

**2020-2021 Season** A Season of Awakenings

# THE ORESTEIA

Illand

#### by Ellen McLaughlin

#### A legacy of blood and revenge

#### Video streaming January 13–31, 2021

Season Sponsor: Marianne Leedy

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y 300 East University Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona



**2020-2021 Season** A Season of Awakenings

#### Ghosts real and imagined

by Conor McPherson

#### February 25–March 14, 2021

Season Sponsor: Marianne Leedy

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y300 East University Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona520-551-2053www.TheRogueTheatre.orgBuy tickets online

# THE ORESTEIA

### by Ellen McLaughlin

Directed by Joseph McGrath supported in part by a generous gift from Kathleen McGrath & Jerry James

Music Direction and Composition by Russell Ronnebaum supported in part by a generous gift from Peggy Houghton & Paul Garner

Costume Design by Cynthia Meier supported in part by a generous gift from Jan Linn & Richard Pincus

Lighting Design by Don Fox supported in part by a generous gift from Paul Winick & Ronda Lustman

Scenic Design by Joseph McGrath supported in part by a generous gift from Andy & Cammie Watson

PRODUCTION SPONSORS: BARBARA MARTINSONS AND LARRY BOUTIS SEASON SPONSOR: MARIANNE LEEDY

Performance run time is two hours and five minutes. There is one intermission.

Supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support is also provided by a generous grant from the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona

THE ORESTEIA is produced by special arrangement with THE GERSH AGENCY, 41 Madison Avenue, 29th Floor, New York, NY 10010.







ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

#### **Director's Notes**

From the beginnings of The Rogue Theatre, Cindy and I have been talking about producing a classical Greek play. We've read many of them over the years with an eye to including one in a season. But we've always been intimidated by the—well—Greek-ness of the translations. A sense of drama and choral presentation that always seemed just out of reach of our capabilities, and the expectations and aesthetic eye of a contemporary audience.

But then, on a visit to Washington, DC, in May 2019, I had the good fortune to see Ellen McLaughlin's *The Oresteia* at the Shakespeare Theatre Company. I was swept up in McLaughlin's free adaptation with its fluid use of the chorus, the contemporary language, and the smaller scenes for which she clears the stage. Whereas Aeschylus's theatre uses the chorus to deliver grand odes in often spectacular events of dance and song, McLaughlin gives us a somewhat smaller group of nameless individuals grappling with the history, attitudes, and anxieties of the community. This chorus seems to have skin in the game as individuals and also as a group. I was also intrigued by the number of women one could use in the chorus, which fit the narrative perfectly. After all, at the top of the play these are the folks left behind when the army departed for Troy. I think McLaughlin has done an excellent job in making Aeschylus available to us, in our modes of language, presentation, and expectations.

McLaughlin has hewn fairly closely to Aeschylus in the content of the first two plays of the trilogy—her acts one and two—but she has departed significantly in the third act/play, *The Eumenides*. Here she diverges from Aeschylus, whose narrative was set in the realm of the gods, and keeps to the human realm, dropping the problem firmly in our lap. Perhaps she feels that, with our tradition of the separation of church and state, we've long ago accepted that civil problems require civil solutions, and the suggestion that Athena, Apollo, and the Erinyes have any ability to resolve these things is not quite relevant to our moment.

The style of what you see in our production is heavily shaped, of course, by the requirements of safe rehearsal and performance practices in the Covid era. We've been challenged by the perplexing phrase "social distancing" in a pursuit that is, top to bottom, social. Thus we have developed a language of gesture and staging to support words we're not actually speaking with half the face masked, as well as a distanced, no-touch approach to acts of intimacy and violence. These modes of expression, though they violate our expectations at first, seem to lend themselves to the formal, religious mood of the Greek theatre.

Surprisingly, *The Oresteia* has very little, if anything, good to say about war, given it was written by a soldier. Aeschylus fought with the Greeks against the Persians on several occasions, including the Battle of Marathon. Yet here, glory seems elusive, even to the victor, and it seems to fit our moment well. Alas, it fits more and more as the days pass. As I write this, the President-elect will be inaugurated in twelve days but the future is becoming less and less reliable, given our bifurcated electorate. This tale of blood vengeance and intractable conflict that, in the end, depicts the beginnings of civil law and resolutions, reminds us that we've been here before, that the fixes aren't easy, and that the work of finding the better angels of our natures is never-ending.

Cleaning the House of Atreus, it seems, is our job.

—Joseph McGrath, Director director@TheRogueTheatre.org

Watch the video of our free "open talk,"

#### A Glimpse at the Ancient Greek Background to Ellen McLaughlin's Oresteia.

UA Professor Emeritus Bella Vivante provides fascinating insights into Aeschysus' *Orestiea*.

To find it online, see the "Current Play" page at www.TheRogueTheatre.org or visit our YouTube channel, "The Rogue Theatre."

The talk was supported in part by a generous gift from Meg & Peter Hovell.

For more background on the play and its underlying mythology, check out Jerry James' essay

Why Do All These Greeks Want To Kill Each Other? The Curse(s) on the House of Atreus

on the "Current Play" page at wwwTheRogueTheatre.org

#### Cast

Clytemnestra Julia Balestracci Agamemnon Aaron Shand+ Iphigenia Sol Murgia Orestes Hunter Hnat+ Electra Bryn Booth+ Chorus Rosanne Couston Shannon Elias Lance Guzman Callie Hutchison Cynthia Meier+ Dennis O'Dell

+ Member of The Rogue Resident Acting Ensemble

#### Music

Piano/percussionRussell RonnebaumViolinCallie HutchisonTaikoKaren Falkenstrom of<br/>Odaiko SonoraMusic Recorded by Jim Brady Studios

#### **Our Thanks**

Tim Fuller Chuck Graham Taming of the Review Jerry James Arizona Daily Star Kathleen Kennedy Shawn Burke Dr. Bella Vivante

La Posada

Video recording of *The Oresteia* is sponsored in part by a generous donation from John & Joyce Ambruster Student tickets are sponsored in part by generous donations from: Judith Treistman Carol Mangold and Jean & Jordan Nerenberg

#### **Design and Production Staff**

Costume Design	Cynthia Meier
Scenic Design	Joseph McGrath
Lighting Design	Don Fox
Sound Design & Audio	Vincent Calianno
Post-Production	
Stage Manager	Shannon Wallace
Scenic Artist	Amy Novelli
Property Master	Christopher Pankratz
Production Recording	Chris Babbie of Location Sound
Audio Producer	Christopher Johnson
Videographer	Tim O'Grady
Assistant Stage Manager	Christopher Johnson
Set Construction	Christopher Johnson
	& Joseph McGrath
Costume Construction	Cynthia Meier
	& Nanalee Raphael
Master Electrician	Peter Bleasby
Asst. Lighting Design/	Mack Woods
Lighting Intern	
Lighting Crew	Chris Mason
	& Tom Martin
Box Office Manager	Thomas Wentzel
Box Office Assistant	Hunter Hnat
Program	Thomas Wentzel
Rogue Website	Bryan Rafael Falcón, Bill Sandel & Thomas Wentzel

#### We are flawed:

each of us limited by our own needs and fears. And we don't have much power. But we have the power to let you speak and we have the power to listen.

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—Chorus in Ellen McLaughlin's *The Oresteia* 

#### **Music Director's Notes**

*The Oresteia* is the oldest known Greek trilogy in existence, and it exists because of the Greek's steadfast tradition of writing down their thoughts and ideas. Luckily, they continued this tradition of record keeping with the music they wrote.

The opening theme is penned by Euripides and was written for a production of Aeschylus' *The Oresteia* in 408 BCE. This piece was discovered in 1892 and reconstructed by scholars of ancient music only a few years ago in 2016. It is one of about 60 pieces of music discovered and preserved from the ancient times.

The exact tuning system of the Ancient Greeks is difficult to decipher, but it is known that they used octave-based scales like we do today (think Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do). The intervals of the octave, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> have a sonically pleasant purity, and it is Pythagoras (c. 530 BCE) who discovered a mathematical ratio between these intervals and their harmonic series. Pythagoras did not invent musical scales, but he did help to explain why the human ear is drawn to the use of said intervals. This "purity" serves as the foundation of Western music tuning as we know it today.

Unlike, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> scale degrees, the intervals of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> do not have mathematically pure ratios. Therefore, the tuning is subjective and is interpreted differently depending on where one is geographically. It wasn't until J.S. Bach's time in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century that the Western world began to adopt the system of equal temperament.

The opening theme is believed to be in the Doric mode (a precursor to the Western *Dorian* mode), in which the  $2^{nd}$  and  $3^{rd}$  scale degrees are comprised of three different microtones. This kind of tuning is unfamiliar to the modern Western ear, but I've attempted to capture some of the 'authentic' tuning of the time. Most of the melodic themes in this production gravitate towards this ancient tuning ideal.

-Russell Ronnebaum, Music Director, Pianist and Composer

*The Oresteia* cover illustration: *The Mask of Agamemnon*, gold funeral mask c. 1550–1500 BCE, discovered by Heinrich Schliemann at Mycenae, Greece, on display at the National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece

#### **Production Music** by Russell Ronnebaum

Melodic themes: Opening Theme: Orestes Chorus (Euripides) The Ceremony I Might Have Been Spared This Snake Dream They Are Coming For You

Underscoring: Taiko drum, singing bowls, cymbals, gongs, wind chimes, prepared piano, violin

#### The Playwright



Ellen McLaughlin's plays have received numerous national and international productions. They include *Days and Nights Within, A Narrow Bed, Infinity's House, Iphigenia and Other Daughters, Tongue of a Bird, The Trojan Women, Helen, The Persians, Oedipus, Ajax in Iraq, Kissing the Floor, Septimus and Clarissa,* and *Penelope.* Producers include: the Public Theater, The National Actors' Theater and New York Theater Workshop in NYC, Actors' Theater

of Louisville, The Actors' Gang L.A., Classic Stage Co., N.Y., The Intiman Theater, Almeida Theater, The Mark Taper Forum, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Getty Villa, and The Guthrie Theater, among other venues. She has taught playwriting at Barnard College since 1995. Other teaching posts include Breadloaf School of English, Yale Drama School and Princeton University. Ms. McLaughlin is also an actor. She is most well known for having originated the part of the Angel in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, appearing in every U.S. production from its earliest workshops through its Broadway run.

#### **Biographies**



**Julia Balestracci** (Clytemnestra) is delighted to join the cast of The Oresteia in her inaugural performance with The Rogue. She has appeared in the past three seasons at The Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre next door, most recently as the witch in the musical *The Light Princess*. Other productions include *The Little Prince, Blood Wedding, Eurydice,* and *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play.* An East Coast transplant, she has been involved in the performing

arts in many capacities, from acting and puppetry, as an original member of Brooklyn theater company Drama of Works, to various forms of folk music and dance, to ensemble and solo performances singing operatic, classical, and early music repertoire. She has performed at diverse venues, including the Brooklyn Museum, Harvard University, Avery Fisher Hall, and HERE Arts Center. Julia has a M.M. in voice from Longy School of Music of Bard College, and a BA in Theater Studies from Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School. Julia Balestracci's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Art & Katherine Jacobson and Brock & Chantal McCaman.

**Bryn Booth** (Electra) is a graduate of the BFA Acting program at the University of Arizona. She was most recently seen as Mary Shelley/Elizabeth in *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* and as Catherine in *A View from the Bridge*. This is Bryn's fourth season as a member of the Resident Acting Ensemble with The Rogue where she has performed as Clotho (*Moby Dick*), Ruth Condomine (*Blithe Spirit*), Tour Guide (*Middletown*), Abigail (*The* 



*Crucible*) for which she was nominated for a MAC award for Best Actress, Snake-Leaves Princess (*The Secret in the Wings*), Hero (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Ensemble (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), Little Monk (*Galileo*), Regan (*King Lear*), Rose of Sharon (*The Grapes of Wrath*), Sybil (*A House of Pomegranates*), and Lady Macduff (*Macbeth*). In 2018, Bryn played Mag in the Scoundrel & Scamp's production of *Lovers*, for which she was nominated for a MAC award for Best Actress. Other credits include *The Love Talker* (Scoundrel & Scamp) *Romeo & Juliet* (Tucson Shakespeare in the Park), and *Othello* (Arizona Repertory Theatre). She also had the pleasure of understudying with Arizona Theatre Company in *Romeo & Juliet* and *Of Mice and Men*. Bryn wants to thank Joe and Cindy for giving her the best job she's ever had with the most amazing people she's ever met. Bryn Booth's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Joan Warfield and Denice Blake & John Blackwell.



**Rosanne Couston** (Chorus) is a native Tucsonan most recently appeared in partially staged reading of *A Poison Squad of Whispering Women* and a full production of *The Hall of Final Ruin* with Something Something Theatre. She has worked extensively with Borderlands Theater in such shows as *Nogales: Storytellers in Cartel Country, Barrio Stories, Burning Patience, Electricidad*, and *Barrio Hollywood*. Her bilingual productions include

*Ausente/Absence, Sazon de Mujer, Living Out*, and *The House of Spirits*. She also performed with Winding Road Theater Ensemble, The Rogue Theatre, Invisible Theatre, Live Theatre Workshop and Mercury Productions. By day, she is an Academic Librarian who is also the voiceover talent for her college's information literacy tutorials. Rosanne Couston's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Sarah Boroson & Rosemarie Ampela and Bill & Barb Dantzler.

Nicole DelPrete (Cassandra/Chorus) is currently a senior studying Theatre and Creative Writing at the University of Arizona. She is very thankful that this is her very first show with The Rogue Theatre. Previously, Nicole was in *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing, Blood Wedding, Little Prince,* and *The Light Princess* at the Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre. She also is a part of the Charles Darwin Experience, an improv troupe at



University of Arizona. She would like to thank her family and friends for their loving support. Nicole DelPrete's performance is supported in part by a generous gift from Todd Hansen.



**Shannon Elias** (Chorus) is making her Rogue Theatre acting debut with The Oresteia. She can usually be seen in the box office, and is so thrilled to have been given the opportunity to make the jump to the stage. She's performed in a number of productions in both Phoenix and Tucson. Favorite roles have included Olive Madison in *The Odd Couple*, Aunt Letty in *The Magician's Nephew*, and The Activist in *Power* 

2K10, a devised theatre piece with the University of Arizona's Studio Series. More recently, she's been seen in productions at The Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre (*The Thanksgiving Show*) and Strada Company (*Job: A Story*). Shannon holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from the University of Arizona with a minor in Special Education and Rehabilitation Psychology. Shannon Elias' performance is supported in part by a generous gift from John & Diane Wilson.



Lance Guzman (Chorus) is happy to be joining The Rogue for *The Oresteia*. He was previously in *Moby Dick* as Fedallah. He has also appeared in the Scoundrel and Scamp productions *Salome, Mr. Burns, Blood Wedding, The Little Prince* and most recently in *It Is Magic*. He is a University of Arizona graduate with a BA in Theatre Arts and a student of the Bennett Theatre Lab. Lance Guzman's performance is supported in part by a generous gift from

Rhonda & Robert Fleming.

Hunter Hnat (Orestes) is grateful to be in his third season as a member of The Rogue Resident Acting Ensemble. You may have seen him in previous Rogue productions as Lord Byron/Frankenstein in *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, Rodolpho in *A View from the Bridge*, Ray Dooley in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Flask in *Moby Dick*, Edmund Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, the Mechanic in *Middletown*, Ezekiel Cheever in *The Crucible*, Ensemble in



The Secret in the Wings, Claudio in Much Ado About Nothing, Christopher in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Andrea in Galileo, Oswald in King Lear, Steindorff in Bach at Leipzig, and Ensemble for A House of Pomegranates. Other credits include Salomé (Scoundrel & Scamp), U/S in Romeo and Juliet (Arizona Theatre Company), How the House Burned Down (Live Theatre Workshop) as well as several other workshops and readings. He is a U of A alumnus with his BFA in Musical Theatre, class of 2015. Enjoy the show! Hunter Hnat's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Tim Wernette & Carolyn Brown and Paul Winick & Ronda Lustman.



**Callie Hutchison** (Chorus, Violin) Originally hailing from the great state of Minnesota, Callie gladly escaped the frozen northern clutches of the Twin Cities for the searing heat of Tucson, and ever since can be found performing all over southern Arizona as an actor and musician. This includes productions at The Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre, Arizona Repertory Theatre, The Bennett Theatre Lab, the Tucson Repertory Orchestra, and as a founding member of

the Engelmann Quintet, and the Sky Island Chamber Society. When she's not acting, teaching or playing the violin, she directs the Cochise County Youth Orchestra and the Cochise College Orchestra. Callie Hutchison's performance is supported in part by a generous gift from Shawn Burke.

Deep in the darkness of my fisted heart a match is struck to light the bright little fire of dread.

> —Chorus in Ellen McLaughlin's *The Oresteia*



**Cynthia Meier** (Chorus) is the Managing and Associate Artistic Director for The Rogue, and has appeared recently in *A View from the Bridge, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, Blithe Spirit, The Crucible, Three Tall Women,* and *The Grapes of Wrath.* Cynthia has been nominated for nine Mac Awards for Best Actress from the Arizona Daily Star and received the 2008 Mac Award for her portrayal of Stevie in *The Goat.* She has also performed with Arizona

Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Michigan Repertory Theatre and Borderlands Theatre. Cynthia holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from the University of Arizona. Cynthia Meier's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Sally Krusing and Laura Kosakowsky and Laura & Thomas Pew.

**Sol Murguia** (Iphigenia/Chorus) Is very grateful for the opportunity to be in her first show at The Rogue. She performed mostly at Flowing Wells High School in *Frankenstein; Cuando Soñamos; Cuando Mentimos; Newsies*, and many more. Sol is a student at the University of Arizona studying Veterinary Science while minoring in Theater performance. She hopes to continue performing at The Rogue and gives thanks to all who support her journey



as an upcoming local actress. Sol Murguia's performance is supported in part by a generous gift from Matt McGrath.



**Dennis O'Dell** (Watchman/Chorus) Dennis is thrilled to be returning to his first love, theatre, after a 26-year hiatus in the world of Retail Business Management. Dennis and his wife founded and operated an Off-Loop Professional/Educational theatre company, The Center Ring, in Chicago in the 1980s and 1990s, with an emphasis on training young actors and showcasing them in production with working professionals. As an actor,

favorite roles include Shaw in *Dear Liar*, Tevya in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Glas in *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*, and anything and everything Shakespeare. Dennis O'Dell's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Lori Levine & Gary Benna and Tim Wernette & Carolyn Brown.



**Aaron Shand** (Agamemnon) was last seen on The Rogue stage as Eddie Carbone in *A View from the Bridge*. Now in his third season as a member of The Rogue Theatre's Resident Acting Ensemble, Aaron has also appeared as Ishmael in *Moby Dick*, The Cop in *Middletown*, Hathorne in *The Crucible*, The Sea Captain in *The Secret in the Wings*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Sagredo in *Galileo*, Noah Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* and Duke of Albany in

*King Lear*. Born and raised in Tucson, he received his B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Arizona, performing for the Arizona Repertory Theatre in *Bus Stop, The Miracle Worker* and *Romeo & Juliet*. He also spent a season with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, performing in *The Cherry Orchard, State of the Union* and *A Christmas Carol*. Aaron Shand's performance is supported in part by generous gifts from Carol Mangold and Andy & Cammie Watson.

Joseph McGrath (Director) is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Drama and is the Artistic Director for The Rogue Theatre. For The Rogue, Joe authored and directed *Immortal Longings*, and directed *Blithe Spirit*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *A House of Pomegranates*, *Uncle Vanya* (2016 Mac Award for Best Director), *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, *By the Bog of Cats*, *The Lady in the Looking Glass*, *Dante's Purgatorio*, *Mistake of the Goddess*,



Mother Courage and Her Children, As I Lay Dving, The Real Inspector Hound (2010 Mac Award for Best Director). The Decameron, Our Town, Red Noses. Endymion, The Maids (winner of the Arizona Daily Star 2007 Mac Award for Best Play), and The Balcony. Joe was most recently seen as Alfieri in A View from the Bridge, Captain Ahab in Moby Dick, James Tyrone in Long Day's Journey Into Night, Deputy Governor Danforth in The Crucible, Ambassador in The Secret in the Wings, Voice Four/Rev. Peters in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Galileo in Galileo (2018 Mac Award for Best Actor), Lear in King Lear, Macbeth in Macbeth, Fitz in Penelope, in the ensemble of The White Snake, Roy Cohn in Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches, Mr. Taylor in Tales of the Jazz Age, a singing peasant in Miss Julie, as Claudius in Hamlet and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Lord Henry Wotton in The Picture of Dorian Grav, Shylock in The Merchant of Venice, Vladimir in Waiting for Godot, Johnnie 'Rooster' Byron in Jerusalem, Myron Berger in Awake and Sing, Bernard Nightingale in Arcadia, Duke Vincentio in Measure for Measure, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester in Richard III. In 2009 Joe won the Arizona Daily Star Mac Award for Best Actor for his portraval of Tobias in A Delicate Balance. He has toured with John Houseman's Acting Company, performed with the Utah Shakespearean Festival, and he is a frequent performer with Ballet Tucson appearing in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Cinderella, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Dracula and The Nutcracker. He has also performed with Arizona Theatre Company, Arizona Opera, Tucson Art Theatre, and Arizona OnStage. Joe owns, with his wife Regina Gagliano, Sonora Theatre Works, which produces theatrical scenery and draperies.



**Russell Ronnebaum** (Music Director, Composer/Arranger) serves as The Rogue Theatre's Director of Music and Resident Composer. He holds a Master of Music degree in collaborative piano from the University of Arizona where he studied under Dr. Paula Fan. He currently serves as the assistant director of music at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Oro Valley, as well as the staff accompanist for the Tucson Masterworks Chorale. As a

classically trained pianist, Russell has performed with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, Artifact Dance Company, Arizona Repertory Theatre, and as a concerto soloist with the Tucson Masterworks Chorale. Russell made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2016 performing the music of composer Dan Forrest. Past credits include The Rogue's 2019 and 2020 productions of *Much Ado About Nothing, Long Day's Journey Into Night, Blithe Spirit, Moby Dick, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, The Awakening, A View from the Bridge* and *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (Music Director, Pianist, and Composer) and *The Secret in the Wings* (Vocal Director). Russell also composes the music for *Rogue Radio*, a radio play series produced in partnership with Arizona Public Media, NPR 89.1 FM. Recent composition commissions and premieres include music for bassoon quartet, live theatre, strings, brass, voice, choir, and piano. Recordings, videos, sheet music, and upcoming concert dates can be found at <u>www.RRonnebaum.com</u>.

Karen Falkenstrom (Taiko) began playing taiko in Tucson in 2001, and co-founded Odaiko Sonora in 2002. She has worked for, directed and helped found several music and literary arts nonprofits, such as Kore Press, Tucson Poetry Festival, InConcert! Tucson, the UA Poetry Center and Tucson Pima Arts Council. The daughter of a violinist and opera singer, Karen's life has been filled with the notes and rhythms of life. It's always an amazing honor to share those with her favorite Rogues.





**Don Fox** (Lighting Design) holds an MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Arizona and a BA in Theatre Administration from St. Edward's University, Austin, TX. He is currently serving as an Assistant Professor for the University of Arizona. As a professional, freelance lighting and scenic designer and theatre producer and consultant, his clients include The Moscow Ballet, The Atlantis Resort Bahamas, Borgata Casino Atlantic City, Silversea Cruises,

Music Theatre Wichita, Florida State University, Central Washington University, City Opera Ballet Company Bellevue, the San Antonio Botanical Garden's Shakespeare in the Park, and many others. Locally, he has designed acclaimed Rogue productions since 2013 including *Arcadia, Lady in the Looking Glass, Angels In America, By The Bog of Cats, The White Snake, A House of Pomegranates, The Grapes of Wrath, Moby Dick* and *A View from the Bridge,* among many others. Please visit Don on the web at <u>www.DonFoxDesigns.com</u>.



Vincent Calianno (Sound Design & Audio Post-Production) Inspired by the renegade eloquence of the American vernacular, composer and sound designer Vincent Calianno (b. 1979) "blurs the boundaries between fine art and popular culture" (VICE), through kaleidoscopic colorings, muscular rhythms, extreme stasis and motion, while curiously investigating new musical possibilities through new practices and obsolescent technologies. Calianno's music has been

commissioned and performed by ensembles including the International Contemporary Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, Thalea String Quartet, JACK Quartet, Nouveau Classical Project, Ensemble Mise-en, Jennifer Koh, John Pickford Richards, Kivie Cahn-Lipman, the Buffalo Philharmonic, Artifact Dance Project, and others. In addition to his concert works, Calianno has an active career in sound design and scoring for film and new media. His credits include music for Adecco, Morgan Stanley, and AlixPartners campaigns, as well as films and dramatic podcasts. His awards include the ASCAP Rudolf Nissim Prize, the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Award, and the Sarah Award for Best New Podcast. New projects include a new work, Ashliner, for violinist Jennifer Koh, Animal within Animal for the American Composers Orchestra and L'Astronome, a large-scale opera as part of Two Trains' 2020/21 season. Recent highlights include the Thalea String Quartet premiere of A History of the String Quartet in its Natural Habitat, and A Painted Devil, for dance the Artifact Dance Project. In 2019, Calianno co-founded Two Trains, a hybrid music-theatre-dance project focused on abstract and inventive storytelling through the combined expressions of imagery and sound. Their first project, L'Astronome, is a nine-part opera that combines movement, text, and sound through the medium of cinema, and is set to premiere in Fall of 2020. For more information visit droplid.com.

**Shannon Wallace** (Stage Manager) is excited for her fourth year as Resident Stage Manager with The Rogue Theatre, after a one-year hiatus. She served as stage manager for *Angels in America, A House of Pomegranates* and *The Grapes of Wrath.* She also worked on *The Picture of Dorian Gray, The Bridge of San Luis Rey, Uncle Vanya, Penelope, Macbeth, Celia, A Slave, Bach at Leipzig, Three Tall Women, King Lear, Galileo, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Much Ado About Nothing, The* 



*Crucible, A View from the Bridge* and *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* as stage manager as well as associate lighting designer. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, focusing on both stage management and lighting design. During her time in school she worked on over 25 productions with Arizona Repertory Theatre. She has also worked for Arizona Theatre Company, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, and the Contemporary American Theatre Festival serving on both stage management teams and company & events management teams. She is grateful to be working full-time as a theater artist in her hometown. Shannon Wallace's stage management is supported in part by a generous gift from Clay Shirk.



**Amy Novelli** (Scenic Artist) is originally from Ohio and Pennsylvania. She received her Cum Laude BFA from the Columbus (Ohio) College of Art & Design in 1987 and her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1994. Novelli's scenic art career began in New York City at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Studio. Charge Scenic Artist for the Arizona Theatre Company 2010–2014, Amy also painted several sets for Arizona Opera and UA Opera,

and presently paints for The Rogue Theatre and until COVID at the Arizona Broadway Theatre in Peoria (Phoenix). Amy created monstrous Halloween decor for Hotel Congress for 20 years, and was lead painter for Marshal-Fields 1998 award winning Easter Window display "Alice in Wonderland". She supervised four public art projects in the Tucson area with high school youth and won commissions to design and paint five large scale outdoor murals across the country as well as at the Biosphere II and La Posada Hotel on Oracle Blvd. She has taught at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College. Novelli's fine art work has been exhibited at several Tucson Galleries and in May-August 2020 she had a one woman show at the Tucson International Airport. Amy Novelli has been living in Tucson since 1996. When not painting, Novelli trains rescue horses and dogs and enjoys riding wilderness trails all over the western states. Amy Novelli's scenic painting is supported in part by a generous gift from Paul Winick & Ronda Lustman.

**Nanalee Raphael** (Costume Manager) has known from age five that she would work in theatre. Of course, she thought it would be as an actor, not as someone who flings fabric around. She feels blessed that she has always been employed in costuming, for both professional and academic theatres, and has never had to have a "day job." Until moving to Tucson in 1995, she was peripatetic in her work situations, desiring to work with theatres all over the



country. She has taught at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee but was lured by the bright lights of Chicago and so moved there to teach at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Following her husband to central Illinois, she then wangled a position at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she created a successful costume rental program. She then gave up all that greenery to come to Tucson to teach and design at the University of Arizona. She has worked as a costume designer, costume director and/or draper in professional theatres in Michigan, (Hope Summer Repertory, Holland), Wisconsin (American Players Theatre, Spring Green), Illinois (Goodman, Wisdom Bridge, and Steppenwolf, Chicago), New York (The Public, NYC), Arizona (ART & ATC, Tucson), at Shakespeare Festivals in Vermont and New Jersey, and California (The Old Globe, San Diego). She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Costume Design and Technology from Syracuse University. She is one of the "Pioneering Seven," the first group of women to study full-time at Dartmouth College.



**Peter Bleasby** (Master Electrician) lit his first show at 13. Professionally, he was with BBC Television for several years, and was an assistant to the UK lighting designer Richard Pilbrow during the inaugural production of the National Theatre (*Hamlet*, directed by Olivier.) Although his career was in architectural lighting, he maintained some theatre lighting involvement on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2009, he volunteered for the Rogue's initial season at the

Historic Y. He has been master electrician at the Rogue for every show from 2013 to the present, supporting our lighting designers Deanna Fitzgerald, Don Fox, and Josh Hemmo. He devised the system that enables lights to be quickly re-arranged, allowing more time for the creative process. Elsewhere in Tucson, he directed the technical and logistical aspects of fundraisers for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, including the fashion show *Moda Provocateur*.

**Thomas Wentzel** (Box Office Manager, Program, Website) is a Scientific Programmer for the National Solar Observatory and holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Arizona. Previously he has worked as a Data Manager for several prevention programs in the Arizona Cancer Center and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman Arizona College of Public Health. He has served on the Board of the Tucson Men's Cooperative, editing its newsletter for



five years, and on the Executive Committee of Sons of Orpheus—The Male Choir of Tucson. He has sung with Furry Day Singers, Sons of Orpheus, AwenRising and Arizona Repertory Singers, and has performed with Tucson Art Theatre in Viktor Slavkin's *Cerceau* and Clifford Odets' *Waiting for Lefty*. Thomas has designed and built The Rogue Theatre Web site (with great assistance from Bill Sandel and Bryan Falcón in creating the 2020 Website update), creates all The Rogue's posters and programs and has served as Webmaster, Business Manager and Treasurer.

> There are dreams and there are memories. And sometimes sometimes they are both.

> > —Chorus in Ellen McLaughlin's *The Oresteia*



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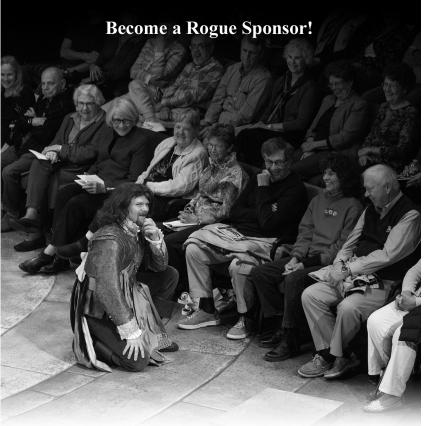
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