

Broadway Bound Theatre Festival

In association with

244 Productions

**THE LAST NIGHT
OF THE OKI DOG**

Presents

new play by

JEFF SMITH and LEN WECHSLER

starring

KARA ARENA STEPHANIE BASCATOW JOHN DeFILIPPO

MIRKO FAIENZA EVAN LEONE AMIR MALAKLOU

PETE McELLIGOTT ALEX MIGHT

JOSEPH ELLIOT RODRIGUEZ WILLIAM VALLES

Set Design **JOSH IACOVELLI** Light Design **ERIC NORBURY**

Costume Design **VERY REED** Sound Design **JULIAN EVANS**

Casting **STEPHANIE KLAPPER, CSA**

Press Representative **RICHARD HILLMAN, PR**

Stage Manager **SARAH HERDRICH**

General Manager **DONNA TRINKOFF**

Directed by **CHRISTOPHER SCOTT**

CAST

KARA ARENA Twilight
STEPHANIE BASCATOW Joanna
JOHN DeFILIPPO Rio
MIRKO FAIENZA Long Beach
EVAN LEONE Pendleton
AMIR MALAKLOU Eddie
PETE McELLIGOTT Harry
ALEX MIGHT Amoura
JOSEPH ELLIOT RODRIGUEZ Kyle
WILLIAM VALLES Eugene

SARAH HENDRICH Stage Manager
Company Manager/Covid Safety Manager **JESSICA RIMZDIUS**
Assistant Sound Design **SCOTT MacDONALD**
Productions Assistants **TYREESE FABLE** and **REBECCA LAWRENCE**
Graphics **MICAH LOGSDON**
Oki Dog Photograph courtesy of **Edward Culver**

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE OKI DOG COMPANY

KARA ARENA (Twilight) Recent credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Into the Woods* (CT Shakespeare Festival), *The Winter's Tale* (7SSC), *Evita*, *Obama-ology* (Bay Street Theatre), *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (Goodspeed), *Spring Awakening* (Irondale Center). Actors' Equity Foundation Roger Sturtevant Award Recipient 2019. Training: Boston Conservatory (BFA), William Esper Studio of Acting. Debut singer-songwriter album "Something Blue" soon to be released on all music streaming platforms. Thanks to Josh at ASA and Stephanie Klapper Casting for the opportunity!@karaarena

STEPHANIE BACASTOW (Joanna) is a New York-based actor, singer, and teaching artist originally from metro-Atlanta and is delighted to join the cast of *The Last Night of the Oki Dog*. Favorite credits include: *Mary Poppins*, *Luisa* in *The Fantasticks*, *Johanna* in *Sweeney Todd*, and *Cathy* in *The Last Five Years*. Education: NYU Steinhardt, University of Georgia. www.stephaniebacastow.com. @stephbacastow

JOHN DEFILIPPO (Rio) he/him - is an actor from Queens, New York. He recently performed in three outdoor Shakespeare shows in a row: *As You Like It* (Theatre 315, as Silvius), *Lady Macbeth* (Shakespeare in Brooklyn, as Ross) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Staten Island Shakespeare, as Benvolio). He played the lead in *Grandmafia*, a short film with Reelworks, which is cur-

rently in post-production. He will be playing Lucias in Belladonna Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* this Halloween. @johndefilippo16

MIRKO FAIENZA (Long Beach) is delighted to be working with 244 Productions and director Christopher Scott on this fascinating story. Mirko graduated from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He's also a musician and can perform in five languages (English, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew). Credits include: Titus in *Titus Andronicus*, Otto Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Assan El Fauzy in the Argentinian play *Tierra del Fuego*.

EVAN LEONE (Pendleton) is a New Yorker born and raised. After starting his career in independent film, he branched out into stage work. He's performed with the Voice Theatre, ESPA, and the New York Fringe Festival. From there, Evan transitioned into television. Since regularly appearing on AMC's "Feed the Beast", he has guest starred in multiple shows, including "The Blacklist", "Bull", and the Amazon series, "Hunters", starring Al Pacino. He is excited to be back on stage performing as Pendleton in *The Last Night of the Oki Dog*.

AMIR MALAKLOU (Eddie) is a recent graduate of NYU's MFA acting department. Amir is making his New York City stage debut. He can most recently be seen in FX's upcoming miniseries "The Old Man", starring opposite Jeff Bridges and John Lithgow. Past film credits include *Viper Club*, *Secret in Their Eyes*, and *Argo*. TV credits include: "Major Crimes", (TNT), "Doubt" (CBS), "The Fosters" (Freeform), and "Loosely Exactly Nicole" (MTV).

PETE MCELLIGOTT (Harry) is an actor, director, writer, and teacher. He is a founding member of The NOLA Project in New Orleans and Ten Bones Theatre Company in New York. Both companies have been featured in American Theater, The New Yorker, TimeOut, The Village Voice, and The New York Times. His writing has received several awards, an NEA grant, and been a featured selection of the NNPN. He currently devises shows for his company in New York while writing shows for his company in New Orleans.

ALEX MIGHT (Amoura) she/her—is a scream queen from central Ohio, as well as a dancer, saxist, and drag performer. New York theatre: *Cory and Smin's Love Conquers the Earth* (Smin) with Queens Council on the Arts, *Pop Punk High* (Dance Captain) at the PIT, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo) at Guild Hall. Regional: *The Wolves* (Movement Associate, understudy) at Actors Theatre of Louisville and *Are You There?* (Daisy Duke) at the Humana Festival. BFA: NYU Tisch - www.alexmight.com

JOSEPH ELLIOT RODRIGUEZ (Kyle) is an actor based out of Brooklyn, New York. He has been a student at Stella Adler, Terry Schreiber, and the Barrow Group Theater. Joseph has recently filmed his first feature film for Lifetime television, "A Job to Die For", which will premiere in the upcoming months. His other work includes independent films such as *Through the Trees* and *Worthy*, as well as off-Broadway productions including *Full Circle: Ten Years Later*, and *Thyestes*.

WILLIAM VALLES (Eugene) Credits include: *The Maids* (Access Theater), *Once upon a Time in the Berkshires*, *Curse of the Starving Class* (Williamstown Theater Festival), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (North Carolina Symphony) *The Real SVU* (Lifetime Entertainment Services). Training: North Carolina School of the Arts, Laura Henry Acting Studio. williamsvalles.com

SARAH HERDRICH (Stage Manager) is based in New York City. Select recent projects include *Ubu Roix* (No Exit Theatre Collective) *All's Well That Ends Well* (Juilliard), *Les Enfants Terribles* (Opera Omaha One Festival), and *Don Quichotte at Camacho's Wedding* (Opera Saratoga). They are excited to be working with the festival for the first time, thanks to everyone involved for their support!

JEFF SMITH (Co-Author) After graduating from UCLA, Jeff never really focused on establishing a career. Eventually, while writing the novelization of Mel Brooks' *History of the World Part 2*, Jeff met Len Wechsler. They began a three-year screenwriting collaboration. Jeff was offered a temp job at a motion picture advertising agency. He took the job to get out of debt but that temp job led to a 33-year career in the Motion Picture Advertising world, 17 years helping to make Aspect Ratio the number one agency in Hollywood, followed by 16 years at a company Jeff started called Open Road Entertainment. It was one of the first boutique agencies in the business. Jeff loved making trailers and various types of movie advertising, but

two and a half years ago he sold his company and is now ecstatic to be writing again. He reconnected with Len and *The Last Night at the Oki Dog* is their first 're-collaboration.'

LEN WECHSLER (*Co-Author*) From the time Len was in his early 20s, whether he was in Paris, Lisbon, Marrakech, or New York, he has always been fascinated with society's outcasts. The first time he pulled into the Oki Dog in Los Angeles it was 1:30 in the morning and the place was crowded. It was the early 1980's. As he ordered coffee under the bright fluorescent lights, he could smell the aroma of spicy food, tobacco, and pot. A cacophony of young voices competed with two lousy speakers that blared out the Ramones, Billy Idol, and Dire Straits. At first, he felt like an intruder. Still, the place felt familiar to him even though he had never been there before. When he left that night, he knew he would be back. 40 years later, Len was still thinking about some of the characters he met there. He got in touch with his old friend and writing partner, Jeff Smith, and shared some stories of the Oki Dog. Jeff loved the idea of turning it into a play, especially if it captured the humanity of the characters. *The Last Night of the Oki Dog* was coming to life.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT (Director) is Artistic Director of the Masterworks Theater Company in New York City presenting accessible, professional multicultural productions of theatrical and literary heavyweights. He also serves as Artistic Associate with Amas Musical Theatre, New York City's award-winning pioneer in equity and multi-ethnic casting in the performing arts since 1968. Chris is a member of the Playwright/Directors Workshop at the Actors Studio. Directing credits: Off-Broadway: *The Glass Menagerie* (Audelco Award Nom.), *God Shows Up*, *EDWIN: The Story of Edwin Booth*, *A Class Act*, *Nancy Friday's My Secret Garden*, *GOLF: The Musical* (Drama Desk Nom.), *For Lovers Only*, *Tails*, *The Big Bang*, and *GREED: A Musical for Our Times*. Other NYC: *I Am, I Will, I Do* (Amas and NYMF), *The Morons* (Best Direction Nom., First Irish Festival), *Stealing Freedom* and *Missing Person* (Amas), *In Pursuit of Peace* and *Picked Up* (BBTF), *Years of Sky* (59E59), *Best Night Ever* and *Sitting Shiva* (FringeNYC), *Lorenzo* (NYMF 2009). Great Works Series @ Baruch Performing Arts Center: *Endgame*, *Miss Julie*, *Antigone*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Medea* and *The Zoo Story*. Many productions for Theatreworks/USA. A graduate of the Boston Conservatory and a member of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), AEA and SAG/AFTRA. He is a faculty member at Baruch College/CUNY and has been on the faculty of CAP21 at NYU and the Michael Howard Studio as well as a member. website: xscottnyc.com

AVERY REED (Costume Design) is a New York-based costume designer working in theater, film and dance. She tries to focus on work that makes the world a more empathetic and interesting place, whether it's through politics, laughter or drama. Recent credits include: *Only Human* (St. Clements), *Dishwater Blonde* (Torn Page), *Indeed, Friend!* (Clubbed Thumb/Playwrights), *Sweeny Todd* (Piper Theater), *Linthead* (SMP), *Everybody* (RU), *The Tempest* (Lenfest), *All's Well That Ends Well* (FDU), *As Is* (Baruch), *ADMIX* (NYCI NYCB), *Appalachian Spring* (Dance Theater of Harlem), *Brut Force* (Brut Force LLC), *Martin Eden* (Kingdom County Productions.). MFA NYU Tisch. www.averyreed.com

ERIC NORBURY (Lighting Design) Select credits include: *Only Human: A Blessed New Musical* (Theatre St. Clements), *Till: A Musical* (NYMF), Nimbus Dance at BAM Fisher, *Lysistrata* (The New School), *Pippin* (Amas Musical Theatre). Previous work: Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, 5th Avenue Theatre, The Glimmerglass Festival, Tulsa Opera, Ohio Light Opera, Brevard Music Center, Seán Curran Dance Company, De Funes Dance, Second Avenue Dance Company, and others. MFA NYU/Tisch.

JOSH IACOVELLI (Scenic Design) has over 20 years of experience in theatre and television His roles span production design, art direction and scenic design. Josh has spent his entire career making ideas into reality. Favorite design credits include: *Broadway and the Bard*, starring Len Cariou, *The Office: A Musical Parody* (dir. Donald Garverick), *Friends: The Musical Parody* (dir. Paul Stancato), *The Zero Hour* (dir. Piper Laurie), *Hit Her with the Skates* (dir. Michael Schiralli), *Disaster: The Musical* (dir. Jack Plotnick), *The Babies* (dir. Lloyd J. Schwartz), and *The Book of Merman* (dir Joe Langworth). Other credits include Off Broadway hits *Danny and Sylvia: The Danny Kaye Musical*, *Dietrich and Chevalier*, *Cougar the Musical*, *Sistas the Musical*, *It's Just Sex*, and *Missed Connections*. Josh most recently designed and directed *Trial on the Potomac*, starring Rich Little. Josh received his BA in Theatre and Direction from Stockton University and his MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School at New School University. joshIacovelli.com

JULIAN EVANS (Sound Design) brings the noise! Off-Broadway: *Desperate Measures* (New World Stages), *Cheek to Cheek*, *Enter Laughing*, *Christmas in Hell*, *Unexpected Joy*, *Desperate Measures*, *Marry Harry* (The York), *Felix Starro*, *Tick, Tick...BOOM!*, *John & Jen*, *The Artificial Jungle* (Theatre Row), *I Like It Like That!* (Pregones Theater), *Soulographie* (La MaMa), *Kurt Vonne-*

gut's Mother Night, Touch (59e59). Regional: *The End of War* [2017 RTCC Winner Outstanding Sound Design, Virginia Repertory Theatre], *Oklahoma!* (Weston Playhouse). BA: Carnegie Mellon. www.julianevans.info
@SpliceSoundNYC

STEPHANIE KLAPPER (Casting Director) Stephanie cherishes her continued collaboration with Christopher Scott. Her award-winning work is frequently seen on Broadway, off-Broadway, regionally, on film, television, and streaming media. She, along with the Stephanie Klapper Casting Team, is dedicated to continuing to expand and champion diversity, equity, and inclusion in the business. Connecting creative, caring people to each other to make extraordinary things happen is amongst Stephanie's greatest joys. Ms. Klapper is passionate about arts education and working with creative teams to develop new work and expand the scope of established work. Member of the National Board of the Casting Society of America, Casting Society Cares, and New York Women in Film.

JESSICA RIMDZIUS (Company Manager/COVID-19 Safety Manager) is a recent graduate of the Arts Administration program at Wagner College. Originally from Bucks County, PA, Jessica is thrilled to be back in the city and working on this production. Many thanks to Donna for this opportunity and to the company and team for their COVID cooperation!

STARRY NIGHT PRODUCTIONS - DONNA TRINKOFF (General Manager) in 2019, completed the North American Tour of *Broadway and the Bard*, starring Len Cariou. She produced the Off-Broadway Premiere of *SILENCE! The Musical* (Christopher Gattelli, Hunter Bell, Jon & Al Kaplan), the unauthorized parody of the iconic film *The Silence of the Lambs* to critical acclaim, sold-out houses and a two-year run. Winner Off Broadway Alliance Award and Obie Award for Best Musical. Donna is the artistic producer of Amas Musical Theatre, a non-profit performing arts organization in New York City dedicated to equity and multi-ethnic casting and devoted to the creation, development and production of original musicals and the education and training of young people since 1968. She was an associate artistic director at the Cabaret and Performance Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Center in CT. B.A. SUNY Binghamton and National Theatre Institute grad. Next up: Off-Broadway the Amas Musical Theatre Production of *Romeo and Bernadette: A Tale of Verona and Brooklyn*— January 2022.