

# MINDPLAY



2023/24 SEASON





# NEXT AT ARENA STAGE

## TEMPESTUOUS ELEMENTS

BY KIA CORTHRON  
DIRECTED BY PSALMAYENE 24  
FEBRUARY 16 – MARCH 17

## UNKNOWN SOLDIER

BOOK BY DANIEL GOLDSTEIN  
MUSIC BY MICHAEL FRIEDMAN  
LYRICS BY MICHAEL FRIEDMAN  
AND DANIEL GOLDSTEIN  
DIRECTED BY TRIP CULLMAN  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH HUNTER ARNOLD  
MARCH 29 – MAY 5

## THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE

BY STEP AFRIKA!  
JUNE 6 – JULY 14

# BIGGER BOLDER — & — BETTER THAN EVER!



*Tempestuous Elements and Unknown Soldier illustrations by Loveis Wise. The Migration photo by William Perrigen.*

# MINDPLAY

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Cover photo of Vinny DePonto by Justin Bettman.

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## ARENA STAGE MISSION

Arena Stage is the voice of American theater resident in our nation's capital. Focused on American artists, our productions are innovative and representative of stories from across the country. We nurture new plays and reimagine classics. We celebrate our democracy and diversity through a multitude of voices in our productions and community engagement programs to inspire people to action. We produce all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, entertaining, deep and dangerous in the American spirit.



Photo by Nic Lehoux courtesy of Bing Thom Architects.



Arena Stage is built on the land of the Piscataway people of the Algonquin-speaking tribes, as well as the lands of the Native American people of the greater Anacostia, Potomac, and Tidewater regions.

## ARTISTICALLY SPEAKING



Designing a season is one of the primary responsibilities—and greatest joys—of being an artistic director. Since arriving at Arena Stage last summer, the question I've been asked the most is, "What is my artistic vision for this historic institution?" Specifically, what kind of shows do I plan to program? What types of conversations do I want to curate? How do I hope to put our audience in community with each other?

They're excellent questions, and I am delighted to whet your appetite with a peek into my curatorial mind with this thrilling addition to the 2023/24 Season, Vinny DePonto's captivating and illuminating work in *Mindplay*.

With a genre of storytelling that tests the limits of our minds and our memory, *Mindplay* revels in our essential need to contextualize our thoughts and reveals the breadth of the collective human experience. As Vinny stated, "It's not a magic show, but it is magical."

Since first being drawn to Vinny's work as a mentalist, I have admired his ability to tap into our most sacred hopes, secret dreams, and quiet vulnerabilities. In exploring his creations, I find myself more connected, more porous, and more able to see beyond the masks we wear, glimpsing, if only briefly, at the rich inner life of those around me.

Vinny's unique storytelling delves into essential questions about the mind—how it honors and uplifts, protects, and distorts, begging us to, in turn, ask ourselves: What is the human impulse to reach toward magic, and how do we find magic in the everyday? These threads are woven throughout *Mindplay*, inviting us to contemplate the unknowable profundity of our own consciousness.

In recent years, we have collectively been reminded of the power of community and the importance of direct interaction. Here, the audience can not only interact with each other but also with the art and the artist. *Mindplay* is a testament to the magic that happens when we come together in shared spaces, exploring the depths of our humanity.

Tonight, let us embark on a journey into the mind, where our memories are unearthed, and the boundaries of our understanding are pushed. Thank you for joining us; may you leave unburdened from your thoughts and basking in the subtle magic of everyday moments.

Hana S. Sharif  
Artistic Director

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Magic, memories, and a mentalist. Welcome to *Mindplay*, a timely addition to Arena's 2023/24 Season. These three "M"s represent superpowers we all need to be exposed to these days. We stepped into the 2023 winter holiday season with Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*, and now we enter 2024 with magic of a different kind.

For some, you might be thinking this is a departure from Arena's usual fare. On the contrary, Arena has welcomed many artists to grace our stages with unique theatrical performance art. In addition to many serious-minded one-person pieces, such as Kathleen Turner's incredible performances in *Red Hot Patriot* and *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Jeanne Sakata's powerful *Hold These Truths*, and the wonderful Benjamin Scheuer's *The Lion*, Arena has hosted several pieces exploring improvisation and physical humor that keeps audiences on their toes and their minds alive.

Going way back, the comedy duo Monteith and Rand performed in the Kreeger in the 1982/83 and 1983/84 Seasons. They [John Montieth and Suzanne Rand] mixed comedy skits with improvisation, delighting audiences. Bill Irwin is a producer, a director, and famously known as a physical actor who many may recall from their childhood as Mr. Noodle. In 1985, the Kreeger stage witnessed his one-man piece *The Regard of Flight*, which made him one of America's most well-known clowns. Another physical performer, Avner the Eccentric, shared his brand of comedy, clowning, and magic with Arena audiences in 1986 and 1992. All were Broadway successes for these shows and established careers in a variety of performance types. *Mindplay* has legitimate ambitions in this regard.

Arena Stage's vision is to galvanize the transformative power of theater to understand who we are as Americans. Vinny DePonto adds his name to the notable list of artists with performances that expand beyond a plot-focused technique to help us open our minds and hearts to new ways of thinking. Realism is an important part of storytelling and yet the value of live performance is a joint experience in gathering. Moments are amplified by the sweat, breath, and presence of both those on the stage and in the house. Looking into our minds and memories builds a path toward understanding. Theatrical storytelling has many forms, and this beautiful Kogod Cradle is living up to its name, cradling us as we explore different dimensions.

The human mind is a fascinating subject. Just what do we give away with our comments, our movements, our laughter? We may pride ourselves on being hard to read even as we are unknowingly giving clues out freely.

You may be in for a new experience today, truly making a unique connection between audience and performer—unless you have seen *Mindplay* before and are back for more, in which case don't share any secrets!

Prepare to be energized.

**Edgar Dobie**  
Executive Producer  
President of the Corporation

**Proudly Shaping  
the Local Landscape**

# THE MIND IS A FUNNY PLACE

*“If we could recall everything, we would be as incapacitated as if we could not recall at all; a condition to remember is that we must forget.”* —William James

The mind is a funny place. And it is. A place, that is.

There is this technique called the “memory palace” that can be used to help us store a lot of things inside of our minds. You picture places that look like places you’ve been, where you can tuck away memories, stories, ideas, and many other things. You can use that mental image as sort of a map to hide and retrieve these things.

The Greek poet Simonides created this technique. One evening, moments after leaving a party, he watched the building he’d just exited collapse, crushing everyone inside beyond recognition. He was later able to recall the layout of the entire room and in doing so, the exact location of each person, helping families locate their lost loved ones. Through this tragedy, he discovered that by imagining a physical space, he could carefully arrange images inside of it and remember enormous amounts of information. Also, he probably never went to another party again.

These palaces can be old like that bowling alley you used to go to as a kid. Or they can be sprawling and full of cat hair like your Aunt’s house. Or they can be cozy like your childhood bedroom. Or they can be tidy like your Mom’s kitchen. Someone once stuffed 70,000 digits of pi in their pantry. That’s a lotta pi.

Our memories are pillars on which we base our reality. They help us navigate the world—but sometimes we get stuck inside them. I have many palaces in my head; this is but one of them.

Let’s party.





Mindplay photo of Vinny DePonto by Jeff Lorch.

ARENA STAGE

HANA S. SHARIF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | EDGAR DOBIE, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

PRESENTS

# MINDPLAY

CREATED & PERFORMED BY  
**VINNY DePONTO**

WRITTEN BY  
**VINNY DePONTO & JOSH KOENIGSBERG**

DIRECTED BY  
**ANDREW NEISLER**

PRODUCED WITH  
**EVA PRICE**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
**NINA GOODHEART**

SCENIC DESIGNER  
**SIBYL WICKERSHEIMER**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**PABLO SANTIAGO**

SOUND DESIGNER  
**EVERETT ELTON BRADMAN**

COSTUME DESIGN CONSULTANTS  
**AUDREY LASTAR  
SARAH LINDSLEY**

CREATIVE CONSULTANT  
**ENRICO DE LA VEGA**

DRAMATURG  
**AMY LEVINSON**

STAGE MANAGER  
**GABRIELLE BRUNO**

Support for *Mindplay* is provided by **Ricki and Joel Kanter**.

Originally Produced by Geffen Playhouse  
Matt Shakman, Artistic Director; Gil Cates, Jr., Executive Director

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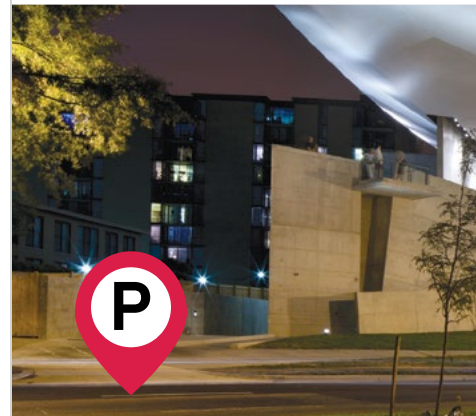
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## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Associate Lighting Designer .....EDGAR ALAMO  
Production Assistants .....TIFFANY KO,  
MARGARET WARNER  
Crew .....RYAN PHILLIPS  
Stage Carpenters .....MAX MARSHALL  
Light Board Operator .....SCOTT FOLSOM,  
KELSEY SWANSON  
Assistant to the Lighting Designer .....INDIGO GARCIA  
Audio Engineer .....ALEX CLOUD  
Wardrobe Supervisor .....TYQURIA FOUNTAIN

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## WHO'S WHO

### CREATIVE



**VINNY DePONTO** (Creator, Playwright & Performer)

The work of theatre-maker and mentalist Vinny DePonto uses a combination of psychological tricks, visual art, and immersive storytelling. His off-Broadway show *Charlatan* was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for "Unique Theatrical Experience." He is also a member of the Bessie Award-winning theatre group Third Rail Projects. His solo work has been presented by Ars Nova, American Conservatory Theater, American Repertory Theater at Harvard, and The Orchard Project. In addition to his live performances, DePonto's consulting work was featured in the most recent production of *Angels in America* on Broadway, in Lincoln Center's *Ghostlight*, and in hit television shows on the Discovery Channel, NBC, and Netflix. He enjoys burrata, colorful socks, and your deep, dark secrets. He currently lives in upstate New York. @VinnyDePonto

**JOSH KOENIGSBERG** (Playwright) Josh Koenigsberg is a Drama Desk-nominated playwright and screenwriter. His work has been produced at Ars Nova, Atlantic Theater Company, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Naked Angels, The Old Vic, Primary Stages, The Public Theater, Second Stage Theater, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Theatre Row, Williamstown Theater Festival, The 24 Hour Plays/Musicals, and more. Josh's plays include *Al's Business Cards*, *Dance Lessons*, *The Mnemonist of Dutchess County*—all published by Samuel French—as well as *Herman Kline's Midlife Crisis*, *The Rise and Fall of Marcus Monroe*, *Charlatan* starring award-winning mentalist Vinny DePonto, and *VROOM VROOM*, which he adapted and directed as an Audible Original

series. Josh has written screenplays for Disney, Hulu, Lionsgate, Netflix, and Paramount, among others. TV/Film credits include the Emmy-winning series *Orange Is the New Black* (Netflix/Lionsgate), *High Fidelity* (Hulu/ABC Signature), and *Secret Headquarters* (Paramount/Jerry Bruckheimer Films). Josh is currently writing the film adaptation of the popular videogame *Mega Man* for Netflix and Chernin Entertainment. His burrito recipe "Josh's Famous Burritos" is published by *The New York Times*.

**ANDREW NEISLER** (Director) Andrew Neisler is a Georgia-raised, New York-based theatre maker, director, and producer with a passion for joy-forward, laughter-filled, queer-affirming art, as well as a deepening interest in ecological theatre that works to restore our connection with the Earth. Select directing credits include the immersive nightclub show *Another Rose* for Virgin Voyages, the critically acclaimed musical *Folk Wandering* which he also co-authored with playwright Jaclyn Backhaus (Pipeline Theatre Company), the world premiere of César Alvarez's *The Elementary Spacetime Show* (Philadelphia's FringeArts Curated Series), *New York Times* Critic's Pick *Clown Bar* (The Box), and Drama Desk-nominated *Charlatan* (Ars Nova). He has developed new projects with The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Ars Nova, Playwrights Horizons, HERE Arts Center, Primary Stages, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, NYU, University of the Arts, Colgate University, Williams College, and more. He is a co-Founder and Creative Director of the arts incubation company Fresh Ground Pepper ([www.fgpnyc.com](http://www.fgpnyc.com)), where he has cultivated over 750 artists in a series of development opportunities, residencies, and retreats over the past 12 years. He is currently serving as the Interim Associate Artistic Director at Ars Nova. [www.andrew-neisler.com](http://www.andrew-neisler.com)



**EVA PRICE** (*Producer*) is an Olivier, Emmy, and Tony award-winner and ACLU Honoree. Broadway: *& Juliet*; *Jagged Little Pill* (2 Tony Awards); *Oklahoma!* (Best Musical Revival); *Mr. Saturday Night*; *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*; *What the Constitution Means to Me*; *Angels in America* (Best Play Revival); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Best Musical); *On Your Feet!*; *Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Broadway!*; *Peter and the Starcatcher* (5 Tony Awards); *Colin Quinn Long Story Short* (directed by Jerry Seinfeld); *Annie*; *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino; Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*; *The Addams Family*; as well as several solo shows and concerts starring The Temptations & the Four Tops; Kathy Griffin; Lewis Black; and Hershey Felder. Off-Broadway and touring: *Titanique* (off-Broadway world premiere); *Sanctuary City*; *Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical*; *Found*; *The Lion*; *Small Mouth Sounds*; *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* (Emmy Award for PBS Special); *The Magic School Bus Live!*; and *Ella*.

**NINA GOODHEART** (*Associate Director*) Nina Goodheart (she/her) Director, producer, and co-founder of Good Apples Collective. Recently: *Wakeman* (TBD Theatricals, Jenn Grinels), Gabriel Byrne's *Walking with Ghosts* (Broadway, resident director), *cityscape* (world premiere, Sophie McIntosh), *before the flood* (world premiere, Emily Bice). Previously: American Repertory Theater, Broadway's *Jagged Little Pill*, Climan Producing. BA Yale. [ninagoodheart.com](http://ninagoodheart.com)

**SIBYL WICKERSHEIMER** (*Scenic Designer*) Sibyl's interests span design for live performance, installations, exhibitions, and design for mental health care initiatives. Her foundation as a theatrical set designer led Sibyl to co-author the book *Scene Shift: U.S. Set Designers in Conversation with scenographer Maureen Weiss*, published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis in August of 2022. Sibyl has designed for theatrical stages across the country, including A.C.T., Theatre for a New Audience, Steppenwolf

Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Seattle Rep, Portland Center Stage, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. In the L.A. area, she has designed at Kirk Douglas Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, The Industry, Circle X Theatre Co., A Noise Within, The Actors' Gang, and many more. Unique projects have included art installations in SoCal art galleries, Eric Idle's *What About Dick?* (Orpheum/Netflix), and the stage for the daily giant dinosaur puppet performances at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. Sibyl is also an Associate Professor at USC in the School of Dramatic Arts.

**PABLO SANTIAGO** (*Lighting Designer*) Pablo Santiago is a Mexican American lighting designer. Born in Chiapas, Mexico, Pablo moved to the United States as a teenager and studied filmmaking at University of California, San Diego. After spending fifteen years working on major motion pictures, Pablo returned to school to earn his M.F.A. in Theatrical Lighting Design from UCLA. He is the winner of the Richard E. Sherwood Award and Stage Raw Award. His most recent work was seen at LA Opera on the West Coast premiere of *Omar*. Pablo is proud to have long standing collaborations with many great artists including James Darrah (*Breaking the Waves*), Ellen Reid (Pulitzer Prize winner *p r i s m*), José Luis Valenzuela (*Destiny of Desire* and *Macbeth*), Missy Mazzoli (*Proving Up*), Bill Rauch (*Mother Road*), Patricia McGregor (*Skeleton Crew*, *Place*, and *Good Grief*), Ted Hearne (*Place*), Adam Rigg (*The Lord of Cries*), and Yuval Sharon (*War of the Worlds* and *Die Walküre*). Pablo has designed for companies such as Santa Fe Opera, Geffen Playhouse, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Some of the amazing venues he has worked at include Teatro Municipal São Paulo, Kennedy Center, BAM Harvey Theater, Goodman Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and Arena Stage in DC.

**EVERETT ELTON BRADMAN** (*Sound Designer*) Everett Elton Bradman's 2021-2022 composer/sound designer credits include world premieres (*Lear* at Cal Shakes), West Coast premieres (*TRAYF* at Geffen Playhouse), audio dramas (Aurora Theater Company's *The Bluest Eye*), student productions (UC Riverside's *Red Oleanders*), Zoom theater (Actors Theatre's *Romeo & Juliet: Louisville 2020*), podcasts (*Z Space/Word for Word's Retablos trilogy*), filmed theater (San Francisco Playhouse's [*hieroglyph*]), hybrid visual/audio (New Conservatory Theatre Center's *Interlude*), and outdoor performances (Oakland Theater Project's *The Waste Land*). Other recent adventures include teaching a sound design class and co-writing a musical for Bay Area Children's Theatre and The Rose Theater in Omaha, Nebraska. Stop by and say hello at [eltonsounds.com](http://eltonsounds.com)!

**AUDREY LASTAR** (*Costume Design Consultant*) Audrey Lastar, a costume creative, hails from San Diego and is currently head of costumes at the Geffen Playhouse. She has been a member of the Geffen for five years and has worked on several shows including *Mysterious Circumstances* and *Skintight*, to name a few. Previously she was head of wardrobe for national tours including *Cabaret* and *Finding Neverland*. Other credits around the country include time at Arizona Broadway Theater (AZ), Arizona Theatre Company (AZ), Atlas Performing Arts Center (DC), Adventure Theatre MTC (MD), Imagination Stage (MD), and many others. She is thrilled to be part of this team and is thankful for her crew and her dog Lady for all her love and support.

**SARAH LINDSLEY** (*Costume Design Consultant*) Sarah Lindsley is the Costume Shop Supervisor for the Geffen Playhouse. Previously, her Geffen credits include: Head of Wardrobe for *Power Of Sail*, Wardrobe on *Mysterious Circumstances*, and Wardrobe/Wigs for

*Key Largo* and *Black Super Hero Magic Mama*. She was also Head of Wigs/Assistant Costumes for the international tour of *Finding Neverland: The Musical*, Adjunct Professor at Pepperdine University, and costume designed three of their operas: *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. During the pandemic, Sarah was commissioned by Pepperdine to illustrate the virtual operatic production of *Cendrillon*. You can see Sarah's stitching work in *American Horror Story: Roanoke*, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter: Universal Studios Hollywood, Kanye West's Saint Pablo Tour, Disney Channel, and more. She would like to thank her family and friends for being a constant well of inspiration, and a special thanks to her teammate, Audrey, for her continued support.

**ENRICO DE LA VEGA** (*Creative Consultant*) Creator, consultant, producer, designer, and director of magical effects and illusions for television, film, and live performances. From the stages of Coachella to the theaters of Las Vegas, from Netflix originals to the television specials of David Blaine; magicians, performers and productions across the globe have sought to have Enrico on their creative team.

**AMY LEVINSON** (*Dramaturg*) Amy is the Associate Artistic Director at the Geffen Playhouse. During her tenure at the Geffen, she has spearheaded numerous programs for commissioning and developing new plays. Dramaturgy credits include the commissions and world premieres of Donald Margulies' *Time Stands Still* and *Coney Island Christmas*, Jane Anderson's *The Quality of Life* and *The Escort*, Amanda Peet's *Our Very Own Carlin McCullough*, and Michael Mitnick's *Mysterious Circumstances*. Other dramaturgy credits include *Actually*, *Invisible Tango*, *Extraordinary Chambers*, *Build*, *Equivocation*, *Joan Rivers: A Work*

in *Progress by a Life in Progress*, *Guards at the Taj*, and Geffen Stayhouse virtual shows including Helder Guimarães' *The Present* and *The Future*, and David Kwong's *Inside the Box*. She holds an M.F.A. in Dramaturgy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**GABRIELLE BRUNO** (*Stage Manager*) Gabrielle Bruno (she/her) is so excited to be working with Vinny again creating magic for the wonderful audiences at Arena Stage! Notable stage management and assistant stage management credits include *Mindplay* and *Ava: the Secret Conversations* at the Geffen Playhouse; *A Raisin in the Sun* at South Coast Repertory; *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *A Christmas Carol*, & *Man of La Mancha* at A Noise Within. She has also been the Production Manager of the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival presented by Independent Shakespeare Co from 2021–2023. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from California State University, Northridge.

## ARENA STAGE LEADERSHIP

**HANA S. SHARIF** (*Artistic Director*) has enjoyed a multi-faceted theater career, including roles as an artistic leader, director, playwright, and producer with a specialty in strategic and cross-functional leadership. Hana began her professional career as an undergraduate student at Spelman College. From 1997 to 2003, Hana served as the co-founder and Artistic Director of Nasir Productions, a theater dedicated to underrepresented voices challenging traditional structure. Hana joined the Tony® Award-winning regional theatre, Hartford Stage, in 2003. During her decade-long tenure

at Hartford Stage, Hana served as the Associate Artistic Director, Director of New Play Development, and Artistic Producer. Hana launched the new play development program, expanded the community engagement and civic discourse initiatives, and developed and produced Tony®, Grammy, Pulitzer, and Obie Award-winning shows. Starting in 2012, she served as Program Manager at ArtsEmerson, a leading world theater company based at Boston's Emerson College. During her tenure at ArtsEmerson, Hana launched an Artists in Residency program, led a research program assessing barriers to inclusion across the region, and leveraged her regional theater experience to freelance produce for smaller theater companies looking to expand and restructure their administrative teams. Hana was Baltimore Center Stage's Associate Artistic Director from 2014 to 2019 and was the architect of the innovative CS Digital program: a platform that pushes the boundaries of traditional theater and looks at the nexus point between art and technology. Her other achievements at Baltimore Center Stage included prototyping the Mobile Unit focused on historically underserved audiences, strengthening community engagement, producing multiple world and regional premieres, and helping to guide the theater through a multi-million dollar building renovation and rebranding effort. Hana became the first Black woman to lead a major regional theater in 2018 when she was named the Augustin Family Artistic Director of The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. During her tenure at The Rep, Hana guided the organization through a strategic alignment, revolutionized the New Works program, expanding access to underserved communities, and centering equity and anti-racism as the organization's foundational values. Hana holds a BA from Spelman College and an MFA from the University of Houston. Hana is the recipient of USITT's 2023 Distinguished Achievement Award,

Spelman's 2022 National Community Service Award, the 2009-10 Aetna New Voices Fellowship, EMC Arts Working Open Fellowship, and Theatre Communications Group (TCG) New Generations Fellowship. Hana is a founding member of The Black Theatre Commons (BTC). She serves on the board of directors for the TCG, BTC, and the Sprott Family Foundation.

**EDGAR DOBIE** (*Executive Producer*) Born in Vernon, British Columbia, a village next to the Rocky Mountains (three years after Arena had its first performance in 1950), I am one of five brothers raised by my Dad Edgar, a mechanic and small businessman, and Mom Connie, a telephone operator and union organizer. I am the only Dobie to make a career in theater. Luckily for me, drama was an arts elective I was offered at the tender age of 12 so I hung up my hockey skates and joined the drama class, led by teacher Paddy Malcolm and her fledgling Powerhouse Community Theater after school. By the time I graduated from high school, we volunteers had built ourselves a 200-seat, fully equipped theater on its own piece of land in the center of town and found a sold-out audience for the full season of plays we had on offer. That experience taught me so many lessons about the power of theater to foster collaboration and share meaningful stories, as well as the public values that attach themselves to building a safe place where everyone is welcome. All those lessons served me well as a managing leader and producer both sides of the border and both sides of the commercial and non-profit theater divide. Arriving here in Southwest with my good wife Tracy and our daughter Greta Lee in 2009 makes me feel like I am well-equipped to do a good job for you all. I am honored to have been recognized for my service to, and leadership of, the Washington, D.C.-area theater community as a recipient of Theatre Washington's inaugural Victor Shargai Leadership Award in 2022.

This theater operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association.



The actors and stage managers are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.



The musicians in this production are represented by the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 161-710.

Arena Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theater.

Today is the day to  
inspire, delight  
and amaze.



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The Arena Stage Young Patrons Board seeks to strengthen and support the future of American theater at Arena Stage. The Young Patrons Board supports the artistic mission of Arena Stage by being active ambassadors to the community and arranging opportunities for people under 40 years old to engage with the theater.

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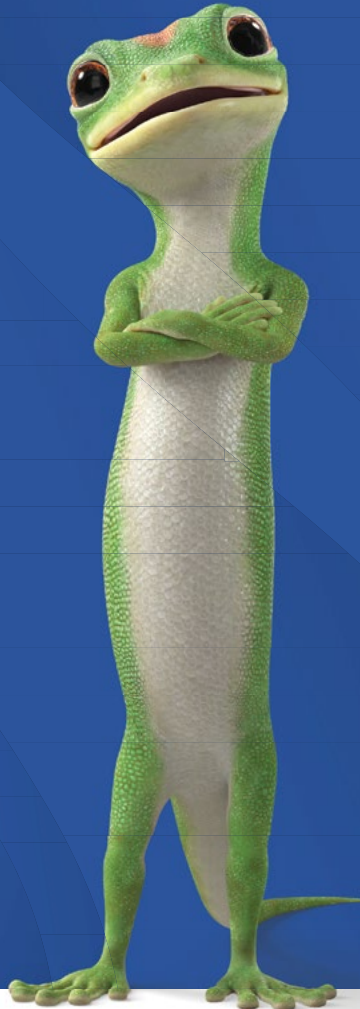
The Molly Smith Fund for New Work was created to honor the tremendous legacy of Molly Smith, Arena Stage's Artistic Director Emeritus, who retired at the end of the 2022/23 Season after 25 years of visionary leadership. The fund will support the artistic development of new work at Arena Stage, a pillar of Molly's vision.

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**For more information, contact Maya Weil, CAP®, Arena's Gift Planning Specialist at 202-600-4158 or mweil@arenastage.org**

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# THEATER STAFF

Artistic Director ..... Hana S. Sharif  
 Executive Producer ..... Edgar Dobie  
 Founding Director ..... Zelda Fichandler  
 (1924-2016)

Founding Executive  
 Director ..... Thomas C. Fichandler  
 (1915-1997)

Artistic Director  
 Emeritus ..... Molly Smith

## ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Associate Artistic Director ..... Teresa Sapien  
 Senior Artistic Producer ..... Reggie D. White  
 Literary Manager ..... Otis C. Ramsey-Zöe  
 Artistic Associate, Casting ..... Joseph Pinzon  
 Artistic Development  
 Coordinator ..... Melissa Singson  
 Dramaturg ..... Jocelyn Clarke  
 Artistic Development Fellow ..... Vanessa Dalpiaz\*  
 Current Commissioned Writers ..... The Bengsons,  
 Lee Cataluna, Kia Corthron,  
 Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi,  
 Emily Feldman, Idris Goodwin,  
 Caleen Sinnette Jennings, Deepak Kumar,  
 Octavio Solis, Vera Starbard, Cheryl West,  
 Lauren Yee, Karen Zacarias, Zack Zadek

## ADMINISTRATION

Chief Financial Officer/  
 Corporate Treasurer ..... Joe Berardelli  
 Chief of Staff ..... Alison Irvin  
 Controller ..... John Monnett  
 Executive Assistant ..... Hannah Viedermann  
 Staff Accountant ..... Chris Murk  
 Human Resources Assistant ..... Tyra Picazo  
 HR Consultant ..... JobMorph  
 Capitol Projects Consultant ..... RenTec Consulting  
 Accounting Associates ..... Mark Runion,  
 Matthew Paige  
 Auditors ..... Bormel, Grice & Huyett, P.A.  
 Legal Counsel ..... ArentFox Schiff LLP;  
 Kramer Levin Robbins Russell

## BUILDING OPERATIONS

Interim Operations/  
 Facilities Manager ..... Keaun Windear

Maintenance Assistant ..... Tevin Smith  
 Porter ..... Lawrence Wise  
 Stage Door Attendant ..... Kay Rogers

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Director of Community  
 Engagement ..... Sean-Maurice Lynch  
 Director of Education ..... Ashley Forman  
 School Programs Manager ..... Rebecca Campana  
 Community Programs Manager ..... Mauricio Pita  
 Training Programs Manager ..... Zoë Hall  
 Community Engagement  
 Programming Coordinator ..... Kayla A. Warren  
 School Programs  
 Fellow ..... Jazmyn Ja'Net Roberson\*

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 Director of  
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 Director of Development Operations  
 and Events ..... Maria Corso  
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 Events Specialist ..... Casey Radner  
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 Assistant ..... Kiana Livingston  
 Membership Assistant ..... Oscar León  
 Development Fellow ..... Mina Sollars\*

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 Assistant General  
 Manager ..... Katharine Templeton  
 Company Manager ..... Trisha Hein  
 General and Production  
 Management Coordinator ..... Jenna Murphy  
 General and Company  
 Management Fellow ..... Alexandra Lopez\*

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Chief Marketing & Strategy Officer,  
 Vice President ..... Shonali Burke  
 Administrative Coordinator &

Executive Assistant ..... Connor Muldowney

## AUDIENCE SERVICES

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 House Managers ..... Ric Birch, Bruce Perry  
 Parking ..... SP Plus

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Director, Business Intelligence  
 and Information Systems ..... Rich Johnson  
 System Administrator ..... Brian Oh  
 Business Intelligence and  
 Tessitura Lead (consultancy) ..... Sabrina Clark  
 IS Help Desk ..... Eddie Wieland

## EARNED REVENUE

Director, Earned Revenue ..... Isaac Evans  
 Earned Revenue Assistant ..... Sabrina Zillinger  
 Lead Manager, Sales ..... Jessica Comstock  
 Lead Group Sales Associate ..... Donald Jolly  
 Group Sales Associate ..... Brandon Ferguson  
 Managers, Sales ..... Caroline Hunt,  
 Marion Levy Qualls  
 Lead Sales Associate ..... Aaron Hutchens  
 Sales Associates ..... Keshawn Connor,  
 Hannah Damanka, Meg Karch,  
 Kendra Luedke, Joy Mason

Manager,  
 Events and Rentals ..... Chrystal Vaughan  
 Lead Events  
 and Rentals Associate ..... Trevor Haren  
 Events and Rentals Associate ..... Aisha Noma  
 Lead Manager,  
 Retail Operations ..... Jody Barasch  
 Lead Bartender ..... Erika Wallace  
 Bartenders ..... Edwin Cortez, Greg Gonzales,  
 Kaitlyn Sakry, Brad Teague

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 & Communications ..... Elizabeth Hawks  
 Associate Director, Marketing  
 and Communications ..... Ryan Impagliazzo  
 Manager, Digital and  
 Social Media ..... Juliana Avery  
 Manager, Email and  
 Digital Content ..... Clare Lockhart  
 Lead Associate,  
 Public Relations ..... Anastasia St. Hilaire  
 Junior Multimedia Designer ..... Kristopher Ingle  
 Marketing and Media Fellow ..... Destiny King\*  
 Graphic Design Fellow ..... Darien Mitchell\*

## PRODUCTION

Director of Production ..... Robert Hand  
 Production Manager ..... Trevor A. Riley  
 Assistant Production  
 Manager ..... Rachel Crawford

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

Resident Production  
 Stage Manager ..... Christi B. Spann

## SCENIC

Interim Technical Director ..... Travis Smith  
 Associate Technical Director ..... Clare Cawley  
 Charge Scenic Artist ..... Li Qiang  
 Carpenters ..... Erick Boscana,  
 Matthew Grisdela, Julia Junghans,  
 Hannah Martin, Max Marshall,  
 Logan McDowell, Frank Miller

## PROPERTIES

Properties Director ..... Jennifer Sheetz  
 Associate Properties Director ..... Jonathan Borgia  
 Head Props Artisan ..... Niell DuVal  
 Props Artisan ..... Kyle Handziak  
 Props Assistants .... Erica Feidelseit, Alekx Shines

## LIGHTS

Lighting Supervisor ..... Paul Villalovoz  
 Assistant Lighting Supervisor ..... Olivia Rudd  
 Electricians ..... Scott Folsom, Kelsey Swanson  
 Lighting Fellow ..... Indigo Garcia\*

## SOUND

Sound and Video Supervisor ..... Brian Burchett  
 Master Sound and Video  
 Technician ..... Timothy M. Thompson  
 Sound Technicians ..... Lex Allenbaugh,  
 Alex Cloud

## COSTUMES

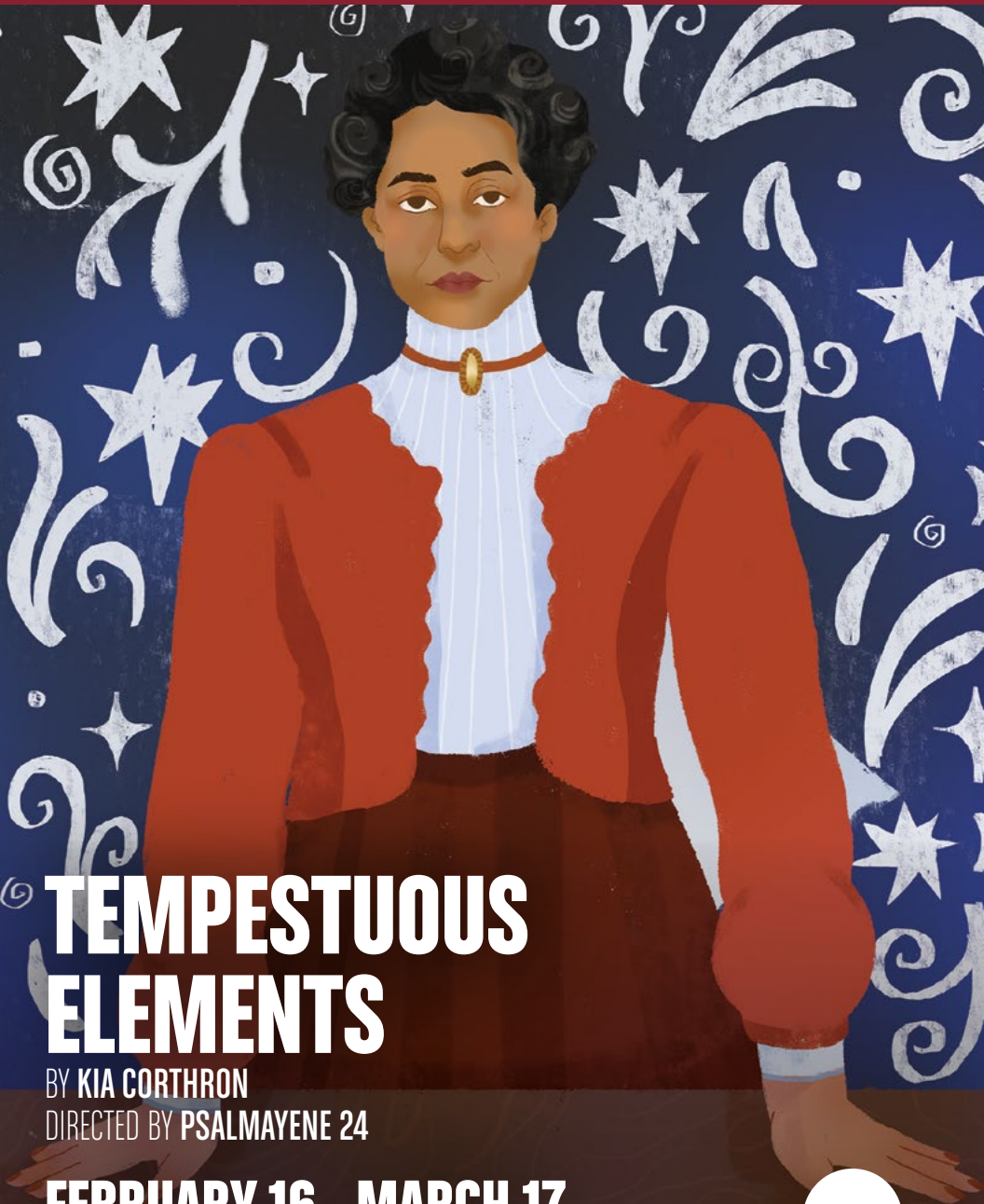
Costume Director ..... Joseph P. Salasovich  
 Associate Costume Director ..... Cierra Coan  
 Drapers ..... Erika Krause, Carol Ramsdell  
 First Hands ..... Michele Macadaeag,  
 Elizabeth "Liz" Spilsbury  
 Craftsperson ..... Deborah Nash  
 Wardrobe Supervisors ..... Adelle Gresock,  
 Alice Hawfield

Wigs, Hair, and  
 Makeup Supervisor ..... Jaime Bagley

\*2023/24 Class of the Allen Lee Hughes  
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# COMING UP NEXT



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BY KIA CORTHON

DIRECTED BY PSALMAYENE 24

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