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T H E A M E R I C A N P R E M I E R E

BY OBIE & GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT

DANIEL MACIUOR

About Urban Stages

For over 30 years Urban Stages has championed new diverse talents that speak to multifaceted issues within our society. When you buy a ticket or become a donor, you are making exciting eye-opening art possible. Previous award-winning and critically-acclaimed productions have included *Mabel Madness*, *Unseamly, Honky, Jim Brochu's Character Man, Langston in Harlem* and the Pulitzer Prize nominated *Bulrusher*.

When you're a patron you help to bring art and theater to more than just you! In addition to our Off-Broadway plays and Winter Rhythms music festivals (coming again December 1-11), there is also Urban Stages' Outreach. Outreach tours original educational plays and workshops to libraries, schools and organizations, holds extended artist residencies in places such as the Florence E. Smith Senior Center in Queens and conducts an annual summer theater camp that serves as a safe-haven and creative community for 10-14 year olds. Outreach holds over 250 events/programs every year in all 5 boroughs of NYC. Together, we keep the city vibrant with art and theater for all!

Spread the word, donate and continue being a patron. By simply taking a seat at our theater, you are doing so much more.

Urban Stages' Board of Directors Lynn San Andres (President), Mik Chwalek (Vice President), Peggy O'Brien (Secretary), Thomas Hehman (Treasurer), Sandy Berger, Mary Churchill, April Gow, Joanne V. Graham, Frances Hill, Martha Sproule, Stanley Zareff

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PRESENTS THE AMERICAN PREMIERE OF

COMMUNION

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DANIEL MACIVOR

SEPTEMBER 30TH – OCTOBER 30TH 2016

Crew

| Assistant to the Director | Ashley Gates Jansen |
|---------------------------|--|
| Set Designer | Frank Oliva |
| Lighting Designer | Deborah Constantine |
| Costume Designer | Gail Cooper-Hecht |
| Technical Director | |
| Production Stage Manager | Krystle Henninger |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Alayna Graziani |
| Sound Design | Verne Good |
| Dramaturg | Iris Turcott |
| Press Representative | Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations |
| House Managers | Astrid Perkins & Myan Disnie Sebastien |
| Theatre Maintenance | Ira Jasinover |

Actors, Production Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

WHO'S WHO

Daniel MacIvor (Playwright/Director): In New York: writer of Marion Bridge: Urban Stages; writer/director of A Beautiful View: The Public Theatre Under the Radar Festival; writer/performer of Monster, Here Lies Henry, and writer/performer/director of In On It: PS 122; writer of Never Swim Alone (Overall Best of Fringe), and His Greatness: New York Fringe Festival; writer of The Soldier Dreams: Theatre East. He is the recipient of an OBIE Award

and a GLADD Award. Daniel has often performed at the Wexner Center at OSU and at the Spoletto Festival in South Carolina. He is currently touring his solo show *Who Killed Spalding Gray?* with his company reWork Productions. Visit them at reworkproductions.com and follow him on Twitter @danielmacivor



Erica Bradshaw (Carolyn) is very excited to join the Urban Stages family! Graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Erica originated the role of Adele in Arthur Millers' *Mr. Peter's Connections* (off-Broadway) and has worked in several regional theaters including; Hartford Stage, Signature Theater (NYC), Actors Theater of Louisville, Milwaukee Rep, City Theater, Delaware Theater Company, Seattle Shakespeare Theater, and the Actor's

Gang. Winter 2016 Erica will star in, *This Wonderful Life*, a solo holiday show, at Luna Stage, West Orange, NJ. Her television credits include over 20 episodes of *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Good Wife*, *Rescue Me*, *Limitless*, and *Orange is the New Black* (season 4). This summer Erica appeared in the world premier musical *Girls Shakes Loose* at the Eugene O'Neill National Musical Theatre Conference and headlined NYC Pride at the LGBT Center with her solo show White America Hero. Erica has been a senior teaching artist working in locations all over the country for over 20 years. www.ericabradshaw.com



Stephanie Cozart (Leda): Off-Broadway: Lost in Yonkers (TACT) and Seven Rabbits on a Pole (Urban Stages). Denver Center Theatre Company: over 24 productions, including Arcadia, Sylvia, Plainsong, Amadeus, A Christmas Carol, and The Miser. She performed the one-woman play, The Syringa Tree, at Portland Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Capital Rep, and Lizard Head Theatre Company. Other

credits: The Explorers Club (Lone Tree Arts), As You Like It and All My Sons (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Doubt (Virginia Stage), You Can't Take It With You (Cincinnati Playhouse and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), The Crucible (Cincinnati Playhouse and Rep Theatre St. Louis), An Ideal Husband (Paper Mill Playhouse). Other theatres include Barrington Stage, Laguna Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Adirondack Theatre Festival. Film/TV credits include Reflection, The Good Wife, and Law and Order: SVU. MFA: The National Theatre Conservatory.



Jackie Hansen (Ann) is thrilled to be back at Urban Stages and very grateful to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew. Off-Broadway: *Shatter* (Urban Stages). Jackie is also the creator of the web-series *Brooklyn Basics*. Training: BFA, University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Special Thanks to Ashley, Frances, and Daniel. To Jonny for his undying love and support. For my Mom; how lucky are we? www.jackiehansen.com Ashley Gates Jansen (Assistant to the Director) is a theatre artist, minister, and teacher. She is also a master coach. Ashley has been counseling and coaching clients for decades and has experience working with artists/addictions/mental illness/spiritual despair and personal relationships. She is committed to helping others rediscover their inner divinity, grace, power, and wisdom. Ashley trained and teaches at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. www.souldivers.net

Frank J Oliva (Set Designer) is an NYC-based Production Designer for Stage and Film, working primarily on new work. Recent: Visiting Hours (Theatre Lab), #liberated (IRT Theatre), Sisters on the Ground, The Wolves and Blessing (Playwrights Horizons Downtown), The Mountaintop (Kitchen Theatre Co.), El Burlador de Sevilla (Repertorio Español). Film: Wetware, Late Expectations and Marmalade. As Associate Designer: The Wolves (Playwrights Realm, NYS&F), Abduction from the Seraglio (Des Moines Opera), The Little Foxes (Cleveland Playhouse). Upcoming: Sweat (Center for Contemporary Opera), Autumn (Billie Holiday Theatre/Restoration Plaza), The Merry Wives of Windsor (Two River Theatre). BFA/NYU. www.frankjoliva.com

Deborah Constantine (Lighting Designer) is pleased to be returning to Urban Stages. She previously designed the lights for *My Occasion of Sin* in 2012. Recent designs include three one-acts for el Teatro La Candelaria Festival in Bogata, Columbia, originally produced by New Perspectives Theatre Company for its Short Play Festival in NYC. Theatre companies include the Hangar Theatre, Ithaca (*I Loved, I Lost, I Made Sphagetti; Dirty Blonde; To Kill a Mocking Bird*); Capital Repertory Theatre, Albany (*A Christmas Story, the Musical; Souvenir, Crowns; The God Game*); Bristol Riverside Theatre in Bristol, PA (*Bus Stop, An American Christmas Songbook, Ragtime, Barrymore, Pirates of Penzance*). Designs include *La Traviata, The Banana Monologues, June Moon, Same Train, The Big Knife, The Barber of Seville*. Other companies at which she has designed are Williamstown Theatre Festival, Hartford Theatreworks, Bronx Opera, the Workshop Theatre Company, Two River Theatre Company, Westport Country Playhouse, Primary Stages. DeborahConstantine.com

Gail Cooper-Hecht (Costume Designer), has designed costumes for over 300 productions for Broadway, Off-Broadway, Regional Theaters, National and International Tours, Television (PBS, HBO, Showtime, CBS, and A&E). Recent designs are: All Female OTHELLO, In White America, Most Dangerous Man In America, Queen Esther Marrow World Tours, Three Mo' Tenors (World Tour), Shanghai Gesture, Off-Broadway Massinessa by Lorey Hayes for Take Wing And Soar Productions, Savior at the Dwyer Cultural Center in Harlem, Room Service Revival at the SoHo Playhouse, Arrivals (Bank St. Theater), and the Obie award winning Yiddish Pirates of Penzance. Recently, she has designed costumes for Sinners directed by Brian Cox and Urban Stages' Mabel Madness. It has been her privilege to collaborate with many renowned actors, directors and producers. Stars who have worn her designs include: Helen Hayes, Maurice Evans, Cyril Richard, Eartha Kitt, Lee Grant, Jerry Ohrbach, Melba Moore, Robert Guillaume, Sherman Helmsley, Carol Channing, Tammy Grimes, Tony Randall, Jack Klugman, Estelle Parsons, Renee Taylor, Nanette Fabray, Louis Jourdan, Robert Goulet and Geraldine Page (including the dress she wore when she received her Academy Award, which was actually her 3rd Act costume for The Circle in which she was currently performing). Taught Costume Design at Marymount Manhattan College, is a board member of The League of Professional Theatre Women and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Gail Has been nominated for 4 Audelco Awards and won The Innovative Theater Award.

Tony Crawford (Technical Director) is Brooklyn-based production manager, technical director and designer. Previously Technical Director for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and Wishing Star Productions. Assistant Technical Director for The Richmond Ballet; Production Manager for Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and The Working Theater; Scenic Artist for Birmingham Children's Theatre and The Black Hills Playhouse. Scene designs for Seaside Rep, Southern Illinois University, and Lincoln College. Light designs for Melissa Barak, Southern Illinois University, and Lincoln College.

Krystle Henninger (Production Stage Manager): Krystle has worked with Urban Stages on a number of projects including Unseamly (PSM and composer), Winter Rhythms (Asst. to the Producer), summer camp (SM), the outreach program (SM). NY credits: A Christmas Carol (Clurman - PSM), The Weird Tree (PSM), Karaoke Bacchae (PSM), Women are Crazy because Men are A**holes (Cherry Lane - SM), Spot on the Wall (NYMF – ASM), The Tooth of Crime (Columbia Stages – PSM), Brooklynite (Vineyard – PM Intern), Peter and the Wolf (BAM – ASM), The House of Connelly and A Texas Trilogy (ReGroup Theatre - PSM). Tour: StarQuest Dance Competition (Auditor), A Gun Show (Sō Percussion - SM). Krystle is a published playwright, songwriter, and novelist with multiple projects in the pipelines. MFA Stage Management Columbia University. Proud member AEA. krystlehenninger.com

Alayna Graziani (Assistant Stage Manager): NYC Credits: Much Ado About Nothing (Hudson Warehouse, PSM), Othello (Classic Stage Company's The Young Company, PSM), Blue Window (Columbia Stages, PSM), Titus Andronicus (Hudson Warehouse, PSM), The World of Extreme Happiness (Manhattan Theatre Club, Production Assistant), Festen (Columbia Stages, PSM). Alayna is also the Production Manager at Hudson Warehouse. MFA Stage Management Columbia University. Proud member of AEA.



FROM PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR DANIEL MACIVOR

"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." - Leonard Cohen

My plays are often for the broken parts of us. Mostly I write of (and from) the flaw, the wound. And *Communion* is no exception. Here we meet three people in various stages of injury – that injury is in one case bandaged with humor, held tight with a hard splint of sarcasm, in another case it is twitching and raw, an exposed and metaphysical discomfort, and in the third case, distant and isolated behind a mask of calm and confidence. I would hope that somewhere in these injuries we see our own, and through quiet contemplation, and laughter, and sadness, we come together with these people and their stories in the kind of communion that only the theatre allows.



FROM THE DESK OF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FRANCES HILL

It is Urban Stages' pleasure to welcome back Daniel MacIvor to our stage. Mr. MacIvor was with US during the American Premiere of his play *Marion Bridge*. Happily returning to our

stage are Stephanie Cozart (*Seven Rabbits on a Pole* and *Sweepers*, US production at Capital Rep, Albany) and Jackie Hansen (*Shatter*). Deborah Constantine (Lighting Designer) and Krystle Henninger (Stage Manager) are also back from other Urban Stages productions. The artistic talents of playwrights, directors, designers and our technical staff working together are what creates excitement on the stage.

From my point of view, watching the artists' talents mature from one production to another is rewarding. Finding and hiring new creative actors and designers is also welcomed. *Communion* brings Erica Bradshaw's talent as Carolyn to our stage. Frank Oliva has brought Mr. MacIvor's philosophy of minimalism to the set as design.

Returning to Urban Stages for our eighth annual *Winter Rhythms* Musical Series, scheduled for December 1st through the 11th, are Karen Akers, Klea Blackhurst, Jim Brochu, Mark Nadler, Steve Ross, Tom Toce and many others. These musical artists are bringing their new works to our stage as part of our Bistro and Mac Award winning Benefit Series, produced by Peter Napolitano, Urban Stages' Director of Musical Theater. In addition to the best in cabaret, jazz and classical music, Urban Stages will showcase new musicals during the series, including Peter and Matthew Martin *Ward's The Lady in Penthouse B*.

Please find more information about US on our website www.urbanstages.org, Facebook and Twitter. Be on our Patron's email list by signing up at the box office. Hope to see you at our SPRING PRODUCTION IN MARCH!

ADDITIONAL CREDIT: Assistant Costume Designer.....Susie Gabresillassie

SCHEDULED TALK BACKS: Professionals discussing subjects the play evokes after the show.

| Oct 22 nd | 3pm: Claudia Coenen, CT, MTP: |
|------------------------|--|
| | a bereavement counselor. |
| Oct 26 th : | Sandea Green-Stark LCSW-R: |
| | clinical social worker practicing psychotherapy. |
| Oct 30 th : | Margaret L. Seely LCSW-R: |
| | a therapist and supervisor at Identity House, |
| | supervising LGBTO peer counselors. |

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