

USC School of Dramatic Arts
Massman Theatre
April 7-9, 2017

MFA DRAMATIC WRITING YEAR 2
PLAYWRIGHTS WORKSHOP

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

BIG MOUNTAIN RADIO

BY JOHN E. ALLIS

USC School of Dramatic Arts

PRESENTS

BIG MOUNTAIN RADIO

By John E. Allis

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Daniel Helms Lurie Poston Safiya Quinley
Jens Sweaney Alexander Walter

SCENIC DESIGN

Mallory Gabbard

COSTUME DESIGN

Julie Gongwer

LIGHTING DESIGN

Stacy McKenney

SOUND DESIGN

Emma Bramble

STAGE MANAGER

Jamie Salinger

DIRECTED BY

Shishir Kurup

MFA Dramatic Writing Year 2 / Playwrights Workshop

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Massman Theatre

April 7–9, 2017

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Marty

Daniel Helms

Rawley

Alexander Walter

Beth

Safiya Quinley

Pal

Lurie Poston

Vance

Jens Sweaney

TIME

September, 1972

PLACE

A house among awesome mountains and the snowy foothills

There will be no intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

STUDENT PRODUCTION MANAGER Savannah Harrow | DRAMATURG Laurel Ollstein

VOCAL COACH Lauren Murphy | FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY Joe Sofranko

REHEARSAL ASST. STAGE MANAGER Mattie Harris-Lowe

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGN Mia Glenn-Schuster | CREW Sara Young-Paige,
Nicholas Petroccione, Samuel Pirie, Aubrey Rhodes, Steven Vargas

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains faux blood,
partial nudity, herbal cigarettes/cigars, and violence.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I've never had a relationship with a play quite like this one. I've rewritten *Big Mountain Radio* from the blank page four times in three years. It has shifted in meaning and emphasis. Life happened. My interests took turns. My curiosities as a writer took new shapes.

The week the play was cast we had a reading. Afterward I told Shishir and Laurel, "I'm not interested in this text anymore." Where do you go from there? Several weeks of writing, discussion, and rumination finally yielded a script that had a new vitality to it, which the team was instrumental in excavating and deepening in emotion. The play finally achieved focus, the new text being tailored to its time and the instincts of its collaborators.

Let's talk about trauma, family, and the clumsy desire to be useful.

PLAYWRIGHT'S BIO

John E. Allis is a playwright, screenwriter, and musician from the Pacific Northwest. He writes to ask questions of the blank page. He doesn't want to tell the same story twice. He thinks the process begins with getting lost. He's interested in the troubled human heartbeat he doesn't find in the newspaper or his Facebook feed. A play isn't an expository essay. The first season of his audio drama, *On Top of Hooper's Hill*, is slated to premier fall of 2017. It is being produced in collaboration with MFADW alum Ashley Rose Wellman and features several USC student and graduate actors. His band The Slowwest is releasing a new EP this summer. His adaptation of Stanislaw Wyspiański's *The Wedding, Convergence Zone*, will be read April 29th at LATC. It is part of the event Iron Tongues, a partnership of USC, Playwrights Arena, and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute of Poland.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Shishir Kurup is an actor-writer-director-composer born in Bombay, raised in Kenya and ensemble member of the Internationally renowned Cornerstone Theater Company, with nominations and wins for Ovation, Garland and Dramalogue Awards in acting, composing and directing. He's written over 250 songs for Cornerstone, nominated for Best Musical of the Year, 2010 top three finalist for the Alan Schneider Award, Princess Grace fellow and one of only six artists to receive the TIME Grant (called the mini Macarthur) from Audrey Skirball Foundation in recognition of his body of work. His productions of Quaira Alegria Hudes' Pulitzer winning *Water by the Spoonful* and *The Happiest Song Plays Last* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, were both audience favorites in 2014 and 2015.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to extend a special thanks to Scenic Design Mentor Tom Buderwitz, Costume Design Mentor Tina Haatainen-Jones, Tala, Leela, Jeff Sugarcane, Jeffe Huls, and the SMCC choir.
