, *Glamour*, *Obscene* and *The Interview*. Work presented at Off-Broadway theatres such as La Mama Experimental Theatre Club. Mr. Guthrie studied acting with Stella Adler and Yevgeny Lansky. He is also a painter and sculptor. Mr. Guthrie is married with two children.

Doug Haverty (Playwright/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman and Piano in the Dark): Doug Haverty has had his award-winning plays and musicals produced worldwide. *Could I Have This Dance?* was named "Best New Play" by American Theatre Critics Association. His works have been presented

at Cherry Lane, Charlotte Rep., Laguna Playhouse, Phoenix Theatre, Florida Studio, The Colony, Theatre 40, The Lyric, Group Rep, Long Island Stage, Theatre in the Square, Lobero, etc. Published plays: *In My Mind's Eye*, *Inside Out*, *Could I Have This Dance?*, *Flavia* & *The Dream Maker*.

Craig Holland (Playwright/Class Project): Craig is honored to have his play *Class Project* selected as part of the *Unhidden Figures* festival of shorts. Previous productions at Group Rep Theatre include *A Cheesy Christmas*, selected for GRT's *Holiday Traditions & Trappings*, and *Phubbing* for the BWW award winning festival of shorts *Nine Winning One Acts*. Additionally, Craig's comedy *LOL* was selected for the OC-Centric New Works Festival. In 2019, Craig's full-length romantic comedy *Love Is A Crocodile* was produced by the Misfits Theatre Company.

Tom Lazarus (Playwright/Black Flower in the White House): After making award winning educational films for PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, Mr. Lazarus wrote seven Movies of the Week and worked as a writer/producer on nine network series. He has had eight feature films made from his original screenplays including *STIGMATA* the #1 film in America upon its release. He has directed five feature films, and wrote, directed five seasons of a cable TV hit series. In 2015, Mr. Lazarus directed the World Premiere of his play *THE PRINCES OF KINGS ROAD* to standing room only audiences in Los Angeles and has directed at the Blank Theater, the 2 Cents Theater Company, The Ensemble Studio Theater and at The Odyssey Theaters in Los Angeles. In 2020, Tom directed *MOONLESS NIGHT* for a One Act Festival at Group Repertory Theater and Stevie Stern's *MERRY CHRISTMAS, RELATIVELY SPEAKING* at GRT's holiday themed festival.

Stevie Stern (Playwright/Mary and Sylvia & Hercules): Stevie's credits include, Writer – TV: "Melrose Place," "World's Wildest Police Videos; Plays: *The Autopsy of Honey Bees* (second place at the Earth Matters On Stage competition), *David Hockney's Couch*, *The Baby Shower*, *Reader's The-*

atre The 2 Glennis Fish-Adams; Producer – *The Princes of Kings Road* – SRO run at the Neutra Institute in Silverlake, two performances at Modernism Week in Palm Springs, and exclusive two-night production at the Neutra-designed Lovell Health House in Los Feliz. For GRT's Holiday virtual one act festival, Stevie wrote *Merry Christmas, Relatively Speaking* and directed *Santa Claus Wanted*.

DIRECTORS/ PRODUCERS/ DESIGNERS

Marie Broderick (Director/Piano in the Dark): Born in Vietnam and raised in Seattle, WA, Marie is now happy to make Los Angeles her home. Marie is an actor who often finds herself wearing many hats. Her directing credits include the solo play, *The Viola Mountain Door Company* by Gregory Abbott and Jephtha Storm's *Swamp Flowers*. Favorite acting credits include: Sally in Shepard's *A Lie of the Mind*, Irina in *Three Sisters*, most recently Joan Crawford in *Taming the Lion* at Theatre 40, and Liz in GRT's production of Teresa Rebeck's *Loose Knit* (Broadway World Regional Best Supporting Actress Nomination). Marie is a lifetime member of The Actors Studio.

Katelyn Ann Clark (Director/Brave Bess): Director: Zoom – *Missileer*; *Me Species... You Species*. Stage – *Let Me Hear You Whisper*, *The Shape of Things*, *Division Street*, *The Assessment*, *February to August* at GRT. Actor: Partial Stage - Just Another Day director Susan Lee at GRT, Mrs. Cage as Mrs. Cage director Barbara Bain at NOHO Actor's Studio, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* director Dee Jae Cox at Stella Adler, *Call This Number* director Jed Alexander at Chapman University. Partial Film - *The West and the Ruthless*, 11:11, Discarded (2009)

Katheen Delaney (Director/Black Bow – Producer/Unhidden Figures): (Actor/Director/Choreographer) first joined the Group Rep in 1989-1993. She moved back to NYC but returned to LA to rejoin GRT in 2016.

She is a transplant from NYC & MA and now calls LA home. She is the First Vice President of the Board and Head of the Fundraising Committee, the Director/Producer of *Unhidden Figures*, the Director/Producer of *Holiday Traditions & Trappings*, directed *PHUBBING* in Group Reps 2020 *NINE WINNING ONE ACTS*, and the new Co Director of YT- Group Reps Outreach Youth Theatre. Kathleen's voice overs span decades including cartoons and commercials. Her most recent onstage role at GRT was as Miss Preen in the 2019 production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Her choreography and directing can be seen on stage, screen and music videos. She was awarded "Best Choreographer" for *Sweet Charity* and *On The Twentieth Century* and "Best Director" for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* by MA Critics Circle. She is currently in pre-production of *Sing for Your Supper*, her original cooking show with dinner and music, and *Motel 66* for the Group Rep's upcoming original play series.

Disraeli Ellison (Director/Kizzy: The Real Wonder Woman): A graduate of Grambling State University, Disraeli applied his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communications knowledge within the entertainment industry. Keeping with the entrepreneurial spirit that burns in every artist, Disraeli has acted in numerous theatre, film and television productions as well as producing television, public access, theater, film and literary work. When the opportunity arises, and the material moves Disraeli he will at times lend his creative prowess to direct. "I am a martyr by cause and writer by faith. Mine is only a grain of sand in the sea of eternity. My reward will be no less than vanity's persecution. I am what I am."

Doug Engalla (Editor/Unhidden Figures): Doug has served as photographer for productions on both the Main Stage and Upstairs at the Group Rep. In this capacity, he's also photographed and edited a series of featurettes with playwrights, directors, and actors about these productions since 2015. His recent project was the FUNdraiser *Maura Hanlon Smith: All of Me*. In addition, Doug has, to date, directed eight

full-length productions and five short plays at the Group Rep: coming next, Neil Simon's *London Suite*.

Doug Haverty (Graphic Design/Unhidden Figures): Doug Haverty has had his award-winning plays and musicals produced worldwide. *Could I Have This Dance?* was named "Best New Play" by American Theatre Critics Association. His works have been presented at Cherry Lane, Charlotte Rep., Laguna Playhouse, Phoenix Theatre, Florida Studio, The Colony, Theatre 40, The Lyric, Group Rep, Long Island Stage, Theatre in the Square, Lobero, etc. Published plays: *In My Mind's Eye*, *Inside Out*, *Could I Have This Dance?*, *Flavia* & *The Dream Maker*.

Tom Lazarus (Director/Black Flower in the White House): After making award winning educational films for PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, Mr. Lazarus wrote seven Movies of the Week and worked as a writer/producer on nine network series. He has had eight feature films made from his original screenplays including *STIGMATA* the #1 film in America upon its release. He has directed five feature films, and wrote, directed five seasons of a cable TV hit series. In 2015, Mr. Lazarus directed the World Premiere of his play *THE PRINCES OF KINGS ROAD* to standing room only audiences in Los Angeles and has directed at the Blank Theater, the 2 Cents Theater Company, The Ensemble Studio Theater and at The Odyssey Theaters in Los Angeles. In 2020, Tom directed *MOONLESS NIGHT* for a One Act Festival at Group Repertory Theater and Stevie Stern's *MERRY CHRISTMAS, RELATIVELY SPEAKING* at GRT's holiday themed festival.

Melanie Lee (Producer/Unhidden Figures): Mel's theater career began in Cleveland at the age of 6 and with a move to Chicago she choreographed and competed for Arthur Murray Dance Company and worked in comedy, improv and sketch as well as the renowned Apollo Theater Chicago. She then moved on to Los Angeles where she was lucky enough to work in commercials, TV and film. Mel spent 6 years in Panama directing and acting in Professional Theater,

TV and film. Now back state side, Melanie is back at it directing and choreographing theater all over the country and is very excited to join the team here at Group Rep and privileged to work with such inspired talent.

Victor D'wayne Little (Director/Divorce and Surgery): Victor D'wayne Little (Actor, Director, Costumer) from St. Louis and a graduate of Central State University in Wilberforce, OH. Little has appeared in HBO's *Native Son*, as Pastor McJullian. As a member of The Group Rep, Little, directed and performed in, *Nine Winning One Acts* and *Homeward LA*. Also, Costumer, for, *Otherwise Engaged* and Asst Dir, Agatha Christie's *Secret of Chimneys*. Member of SAG, AEA, VME.

Heidi Mendez (Director/Class Project – Tech Director/Unhidden Figures): Heidi Mendez has directed/choreographed over 60 shows at all levels, in various countries and languages. She is thrilled to develop a new talent: directing via zoom. This is her third production with GRT using video media technology. She is easily recognized in the national Consumer Cellular dog park commercial and multiple costar roles on all 3 major networks. Heidi feels blessed to be able to contribute to Black History month directing this lovely play performed by brilliant actresses.

Hartley Powers (Animation & Sound Design/Unhidden Figures): Hartley received her degree in digital media, which is what started her career in the post-production industry. In 2009, she started working at Pongo – a boutique agency that specializes in broadcast creative marketing. After filling many different positions at Pongo – from production manager, producer, editor, graphic artist, and VP – she is now the President of the company. She loves being able to use her visual storytelling skills to help bring virtual theater to a new level.

Brooklyn Sample (Producer/Unhidden Figures): Professional actress, writer and director. After graduating from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, she went

on to study at The Beverly Hills Playhouse. She has sat on the board of The Theatre Guild of Ancon where she played a part in revamping the life of the theatre's culture directing, writing and acting in six shows over the course of eighteen months. Those included *Keep Me* (writer, director, actor), *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* (Director), and *Godspell* (Co-director, actor). Other notable stage shows include Sally in *Night of the Iguana* & Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Sally in *Lie of the Mind*, Sybil in *Private Lives*, and musicals *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *The Wiz*. As a newer member she is very excited to be producing a second virtual play festival for GRT.

Stevie Stern (Director/Mary and Sylvia & Hercules): Stevie's credits include, Writer – TV: "Melrose Place," "World's Wildest Police Videos; Plays: *The Autopsy of Honey Bees* (second place at the Earth Matters On Stage competition), *David Hockney's Couch*, *The Baby Shower*, *Reader's Theatre The 2 Glennis Fish-Adams*; Producer – *The Princes of Kings Road* – SRO run at the Neutra Institute in Silverlake, two performances at Modernism Week in Palm Springs, and exclusive two-night production at the Neutra-designed Lovell Health House in Los Feliz. For GRT's Holiday virtual one act festival, Stevie wrote *Merry Christmas*, *Relatively Speaking* and directed *Santa Claus Wanted*.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ellie Birdwell, Clayton Conroy, Lee Grober, Jakeem Hawkins, Allison Kirkner, Gregg Abbott Miller, Lloyd Pedersen, Hartley Powers, Marc Antonio Pritchett, Mark Stancato, Debi Tinsley

UNHIDDEN FIGURES ACTING COMPANY



Bitia Arefnia



Todd Andrew Ball



Landon Beatty



Karole Bennett



T. Ryan Brennan



Cynthia Bryant



James J. Cox



Tristan Cunningham



Michael Gabiano



Kimberly Green



Peyton Kirkner



Maria Kress



Victor D'wayne Little



Rosibel Mejia



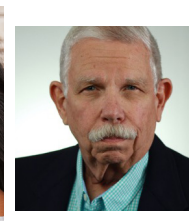
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Directed by Doug Engalla

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Todd Andrew Ball
Landon Beatty
Robert Benedict
Michele Bernath
Van Boudreaux
T. Ryan Brennan
Marie Broderick
Barbara Brownell
Cynthia Bryant
Patrick Burke
Anastasia Burnett
Dave Buzzotta
Paul Cady
Fox Carney
Katelyn Ann Clark
Stephanie Colet
Jennifer Collins
Clayton Conroy
James J. Cox
Jack Csenger
Julie Davis
Kathleen Delaney
Morgan Donegan
Denise Downer
Tom Dugan
Larry Eisenberg
Bert Emmett
Doug Engalla
Lareen Faye
Bill Fitzhugh
Michael Gabiano
JC Gafford
Pascale Gigon
Renee Gorsey
Lee Grober
Matt Guthrie
Kaitlin Haire
Doug Haverty
Craig Holland
Cynthia Howe
Brad Kahn
Christian Land
Tom Lazarus
Melanie Lee
Suzy London
Matt Lorenzo
Larry Margo
Hisato Masuyama
Suzanne Mayes
Stan Mazin
Robert McCollum

Lisa McGee-Mann
Heidi Mendez
Sherry Michaels
Bruce Nehlsen
Helen O'Brien
Lloyd Pedersen
Hartley Powers
Susan Priver
Beccy Quinn
Tom Regan
Richard Reich
Eddie Reyes
Torrey Richardson
Michael Robb
Clara Rodriguez
Judy Rosenfeld
Kristin Rowles
Brooklyn Sample
Michele Schultz
Art Shulman
Patrick Skelton
Adam Smith
Suzan Solomon
Mark Stancato
Stevie Stern
Neil Thompson
Cathy Tomlin
Sal Valletta
Gwen Van Dam
Sascha Vanderslik
Harley Walker
Chris Winfield
Janet Wood
Gina Yates

Honorary Member

Richard Woody

Technical Associates

Christian Ackerman
Cheryl Crosland
Shira Dubrovner
Hersha Parady
Steve Shaw
Pawena Sriha
Sammy Stritmatter
Debi Tinsley
Alyson York
Leslie Young

PA Program Members

Bitu Arefnia
Karole Bennett
Carlos Gomez
Kevin Hoffman
David Ibrahim
John Ledley
Tracy Leuna
Joseph Marcelo
Keyara Milliner
Marc Antonio Pritchett
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A BRIEF HISTORY

The Group Rep at the Lonny Chapman Theatre began May 1973 with a rag-tag group of twelve actors performing scenes for audiences in a laundromat-turned-36-seat theatre on Van Ness Boulevard in Hollywood. When Lonny Chapman first entered that theatre, the magic began. Here was an Artistic Director in search of a theatre and we were a theatre company in search of an Artistic Director. The match was perfect and the Group Repertory Theatre was born with Lonny Chapman at the helm. This partnership continued until his passing in 2007.

The first show, *Round Dance*, an adaptation of Schnitzlers *La Ronde*, was an immediate hit and the GRT was on its way. By 1974, with the growth in the number of productions, additional company members, as well as having acquired its professional status with Equity, Chapman suggested that a bigger space was needed. A new 58-seat venue was rented on Magnolia which began playing to sold out houses. GRT's growth and success required yet a larger venue. In 1984, with the help of the North Hollywood Redevelopment Agency, we moved to the current Burbank and Vineland location, which was renovated into its present configuration.

In 1999, Lonny was honored when the theater's name officially became the "Lonny Chapman Theatre," home to the Group Repertory Theatre members, now called the Group Rep at the Lonny Chapman Theatre.

The Group Rep is a permanent company of actors, directors, writers and technicians. The company has produced over 300 productions including more than 50 World Premieres of original works. We now have more than 80 active company members, from those with notable careers to those building new careers. The company has been home to untold numbers – many of whom continue successful careers in the Industry today. The Group Rep looks forward to welcoming new passionate artists to its distinguished roster.

In addition to professional stage productions, Group Rep gives back to the community with its Annual Foster Children's Holiday Party. Its Participating Actor and Technical Associates (PATA) program provides internship opportunities for aspiring artists in the creative and technical fields. Past "graduates" of Group Rep's PATA include such notables as Sean Penn and Jennifer Tilly.

In 2016 we opened Upstairs-at-the-Group-Rep, an intimate, black box theatre with 32 seats (not unlike the original theatre in Hollywood). Since that time we have run shows in tandem (or in "rep" as our name implies) offering our growing audiences even more theatrical adventures.

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