

What We're Up Against  
By Theresa Rebeck  
Directed by Jack Rowe

McClintock Theatre  
April 23-26, 2015

WHAT  
WE'RE UP  
AGAINST

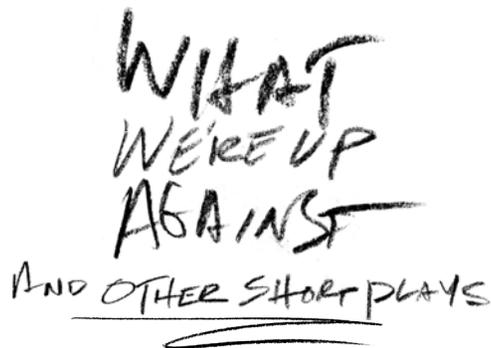


AND OTHER SHORT PLAYS



USC School of Dramatic Arts

PRESENTS



By Theresa Rebeck

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Tucker Aust Molly Chiffer Kyle deCamp Bella Delong
Elena K. Dole Ben Gail Sydnee Ann Grant Troy Guthrie
Audrey Halaas-Voorhees Ethan Haslam Miles Kath
Marlee Learner Madalina Nastase Gabriela Ortega
Zachary Roozen Delaney Rowe Jonathan von Mering

SCENIC AND LIGHTING DESIGN
Tom Buderwitz

COSTUME DESIGN
Colette Adatto

SOUND DESIGN
Emma Bramble

STAGE MANAGER
Jennifer Caspellan

DIRECTED BY
Jack Rowe

McClintock Theatre
April 23-26, 2015

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

PART 1

What We're Up Against

STU Troy Guthrie
BEN Zachary Roozen

Great To See You

RUDY Ethan Haslam
LIZA Molly Chiffer
JILL Audrey Halaas-Voorhees

Big Mistake

BRIAN Kyle deCamp
PAUL Miles Kath
LORNA Gabriela Ortega
ANNIE Sydnee Ann Grant
BARTENDER Jonathan von Mering

Train To Brooklyn

JULIA Elena K. Dole
HOLLY Molly Chiffer
STEPHANIE Delaney Rowe

Katie and Frank

KATIE Madalina Nastase
FRANK Ethan Haslam

PART 2

How We Get To Where We're Going

BRIANNA Bella Delong
PETRA Sydnee Ann Grant

Walk

MAN Tucker Aust
WOMAN Marlee Learner

The Actress

MIKE Jonathan von Mering
NINA Gabriela Ortega

Candy Heart

MONICA Elena K. Dole
BRENDA Delaney Rowe
BARTENDER Jonathan von Mering

Aftermath

SAM Ben Gail
DENISE Bella Delong

Time: Now.

Place: Here.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal Coach | Laura Flanagan Scenic Artist | Madison Orgill-Rhoades
Choreographer | Lili Fuller Assistant Stage Manager | Iman Khan
Scenic Design PA | Nelson Dial Lighting PA | Justus Bradshaw
Crew | Van Cummerford, Perry Mattfeld, Rebecca Mellinger, Sidne Phillips,
Pallavi Srinivasan, Julia Stier, Charlotte Trask, Brianna Ward

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains
smoking of an e-cigarette, and mature language and themes.

#### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Tonight's program is the first public presentation of our second year BFA Acting class. Some of the students in the class have performed in other SDA and ISP productions, but this is their first outing as a company. And, in a sense, the culmination of their first two years of training. It is not so easy to find a play for eight strong men and nine strong women that challenges all and gives each student a featured role and a story to tell. We found the perfect solution in the short plays of Theresa Rebeck (*Spike Heels, Sunday on the Rocks, Mauritius*, etc.) We are presenting 10 short one act plays by Ms. Rebeck, presented under the title *What We're Up Against* the title of one of them. In each of them Ms. Rebeck is able to give us a complete story (these are not excerpts, but complete scripts with a depth and detail of many plays that call themselves full length). We have found this work to be challenging, deceptively complex, very actable and, ultimately, both hard work and great fun. Hope you enjoy.

#### DIRECTOR'S BIO

**Jack Rowe** is the Director of BFA Acting, Artistic Director and an Associate Professor of Theatre Practice at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. He teaches acting classes in both the BA and BFA programs and directs School of Dramatic Arts productions regularly. He is a founding member of the Company Theatre, a Los Angeles-based theatre company begun by USC graduates in 1967. During its 12-year existence, the Company received awards and acclaim from Los Angeles drama critics and the national press, including such publications as *Time*, *Newsweek* and *The New Yorker*. Rowe worked with the Company as an actor, director, stage manager, composer and musician. He began his professional affiliation with the School of Dramatic Arts in 1979.

#### DEAN

Madeline Puzo

#### ASSOCIATE DEANS

Associate Professor of Theatre Practice David Bridel (Director of MFA in Acting)  
Professor Sharon Marie Carnicke  
Professor Velina Hasu Houston (Director of Dramatic Writing)

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Meiling Cheng (Director of Critical Studies)  
Oliver Mayer

#### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Luis Alfaro  
Takeshi Kata  
Tom Ontiveros  
Sibyl Wickersheimer

#### PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE

Andrei Belgrader  
Natsuko Ohama  
Andrew J. Robinson

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE

Philip G. Allen  
Paul Backer (Director of Undergraduate Voice and Movement)  
Brent Blair (Director of MA in Applied Theatre Arts)  
Elsbeth M. Collins (Director of Production)  
Anita Dashiell-Sparks  
Christina Haatainen-Jones (Director of Design)  
Joseph Hacker  
Duncan Mahoney (Technical Director)  
Mary-Joan Negro (Director of BA Acting Courses)  
Jack Rowe (Artistic Director, Director of BFA Acting Courses)  
Stephanie Shroyer (Associate Artistic Director)  
Eric Trules

#### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE

Randle Mell  
John DeMita  
David Warshofsky

#### ADJUNCT/PART-TIME FACULTY OF THEATRE PRACTICE

Tony Abatemarco, Rob Adler, Robert Bailey, Joe Bays, Andrew Borba, Tom Buderwitz, Anne Burk, Frank Catalano, Nina Causa-Ruis, Paula Cizmar, Rob Clare, Shannon Cochran, Anatasia Coon, Debra DeLiso, Kathleen Dunn-Muzingo, Frank Dwyer, Kirstin Eggers, Dan Fishbach, Laura Flanagan, Jeff Flowers, Parmer Fuller, Terry Gordon, Andrew J. Henkes, Michael Keenan, Mary K Klinger, Shishir Kurup, Edgar Landa, Vicki Lewis, Heather Lyle, Marjo-Riikka Makela, Babette Markus, Kevin McCorkle, Debbie McMahon, Laurel Meade, Bridghe Mullins, Lauren Murphy, Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, Jeremiah O'Brian, Patrick Pankhurst, Leah Piehl, John Rubinstein, Mady Schutzman, Virginia Scott, Janet Shulman, Colin Sieburgh, Zachary Steel, Jason Thompson, Ella Turenne, Laura Vena, Matt Walker, Julie Welch

Courtesy Joint Appointments: Thomas G. Cummings, Larry E. Greiner (Emeritus), Bruce Smith  
Emeriti Faculty: Don Llewellyn, Eve Roberts, Robert R. Scales, James Wilson

---

## BOARD OF COUNCILORS

Patrick J. Adams  
Lisa Barkett  
Todd Black  
Tim Curry  
Tate Donovan  
Michele Dedeaux Engemann  
(Founding Chair)  
Michael Felix  
Greg Foster  
Michael Gilligan  
Robert Greenblatt  
Donna Isaacson  
Mark Kogan  
Gary Lask  
Sheila Lipinsky  
Jimmy Miller  
Madeline Puzo  
Thomas Schumacher  
James D. Stern  
Andy Tennant  
Rik Toulon

## PARENT AMBASSADORS

Steve & Abbey Braverman  
Suzanne Bruce, MD  
& Malcolm Waddell  
Anne Helgen & Michael Gilligan  
Ernest & Raphael Morgan  
Teri & Byron Pollitt  
Lauren & David Rush



## STAFF

### DEAN'S OFFICE

*Executive Assistant to the Dean* Karita Pablik  
*Administrative Assistants* Michele Medina, Miranda Scheffel  
*Information Technology Director* Prakash Shirke

### ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS

*Assistant Dean* Lori Ray Fisher  
*Director of Academic & Student Services* Sergio Ramirez  
*Academic Advisors* Daniel Leyva, Isaac Vigilla  
*Internship & Special Programs Coordinator* Meghan Laughlin  
*Admissions Counselor* Ramón Valdez  
*Scheduling Coordinator* Helga Matthews  
*Office Manager* Mabel Lopez

### BUSINESS AFFAIRS

*Assistant Dean* Virginia Ross  
*Business Administrator & HR/Payroll Coordinator* Crystal Balthrop

### COMMUNICATIONS

*Assistant Dean* Delphine Vasko  
*Director of Print and Digital Media* Stacey Wang Rizzo  
*Graphic Designer* Christopher Komuro

### DEVELOPMENT

*Assistant Dean* Sara Fousekis  
*Director of Major Gifts* Billie Ortiz  
*Director of Individual Giving* Kimberly Muhlbach  
*Director of Special Events* Marissa Gonzalez  
*Development Research Assistant* Maggie Abrego-Bellis  
*Development Assistant* Kathy Morgan

### PRODUCTION

*Assistant Technical Directors* Michael Etzrodt, Michael Wiskow  
*Theatre Manager* CB Borger  
*Asst. Theatre Managers* Fionnegan Justus Murphy, Christopher Paci  
*Costume Shop Manager* Howard Schmitt  
*Costume Technicians* Charlotte Stratton, JoEllen Skinner  
*Scenic Charge Artist* Vika Teplinskaya  
*Properties Manager* Hannah Burnham

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Located in Los Angeles, a city synonymous with artistic innovation and excellence, the top-ranked USC School of Dramatic Arts is a leader in dramatic arts education. The School uniquely blends artistic training in a conservatory environment with world-class faculty artists and the full academic experience found only within a major research university. This close-knit, supportive environment offers students the freedom to explore their artistic passions. Through programs of the highest caliber, as well as initiatives that provide access to professional experience, students are prepared for leadership in every facet of dramatic arts. For more information, please visit <http://dramaticarts.usc.edu>.

## SUPPORTERS OF DRAMATIC ARTS

The USC School of Dramatic Arts would like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals and organizations who have supported the School with a gift of \$1,000 or more over the past year towards core annual programs such as production, guest artists, scholarship and the Dean's Strategic Fund. We recognize at the visionary level those donors whose tremendous generosity has reached the cumulative giving level of \$1 million+ and whose foresight and extraordinary commitment has helped secure our role as one of the leading dramatic arts programs in the country and laid the foundation for our continued prominence and future achievements.

### VISIONARY CIRCLE

Dr. & Mrs. Peter Bing and the  
Anna H. Bing Living Trust  
George N. Burns Trust  
Katherine B. Loker  
Robert & Elizabeth Plumleigh  
*in memory of*  
Karen Plumleigh Cortney\*

### SEASON SPONSORS

The Ahmanson Foundation  
Steve & Abbey Braverman\*  
Barnett Charitable Foundation\*  
Richard & Lori Berke\*  
Kathryn & John Gilbertson  
Eric T. Kalkhurst & Nora K. Hui\*  
Seth & Vicki Kogan\*  
Steve & Jerri Nagelberg\*  
Sally & Howard Oxley  
*in honor of Dean Madeline Puzo\**  
Susie & Alex Pilmer\*  
Teri & Byron Pollitt\*  
Suzanne Bruce, MD  
& Malcolm Waddell\*  
Richard & Diane Weinberg  
Craig & Jennifer Zobelein

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Anonymous  
Alexander & Megan LoCasale\*  
Ernest & Raphael Morgan\*  
Brian & Dianne Morton  
Oscar & Mary Pallares\*  
Jim & Leslie Visnic\*

### PRODUCERS

Anonymous  
Randolph & Ellen Beatty  
The H.N. and Frances C.  
Berger Foundation  
MaryLou Boone  
*In memory of John R. Bukowiec*  
Tate Donovan  
Gail & Jim Ellis  
*in honor of Madeline Puzo*  
Roger & Michele  
Dedeaux Engemann  
Margaret Eagle & Eli Rapaport  
Michael & Debbie Felix  
Brad & Ally Fuller  
Mark J. & Elizabeth L. Kogan  
Philanthropic Fund  
Gary & Karen Lask  
Sheila & Jeff Lipinsky  
Moss Foundation  
Aileen & James Reilly

### DIRECTORS

Todd Black & Ruth Graham Black  
Dr. Verna B. Dauterive  
Ken & Kim Farinksy  
Gregory & Marci Foster  
Marvin & Cookie Friedman  
George & Dyan Getz  
Anne Helgen & Michael Gilligan  
Susan A. Grode  
Pat & Cindy Haden  
*from The Rose Hills Foundation*  
Tom & Noelle Hicks  
Donna Isaacson  
Jimmy & Cheryl Miller  
Christine Marie Ofiesh  
Robert R. Scales *in memory of*  
*Suzanne Grossmann Scales*  
David & Rebecca Scaramucci  
Carole Shammass & Darryl Holter  
Thomas Schumacher  
James D. Stern  
Rik Toulon  
Nancy & Peter Tuz

### PATRONS

Patrick J. Adams  
The Emanuel Bachmann  
Foundation  
Barbara Cotler  
George & Barbara Farinsky  
*in honor of Meg Farinsky*  
Laurie & William Garrett  
Teri & Gary Paul  
Eddie & Julia Pinchasi  
J.W. Woodruff and  
Ethel I. Woodruff Foundation

### ANGELS

Jonathan & Adrienne Anderle  
Mohammed & Elizabeth Anis  
Anonymous  
Susan & David Berck  
Amir & Angela Bozorgmir  
Sara Bancroft-Clair & Pierson Clair  
Linda Chester & Kenneth Rind  
*in honor of Howard & Sally Oxley*  
Caroline Jin Choi  
The Del Conte Family  
Scott & Deborah DeVries  
Richard Frankosky &  
Elaine Eliopoulos  
Alan Friedman & Laura Lee  
Molly & David Helfet  
Jeffrey P. McKee Foundation  
David & Debra Jensen  
James & Margaret Kelly

### ANGELS (continued)

The Bridges Larson Foundation  
David & Debra Little  
Steve & Cynthia Lynch  
Marguerite E. MacIntyre  
Douglas & Elissa Mellinger  
Cathy Moretti  
Scott S. Mullet &  
Jenelle Anne Marsh-Mullet  
Robert & Debbie Myman  
Sylvia Neil *in honor of*  
*Richard Weinberg &*  
*Diane Stilwell*  
Sherri Nelson  
Elizabeth C. Noble  
Dr. Willa Olsen  
Mark Paluch  
Joseph & Catherine Phoenix  
Dean Madeline Puzo  
Andrew J. & Irene Robinson  
Meredith & Drew Rowley  
John & Cyndy Scotti  
Rick & Jeanne Silverman  
Nancy Sinatra, Sr.  
*in honor of my niece Dean Puzo*  
Abe & Annika Somer  
Jeff & Cathie Thermond  
Ruth Tuomala & Ernest Cravalho  
Gloria A. Vogt-Nilsen  
Carol & Grover Wilson

### DONATIONS IN KIND

Jean A. Black  
Els Collins  
Jeffrey de Caen  
Rosemary Gableton  
David & Debra Jensen  
Mark Malan  
Judith Parker  
Tamara Ruppert & Kevin Zvargulis

We hope you will consider becoming a member. For more information about giving to the School of Dramatic Arts, please contact Sara Fousekis at 213.821.4047 or [fousekis@usc.edu](mailto:fousekis@usc.edu).

\*Represents multi-year pledge

# A place of possibilities

## USC School of Dramatic Arts

2014/15 SEASON

**To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday**  
By Michael Brady  
Directed by Cameron Watson  
Scene Dock Theatre  
*October 2-5, 2014*

**4.48 Psychosis**  
By Sarah Kane  
Directed by Paul Backer  
McClintock Theatre  
*October 2-5, 2014*

**Dark of the Moon**  
By Howard Richardson  
and William Berney  
Directed by John DeMita  
Bing Theatre  
*October 9-12, 2014*

**The Dream of the Burning Boy**  
By David West Read  
Directed by Edward Edwards  
Scene Dock Theatre  
*October 23-26, 2014*

**Summer Brave**  
By William Inge  
Directed by Robert Bailey  
McClintock Theatre  
*October 30-November 2, 2014*

**Cat Among the Pigeons**  
By Georges Feydeau  
Translated by John Mortimer  
Directed by Michael Keenan  
Bing Theatre  
*November 6-9, 2014*

**Anna in the Tropics**  
By Nilo Cruz  
Directed by Denise Blasor  
McClintock Theatre  
*November 20-23, 2014*

**The American Clock**  
By Arthur Miller  
Directed by Cameron Watson  
Scene Dock Theatre  
*November 20-23, 2014*

**MFA Acting Spring Repertory\***  
Scene Dock Theatre  
*February 7-March 8, 2015*

**The Seagull**  
By Anton Chekhov  
Directed by Kate Burton

**The Servant of Two Masters**  
By Carlo Goldoni  
Translated by Sylvie Drake  
Directed by Andy Robinson

**Blood Match**  
By Oliver Mayer  
Inspired by the play  
*Bodas de Sangre*  
by Federico García Lorca  
Directed by David Bridel

**Red Noses**  
By Peter Barnes  
Directed by Stephanie Shroyer  
McClintock Theatre  
*February 26-March 1, 2015*

**As You Like It**  
By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Michael Arabian  
Bing Theatre  
*March 5-8, 2015*

**The Way of the World**  
By William Congreve  
Directed by John DeMita  
Scene Dock Theatre  
*April 2-5, 2015*

**Grease**  
Book, Music and Lyrics by  
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey  
Directed by Jeff Maynard  
Bing Theatre  
*April 2-12, 2015*

**The Waiting Room**  
By Lisa Loomer  
Directed by Larissa Kokernot  
McClintock Theatre  
*April 9-12, 2015*

**New Works Festival Year 2**  
The Master of Fine Arts  
in Dramatic Writing  
Playwrights Workshop  
Massman Theatre  
*April 10-26, 2015*

**What We're Up Against**  
By Theresa Rebeck  
Directed by Jack Rowe  
McClintock Theatre  
*April 23-26, 2015*

**Crumbs from the Table of Joy**  
By Lynn Nottage  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel  
Scene Dock Theatre  
*April 23-26, 2015*

**New Works Festival Year 3**  
The Master of Fine Arts in  
Dramatic Writing Play Project  
The Carrie Hamilton Theatre at  
The Pasadena Playhouse  
*May 26-30, 2015*

For tickets and information, visit [dramaticarts.usc.edu](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu)

**USC**  
University of  
Southern California