



# MENU

ROGUE  
\*MACHINE  
THEATRE

PRESENTS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF



# Bacon

## by Sophie Swithinbank

featuring

WESLEY GUIMARÃES\* & JACK LANCASTER

PRODUCTION DESIGN  
STEPHEN GIFFORD\*\*

SOUND DESIGN  
CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO\*\*

COSTUME DESIGN  
CHRISTINE COVER FERRO

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER  
JEN ALBERT

INTIMACY DIRECTOR  
JOY DEMICHELE

DIALECT COACH  
TUFFET SCHMELZLE

SCENIC PAINTING AND MURALS  
JENNY FLACK MURALS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
GRANT GERRARD

PHOTOS BY  
JEFF LORCH

CASTING BY  
VICTORIA HOFFMAN

STAGE MANAGER  
RICH WONG

GRAPHIC DESIGN  
MICHELLE HANZELOVA-BIERBAUER

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
RACHEL ANN MANHEIMER

PRODUCED BY JUSTIN OKIN, MARK GIBERSON, LEXI SLOAN AND BETSY ZAJKO

DIRECTED BY  
MICHAEL MATTHEWS\*\*\*

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the US

\*\* Member of United Scenic Artists USA Local 829

\*\*\* Director is a member of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)



## Playwright's Note:

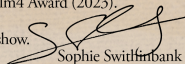
*Bacon* is about what happens when teenagers learn to bully and humiliate each other before they learn to love and accept themselves. The play is based on real events. Its two central characters, Mark and Darren, were born from an act of bullying I witnessed, which led me to explore the idea of learned negative behaviours. Subsequently, other experiences attached themselves to the story. I began to connect the bullying incident to an intense and semi-toxic relationship I had experienced growing up. It was a confusing, dangerously exciting time; and through the play I intend to encompass that light, teenage, carefree lack of perspective, full of blindness.

A number of audience members, regardless of age or gender, have said on seeing the play, 'this is my story'. The notion that the boys' story is, in some ways, everyone's story, is what makes it a complex and vital narrative through which to explore identity and sexuality. The play also explores the binaries of class in relation to sexuality, and how confidence and acceptance can be closely related to social standing, from family to family.

*Bacon* is a relationship drama for the modern age. At once tragic and euphoric, it questions whether we can do better to guide teenagers through the process of becoming adults. At the heart of *Bacon*, is the study of the journey from boy to man, and why so often, boys fail to make it there. My writing journey began in Los Angeles eleven years ago, when I was studying at Occidental College. Since then I have been slowly building a career as a playwright in London. It means so much to me to be able to return to Los Angeles with my play, *Bacon*, and I would like to thank Rogue Machine for their commitment and belief in this story.

*Bacon* has scooped up a number of awards during its lifetime: the Tony Craze Award at Soho Theatre (2018), 4 x Off West End Awards (2022), London Pub Theatre Award for Best Production (2022) The Peggy Ramsay/Film4 Award (2023).

I hope you enjoy the show.



Sophie Switfinbank



### WESLEY GUIMARÃES (MARK)

Wesley Guimarães is a Brazilian-born actor, writer and teaching artist, thrilled to be in collaboration with Rogue Machine. He made his Los Angeles stage debut in the Fountain Theatre's U.S. premiere of *I, Daniel Blake* (as "China") and understudied "Daniel" in Mike Lew's *Tiny Father* at the Geffen Playhouse. Other theater credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (as "Romeo") at Lanes Coven Theater Co.; *Clyde's* (as "Rafael," Bay Area Theater Critics Award-nominated) at Berkeley Repertory Theater, co-produced with the Huntington Theater and directed by Taylor Reynolds; and *In Love & Warcraft* and *The Pliant Girls* (as "Marcus") at the American Conservatory Theater. Wesley holds an M.F.A. in Acting from ACT, a B.A. in Theater & Dance from Amherst College (cum laude), and is an alumnus of UWC Adriatic in Italy and LAMDA in the UK. A SAG-e and Actors' Equity member, Wesley is passionate about bold and authentic storytelling. Instagram: @ciaowes.



### JACK LANCASTER (DARREN)

Jack Lancaster makes his Rogue Machine debut. Los Angeles credits include *As You Like It*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Richard III* (Independent Shakespeare Co.) Regional credits include the world premiere of *Revolutions* and an understudy track for *Swing State* (Goodman Theatre Chicago) the latter which he followed for its Off-Broadway run. Television credits include *The Bear* (FX), *Shining Girls* (AppleTV+), *Power Book IV: Force* (Starz), and *Chicago Med* (NBC). On film he can be seen in *Weird: The Al Yankovic Story* (Roku). He is represented by DDO Artists Agency and LEWK MGMT. Jack received his BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago.

## Rogue Machine Board of Directors:

Necly Swanson: President/Chair  
Stephanie Kerley Schwartz: Vice President  
John Perrin Flynn: Treasurer

Guillermo Cienfuegos, Ginna Carter, Lex  
Conboy, Elina de Santos, Paula Holt, Yiyi Huang,  
Perla Karney, Justin Okin and John Pollono

Emeritus: Jean Craig, Lesley Brander-Epps,  
Bob Pinzler, Lewin Wertheimer

## Production Staff:

Artistic Director.....Guillermo Cienfuegos  
Executive Director.....Justin Okin  
Founding Artistic Director.....John Perrin Flynn  
General Manager.....Ramón Valdez  
Production Manager.....Rachel Ann Manheimer  
Director of Artistic Community Impact.....Elina de Santos  
Publicity.....Judith Borne  
Social Media.....Ruth Fowler  
Company Manager.....Scott Sheldon  
Box Office Manager.....Marsha Henry  
Interim Casting Director.....Victoria Hoffman  
Interns.....Isabella Schwartz, Anis King  
Master Electrician.....Marcus Matthews

## For Full Program Scan:



### **SOPHIE SWITHINBANK (PLAYWRIGHT)**

Sophie is a multi-award-winning playwright and screenwriter, based in London. She is the 2023 winner of the Peggy Ramsay/Film4 Award. Her play *Beans* won the 2024 Sonia Friedman Prize for Best Play, and her play *Bacon* (Tony Craze Award Winner 2018) ran at Finborough Theatre in 2022, to critical acclaim, winning four Off West End Awards. *Bacon* has toured UK, Australia, Canada and USA. Sophie has recently completed an attachment at the National Theatre, with whom she is developing an NT Connections play. Sophie has two new plays and a musical in development. For Theatre: *Even in Arcadia* (longlisted for Verity Bargate Award 2020), *Circle Game* (Southwark Theatre, shortlisted for Phil Fox Award 2020), *Where There Is Smoke* (National Theatre Learning), *Come Inside* (Bush Theatre) and *The Superhero* (Lyric Hammersmith). For TV: *Bacon* (development with NBC Universal), *L/Over* (MTV Finland), *Sting* (development with The Lighthouse film and TV). For film: *Body Brokers* (development with Eleven/No Ordinary).

### **MICHAEL MATTHEWS (DIRECTOR)**

Michael Matthews recently directed the World Premiere of June Carryl's *Blue* at Rogue Machine before remounting the play at Edinburgh Theatre Festival and 7 Dials Playhouse in London's West End. Selected credits include: *Matilda* (La Mirada), *Failure: A Love Story* (CTG/Kirk Douglas Theatre). Laguna Playhouse: *The Seafarer*, *12 Angry Men*, *The Graduate* (w/ Melanie Griffith), *Billy & Ray*, and *End of the Rainbow* (also with La Mirada). *Funny Girl* (3D Theatricals), *Sons of the Prophet* (L.A. Premiere), *Psyche: A Modern Rock Opera* (World Premiere) *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Hated Mothers* (L.A. Premiere), *Very Still & Hard To See* (World Premiere). Celebration Theatre: *Cabaret*, *Dream Boy* (LA Premiere), *Bootycandy* (L.A. Premiere), *The Color Purple*, *What's Wrong With Angry?* (L.A. Premiere), *Take Me Out!*, *The Women of Brewster Place*, *The Musical* (West Coast Premiere), *Stupid Kids* (L.A. Premiere), *Beautiful Thing*, *The Bacchae*. Broadway: *Butley* (Assistant Director). International: *Sleeping Giant and The Bacchae* (Edinburgh Theatre Festival). Michael is the recipient of 2 Ovation Awards and 9 nominations, 1 L.A. Weekly Award and 2 nominations, 2 NAACP Theatre Awards, 1 Stage Raw Award, 3 Joseph Jefferson Award Nominations, and is the recipient of the 2015 LADCC Award for Career Achievement in Direction.

### **GUILLERMO CIENFUEGOS (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR)**

Guillermo Cienfuegos serves as Artistic Director at Rogue Machine. He directed the RMT productions of *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *Middle of the World*, *The Beautiful People*, *Disposable Necessities*, *Ready Steady Yeti Go* and *Dutch Masters*. Cienfuegos won both

the Ovation and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Director for his production of Shakespeare's *Henry V* at Pacific Resident Theatre. He has directed numerous productions at PRT, including Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, Pinter's *The Homecoming* and *Safe at Home: An Evening with Orson Bean*. Other theatre directing credits include *Julia*, both at PRT and at New York's 59E59 theatre, Off-Broadway, the World Premiere of *Middle of the World* at Boise Contemporary Theatre, the World Premiere of *Christmas Contigo* at Oregon Cabaret Theatre, the Los Angeles Premiere of Stephen Adly Guirgis' Pulitzer Prize winner *Between Riverside and Crazy* at the Fountain Theatre and most recently Shaw's *Misalliance* and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at A Noise Within. Guillermo Cienfuegos is the directing pseudonym of actor Alex Fernandez, who has appeared at numerous regional theatres, including the American Conservatory Theatre, Alaska Rep and the Old Globe, as well as in dozens of local productions most notably *Henry V*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Rhinoceros* at PRT, *Exiles* at the Hayworth and *Luka's Room* at Rogue Machine. Fernandez has over 175 film and television credits, most recently recurring on the series *American Gigolo*, *Mayans M.C.*, *Good Trouble* and *Seal Team*. Cienfuegos was featured in the 'People to Watch' issue of American Theatre magazine and is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theatre.

#### **JUSTIN OKIN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRODUCER)**

Justin is a producer, actor and audience development coordinator. With Rogue Machine, he has served as a producer on *On The Other Hand We're Happy*, associate producer on *Cock* and performed in *Pocatello*, *Stop Kiss*, and *MilkMilkLemonade*. With Theatre of Note, he has served on the BOD and performed in *Entropy*, *Eat the Runt*, and *Hot Cat*. With The Road Theatre Company, he has co-produced four seasons of the Summer Playwrights Festival and performed in *At the Table*. Other acting credits include *The Elephant Room* (Center Theatre Group) *Khmer Amerika* (Lincoln Center's Directors Lab) and Suzan-Lori Parks' *365Plays/365Days* (The Public). He is a UC certified Master Gardener.

#### **MARK GIBERSON (PRODUCER)**

Mark Giberson is a theatrical producer and painter based in Los Angeles. Credits include: *Blue* (The Scotsman Fringe First Award) and *Sleeping Giant* at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *The Producers* (Ovation nomination, Best Musical), *Bootycandy* (5 LADCC nominations, L.A. Premiere), *Dream Boy* (L.A. Premiere), *The Boy From Oz* (Ovation Award, Best Musical & Best Ensemble), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Ovation Award, Best Musical). Principal/Founder, No Boundaries Theatrical Productions

noboundariestheatreproductions.com and No Boundaries Art Workshops  
**noboundariesart.com.**

### **LEXI SLOAN (PRODUCER)**

Lexi is honored to produce her third show with RMT. Diving into complex and meaningful storytelling is what drew her to the company. Currently a Creative Producer at Apple, she also pursues film and theatre acting. When not in L.A., she indulges her passion for travel and ice cream. Her credits range from professional theatre to films and TV shows. Notable performances include *Camille* (LED Virtual Production Short Film), *Celestial Events* (IAMA), *The Honeycomb Theory* (Ammo); Vocal Performance: *Piano Bar Concert* (The Gardenia); Improv: The Groundlings Theatre and Impro Theatre; Vocal Training and Performance: Pat Whiteman; Scene Study Intensive: Brad Fleischer; On-Camera: Joshua Close. Lexi's producing highlights include *Still Scattered*, *Pilgrimage*, and *Boys Don't Wear Dresses* (Award Winning Short Films), *Monsters of the American Cinema* (Rogue Machine), *Found: A New Musical* and *A Kid Like Jake* (IAMA productions), and *Fairy Tale Theatre 18 & Over: The Musical* (Ammo). Additionally, she has contributed her talents to Key Art Posters (Geffen Playhouse) and the A-ha Photo Art Series (J. Michael Lorch Photography).

### **BETSY ZAJKO (PRODUCER)**

Betsy Zajko has developed stories from broadcast news to theater, and has been an actor and producer at Rogue Machine since season two. During her tenure at CBS and NPR, she was the radio producer for Harvey Pekar of *American Splendor*, and hosted live news and classical music broadcasts. She also directed Felicia Michaels' comedy special on Amazon Prime. Acting credits include work at Steppenwolf, Cleveland Playhouse, Trap Door, many Los Angeles theaters, and most television networks. Her first film was opposite Bruce Willis, her first TV gig was *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and her longest-lasting job is as a puppeteer and technician of a 75-pound quadruped Jim Henson Creature. Most recently she is a voice in two podcasts that premiered at Tribeca; she produced the musical satire, *For The Love Of A Glove*; and inaugurated the Henry Murray Stage with June Carryl's play *Blue* which earned the Edinburgh Fringe First Award and a London run. Catch her on TV in the premiere of *Paradise* on Hulu, in the documentary *The Stamp Thief*, and in a star lineup for Christopher Monger's *Dear Mr. Thomas* streaming on 92NY.org/event/dear-mr-thomas. Awards/Nominations: Associated Press, Women In Journalism, Society for Professional Journalists, Jeff Awards, Ovation Awards, L.A. Weekly, Stage Raw and The L.A. Drama Critics' Circle. @betsyboobop

### **STEPHEN GIFFORD (PRODUCTION DESIGN)**

Stephen's designs have been seen on stages across the country and internationally including: The Grand Ole Opry, The Chicago Theatre, Madison Square Garden, The El Sett & Abdel Halim Theaters (Riyadh), Sacramento Music Circus, The Walnut Street Theatre, 5th Avenue Theatre, Phoenix Theatre Company, Juneau Lyric Opera, La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts/MRE, and many more. He has garnered many awards and nominations for his work and was awarded The Bob Z Award for Career Achievement in Set Design by the LADCC, has been awarded the Scenic Award for L.A. Scenic Designer of the Year every year since 2008, and was awarded Broadwayworld.com's Scenic Design of the Decade for *Cabaret*. Stephen also designs for live immersive events, themed interiors, nightclubs, and cabarets. He is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829. For more about Stephen, please visit [@swgifford1](https://www.instagram.com/swgifford1) on Instagram or visit [www.stephengifforddesign.com](http://www.stephengifforddesign.com)

### **CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO (SOUND DESIGN)**

Christopher is a sound designer, composer, music editor and music director for theater, TV and film, with LADCC and Stage Raw awards and multiple Ovation nominations. He is currently the resident sound designer for Rogue Machine. Theater highlights: The Kennedy Center, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, A Noise Within, Antaeus, Odyssey Theatre, Rogue Machine, Fountain Theatre, Skylight Theatre, assistant conductor for the national tour of *Phantom of the Opera*. TV highlights: *The Walking Dead*, *Psych*, *Eureka*, *Human Target*, *The Cape*, *Caprica*, *Trauma*. He has scored series, specials and promos for NBC, HBO, BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and others, and he wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

### **CHRISTINE COVER FERRO (COSTUME DESIGN)**

Christine is resident costume designer at Rogue Machine. Previous shows here are *Dutch Masters*, *Ready, Steady, Yeti, Go!*, *Disposable Necessities*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *The Middle of the World* (as well as its world premiere at Boise Contemporary Theatre), *Monsters of the American Cinema*, *Human Error*, and *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*. She has also worked at Pacific Resident Theatre on *Rhinoceros*, *Eccentricities of the Nightingale*, *My Girlfriend Is An Alien* and *The Homecoming*, *Between Riverside and Crazy* at the Fountain Theatre, and *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Misalliance* at A Noise Within. Other local credits include Unbound Production's *Wicked Lit* series, for which she won an Ovation in 2017, and the world premiere of John Ross Bowie's *Brushstroke*. Television credits include assistant costume design for *Encore!* for Disney+, *Cosmos: Possible*

*Worlds* for NatGeo and *Promised Land* for ABC.

### **THE DIALECT GEEK - TUFFET SCHMELZLE**

Dialect Credits include: *Mythic Quest* (Apple TV), *The Producers*, *Born to Win*, *Cabaret*, *Dream Boy*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* & *What's Wrong with Angry* (Celebration Theatre), *Matilda* (La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts), *Good People* (Coachella Valley Rep), *The Seafarer* (Laguna Playhouse), *Anna in the Tropics* (Open Fist Theatre), *Rotterdam* (CTG/Kirk Douglas/Skylight Theatre), *Paradise Pictures* (TV Movie- UCP), *A Christmas Carol* (Rubicon Theatre), *Billy & Ray* (Falcon Theatre), *American Misfit*, *A Dinosaur Within* & *How to Disappear Completely & Never Be Found* (Boston Court), *A Christmas Carol* (A Noise Within), *The Language Archives* (East West Players), *Peace In Our Time* (Antaeus), *Onion Creek* (Son of Semele), *House of the Rising Son* (Ensemble Studio Theatre LA), *Chinese Massacre* (Circle X), *Carousel* (Reprise!). Acting- Film/TV Credits: *Desperate Housewives*, *Without A Trace*, *Repo*, *Criminal Minds*, *House*, *Cold Case*, *The Unit*, *Gilmore Girls*. Current Dialects & Standard American Dialect Teacher at The Lee Strasberg Institute (L.A.) and Dialects, Improv and Intro to Theatre Teacher at Los Angeles County High School for the Performing Arts (LACHSA). Tuffet is available for private coaching. For more info [www.DialectGeek.com](http://www.DialectGeek.com)

### **JEN ALBERT (FIGHT COORDINATOR)**

Jen Albert is an actor, producer, award winning fight choreographer and an Intimacy Director. She earned a BA in theatre from Columbia College Chicago where she became SAFD certified in all manner of stage combat before going on to train as a martial artist. She is an emeritus company member of Babes with Blades, Chicago's first all-female stage combat theatre company. She is currently a faculty member of Art of Acting – the Conservatory of Stella Adler in Hollywood where she teaches stage combat and is the resident Fight Choreographer and Intimacy Director. Some Los Angeles fight choreography credits include: *Battlesong of Boudica*, *Klingon Tamburlaine* (Ovation Award nominee), *Hercules Insane*, *The Final Girl*, *Edward II* and *Punch and Judy* (SON) (LADCC Award for Fight Choreography, Stage Raw Nominee) *An Octoroon*, (The Fountain theatre)(LADCC Nominee) *Sucker Punch* (Coeurage Theatre) (Ovation Award recipient for Best Fight Direction) *Friends with Guns* (The Road) *Romeo and Juliet*, *Normal*, *Conduct of Life* and *Down in the Face of God* (The Vagrancy) *The AllStore*, *Roots*, *Marian or the True Tale of Robin Hood* (2019 Stage Raw Award recipient, Best Fight Choreography) *Year of the Rooster* and *Entropy* (Theatre of NOTE), *Henry VI-Part I*, *Beauty Queen of Leenane* (The Production Company). Favorite roles as an actor include: Boudica, *Battlesong of Boudica* (SON), Zenocrate, *Klingon Tamburlaine* (SON), Kate in *Fifty Shades of Shrew*,

Inez in *Women w/o Walls* (both Broads' Word Ensemble) Gwen in *Fifth of July* (The Production Company) and Yvonne in *War* (Theatre Banshee).

### **GRANT GERRARD (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)**

Grant is excited to be working on his second show with Rogue Machine Theatre Company as the Technical Director. He is a graduate from the University of Southern California where he earned a BA in Theatre Design. Some credits include: Master Carpenter at Theatre of NOTE (*Kill Shelter, AllStore, Electric I*), Master Carpenter & Designer at Milken Community School (*Mamma Mia!, Once Upon a Mattress, The Descendants*), and Assistant Technical Director at IAMA Theatre Company (*Smile*). In addition, he has worked with various theater groups throughout L.A. such as the Latino Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, The Industry, and El Camino College. While he primarily works as a scenic carpenter, he sometimes takes up roles as a lighting tech, production manager, and production assistant. He is looking forward to continuing on in the role as Technical Director for future productions with Rogue Machine.

### **RICH WONG (STAGE MANAGER)**

Rich is a graduate of UCLA where he earned a BA in film and television. His theatre credits include *Company of Wayward Saints, Reservations For Two, Gruesome Hotel, Measure For Measure, Come Get Maggie, Blue, The Shadow, Lines in the Dust, Sukkot, H\*tlers' Tasters* and *A Good Guy*. When he's not stage managing, you may find him forcing blood from a stone (or what he likes to call writing).

### **VICTORIA HOFFMAN (CASTING DIRECTOR)**

Resident Casting Director at Rogue Machine. Recent credits include *Bacon, Evanston Salt Costs Climbing, Monsters of the American Cinema, Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (LADCC Nominated Best Production) & *Come Get Maggie; For the Love of a Glove* at The Carl Sagan & Ann Druyan Theater (LAD CC Nominated Best Production); *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at A Noise Within; *No Place like Gandersheim & Hungry Ghost* at The Skylight; *Curious Incident & Herland* for Greenway Court; *Judas Kiss & A Streetcar Named Desire* for Boston Court. Film projects include the AFI Thesis films *Zenaida* (LAAPFF Official Selection) and *The Fishmonger* (2024 Student Emmy Award Nominee); *Dog Lover* at the DTLA Film Festival (among many) and three vertical short form episodic series for Kalos TV. Currently Manager of Casting at the AFI Conservatory. Acting credits include *Julius Weezer* for the Troubies, *Sonneteerat* the L.A. LGBT Ctr, and TV pop ups in *Abbot Elementary* and *The Shrink Next Door*. [www.victoriahoffman.com](http://www.victoriahoffman.com) @VicHoffmanLA



### **JOY DeMICHELLE (INTIMACY DIRECTOR)**

Joy is thrilled to join Rogue Machine as an Intimacy Director. Last season, Joy worked on *Jelly's Last Jam* at Pasadena Playhouse. Her work also includes: *Choir Boy*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Winter's Tale*, *The High Table*, *Apartment Living*, *TJ Loves Sally 4Ever* and *The Light*. Television/Film: *Wild Rose*, *Imbalance*, *Stobe*, *We're Not Married*, *4 to 6 Seconds* and *Color of Autumn*. Joy has choreographed intimacy for productions at USC and Chapman University Theatre Departments. She has also facilitated workshops on intimacy, boundaries and consent for CBS Studios Pipeline Challenge, Celebration Theatre and CSULB. As an actor, Joy can be seen in the upcoming production of *Macbeth* at A Noise Within. She has performed off-Broadway, in regional theaters such as Round House Theatre, South Coast Rep, Mark Taper Forum, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Denver Center and Crossroads Theatre to name a few. Select television performance credits include: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Mike*, *All American*, *Snowfall*, *The L Word: Generation Q*, *For the People*, *Outlaw*, and *American Gun*. Joy appears in the upcoming Season 2 premier of OWN network's, *The Never Ever Mets* as an intimacy, boundaries & consent professional. Memberships include: SAG/AFTRA, AEA, National Alliance of Acting Teachers, ICOC (Intimacy Coordinators of Color); Joy a MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. To learn more visit [www.JoyDeMichelle.com](http://www.JoyDeMichelle.com).

### **RACHEL ANN MANHEIMER (PRODUCTION MANAGER)**

Having managed everything from original musicals to avant garde happenings, some of Rachel's favorite credits include Tim Crouch's *An Oak Tree*, The American Opera Project's *HAGOROMO*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the talented seniors at The Professional Performing Arts High School. You may have seen Rachel running around during the Hollywood Fringe Festival at The Broadwater, where they also ran the acclaimed original production of *The Art Couple*, by Emmy winner Brendan Hunt. As a Los Angeles native, Rachel is doubly proud to be nine shows in with Rogue Machine in the historic Matrix Theatre. Ask them about the ephemeral power of the sense of wonder!

### **RAMÓN VALDEZ (GENERAL MANAGER)**

Ramón is a graduate of USC where he received a BA in Theatre and an MS in Project Management. At Rogue Machine, Ramón has stage managed nearly 30 productions including *Three Views of the Same Object*, *The New Electric Ballroom*, *A Bright New Boise*, *Lost Girls*, *Monkey Adored*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Penelope*, *A Permanent Image*, *Dutch Masters*, *Les Blancs*, *The Beautiful People* and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*. Ramón is also on the

board of the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company.

**MICHELLE HANZELOVA-BIERBAUER (MARKETING DIRECTOR & GRAPHIC DESIGN)**

Michelle is a visual creative designer. She's found success as a theatre poster designer, having designed hundreds of posters in mostly Los Angeles and New York City. In the last fifteen years she has stage managed shows, designed projections for multiple theaters (Ovation Best Projections Design 2020 Nominee for *Earthquakes in London*), produced plays, and spent many nights discussing art on the sidewalks of Los Angeles. She is currently the Marketing Director at "one of the most ambitious and accomplished theatre companies in Los Angeles" (Variety) Rogue Machine Theatre on Melrose Ave. Among other things she is also an Art Department Coordinator for the prolific designer Arae Webner which has allowed her to work with artists such as Usher, Lizzo, SZA, Olivia Rodrigo, Imagine Dragons and others. The fun never ends in Hollywood. She likes dark dusty theaters, her wife, their boyfriend, one of their two dogs, most of their seven cats and corn.

**[www.michellehanzelova.com](http://www.michellehanzelova.com)**

Stage Combat Weapon Furnishing..... **Jesse Belsky**  
Master Electrician.....**Marcus Matthews**

**SPECIAL THANKS:**

Max Miller, Kennedy Woodard and our friends at CAA, Tuffet Schmelzle, Chisom Okoye, Theo Motzenbacker, Dana Julian, Sara Fenton, Bruno Oliver, Bob Ness, Anaïs King, Athena Saxon, Ivan Rivas, Runa, Josh Bitton

**PRODUCTION STAFF:**

Artistic Director.....Guillermo Cienfuegos  
Executive Director.....Justin Okin  
Founding Artistic Director.....John Perrin Flynn  
General Manager.....Ramón Valdez  
Production Manager.....Rachel Ann Manheimer  
Marketing Director.....Michelle Hanzelova-Bierbauer  
Director of Artistic Community Impact.....Elina de Santos  
Publicity..... Judith Borne  
Social Media..... Ruth Fowler  
Company Manager.....Scott Sheldon  
Box Office Manager.....Marsha Henry  
Resident Casting Director.....Victoria Hoffman  
Interns.....Isabella Schwartz, Anaïs King

## Mission Statement

Rogue Machine produces world premieres of new plays, primarily by Los Angeles-based playwrights, and plays new to Los Angeles, including American, West Coast, and Regional premieres of significant contemporary theatrical works. Rogue Machine seeks to be a theatre of ideas and imagination, a theatre which mirrors and examines contemporary culture, a theatre which nurtures contemporary playwrights, and a theatre whose work continually engages the community and creates a dialogue which resonates after the curtain closes. Rogue Machine considers building an audience for the future to be an important part of its mission and seeks to attract and serve a more diverse Los Angeles audience to discover these essential stories of our times.

## Second Annual Playwright's Roundtable

We are beyond excited to announce our 2025 cohort, **Agnes Borinsky, Diana Burbano, Makeda Declet, Joy Gregory, Hannah Kenah, David Myers, Megan Tabaque** and **Rich Wong**.

**The Playwright's Roundtable** is a platform dedicated to connecting, hosting, and empowering a bold and diverse group of playwrights based in Southern California. During a seven-month residency, Roundtable playwrights meet bi-weekly at the historic Matrix Theater in West Hollywood to begin work on a new play in a peer-led, supportive environment. Rooted in Rogue Machine's belief that stories have the power to change the world, the Roundtable supports emerging and mid-career writers as they create original new works that speak to timeless themes, entertain, provoke dialogue, and create community. Rogue Machine's 2024 inaugural Playwright's Roundtable included Mando Alvarado, Joshua Conkel, Brian Otaño, A. Rey Pamatmat, David H. Parker, and Lina Patel.

The 2025 residency will culminate with Rogue Machine's **Playwright's Round Table New Play Festival**, taking place on August 18-24, 2025 and run by Roundtable alum, Lina Patel.

To learn more about the Roundtable:

<https://www.roguemachinetheatre.org/playwrights>

# Rogue Machine Donors

Thank You to Our 2025 Supporters!

## Grants and Supporting Organizations

Shubert Foundaion  
Parsons Foundation  
Richenthal Foundation  
Nancy L. Barton Foundation  
David Lee Foundation  
Perenchio Foundation  
City - Department of Cultural Affairs  
LA County Department of Arts and Culture  
California Arts Council  
California Community Foundation

## Individual Donations Over \$500

### \$10,000+

Anonymous  
Jean Craig  
David E. Kelley

Elina de Santos  
Paul Dooley  
Elaine Gans  
Olga Garay-English  
Fariba Ghaffari

Mark Bramhall  
Margot Calabrese  
Doris Goldstein  
Shelley Grant  
Freya Ivenar

### \$5,000+

Jim Beaver  
Adrienne Brandriss  
Guillermo Cienfuegos  
Barbara Kallir  
Anne Kress & Ned Davis  
Bruce Mandel  
Neely & Larry Swanson

Alison Gordon  
Paula Holt  
Yiyi Huang  
Joelson Foundation  
Perla Karney  
Stephanie Kerley Schwartz

Perla Karney  
Michael Laskin  
Richard Robins  
Christopher Root  
Nancy Rubin  
David Selby  
Joel & Penny Shapiro  
Judy & Mark Taylor  
Nicholas & Jenny Ullett  
Laura Zucker

### \$2,500+

Alison Bean  
Patricia Glaser  
Rosa and Lawrence Goldstein  
Justin Okin

Joanna Lipari  
Jonathan Meyers  
Ron & Nanci Slayen  
John Perrin Flynn  
John Pollono  
Tucker Smallwood  
Rita Taggart  
Ramón Valdez  
Lewin Wertheimer

### \$1,000+

Daniel & Diana Attias  
Robert Breech  
Ginna Carter  
Lex Conboy

### \$500+

Juan Alfonso  
Rachel Avery  
Brett Barenholtz