

JEFFREY LO'S BIRTHDAY BENCH PROJECT BASH!

A NIGHT OF **DIGITAL STORIES** TO RAISE MONEY
FOR LOCAL THEATRES AND THEATRE ARTISTS



A completely free evening of seven short digital stories set within the digital world, this fundraising production will give viewers the option to donate to local theatre organizations, including Theatre Bay Area's Performing Artist Relief Fund, City Lights Theatre Company, Hillbarn Theatre Company, Los Altos Stage Company, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

This will be the eighth installment of The Bench Project, with previous productions having raised funds and resources for other local non-profit organizations such as The East Bay Children's Book Project, Sacred Heart Community Service, Santa Cruz High School Music Programs and Second Harvest Food Bank.

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Donation Info

Hillbarn Theatre Company

Since 1941, the historic Hillbarn Theatre has served the San Francisco Bay Area Community by embracing the founding ideal "to create theatre with the community, for the community." They fulfill this mission by striving to bring artists and audiences together as part of an intimate family to experience engaging and inspirational theatrical productions. They seek to provide programming that explores the joys and sorrows of our common human experience and celebrates our diversity. In addition, through the Hillbarn Conservatory, young and aspiring artists are provided opportunities to gain lasting educational experiences.

Donate via

www.hillbarntheatre.org/donate/

Los Altos Stage Company

The mission of the Los Altos Stage Company is to present theater that celebrates the rich diversity of American art and culture, to foster an enduring commitment to the performing arts and artists, and to serve as a welcoming and creative gathering space for our community. The Los Altos Stage plays an essential role in the community by creating and presenting live theater in Los Altos, serving as a cultural hub for local residents. By fostering a deep commitment and connection to the performing arts locally, they seek to advance a more vibrant cultural community throughout the region.

Donate via

www.losaltosstage.org/support/

City Lights Theatre Company

City Lights Theater Company creates provocative live productions that engage, inspire, and challenge audiences and artists alike through innovative concepts, intimate staging and uncompromising storytelling. Since 1982, they have been inspiring and challenging audiences with a host of plays and musicals, many of them fresh new works. The Company also actively develops and produces new plays through their New Play Readers Series, some of which become a part of a regular season. Their downtown San Jose theater is a bustling space that attracts artists, educators, students, and playgoers alike.

Donate via

cltc.vbotickets.com/donation/2651

TBA Relief Fund

With the closure of arts venues and cancellation of shows, and with shelter-in-place orders due to COVID-19, workers in the performing arts have lost untold amounts of expected income. Many are losing secondary income (teaching jobs, restaurant/bar jobs, gig work) as well. Most of these artists were already living very close to the margin in our high-cost-of-living area, and have no emergency funds to fall back on. Theatre Bay Area launched the COVID-19: Performing Arts Worker Relief Fund, a resource for performing arts workers who are facing a loss of income due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Donate via

www.tinyurl.com/TBADonate

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

One of America's outstanding professional theaters, TheatreWorks celebrates the human spirit through innovative productions, new works, and education programs inspired by and engaging our diverse Silicon Valley Community. In June of 2019, TheatreWorks received the American Theatre Wing's Tony Award for Regional Theatre and in July 2020, they will be welcoming Tim Bond as their second-ever Artistic Director. They offer an extensive Education Program that reaches 15,000 students annually, and are a pioneer in diversity programming, and an acclaimed source of new works for the American stage.

Donate via

<http://give.theatreworks.org/bench>

Thank you

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to EnAct Arts and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley for their support of this project, as well as Steve Muterspaugh and Tasi Alabrasto for their tips, troubleshooting, and tech help through this process! Also a big thank you to all of our writers, directors and actors who have donated their time and art to this project.

Under One Roof

A Digital Story By Suzanne Bradbeer
Directed by LeeAnn Dowd



Suzanne Bradbeer

Suzanne Bradbeer (Playwright) Confederates (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley – seven Bay Area Critics Circle nominations including Best Production, Kilroy's Honorable Mention); Naked Influence (Capital Rep); The God Game (Pulitzer nomination and over a dozen productions); and Full Bloom (Barrington Stage). Publishers: Samuel French, Playscripts, Applause Books, The Connotation Press, HowlRound, and many anthologies by Smith & Kraus. Awards include grants from NYFA, the Berrilla Kerr Foundation, the Anna Sosenko Trust, and the BMI Foundation's Harrington Award. Suzanne

won the Coe College Playwriting Prize, and was twice a winner of the NEXT ACT! New Play Summit at Capital Rep. Residencies include: the Lark, PlayPenn, The New Harmony Project, the LAByrnth Theatre's Summer Intensive, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Southern Writers' Project. Suzanne is a regular moderator at the Actors Studio Playwright/Director Workshop and frequently teaches at Primary Stages – ESPA; she is a member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Dramatists Guild.



Gabriella Grier

Gabriella Grier (Bobbie) is stoked to be a part of this momentous evening of "new" theater. Some past credits include: Nora in A Doll's House, Part 2 at Palo Alto Players, Natalya in A Month in the Country, and Ensemble in Voices of the Earth and Democratically Speaking at Stanford Repertory Theater (SRT), Sarah in The Lover at Convergent Theater, and Elvira in Blithe Spirit at West Valley Playhouse. Gabriella is a graduate of The Juilliard School.



LeeAnn Dowd

LeeAnn (Director) (she/her) is a Berkeley-based director and producer. She currently serves as the Artistic Associate & Casting Manager at Cal Shakes, and most recently directed the kick-off event of the Bay Area Women's Theater Festival, a staged reading of Daphne White's SUSAN B. She has worked with Theatre Bay Area, PlaygroundSF, South Coast Rep, Do It Live! Productions, 6NewPlays, TheatreWorks, Shotgun, and Cherry Lane Theater. These days, she spends her time learning Irish, watching murder mysteries, and baking bread - that is, she's becoming her grandmother. She is honored to be a part THE BENCH PROJECT and to celebrate the icon that is Jeffrey Lo. You can learn more about LeeAnn, her practice, and her work at www.LeeAnnDowd.com

ing her grandmother. She is honored to be a part THE BENCH PROJECT and to celebrate the icon that is Jeffrey Lo. You can learn more about LeeAnn, her practice, and her work at www.LeeAnnDowd.com



Akemi Okamura

Akemi Okamura (Jess) currently located in Los Angeles where she works for Netflix Animation, Akemi's past Bay Area credits include Grace in Tigers Be Still at City Lights Theater Company and Milky White in Into the Woods at Palo Alto Players. Other Bay Area credits: Ensemble in HeLa (TheatreFIRST), Ensemble in Yellow Face (Los Altos Stage Company), Cassandra in Troilus and Cressida (Impact Theatre), Melissa in The Drunken City (Renegade Theatre Experiment), and Charmian (Antony and Cleopatra), Gonzala (The Tempest), Charlotte Lucas (Pride and Prejudice), and Lodovico/Senator (Othello) with Silicon Valley Shakespeare. Akemi holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Puget Sound, and an MFA in Producing Film and Television from Chapman University's Dodge College.

co/Senator (Othello) with Silicon Valley Shakespeare. Akemi holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Puget Sound, and an MFA in Producing Film and Television from Chapman University's Dodge College.

A Cue for Passion

A Digital Story By Cleavon Smith
Directed by Sinjin Jones



Sinjin Jones

Sinjin Jones (Director) is the Executive Artistic Director of The Pear Theatre in Mountain View, California. He is a storytelling artist originally from Denver, Colorado, now living in the Bay Area. A lifelong lover of theatre, he has had the pleasure of performing in over 25 productions and directing over 30. He was Co-Founder and Head of Operations of Perplexity Pictures, an independent film production company, for ten years and Artistic Director for A Theatre Group in Silverton, Colorado, before coming to the Pear as Executive Artistic Director. Some of his favorite accomplishments include an immersive adaptation of The Little Prince, a salon-style production of K2, and performing in an adaptation of Johnny Got His Gun. As an educator, writer, performer, and director, Sinjin loves all things story related.



Millie Brooks

Millie Brooks (Bertha) is a local actor here in the Bay Area. After spending her college career in Chicago, Brooks moved to San Francisco to live a creative life in a tech world. Past credits include ENG 3/2 in Testmatch (American Conservatory Theatre), Marla in Good. Better. Best. Bested. (The Custom Made Theatre Co), Billie Dawn in Born Yesterday and Congregant in The Christians (San Francisco Playhouse), Peddler in A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (Chicago Playworks), and Tiffany in The Shakespeare Bug (PlayGround and Killing My Lob-

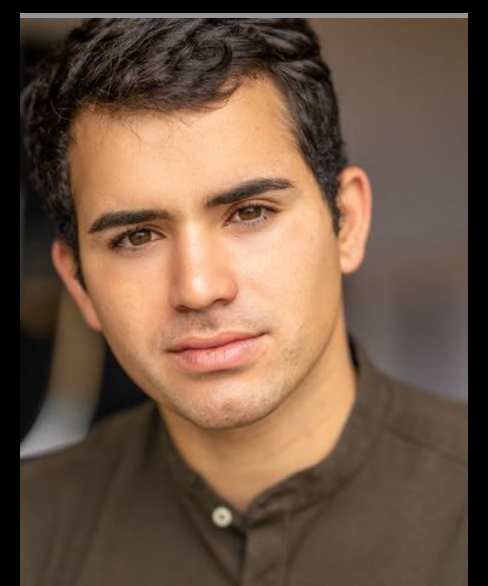
ster). Brooks can also be seen in episode eight of 13 Reasons Why on Netflix. She also hosts a pop culture podcast called Me, Myself and Millie. Listen free on apple podcasts. milliebrooks.com

Cleavon Smith (Playwright) is TheatreFIRST's playwright in residence. Credits include Vs. and The Last Sermon of Sister Imani as well as the one-act, "Just One Day" featured in the compilation Between Us. He's won a PlayGround Emerging Playwright Award and had work featured in UC Berkeley's New Play Reading Series, the Ohlone College Playwrights Festival, and two Utopia Theatre Project productions. He is the artist mentor for Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Young Writers of Color Collective and teaches English at Berkeley City College. Cleavon is honored and thrilled to contribute once again to the Bench Project!



Cleavon Smith

Marco Neves (Hamilton) is a Mexican/Portuguese-American actor based in the Bay Area. This is only his third professional production. He gained a fascination for theater while recently attending Seton Hall University where he also played for the Division 1 soccer program. His first productional production was as a featured actor under Jeffrey Lo's direction for the play "The Circuit". He's excited to work on "The Bench Project" and has consistently been trying to find ways to stay creative during the quarantine such as reading plays, painting and making music with his brother.



Marco Neves

We're Here Now

A Digital Story By Jeffrey Lo
Directed by Jeffrey Lo



Jeffrey Lo

Jeffrey Lo (Director, Playwright, Producer) is a Filipino-American playwright and director based in the Bay Area. He is the recipient of the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award, the Emerging Artist Laureate by Arts Council Silicon Valley and Theatre Bay Area Director's TITAN Award. Selected directing credits include The Language Archive and The Santaland Diaries at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Vietgone at Capital Stage, A Doll's House, Part 2 and Eurydice at Palo Alto Players, Peter and the Starcatcher and Noises Off at Hillbarn Theatre, The Grapes of Wrath, The

Crucible and Yellow Face at Los Altos Stage Company and Uncle Vanya at the Pear Theatre. As a playwright, his plays have been produced and workshopped at The BindleStiff Studio, City Lights Theatre Company and Custom Made Theatre Company. His play Writing Fragments Home was a finalist for the Bay Area Playwright's Conference and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference. In addition to his work in theatre he works as an educator and advocate for issues of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and has served as a grant panelist for the Zellerbach Family Foundation, Silicon Valley Creates and Theatre Bay Area. He is the Casting Director at the Tony Award Winning TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, a graduate of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute and a proud alumnus of the UC Irvine Drama Department.

Roneet Aliza Rahamim (Melanie) is happy to be part of her third Bench Project! Recent acting credits include: Laughter on 23rd Floor (Carol) at Hillbarn Theater, Taking Steps (Kitty) at Pear Theatre, Macbeth at Dragon Productions, Kiss at Shotgun Players among others. Some favorites: Diary of Anne Frank (Anne) at PAP (TBA Award), Amadeus (Constanza) at CLTC. She is a resident artist with Golden Thread Productions. Directing credits include: Bench Project 2019, Making God Laugh (AD, CLTC), and 12 Angry Wo/Men (AD, Football College Theater). www.roneet.com



Roneet Rahamim

April 2020.

Over
the
internet.

Wes Gabrillo (Andrew) is a theatre actor, teaching artist, and community collaborator. Previous works include productions at Shotgun Players, Theatre-First, Central Works, Crowded Fire Theater, Los Altos Stage, Palo Alto Players, Pear Theatre, Hillbarn Theatre, and Bindlestiff Studio.



Wes Gabrillo



Isabella Waldron

Isabella is a proud alum of the National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and a recent graduate of Scripps College.

Isabella Waldron (Playwright) is an emerging playwright and actress. Recently, she has been working on Jawbone, a play about the nexus between ghost stories and sexual assault (now rescheduled for the 2021 Edinburgh Fringe). Her play, Things I Never Told The Stars, was read at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and workshopped in Philadelphia and New York City. When not writing, she can be found on stage acting (most recently in a production of Red Velvet at Pomona College and an upcoming production of The Glass Menagerie at Lakewood



Cara Phipps

Table Award nominations. She returned to Actors Theatre of Louisville during her time in Austin to direct pieces in The Tens for the Professional Training Company. Prior to graduate school, she was an intern at Actors Theatre of Louisville under the mentorship of Les Waters and Meredith McDonough where she directed AI Company projects and assisted on shows in the 50th Anniversary season and the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Cara is a native of California where she has developed work with several companies including TheatreWorks, City Lights Theatre Company, Dragon Productions Theatre Company, The '06 Ensemble, and Transient Theater where she directed their inaugural production, The Egg Play, and received a FringeNYC Overall Excellence in Directing award. She earned her BA in Drama from the University of Portland (OR) where she discovered her vocation directing a production of Stop Kiss. And if you're ever looking to win her over, nacho cheese Doritos and conversations about Olivia Colman go a long way.

Cara Phipps (Director) is a theatre maker based in Minneapolis. Her work in the Twin Cities includes credits with the Guthrie Theater, the Jungle Theater, The Playwrights' Center, and the University of Minnesota Guthrie/BFA program. Prior to arriving in Minnesota, she earned her Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin where she directed several readings, workshops, and productions including Lost Girl by Kimberly Belflower, Girls in Cars Underwater by Tegan McLeod, and The Wild Party by Michael John LaChiusa and George C. Wolfe which garnered seven Austin Critics'

Matching

A Digital Story By Isabella Waldron
Directed by Cara Phipps



April Green

April has a BA in Theater and has trained in San Francisco, New York and Berlin. More info on April at castaprilgreen.com.

April Green (Connie) is new to the realm of digital theater making but delighted to contribute back to some of her favorite local theaters in this way. April was most recently seen on stage at City Lights as SHE in Stage Kiss, Annie Cannon in Silent Sky, Annette in God of Carnage, Salerio in Merchant of Venice, Emma in Stupid F'cking Bird and as Helga in M. Butterfly. Other favorite acting credits include It's Only a Play at Hillbarn Theater, The Odd Couple and Doubt at Jewel Theatre Company, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at Tides Theater (Best Featured Actress Nomination, Bay Area Theatre



Chloe Armao

is a graduate of the University of Minnesota/ Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program, and a proud teaching artist.

Chloe Armao (Jess) is so excited to be a part of the Bench Project this year! Originally from Denver, CO and now based out of Minneapolis, MN some of Chloe's previous credits include: Swede Hollow Ghost Sonta (Sod House Theater/Black Label Movement); The Wolves (Jungle Theater); Trouble in Mind, The Crucible (Guthrie Theater); While You Were Out (Red Eye Theater); Skin Deep Sea (Workhaus Collective); Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, As You Like It, The Tempest (Nebraska Shakespeare - On Tour); Fully Committed (St. Croix Festival Theater). Chloe

Rites, Customs, and Celebrations

A Digital Story By Geetha Reddy
Directed by Julianna Garber



Geetha Reddy

Geetha Reddy (Playwright) is a playwright and filmmaker working in the Bay Area. Her plays include A Mahabharata (Ubuntu) Far, Far Better Things (Shotgun Players/ TheatreFirst), Hela (with Lauren Gunderson, TheatreFirst), Safe House (SF Playhouse), Blastosphere (with Aaron Loeb, CentralWorks). Geetha's plays Me Given You, Girl in a Box, and On a Wonderverse were part of the Playwright's Foundation's 'In the Rough' reading series. Safe House and On a Wonderverse were featured in the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. She was awarded Playground's June Anne Baker Prize and has

received three Playground Alumni commissions. Her plays have also appeared in the San Francisco Fringe Festival, the Santa Rosa Quickies festival, the Best of Playground Festival, the Just Theatre Lab series, the Crowded Fire Matchbox series, and the Theatreworks New Works Festival. Her short film Obit appeared at LA Shorts, NY Indie Fest, Bend Film Festival, the GI Film Festival and many others. Geetha is a member of the Dramatist's Guild, former Resident Playwright at the Playwright's Foundation.



Samantha Estrella

Samantha Estrella (Alana) is twenty years old and is studying theatre direction through the BFA Performance program at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Rites, Customs and Celebrations is one of Sammie's few times performing since attending UM, and she is absolutely excited to be working with her director and dear friend Jules Garber. She is also grateful to be introduced to the Bay Area theater community, especially through a diverse and delightful piece such as this one.



Julianna Garber

Julianna Garber (Associate Producer, Director) is a rising junior studying directing at the University of Michigan. Prior to attending university, she co-founded Upstage Theater, a Bay Area theater group focused on providing opportunities for teens to interact with all sides of theater production. Previous directing credits include, Water By The Spoonful (Assistant Director to Geoffrey Packard) and Falsettos at University of Michigan, as well as Punk Rock, Spring Awakening, and Heathers at Upstage Theater. When not directing, you'll likely find her in rehearsal for a cappella group Amazin' Blue or performing in various shows. Favorite past roles include Natalie in Next to Normal at The Refuge, and Ilse in Spring Awakening at Exit Left Co. Thank you to Jeffrey for letting her be a part of such a wonderful gathering of artists supporting the Bay Area theater community. HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEFFREY!



Kush Soni

Kush Soni (Otto) is an upcoming Sophomore BFA Acting major at the University of Michigan from Naperville, Illinois. He was most recently seen in Lord of the Flies (U of M) as Sam for James Harbaugh's senior thesis and The Sound of Music as Max Detweiler. He is grateful to Jules (our director) for giving him the opportunity to collaborate on this project during such crazy, unprecedented times. He hopes everyone is staying safe and taking care of their loved ones.



Radhika Rao

a show about the renowned medieval Mughal Empress Noorjahan, produced by Z Space and Farah Yasmeen Shaikh Dance Company. Catch her latest improvised duo "Lost in Translation" perform on May 30, 2020 at 8 pm. Produced by Leela Improv and streamed via Youtube. More about her at radhikarao.org

Radhika Rao (Maya) has performed theater - class, contemporary, devised and improvised - in the United States and abroad. She specializes in creating curriculum that integrates theater into diverse learning situations for various populations and organizations from K-12 to adults. Recent collaborations have included American Conservatory Theater, TheaterWorks, Cutting Ball Theater, Stanford University Standardized Patient Program, and EnActe Theater. Radhika was last seen in the "Forgotten Empress", in March 2020 (right before the shelter-in-place took effect)-



Corinne Rice

to have this experience as an outlet of joy and fun in a very busy life.

Corinne Rice (Sharon) majored in Musical Theater at the Sonoma State University. She has enjoyed community theater her entire life, with roles such as Tuptim in the King and I, Anne Eagermann in A Little Night Music, and Hedy La Rue in How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying. She is currently a Journalist for Powwows.com, Huffington Post and AJ+, and spends her 9-5 time working as a Program Coordinator with Project Beacon, a federal grant to support direct service providers in Urban Native communities fighting human trafficking. She is happy



Vinita Sud Belani

she co-wrote. Belani has been acting since age five, both in western theatre as well in works by classic and contemporary Eastern playwrights. She trained in street theater with renowned Indian Director Badal Sircar. Belani holds a Masters in Computer Science from BITS, India, an MBA from HEC, France, a Diploma in French from the Sorbonne and in German from the Max Mueller Institute.

Vinita Sud Belani (Ashi) is the Founding Artistic Director of EnActe Arts, which develops and presents thought provoking, universally appealing stories that put South Asia in a global context, with a focus on diverse representation. Belani transitioned to an Arts career after 20+ years in the corporate, technology world. Belani is an actor, director, writer and producer. Her Bay Area directing credits include The Conference of The Birds, SoundWaves: The Passion of Noor Inayat Khan, Go to your room, Mother!, Chaos Theory, Queen and The Case of the Vanishing Firefish, which



Michael Champlin

with me and not dismissing me to the shed in the backyard.

Michael Champlin (Harry) is a Bay Area actor and director who was most recently seen in A Doll's House Pt. 2 at Hillbarn Theatre and Admissions at Los Altos Stage Company. Michael serves on the Board of Directors for The Pear Theatre and spends his days working for PayPal - from home. Eager to get back to life as we once knew it, Michael mostly passes his time with his 14-year old playing guitar or on his 5-year old's island of Pondystone in Animal Crossing. Much love to both boys and to Katie, for somehow managing to stay relatively sane

Special thank you to additional cast members:
Vivaan Mudgil, Diya Dipak, Reena Kapoor, Geeta Rai, Francisco Rodriguez, Max Tachis, and Robert Kelley

"We all just wanted to wish you a happy Prom"

Burritto Man

A Digital Story By Rommel Rojas
Directed by Giovanni Ortega

Rommel Rojas (Playwright, Gary Sanchez) was born in raised in Davao, Philippines. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication and pursued a career in advertising. When the opportunity arose, he moved to the US in 2004. When his corporate stint ended in 2014, he rediscovered his passion in storytelling and attended UCB and Elizabeth Mestnik Acting Studio for his training. He is a Meisner trained actor. His recent work includes a short film, entitled Centerpiece, wherein, he co-wrote, produced and acted in it, garnering selections in a few film festivals. He loves hiking. He has hiked the Half Dome twice and did notable trails in Japan, South Korea, and Spain. He aims to hike Patagonia soon. His favorite color is green.



Rommel Rojas

Giovanni Ortega (SDC, Director) is honored to direct Burritto Man for The Bench Project. Additional directing credits include: Lena Passes (Pasadena Playhouse, USC) Scrimmage (East West Players), The Last Firefly (Artists at Play/Center Theatre Group), Pogi Boy, Allos, The Carlos Bulosan Story, The Hotel Play (Associate Director, CTG/Playwrights' Arena), La Madre de Todos los Exilios (Bogotá), Cabaret, The Musical, Spring Awakening, Urinetown, In the Next Room, The Government Inspector, The House of the Spirits, Upon the Fragile Shore (LA Asian Pacific Film Festival). Giovanni is currently producing Kanto Cuentos, a series of short films in response to the pandemic in collaboration with Theatre Without Borders. For more info: www.giovanniortega.com



Giovanni Ortega



Davied Morales

Aka dav@activepoet

Music video
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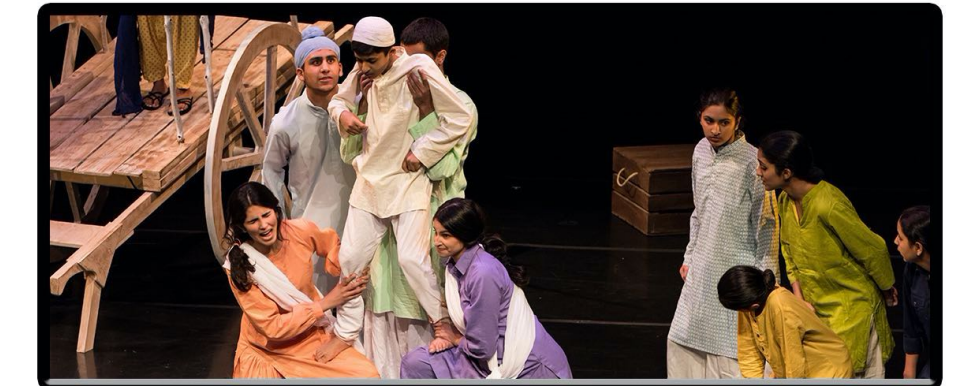
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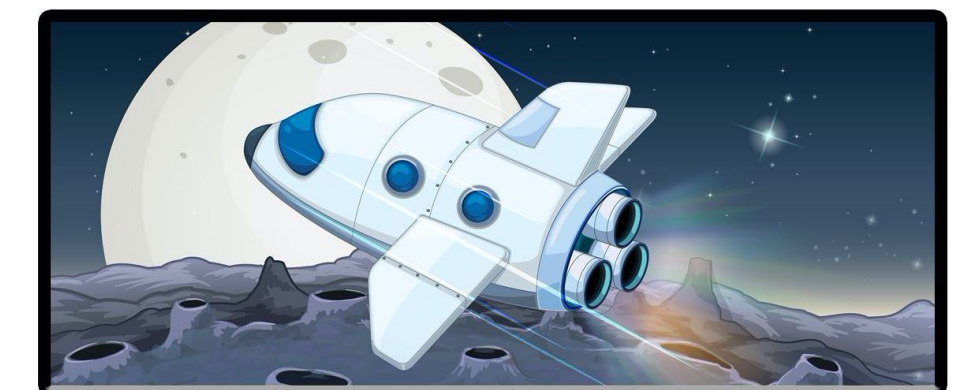
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2020 Bench Play

A Digital Story By Max Tachis
Directed by Steve Muterspaugh

Max Tachis (Playwright/Max) is excited to return to Jeffrey Lo's Bench Project, even if it's in the digital sphere this round. A regular in the South Bay theatre community, he has most recently been seen in *Taking Steps* (Tristram) at the Pear Theater, *Macbeth* (Duncan/Macduff) at Dragon Productions Theatre Company, *Mothers and Sons* (Will) at City Lights Theater Company, and by one enthusiastic audience during his star-making turn in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Ira) at Hillbarn Theatre. As a playwright, Max's work has been seen in many Bay Area staged reading festivals. He has participated in over one Bench Project and had his first world premiere, *Perishable, Keep Refrigerated*, with Renegade Theatre Experiment in 2014



Max Tachis

Stephen Muterspaugh (Director) is excited to be messing around in this virtual space for a good cause! His most recently directing credits include *It's Only a Play* at Hillbarn Theatre, and *The Three Musketeers* at Douglas Morrison Theatre in Hayward. Other Bay Area directing credits include: *The Odd Couple* at Jewel Theatre Company, where he previously served as Deputy Artistic Director; *Hamlet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (former Associate Artistic Director), where he also headed the *Shakespeare on Tour* program for 5 seasons, directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Caesar*, *As You Like It*, and *Hamlet*. When not directing, Stephen is the Artistic Operations / Company Manager at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity and a graduate of the actor training program at PCPA.



Steve Muterspaugh



Maria Giere Marquis

Maria Giere Marquis (Hammond) has been acting in the Bay Area since 2008, and is a theatre and voiceover actor, as well as corporate trainer committed to making work less boring. She is the recipient of Theatre Bay Area's Best Principal Actress award for her work in the world premiere production of *The Awakening* with Breadbox Theater, and she has appeared numerous times with Dragon Productions and City Lights Theater Company where she received a nomination for Best Principal Actress in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Silent Sky*. You can learn more about Maria at mariagmarquis.com, and find her audiobooks on Audible. Thank you for supporting theatre in the Bay Area!



Carina Lastimoso

Carina Lastimoso (Joan) is a San Francisco Bay Area native, currently residing in Chicago; where she was in the world premiere of *Poison* (The Plagiarists) by Dusty Wilson. Selected SF/Bay Area theatre credits include: *Sisters Matsumoto* (Center REPertory Company), *A Dreamplay* (Cutting Ball Theater), *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre), Peter Pan and *Hairspray* (Berkeley Playhouse), *The Day The Crayons Quit* (Bay Area Children's Theatre), *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Top Girls* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), *Marat/Sade* (Thrillpeddlers), *The Crazyed* (Central Works), *A Kind of Sad Love Story* (Bindlestiff Studio) and as a performer/educator for Kaiser's Educational Theatre. Carina is a recipient of the Theatre Bay Area TITAN Award and a graduate of Indiana University. Carina is represented by Lily's Talent Agency. www.carinalastimoso.com



Megan Keith Chenot

Megan Keith Chenot (Ruth) is very happy to be taking part in her first Bench Project. Megan's Bay Area theater credits include *Lena* in *Revival* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Writer's Retreat) and understudying the role of Pamela in *The 39 Steps* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). Her current gig as a full-time unemployed musician allows her lots of time to work on the script for *SHITE: The Typhoid Mary Musical*.



Greg Ayers

Greg Ayers (Richard) is honored to be part of this fun and silly production. Thank you Stephen Muterspaugh, Jeffrey Lo, and Max Tachis.



Peter Chenot

Peter Chenot (Anchor) is thrilled to be part of his second Bench Project, and wishes Jeffrey Lo a happy birthday!



Tasi Alabrasto

Tasi Alabrasto (Oscar) is an actor, online content creator, and multi-disciplinary digital artist whose work focuses on creating impact through visual storytelling. His online content on Twitch and YouTube focuses on storytelling to bridge communities and breed positivity. In addition to having the honor of being published in *CONTENT Magazine*, and *Tayo Magazine*, he is also the recipient of the 2019 Leigh Weimer's Emerging Artist Award and the 2018 SVCcreates Emerging Artist Laureate. He is a proud member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company and is currently working with inmates in state prisons as part of the Arts-in-Corrections program; The program hopes to re-engage participants with their creativity and imagination. To find ways to support the journey, reach out by visiting tasiabastro.com or by tweeting him at [@tasiabastro](https://twitter.com/@tasiabastro). | twitch.tv/kreenpananas



Roneet Aliza Rahamim

Roneet Aliza Rahamim (Reporter) is happy to be part of her third Bench Project! Recent acting credits include: *Laughter on 23rd Floor* (Carol) at Hillbarn Theater, *Taking Steps* (Kitty) at Pear Theatre, *Macbeth* at Dragon Productions, *Kiss* at Shotgun Players among others. Some favorites: *Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne) at PAP (TBA Award), *Amadeus* (Constanza) at CLTC. She is a resident artist with Golden Thread Productions. Directing credits include: Bench Project 2019, *Making God Laugh* (AD, CLTC), and *12 Angry Wo/Men* (AD, Foot-hill College Theater). www.roneet.com

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