The Conduct of Life

By María Irene Fornés
Kirk Douglas Theatre
November 17-19, 2022
The Conduct of Life
By María Irene Fornés

With
Alcides B. Costa Jr.  Beryl Liu  Krosby João Roza
Megan Tomei  Gabriella Weltman

Costume Design  Lighting Design
Juliet Black  Eliot Ohlemeyer
 BFA Design, Sophomore

Sound Design  Stage Manager
Alma Reyes-Thomas  Yaesol Jeong

Directed by Sabina Zúñiga Varela

Kirk Douglas Theatre
November 17-19, 2022

Originally produced at Theater for the New City, New York.
THE CONDUCT OF LIFE is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC.
www.broadwayplaypub.com
CAST (in alphabetical order)

Megan Tomei
Olimpia
MFA in Acting, Year 2

Gabriella Weltman
Nena
MFA Acting Year 2

Alcides B. Costa Jr.
Alejo
MFA Acting Year 2

Beryl Liu
Leticia
MFA Acting Year 2

Krosby João Roza
Orlando
MFA Acting Year 2
This performance will be performed without an intermission.

PLEASE NOTE
Please be advised that this production contains depictions of non-consensual sexual acts, descriptions of torture, themes of oppression and domestic violence, depictions of psychological violence, torture, underage trafficking and enslavement, and the use of weapons on stage.

ADDITIONAL THE CONDUCT OF LIFE PRODUCTION STAFF
Vocal/Dialect Coach Peter Marciano
Intimacy Director Margaret Kemp
Production Deputy Megan Tomei
The war “out there” never stays “out there.” It invades every aspect of life. It desensitizes those who commit atrocities as well as those who witness them. Bystanders actively avoid knowing what is going on around them. The constant environment of trauma breeds disassociation.

Fornés’s play was written in 1985. The Iran-Iraq war was in the news; Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini would set up a theocracy and deny women their human rights. Today, there is rebellion in Iran again. Women and men are demanding women’s rights be restored — demanding that women be relieved of the fear that they might be taken off the street and killed because of how they dress. In the U.S. Roe v. Wade has been overthrown. Women’s rights to bodily autonomy are under attack. Unprovoked, Russia has declared war against Ukraine. What is the cost of war to the aggressors? Ukrainians have become warriors to defend themselves. What will be this war’s cost to them? What is war’s cost, both for the nation and for the individual? The cost of war against women?

**María Irene Fornés** (1930–2018) was a Cuban-born American playwright. She wrote over 40 plays and won nine Obie awards. She was a director and teacher as well as a playwright and she inspired a generation of playwrights, including School of Dramatic Arts Professor Luis Alfaro. We are proud to be connecting with this underproduced great playwright and one of her most iconic works.
DEAN
Emily Roxworthy

VICE DEAN
Lori Ray Fisher

ASSOCIATE DEANS
Professor of Theatre Practice
Anita Dashiel-Sparks
(Vice Chair of Performance,
George Burns Professor of Theatre)

Professor Oliver Mayer
(Director of MFA Dramatic Writing Program)

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS
Velina Hasu Houston
(Resident Playwright)

PROFESSORS
Sharon Marie Carnicke
Meiling Cheng
Colman Domingo

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
Luis Alfaro
Takeshi Kata
(Chair of Design)
Sibyl Wickersheimer

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
Alexandra Billings
Esther K. Chae
Ann Closs-Farley
Elizabeth Harper
Samantha C. Jones
Noel Nichols

PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE
Philip G. Allen
(Director of Sound Design)

Brent Blair
(Director of Theatre & Social Change)

Kate Burton

Paula Cizmar

Elsbeth M. Collins
(Chair of Production & Stage Management)

Joseph Hacker

Duncan Mahoney
(Technical Director)

Kenneth Noel Mitchell
(Director of Musical Theatre)

Natsuko Ohama

Michele Shay
(Chair of Performance)

Stephanie Shroyer

David Warshofsky
(Director of MFA Acting, McKinlay Chair)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

OF THEATRE PRACTICE
John DeMita
Kathleen Dunn-Muzingo
Melinda C. Finberg
Laura Flanagan

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

OF THEATRE PRACTICE
Boni B. Alvarez
Bayo Akinfemi
Kirstin Eggers
Scott Faris

(Alice M. Pollitt Professor of Stage Management)

Stevie Johnson

Rena M. Heinrich

(Chair of Critical Studies & Dramatic Writing,
Chair of Literary Committee)

Dan Shaner
(Director of Professional Development)

Zachary Steel
(Director of Comedy)

Rodney To

ADJUNCT LECTURERS AND PART-TIME FACULTY
Emily Alpren, Robert Bailey, Christopher Bange, Ahmed Best, Mallory Birkrem, Danyé Brown,
Tom Buderwitz, Heather Carson, Frank Catalano, Julián Juaquín Conde, Jeff Crockett, Tim Dang,
Gregg T. Daniel, Debra De Liso, Shammy Dee, Amrita Dhamiwal, Gary Domasin, Kathryn Dunn,
Wayne Federman, Matthew Felton, Laurie Fisher, Lena Ford, Jenny Guthrie, Mireya Hepner, MaryAnn Hu,
Paul Hungerford, Nicholas Hussong, Edgar Landa, Erik Liberman, Carvons Lissaint, Anthony Lucca,
Peter Marciano, Babette Markus, Kevin McCorkle, Matthew Montgomery, Patrick Murphy,
Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, Jeremiah O’Brian, Stephanie Petagno, Kosta Potamianos, Tomm Polos,
Andy Robinson, Abdul Hamid Royal, Sheri Sanders, Pablo Santiago, Gabriella Santinelli, Sim Sarna,
Kenneth Sawyer, Nathan W. Scheuer, Judith Shelton, Tessa Slovis, Camille Thornton-Alson, Paul Urcioli,
Stephen Zuckerman, Sabina Zúñiga Varela

Emeriti Faculty: Don Llewellyn, Eve Roberts, Andy Robinson, Eric Trules, James Wilson
ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The USC School of Dramatic Arts fosters the talents of artist-scholars who are dramatically different—who are willing to imagine the future of the entertainment industry and bring it to life. Through an interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education students develop the skills necessary to discover their unique voice and are exposed to diverse styles and multiple media. Students and recent alumni are supported by the School's unique Professional Development Center which offers career services and professionalization opportunities to help students establish and sustain successful careers as creators, performers and cultural innovators. For more information, please visit 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 over the past year towards core programs such as production, professional development, scholarship, Dean's Strategic Fund and our new Drama Center. We recognize at the visionary level those donors whose tremendous generosity has reached the cumulative giving level of $1 million+. Their extraordinary commitment has built the foundation for our continued ascent and future achievements.

VISIONARY CIRCLE
Anonymous* (4)
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Bing and the Anna H. Bing Living Trust
Lauren & Mark Booth*
Victoire & Owsley Brown III*
George N. Burns Trust
Roger & Michele Dedeeaux Engemann*
Katherine B. Loker
Martin Massman Trust
Robert & Elizabeth Plumleigh — In Memory of Karen Plumleigh Cortney*
Alice, Teresa & Byron Pollitt

DEAN'S CIRCLE
Anonymous* (2)
The Auen Foundation
Rama Backer*
The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation*
Steve & Jerri Nagelberg*
Richard & Diane Weinberg*

PATRONS OF TRIBUTE
Anonymous*
Albert and Bessie Warner Fund
Joan Beber Grant Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation*
The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation*
Michael & Debbie Felix*
Vida & Kourosh Gohar*
Marilou & Mark Hamill Family*
Carla & Bill Pelster*
Linda Bernstein Rubin & Tony Rubin*

SEASON SPONSORS
Anonymous
Connie Britton
DeAnna & Michael Colglazier*
Christine & Gabriel Dassa*
The Megan & Larry Foley Foundation
Lori & Simon Furie
Kristin & Warren Geller* Perry C. Hoffmeister & Hilary C. Hoffmeister*
Pamela & Mark Litvack*
LoCasale Consulting, Inc.*
Michael & Melissa Meyers*
The Polos Family
Karyn & Paul Staubi*

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
Adam Blumenthal*
Legendary
Alexander & Megan LoCasale*
R. Sally Watt Oxley & Howard Oxley
Danny Strong
Adrienne Visnic*

PRODUCERS
Anonymous (3)
The Bryan Family
Kate & Joe Cannova
EPIX Entertainment, LLC
Brad & Ally Fuller
The Heslov Family
Melvin & Doris Hughes
Jan & Mike MacDougal
The Phil Allen Mentorship Scholarship
Rik Reppe

DIRECTORS
Chris & Jennifer Andrews
Lorrie A. Bartlett
Randolph & Ellen Beatty
Todd S. Black
& Ruth Graham Black
MaryLou O. Boone
John D. & Leslie Henner Burns Family Foundation
Michael & Michelle Chiklis
The Michael S. Engl Family Foundation
Sumner & Angela Erdman
Louise Firestone and Joseph Pizzurro, — In Honor of the SDA Faculty
Kristin Fontes
Gary & Karen Lask
Christine Marie Ofiesh
Anthony Sparks, Ph.D. & Professor Anita Dashiel-Sparks
Rik Toulon
John Villacorta
James & Leslie Visnic

PATRONS
Clara Y. Bingham & Joe G. Finnerty III
Lynn Hunt-Gray & Robert O. Gray Sr.
Dennis Cornell Lenahan
Kam & Joe Patton

ANGELS
Anonymous
Jonathan & Adrienne Anderle
Theodore V. Arevalo
Emanuel Bachmann Foundation — In Memory of Emanuel O. Bachmann, B.S. 1932
Yvonne M. Bogdanovich
Parvesh Cheena
Scot & Wendy Claus
Els Collins
Freddie & Andrea Fenster
James Fousekis
Jennifer Glogowski
Amy Landecker & Bradley Whitford LATC
John C. McGinley
Scott S. Mullet & Jenelle Anne Marsh-Mullet
Dr. Willa Olsen
Mary Reveles Pallares
Madeline Puzo — In Honor of Lori Fisher
Deirdre O'Connor Quinn & Patrick Quinn
Brian Sacca
Michael Charles Solomon
Abe & Annika Somer
Marissa Stahl
Susan Shetter
Jeff & Cathie Thermond
Drs. Kellie Yoon & Stephen Treiman
Yingping Zou & Hok Yau

*Represents multi-year pledge

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.
Wedlock of the Gods
By Zulu Sofola
BT Sept 29-Oct 2, 2022

Nora: A Doll’s House
By Stef Smith
SDT Oct 6-12, 2022

Carrie: The Musical
Music by Michael Gore
Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
Book by Lawrence D. Cohen
Based on the novel by Stephen King
MT Oct 6-9, 2022

Into the Woods
Music and Lyrics
by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
BT Oct 27-Nov 3, 2022

Wintertime
By Charles L. Mee
MT Oct 27-30, 2022

The Aliens
By Annie Baker
KDT Nov 10-12, 2022

The Conduct of Life
By María Irene Fornés
KDT Nov 17-19, 2022

we, the invisibles
By Susan Soon He Stanton
SDT Nov 10-20, 2022

Passage
By Christopher Chen
MT Nov 17-20, 2022

Buried Child
By Sam Shepard
SDT Jan 26–Feb 1, 2023

The Winter’s Tale
By William Shakespeare
BT Feb 23-26, 2023

Urinetown
Music by Mark Hollman
Lyrics by Mark Hollmann
and Greg Kotis
Book by Greg Kotis
BT Mar 30-Apr 5, 2023

The Belle’s Stratagem
By Hannah Cowley
SDT Apr 6-16, 2023

MFA Dramatic Writing Year 2
New Works Festival
Apr 6-9, 2023

MFA Dramatic Writing Year 3
New Works Festival
MT Apr 20-27, 2023

Company
Music and Lyrics
by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth
BT Apr 20-26, 2023

KEY: SDT = Scene Dock Theatre / BT = Bing Theatre / MT = McClintock Theatre / KDT = Kirk Douglas Theatre

For more information about our shows, visit
dramaticarts.usc.edu
Plays: General $17, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID $10
Musicals: General $22, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID $15
We recognize that challenging content can disturb as well as delight. Please know these resources are available for you.

**Powerful Theatre… sometimes doesn’t end when you leave.**

**Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)**
(213) 740-9355 (WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
https://sites.google.com/usc.edu/rsvpclientservices/home
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. (For USC Students)

**Journey Out**
https://journeyout.org/
The mission of this organization is to help victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking leave a life of abuse and violence, overcome their fears, and empower them to reach their life goals.

**The Haven at College**
https://thehavenatcollege.com/
On-campus care and support for college students and young adults struggling with mental health and substance use disorders, Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Counseling and Mental Health**
(213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling
https://sites.google.com/usc.edu/counseling-mental-health/
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. (For USC Students)

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
https://988lifeline.org/
suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**USC Veterans Resource Center**
https://vrc.usc.edu/
The VRC is committed to supporting the veteran community in the areas of higher education, academic success, graduation, career development, and wellbeing. (For USC Students)

**Veteran Peer Access Network-Veteran Services**
(Department of Mental Health)
https://dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans/
This is an LA County initiative that works with veterans dealing with mental health issues.

**LA vs. Hate: United Against Hate Initiative**
https://www.lavshate.org/
The LA vs Hate program/initiative is a community driven approach to empowering all residents of Los Angeles County to unite against, report, and resist hate.