

USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents



CAST OF CHARACTERS (in alphabetical order)

Giovanny Camarena <i>Father</i>	Michaela Skaribas <i>Galen</i>
Olivia Dopp <i>First Leper, First Assistant</i> (April 2nd performance), <i>Ensemble Journalist</i> (April 3rd performance)	Aspen K. Somers <i>Second Assistant</i> (April 3rd performance), <i>Adjutant</i> (April 2nd performance), <i>Ensemble Journalist</i> (April 2nd performance)
Rebecca Flores <i>The Marshal's Daughter</i>	Lisa Toudic <i>Daughter, Ensemble</i> <i>Journalist</i>
Charlotte Galbreath <i>Journalist</i>	George Vagujhelyi <i>Third Leper, Krug Junior</i>
Maya Gardner <i>The Marshal</i>	Amelia Vargas <i>Mother</i>
Caroline Goldenberg <i>First Assistant</i> (April 3rd performance), <i>Ensemble</i> <i>Journalist</i> (April 2nd performance)	Anna Velychko <i>Second Leper, Second</i> <i>Assistant</i> (April 2nd performance), <i>Adjutant</i> (April 3rd performance), <i>Ensemble Journalist</i> (April 3rd performance)
Michael O'Harlem <i>Baron Krug</i>	Connor Wanless <i>Sigelius</i>
Delaney Powell <i>Son, Ensemble Journalist</i>	

The White Plague is presented in special arrangement with Methuen Drama and Bloomsbury Press.

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains simulated smoking; firearms; depictions of racism, racist and xenophobic language; and mob violence.

TIME & PLACE

A country on the brink of war... Sometime in the near future.

There will be no intermission.

MUSIC

QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Written and Performed by Joh Chase
| Produced by Ken Sawyer

TV3 NEWS THEME

Michael Teoli

TRUTH OR DARE

Performed by Andie Paredes |
Written by Andie Paredes and Mark
Vogel | Produced by Mark Vogel |
Publisher: Lindak Music, BMI

LAST THING I EVER DO

Performed by Joe Donohoe | Written
by Joe Donohoe & Casey Mahoney

HOPELESS

Performed by Joe Donohoe |
Written by Joe Donohoe & Casey
Mahoney

AVALANCHE

"Avalanche" used courtesy of
Joh Chase, to be released 10/2021
| Written, Performed + Executive
Produced by Joh Chase | Produced
and Mixed by Dan Molad |
Publisher: Joint Custody Pitbull,
ASCAP

SCENIC/PROJECTION DESIGN

Eliot Ohlemeyer

ASSISTANT SCENIC/
PROJECTION DESIGN

Monica Kosmos

COSTUME DESIGN

Sophia Grose

LIGHTING DESIGN

Yajayra Franco

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGN

Reena Ye

SOUND DESIGN

Stephen Jensen

STAGE MANAGER

Karlie Teruya

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Shelby Pine

Transition Videos Created by Ken Sawyer and Eliot Ohlemeyer

NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS

Though originally written in 1937 as a response to the rise of Nazi Germany, Karel Čapek's play bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the COVID-19 pandemic in which a disease (first discovered in China) is ravaging the world.

PLEASE NOTE: To authentically tell the story, this play contains depictions and descriptions of racism, racist and xenophobic language, and mob violence.

From March 2020 to February 2021, Stop AAPI Hate has documented over 3,795 reports of anti-Asian hate, which represents a fraction of incidents that have occurred. Since then, a mass shooting at three Georgia spas on March 16, 2021, took the lives of six Asian women and two other victims in a targeted attack. The USC School of Dramatic Arts condemns racism, xenophobia and the increasing acts of violence targeted towards Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi communities. We denounce such violence against any member of humanity and those who perpetrate such violence must be held accountable. We commit to working together to continue our important anti-racist work and education, and to combat white supremacy in all its forms. For resources and to report incidents of anti-Asian hate, visit stopaapihate.org.

► Please join us for a talk back following the performance on Saturday, April 3, at 4:15 p.m. P.T. <https://usc.zoom.us/j/95450188699>

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It's a play...about a country divided...ruled by a leader with dictator like tendencies...during a global pandemic. And it was written in 1937! When I was offered a chance to direct Karel Čapek's play, written in reaction to the rise of Hitler and taking place in a fictitious thinly veiled Germany, our world was in the midst of a pandemic and our country had not yet completed its 2020 election. It was an opportunity to work with the extraordinary talents at USC...both in acting and design. It was a chance to go out of my comfort zone. I feel "Zoom theatre" is neither theatre nor film...and yet is both. How could I resist? We decided to tackle this material and the challenges of telling its story remotely full on. To meet the needs of the medium, I was allowed to adapt the play for Zoom. Make no mistake, the heart of this piece and its complicated views are pure Čapek. Yet, the climate, as well as the palpability of racism and xenophobia written within this play, are all eerily and acutely relevant today.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Ken Sawyer is an award-winning director based in Los Angeles, California. His work includes musicals, plays, experimental theatre, concerts and special events. Highlights include collaborating with Emmy Award winner Paris Barclay on the Vietnam era musical *One Red Flower*, with rock icons Charlotte Caffey (the GoGos) and Anna Waronker (That Dog) on *Lovelace: The Rock Opera* and *Hit The Wall*, with Stephen Schwartz and David Stern on the development of *Snapshots*, and with legends Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner in re-imagining *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* for a full cast. At the top of this list is his long time collaboration with Jon Imparato and the Los Angeles LGBTQ Center. Ken is a graduate of both The Arts Magnet High School at Booker T Washington and The Juilliard School. www.kensawyerdirector.com

PRODUCTION STAFF

Virtual House Manager

Bessie Lebeda

Virtual Tech Lead

Christopher Paci

SPECIAL THANKS

Sebastian, Isabella Gomez, Eric Vetro and Gary Steinberg for their Teslas. Thank you to roommates, parents, and friends of the cast of *The White Plague* for all of their help off-camera.