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#### ARENA STAGE

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The Age of Innocence program book published February 28, 2025.

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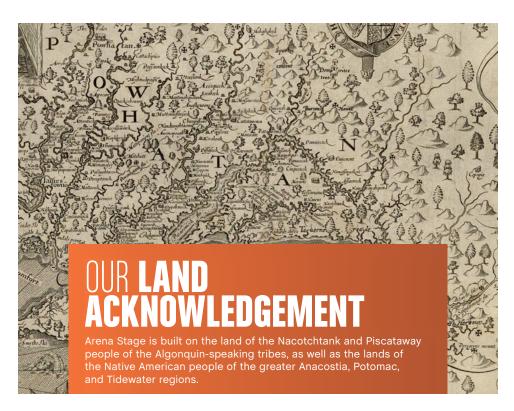


#ArenaStage #ArenaStageDC #ArenaInnocence

# ARENA STAGE'S 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.





# **ARTISTICALLY** SPEAKING

I could not be more excited to welcome you to my first show in Arena's iconic Zelda Fichandler Stage. It is a profound privilege to walk in the footsteps of the great artists and artistic leaders who have played in this space before me—Zelda Fichandler and Molly Smith—and even more so to do so with the remarkable work of one of DC's, and the country's, most renowned generative artists, Karen Zacarías. Welcome to *The Age of Innocence!* 

In this searing and sensual new play, Karen has artfully brought the past into the present. Edith Wharton's classic novel is a vessel for exploration of the timely and timeless tensions that we wrestle with today—of the politics of desire and the complexity of love, of acquiescence to the webs of power that both shape and constrict us, and the consequences for those of us daring enough to slough off the status quo. Karen's adaptation does more than retell Wharton's story; it reinvents it, revealing the contemporary resonance amidst the decadence and sparkle of the Gilded Age.

When I first programmed Karen's adaptation a year ago, I could not have predicted how urgent this adaptation would feel in our contemporary moment. In Newland and Ellen's New York, the lexicon of change—of resistance—can be as subtle as a furtive glance or the removal of a glove. And yet, under Karen's watchful hand, these quiet revolutions have profound contemporary resonance, in many ways reflecting our evergreen struggle to cast aside the restrictions imposed upon us and embrace our truest selves. We can understand ourselves and our own humanity more deeply by reflecting on the trials and tribulations of the societies that came before us—by the rules they heeded and the trends they bucked, by the ways in which they absorbed or chafed against the modes of governance that loomed above them.

Ultimately, *The Age of Innocence*, in its sweeping romance, is a treatise on navigating the shifting scales of individual versus collective good. Edith Wharton wrote, "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." Therein lies the power of storytelling. It is our role as artists to illuminate what has been hidden, to reflect our deepest truths, and to remind us that within every choice, every sacrifice, every quiet act of defiance, our inner truths still blaze. And so, I'm so glad to gather with you in this space as we hold up the mirror together—to witness, to question, and perhaps, to find the courage to let our own light shine.

Warmly,

Hana S. Sharif Artistic Director





I am delighted to welcome you to this performance of The Age of Innocence adapted by Karen Zacarías from Edith Wharton's award-winning novel. In producing this play, we continue a long-standing relationship with Karen, encompassing a friendship well beyond playwrighting.

If you have been on the theatrical journey with us this season, you might recall I mentioned Arena and Karen's long-standing artistic relationship earlier this winter. Arena has produced four of Karen's other full-length plays and collaborated with Karen on shorter pieces, even going back to the days of Living Stage, Karen's contribution to the theater field is not confined with the walls of the theater space. Early in her career she founded the Young Playwrights' Theater, teaching playwrighting in DC schools and expanding into a stand alone not-for-profit, YPT continues today empowering youth through the arts. Karen was one of Arena's first resident playwrights and she fully embraced being part of the Arena family, above and beyond working on her commissioned plays. She met with staff, students, and our Board of Trustees, sharing a love of the art form.

Karen served as a critical volunteer member of our recent artistic director search committee. She was able to share with the trustee committee the perspective of the artist and a theater practitioner. That was such a successful relationship that we invited her to join Arena's Board of Trustees, to continue adding her valuable perspective to the oversight work of the Board.

When you get to the final pages of this program and see the staff pages—which I encourage you to read—you will see a list of names. These names are not full representations of the fabulous artists within and without our walls. From scenic technicians to administrative assistants, nearly every person that works here has another hand in the art form. I feel that it's important to recognize that a person's title or their work responsibilities is just one part of who they are. Some of these folks have directly contributed to the wonderful art you are seeing on the stage today-sets, costumes, props, lights, sound-while others have supporting roles that may or may not be artistic. You may or may not be surprised to realize that even those supporting partners engage in a variety of creative pursuits as well.

I am inspired by Karen's example of encouraging young people to see the artists in themselves. I am also heartened to know that by joining with us here today, you our audience are also extending yourselves into our art. Seeing new work, gathering together in the Fichandler for that one-of-a-kind experience, joining our community with open arms. Thank you for joining us today.

**Edgar Dobie Executive Producer** 

President of the Corporation





# THE GILDED CAGE



On a January evening of the early seventies, Christine Nilsson was singing in *Faust* at the Academy of Music in New York.

- Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence



PUBLISHED in 1920 and winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence offers a searing portrait of 1870s New York City. Historians named the period from roughly the 1870s to the late 1890s after Mark Twain's 1873 novel The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today. The phrase "Gilded Age" has always cut two ways. The name was attached to a period of rapid economic growth, success, and even excess. However, as Twain makes clear, in many instances, these spoils were a consequence of graft, materialism, and widespread political corruption. Indeed, a dubious financial scheme features in both works by Twain and Wharton. Both the Gilded Age setting and Wharton's title highlight tensions in what is legible at the surface level versus what lies substantively beneath. In the novel, Wharton asserts, "In reality they all lived in a kind of hieroglyphic world, where the real thing was never said or done or even thought. but only represented by a set of arbitrary signs." One's fluency and deft at utilizing these "arbitrary signs" acts as one's most powerful tool in navigating society.

In some ways, *The Age of Innocence* contains several fugitive stories. Countess Ellen Olenska fled her brute husband in Europe for America. At this time, America itself was just over a decade past a civil war that ended slavery. Both Ellen and America are seeking redefinition through efforts to create and embody freedom. Ellen's flight has delivered her to freedom in name only, as she comes to learn that the social codes and practices of New York form their own gilded cage. Meanwhile, Newland Archer, whose name literally suggests "new land," struggles to define his own course and to figure out both

who he'd like to be as a man and whose man he'd prefer to be. Like a caged bird or zoo animals, everyone in society is on exhibition.

In such a heightened surveillance state, the underlining meaning of one's words and actions are overdetermined. A glance in a person's direction is more than seeing; it casts a message, which others will gleefully gather to discuss in attempt to decode the gesture. That everything means so much, perhaps, produces the culture of silences, which then necessitates more codes to give meaning to those silences. That this is a play of what is not said and not done is communicated masterfully in the opening gesture. The novel's opening sentence and this adaptation's first scene describe a performer singing. Our attention is first drawn to a performance to signify that, in some way and always, everyone is or should be performing. If we all are always performing then, presumably, we are always subject to an audience's gaze. Said another way, the whole of society functions as a gilded stage. The novel's closing lines feature a curtain (technically, an awning) being closed, which functions as a signal for the end of performance. In the reality unfolding before us, while the characters may be authors of their actions, the meanings of every act and utterance are subject to the authority and interpretation of viewers. As such, their fate becomes complicated by what others think they saw.



At that, as if it had been the signal he waited for, Newland Archer [...]

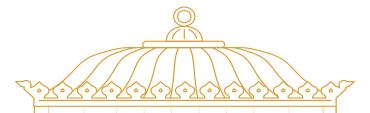
- Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence



# WHARTON'S HIEROGLYPHIC WORLD



1870s New York City adhered to strict social codes. Here are a few tips from etiquette guides of the period:



- A lady walks quietly through the streets, seeing and hearing nothing that she ought not to see and hear.
- A lady never demands attentions and favors from a gentleman, but always accepts them gratefully and graciously and with expressed thanks.
- A married lady usually leans upon the arm of her husband; but single ladies do not, in the day, take the arm of a gentleman, unless they are willing to acknowledge an engagement.
- Let no man speak a word against a woman at any time or mention a woman's name in any company where it should not be spoken.
- A gentleman must remember that a ball is essentially a lady's party, and in their presence, he should be gentle and delicate almost to a fault, never pushing his way, and addressing everybody with a smile.
- Balls are meant for dancing, not eating, and unfortunately too many young men forget this in the present day.
- In courtship, a lady's choice is only negative—that is
  to say, she may love, but she cannot declare her love; she
  must wait. It is hers, when the time comes, to consent or
  to decline, but till the time comes she must be passive.
- In courtship, a man may, and he will learn his fate at once, openly declare his passion and obtain his answer.
   In this he has great advantage over the lady.
- It may be well to hint that a lady should not be too demonstrative of her affection during the days of her engagement.
- An honorable man will never tempt his future bride to any such demonstration. He will always maintain a respectful and decorous demeanor toward her.



# ARENA STAGE HANA S. SHARIF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | EDGAR DOBIE, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PRESENTS



ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY

KAREN ZACARÍAS

DIRECTED BY

HANA S. SHARIF

SET DESIGNER

TIM MACKABEE

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**XAVIER PIERCE** 

COSTUME DESIGNER

**FABIO TOBLINI** 

ORIGINAL MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN

CHARLES COES & NATHAN A. ROBERTS

WIG AND HAIR DESIGNER
TOMMY KURZMAN

DIALECT AND VOCAL COACH
LISA NATHANS

DRAMATURG

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RAIYON HUNTER

STAGE MANAGER

CHRISTI B. SPANN\*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
STEFANIA GIRON ZULUAGA\*

Support for The Age of Innocence is provided by Sue Henry and Carter Phillips and PNC

Originally developed and produced at The Old Globe Barry Edelstein, Artistic Director Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director



New York City, 1870s

(in alphabetical order)

# **UNDERSTUDIES**

For Mrs. Archer, Mrs. van der Luyden - KIM BEY\* For Julius Beaufort, Sillerton Jackson - PETER BOYER\* For Granny Mingott — LISE BRUNEAU\* For Countess Ellen Olenska, May Welland — ANNA THEONI DIGIOVANNI\* For Janey Archer, Mrs. Welland - LILLI HOKAMA\* For Dallas Archer — NOAH MUTTERPERI For Newland Archer - JACOB YEH\*

# SUPPLEMENTAL EXTRA

LILY POND

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

# FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Makeup Designer	HEATHER HARDIN
Intimacy Consultant	SIERRA YOUNG
Movement Consultant	DEMOYA WATSON BROWN
Associate Sound Designer	LIAM BELLMAN-SHARPE
Assistant Director	ABBIE THOMAS
	NAYANNA SIMONE
	CHRISTIAN HENRRIQUEZ
	TIFFANY KO
	STEPHANIE KLAPPER CASTING:
G	STEPHANIE KLAPPER, CSA (CASTING DIRECTOR),
	EMMA BALK, JOE PISERCHIO (CASTING ASSISTANTS),
	GRACIE GUICHARD (ASSISTANT TO SKC)
	HANNAH MARTIN
Deck Carpenter	CATHERINE COONEY
Props Technicians	HOWARD BOLDEN, KAYLA PROUGH
Light Board Operator	SCOTT FOLSOM
Followspot Operators	SYDNEY BRONAUGH, NICK GREENE
Sound Technician	LIV FARLEY
Wardrobe Supervisor	ALICE HAWFIELD
	ARIEL HULVEY, CAITLIN O'BRIEN
	JAIME BAGLEY
Wigs	ROBIN MALINE
Crew Swing	TREVOR COMEAU

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

Arena Stage would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support of this production:

Baltimore Center Stage **Everyman Theatre** Design Foundry

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# CAST



SHEREEN AHMED (Countess Ellen Olenska) was most recently seen starring as Claudia in the Broadway Center Stage revival of Nine at the Kennedy Center. Broadway: My Fair Lady. National Tour: Eliza in My Fair Lady (LA

Drama Critics Circle nomination).

Off-Broadway: Franca in The Light in the Pigzzg (Encores!), Adele in A Man of No Importance (Classic Stage Company). Regional: Ellen in The Age of Innocence (Old Globe world premiere). Shereen has performed at the White House for President Biden, filmed a PBS live telecast performance with the Boston Pops. and starred as Joan in Strike Up the Band and Iolanthe in Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe at Carnegie Hall, TV/Film: New Amsterdam, Beltline to Broadway, The Broadway Show with Tamsen Fadal. Shereen has been featured in Vogue Arabia and has been recognized as one of '40 Under 40' accomplished Arab Americans in the US for her work in the theater. She was a quest speaker for the United Nations 14th Conference of States Parties and is a global ambassador for Education for Employment (EFE). Shereen holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Towson University. Instagram: @shereen\_ahmed



REGINA AQUINO SHE/HER/SIYA (Mrs. Archer and Others) is a

proud DC-area native who grew up between DC and Manila. She has performed on most of DC's stages, at the Kennedy Center, and at Lincoln Center in NYC. She is delighted to return to

Arena Stage, previously appearing in Holiday. Nominated for multiple Helen Hayes Awards, in 2019 she earned Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play for her work in The Events, as the first Filipino to receive the distinction, and was named one of Washingtonian magazine's "10 Biggest Theater Stars of DC." She founded Origin Stories Productions to create Filipino forward art with multiple film/TV projects in development. Her first feature documentary, Faith Healers, which she wrote, directed, and produced, will have its world premiere at the Manila International Film Festival at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood this year. For her children, R and M, always,



**DELPHI BORICH** (May Welland) is thrilled to make her Arena Stage debut in The Age of Innocence after originating the role of May Welland at The Old Globe. She recently appeared on Broadway in the Tonynominated revivals of Into the

Woods and Camelot, Delphi's regional credits include Viola in Twelfth Night (Dallas Theatre Center); Emily Webb in Our Town (Lyceum Theatre); Kendra/Jenna in Gloria (Asolo Rep); Belle in Beauty and the Beast, Ariel in The Little Mermaid (Theatre Under the Stars): and more. Television credits include FBI: Most Wanted and WeCrashed. Delphi is passionate about the development of new works like The Age of Innocence by the incredible Karen Zacarías and has had the privilege of working with other talented emerging writers such as Isabella Dawis and Tidtava Sunotoke, Amanda Jacobs and Lindsay Warren Baker, and Nikki Massoud. Proud graduate of Syracuse University. Instagram: @delphiborich



LISE BRUNEAU (Mrs. van der Luyden and Others / Understudy Granny Mingott) is thrilled to return to Arena where she's appeared in Watch on the Rhine, Junk. Karen Zacarías' beautiful Legacy of Light, and others. Other DC performances include

Othello as Emilia, Hamlet, and The Winter's Tale at Shakespeare Theatre; productions at Studio and Theater J; and she recently received a Helen Haves Award for The Honey Trap at Solas Nua. In New York, she has appeared at the Park Avenue Armory and the Roundabout. She has played in numerous regional theaters across the country, such as the Denver Center (Hesione in Heartbreak House, Henry Award), A.C.T. San Francisco (Sweat), and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park (The Revolutionists). She is an accomplished director, having helmed numerous productions across the DMV and beyond. Lise trained at RADA and is a Taffety Punk.

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# CAST



FELICIA CURRY (Granny Mingott) last appeared at Arena Stage in Ken Ludwig's adaptation of Death on the Nile. Most recently, she was in the one-woman thriller, Sandra, at TheaterWorks Hartford, and performed her solo cabaret at Everyman

Theatre. Felicia received a Helen Hayes Award for Lela & Co. at Factory 449 where she is a company member. She is also a Resident Company Member at Everyman Theatre and an Artistic Associate at Ford's Theatre. Felicia made her Broadway debut in the Tonynominated revival of Into the Woods, and then toured with the show around the country, including at The Kennedy Center. She has a Berkshire Theatre Critics Award, a RTCC Award, an Anderson-Hopkins Award, and is a two-time AUDFI CO nominee for Queens Girl in the World at Abingdon Theatre and Fabulation at The Billie Holiday Theatre, both off-Broadway. Felicia has been named one of "12 DC Stage Dynamos" by The Washington Post and one of "DC's Biggest Theater Stars" by Washingtonian magazine. She is on the WAPAVA Board of Directors and the Emmy-nominated host of WETA Arts on PBS. Instagram: @thefeliciacurry



# ANNA THEONI DIGIOVANNI

(Janey Archer and Others / Understudy Countess Ellen Olenska, May Welland) is over the moon to be making her Arena Stage debut with this classic story. She was recently seen in the Shakespeare

Theatre Company's production of Leopoldstadt, and also appeared at The Kennedy Center in the premiere of Through the Sunken Lands and in Mosaic Theater Company's The Till Trilogy. Other favorite DC credits include Twelfth Night (Her Majesty & Sons, Founding Producer); Cry It Out (Studio Theatre); She Kills Monsters (Rorschach Theatre); Venus in Fur (4615 Theatre); The Revolutionists, Bike America, The Explorers Club (Prologue Theatre); and Pericles (Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting). Anna is a proud graduate of The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy at George Washington University. www.annadiaiovanni.com



PAOLO MONTALBAN (Julius Begufort and Others) is making his Arena Stage debut! He returns to the area where he played the King in The King and I at Olney Theatre. He's appeared on Broadway in Breakfast at Tiffany's, Pacific

Overtures, The King and I, and, most recently, in Funny Girl as Florenz Ziegfeld. Off-Broadway, he originated the roles of Kurt Huber in White Rose: The Musical and Tommy Haw in Bella: An American Tall Tale at Playwrights Horizons. Mr. Montalban is best known for his television roles of Prince Christopher in Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella and Kung Lao on Mortal Kombat: Conquest. He most recently appeared as King Charming in Descendants: The Rise of Red, now on Disney+. He is a Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship recipient and a Lucille Lortel nominee. Instagram: @itspaolomontalban



# NOAH MUTTERPERL HE/HIM

(Valet and Others / Understudy Dallas Archer) is thrilled to make his Arena debut! DC Area: Look Both Ways National Tour (Kennedy Center); Kipps in Woman in Black (Keegan Theatre,

Helen Hayes nomination); Paul in American Psycho (Monumental Theatre Company, Helen Hayes nomination); Phoebus in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Dracula in Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors, Robert in The Drowsy Chaperone, The Who's Tommy (Workhouse Performing Arts). Upcoming: Senior Class at Olney Theatre Center. Much love to Alyssa, Cap, and the family. nmutterperl.com Instagram: @noah mutterperl



# ANTHONY NEWFIELD

(Sillerton Jackson and Others)'s Washington, DC, credits include Laurence Olivier in Orson's Shadow at Round House Theatre and Boyet in Love's Labour's Lost for the Shakespeare Theatre Company.

Broadway credits include 1984, The Father, The Winslow Boy, The Columnist, The Royal Family, Waiting for Godot, and Tartuffe. Off-Broadway credits include Ivanov with Ethan Hawke (Classic Stage), Susan and God (Mint), etc. Irish credits include Ned Weeks in The Normal Heart (The Project, Dublin, and National Tour), T.S. Eliot in Tom and Viv (Rough Magic), and Peer Gynt (Gate Theatre). US regional theater credits include





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Mr. Bennet in Pride and Prejudice at Baltimore Center Stage, directed by Hana S. Sharif; Arcadia at Boston's Huntington; Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird, Horst in Bent (Carbonell Award), etc. TV/film work includes I Melt with You, All My Children, Diagnosis: Murder, etc. www.anthonynewfield.com



# NATALYA LYNETTE RATHNAM

(Mrs. Welland and Others) is so excited to be back at Arena! DC-area productions: POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding

Ensemble), Our War (Arena Stage); Lend Me A Soprano, A Nice Indian Boy (Olney Theatre Center); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Everyman Theatre); The Last Match (Helen Hayes nominations for Outstanding Supporting Performer and Outstanding Ensemble), The Phlebotomist (1st Stage); A Wind In The Door, Kid Prince and Pablo, Mockingbird, The Wings of Ikarus Jackson (Kennedy Center); 4,380 Nights (Signature Theatre); Bars and Measures, Shame 2.0, When January Feels Like Summer (Mosaic Theater Company); Death of a Salesman (Ford's Theatre); The Trojan Women (Taffety Punk). Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Stage. Instagram: @natalyalynetterathnam



A.J. SHIVELY (Newland Archer) is making his Arena Stage debut. A.J. has worked extensively in regional theater, including at The Kennedy Center (Bright Star) and Baltimore Center Stage (Pride and Prejudice). Broadway

credits include Paradise Square (Tony, OCC, Chita Rivera Award nominations), Bright Star (Drama Desk nomination), and La Cage Aux Folles. Off-Broadway credits include Philadelphia, Here I Come! (Theatre World Awards' Dorothy Loudon Award; Drama Desk, Lortel nominations) at Irish Repertory Theatre, A Man of No Importance (Lortel Award; OCC nomination) at Classic Stage Company, Titanic at Encores!, and February House at The Public. His film and television work includes leading roles in Other People's Bodies (upcoming), Julia (HBO Max), Bull (CBS), and Hunters (Amazon Prime). A.J. trained at The University of Michigan and The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.



## JACOB YEH

(Dallas Archer and Others / Understudy Newland Archer) last appeared at Arena Stage in The 51st State. Other DC credits include King of the Yees (Signature Theatre, Helen Hayes nomination for

Outstanding Supporting Actor); Vietgone, Chimerica (Studio Theatre); Yellow Face (Theater J); Julius Caesar (Shakespeare Theatre Company): Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (Folger Theatre); How the Light Gets In (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor), The Farnsworth Invention, Take Me Out, Fuddy Meers, Trevor (1st Stage); East of Eden (NextStop Theatre, Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor); The School for Lies (Constellation Theatre); The Horse and Carriage (Prologue Theatre); Dragon King's Daughter (The Kennedy Center); Anime Momotaro (Imagination Stage). Regional credits include The Chinese Lady (American Stage, FL). www.iacobveh.com



KIM BEY (Understudy Mrs. Archer, Mrs. van der Luyden) was last seen at Arena Stage in The Little Foxes as Addie. Other DC credits include Maggie in the US premiere of Nine Night and Suzanne in Sleep Deprivation Chamber at

Round House Theatre; Citizen One in Something Moving at Ford's Theatre, and Mary Seacole in Marys Seacole at Mosaic Theater. Additional regional credits are as Auntie Fola in Beneatha's Place at Baltimore Center Stage and as Lena Younger in A Raisin in the Sun at the Lyric Theatre in Utah. Off-Broadway credits are as Grace in Zooman and the Sign at Second Stage and as Grace in Salt at the Actors Studio. Kim is a voice contributor on the African American History is American History podcast on YouTube.

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## **PETER BOYER**

(Understudy Julius Beaufort, Sillerton Jackson) previously appeared at Arena Stage as Henry in Holiday and as Voice in The High Ground. Notable roles include Ebenezer Scrooge in A Broadway Christmas Carol and

Whistle in *Uprising* at MetroStage; Groucho Marx in *Groucho: A Life in Revue* at Wayside Theatre; Dromio of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors* at Baltimore Shakespeare Festival; Captain Hook in *Tinkerbell* and Captain Braidbeard in *How I Became a Pirate* at Adventure Theatre; and Charles Dickens in *Discord* and Mr. Praed in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at Washington Stage Guild. His recent plays *Captain Hook: My Story*, Or *How I Clawed My Way to the Top* and *Tofana Bobana* have received multiple productions in the Washington-Baltimore area. *www.petersbrain.art* 



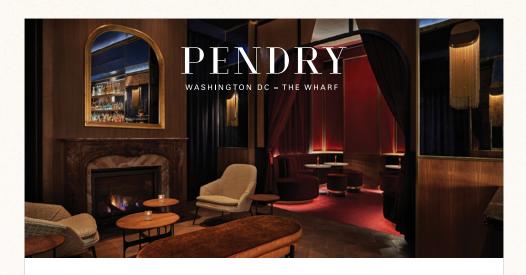
# LILLI HOKAMA

(Understudy Janey Archer, Mrs. Welland) is thrilled to return to Arena following last year's Death on the Nile. Other DC credits include A Midsummer Night's Dream, Amadeus, and Viola in this spring's Twelfth

Night all at Folger Theatre. As an actor, voice actor, and director, past highlights include The Wolves at Lincoln Center Theater: Little Women (Dallas Theater Center/The Old Globe); Now Circa Then, I and You (Chester Theatre): Matt and Ben (Kitchen Theatre Company); Antigone (Baltimore Center Stage); and Water by the Spoonful, Elf The Musical, and Guadalupe in the Guest Room (Fine Arts Center in Colorado). She presented an original story for We Hear You - A Climate Archive, presented at The Kennedy Center and Dramaten, the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm. TV credits include Prodigal Son, and several short films including Jellybones and Chip!. It is an honor and privilege for Lilli to be here, eternal gratitude to her partner, family, and friends.

# **CREATIVE**

KAREN ZACARÍAS (Playwright) is thrilled to have the opportunity to play on every single stage of her beloved home theater of Arena Stage: Legacy of Light directed by Molly Smith (2009, Crystal City), The Book Club Play directed by Molly Smith (2011, Kogod Cradle), Destiny of Desire directed by Jose Luis Valenzuela (2015, Kreeger Theater), Native Gardens directed by Blake Robison (2017, Kreeger Theater), and now her adaptation of The Age of Innocence directed by Hana S. Sharif (2025, Fichandler Stage). Karen has been hailed by American Theatre magazine as one of the most-produced playwrights in the US. Her adaptation of Shane premiered last year at the Guthrie Theater and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and heads to Dallas Theater Center and to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival this season. Other large regional productions include the world premiere of The Age of Innocence at The Old Globe directed by Chay Yew, a revival of her award-winning time-travel comedy Legacy of Light at McCarter Theatre, and The Book Club Play at Cincinnati Playhouse. She currently has three Broadway-bound musicals, including Destiny of Desire and Five Notes with composer/ superstar Gloria Estefan. Other award-winning plays include The Copper Children, Mariela in the Desert, The Sins of Sor Juana, and adaptations of Just Like Us, Into the Beautiful North, How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents, and a bilingual Romeo y Juliet. She also has ten award-winning TYA musicals with composer Deborah Wicks La Puma, Karen is a core founder of the Latino Theatre Commons—a large national organization of artists seeking to update the American narrative with the stories of Latinos-and the founder of the awardwinning Young Playwrights' Theater. Karen was voted a 2019 Washingtonian of the Year and awarded the 2019 Sine Fellowship at the American University School of Public Policy, the 2019 Lee Reynolds Award for "social, cultural, or political change with theater," and the 2019 Medallion by the Childrens Theatre Foundation. She is a 2021 recipient of the United States Artists Fellowship. Karen lives in Washington, DC, with her husband Rett, their three children, and two dogs. She is represented by the Gersh Agency; published by Concord Theatricals and Dramatic Publishing; and has a collection of plays with Oberon Books. www.karenzacarias.com



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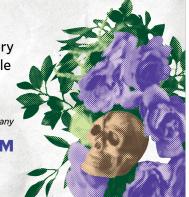
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HANA S. SHARIF (Director) has directed acclaimed productions of Death on the Nile, Murder on the Orient Express (7 STLCC nominations), A Christmas Carol (4 STLCC nominations, STL A-List Award), Pride and Prejudice (5 STLCC nominations), Porgy and Bess, The Who & The What (3 SFBA Critic Circle nominations), Fun Home, Sense and Sensibility, The Christians, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Pride and Prejudice (DCArts: Best Director/Best New Play), The Whipping Man, Gem of the Ocean (six CCC nominations). Gee's Bend (CCC Award Best Ensemble, two nominations), Next Stop Africa, Cassie, The Drum, IFdentity, Pretty Fire, Patient 463, I, Marcus Garvey, Quicksand, Hospice, and The Blacker The Berry. Her plays include All the Women I Used to Be, The Rise and Fall of Day, and The Sprott Cycle Trilogy (1880, 1964, 2010).

TIM MACKABEE (Set Designer) For Arena Stage: Ning Simone: Four Women. For Hana S. Sharif: Murder on the Orient Express. A Christmas Carol (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), The Who & The What (Marin Theatre). Broadway: The Elephant Man (starring Bradley Cooper), Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth (dir. Spike Lee). West End: The Elephant Man. Off-Broadway: Dakar 2000, Poor Yella Rednecks, Vietgone, Important Hats... (MTC); Heathers: The Musical (New World Stages); The Last Match (Roundabout); The Penitent, Our New Girl, Guards at the Taj (Atlantic); Luce (Lincoln Center Theater); Gigantic (Vineyard). Regional: Oh yes, lots. Music Video: Carly Rae Jepsen's "Surrender My Heart". TV: Gotham, Smash, The Today Show. Education: North Carolina School of the Arts, Yale School of Drama. Instagram: @timmackabeedesign

FABIO TOBLINI (Costume Designer) Broadway: Romeo and Juliet, Richard Rodgers Theatre. Off-Broadway original productions: Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Bat Boy: The Musical, The Divine Sister, Pip's Island. Fabio's most recent credits include Master Class at Arizona Theatre Company and Murder on the Orient Express at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Other theater credits include American Players Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Huntington Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Old Globe, Hartford Stage, Guthrie Theater, Alley Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Ford's Theatre, and Studio Theatre. Opera: Santa Fe Opera, Wexford Festival Opera (IE), Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Nationale Reisopera (NL), Landestheater (AU), Gotham Chamber Opera, Portland Opera. Ballet: Ballet

Arizona, Awards: 2024 St. Louis Theater Circle Award, 2018 Craig Noel Award, 2015 Craig Noel nomination, 2015 Connecticut Critics Circle nomination, 2012 and 2016 Connecticut Critics Circle Award, 2008 Irene Sharaff Young Master Award, 2001 Lucille Lortel nomination. www.fabiotoblini.com

XAVIER PIERCE (Lighting Designer)'s professional credits include Steppenwolf Theatre (Chicago, IL), Chicago Shakespeare Theater (Chicago, IL), Public Theater (NYC), Oregon Shakespeare Festival (Ashland, OR), Guthrie Theatre (Minneapolis, MN), McCarter Theatre Center (Princeton, NJ), Long Wharf Theatre (New Haven, CT), Alley Theatre (Houston, TX), Ford's Theatre (Washington, DC), Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (St Louis, MO), Seattle Repertory Theatre (Seattle, WA), Arena Stage (Washington, DC), Indiana Repertory Theatre (Indianapolis, IN), Arden Theatre (Philadelphia, PA), Philadelphia Theatre Company (Philadelphia, PA), PlayMakers Rep (Chapel Hill, NC), Westport Country Playhouse (Westport, CT), TheatreWorks (Palo Alto, CA) Asolo Repertory Theatre (Sarasota, FL); Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, GA); American Repertory Theater (Cambridge, MA), Portland Center Stage (Portland, OR), George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick, NJ), Syracuse Stage (Syracuse, NY), Two River Theater (Red Bank, NJ), Olney Theatre Center (Olney, MD), Intiman Theatre (Seattle, WA), Arizona Theatre Company (Phoenix, AZ), Florida Studio Theatre, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Triad Stage (Greensboro, NC & Winston-Salem, NC), Children's Theatre of Charlotte (Charlotte, NC), and Crossroads Theatre (New Brunswick, NJ). Xavier is a graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts MFA in Design Stage and Film.

CHARLES COES (Original Music and Sound Design) is happy to be back at Arena, where he has designed Death on the Nile and Jitney. Recent credits in NY are Comedy of Errors (Public Mobile Unit), Beautiful Lady (La MaMa), Golden Shield (MTC), Letters of Suresh (2ST), Small World Stories (Phantom Limb), Sing Street (NYTW), and Natural Shocks (WP). He has also designed shows that have toured through the DC area, including The Masked Singer Live, Into the Woods, and Peter and the Starcatcher. He has worked in regional theaters across the country and toured internationally with Homer's Coat's productions of An Iliad and Song of Rome. He has been a regular associate on Broadway shows including Girl from the North Country, To Kill a Mockingbird, Junk, and Peter and the Starcatcher.



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NATHAN A. ROBERTS (Original Music and Sound Design) is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, instrument-maker, and sound designer who specializes in creating original music and soundscapes for plays, often live onstage. Previously for Arena Stage: Death on the Nile. DC Theater: The Widow Lincoln, Our Town (Ford's Theatre); The Servant of Two Masters (Shakespeare Theatre). Off-Broadway: Golden Shield (Manhattan Theatre Club); Letters of Suresh (Second Stage); Crane Story, Dramatis Personae (The Playwrights Realm). Regional: The Way the Mountain Moved, Sense and Sensibility (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); Miss You Like Hell, Fun Home, The Christians, Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Baltimore Center Stage); Animal Farm (Milwaukee Rep); Sense and Sensibility (Dallas Theater Center/ Guthrie Theater); Tokyo Fish Story (The Old Globe). Education: MFA, Yale School of Drama. Faculty: Senior Lecturer in Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, Yale University.

TOMMY KURZMAN (Wig and Hair Designer) is thrilled to be back at Arena! Arena credits include POTUS and The High Ground. Broadway: Uncle Vanya, I Need That, Gutenberg! The Musical!, The Cottage, Peter Pan Goes Wrong, Pictures From Home, The Collaboration, Macbeth, Mrs. Doubtfire, All My Sons, True West, Saint Joan, My Fair Lady, Little Foxes, Long Day's Journey, Bright Star, The King and I, and Fiddler on the Roof. Off-Broadway: Little Shop of Horrors (Westside Theatre), Titaniqué, Roundabout, MCC, MTC, Atlantic, The New Group, The Public, New World Stages. Regional: The Muny, Goodspeed Musicals, Drury Lane Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, The Huntington, and Geva Theatre. Instagram: @tommykurzmanwigs

LISA NATHANS (Dialect and Vocal Coach) is thrilled to be coaching again for Arena Stage with this fabulous team after previously coaching Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile, The Other Americans, Data, POTUS, Holiday, Catch Me If You Can, Disney's Newsies, Anything Goes, and others. Other DC credits include various productions with The Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Olney Theatre Center, Signature Theatre, Theater Alliance, Keegan Theatre, and MetroStage. Regional credits include Guthrie Theater, 5th Avenue Theatre, and Theatricum Botanicum. TV credits include National Geographic. Teaching (USA and UK): University of Maryland: TDPS (Associate Professor, Voice, Speech, and Acting); CalArts; Stella Adler Academy; RADA; Royal Welsh; Royal

Central: University of Washington (PATP MFA): and University of Minnesota (Guthrie BFA). Training: Royal Central School of Speech and Drama: MFA (Voice Studies); Boston University: BFA (Acting); Linklater Voice Designation; and Colaianni Speech Practitioner, Break legs all!

OTIS RAMSEY-ZÖE (Dramatura) is a care worker, dramaturg, director, theater arts educator, and Literary Manager at Arena Stage. He has developed new works at such institutions as Sundance Institute, Kennedy Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Center, and National New Play Network. He has held posts in Dramaturgy at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale and Carnegie Mellon University, Theatre at Northeastern University, Women's Studies and Honors Humanities at the University of Maryland, Performing Arts at American University, and Theatre Arts at Howard University. He was Associate Artistic Director at banished? productions, Future Classics Program Coordinator at the Classical Theatre of Harlem. Literary Manager at Center Stage, and an Allen Lee Hughes Senior Fellow at Arena Stage.

STEPHANIE KLAPPER (New York Casting)'s award-winning work is frequently seen on Broadway, off-Broadway, regionally, on concert stages, film, television, and streaming media. Select recent credits include The Night of the Iguana (Signature Theatre); Sump'n Like Wings (Mint Theater); Dig (Primary Stages); Henry IV (New York Classical Theatre); Ahrens and Flaherty's Knoxville (Clarence Brown); Cape Playhouse season; Beautiful (Capital Rep); Karen Zacarías' Shane (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park/Guthrie Theater, world premiere); ElfQuest: The Audio Movie, and Ranked, the musical/HBO documentary. SKC is known for its limitless imagination and creativity, as well as connecting creative, caring people to each other to make extraordinary things happen. SKC is committed to expanding diversity, education, equity, and inclusion in the business. Member of Casting Society of America, Board Member of Casting Society

RAIYON HUNTER (DC Casting) is a casting director, producer, and arts administrator from New Orleans, Louisiana. She currently works as the Casting Director/Line Producer of Arena Stage. Previously, she worked as the Casting Director of Children's Theatre Company and the Spelman Leadership Fellow at the Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, GA) where

Cares, and preliminary judge of the Jimmy

Awards, www.klappercastina.com

she has contributed to a multitude of shows in varying capacities ranging from Casting Associate to Director on productions such as Do You Love the Dark?, Darlin' Cory, Bina's Six Apples, Good Bad People, Confederates, and more. Additionally, she has been in residency at Oregon Shakespeare Festival under Nataki Garrett and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis under Hana S. Sharif.

CHRISTI B. SPANN (Stage Manager) has been working as a stage manager in DC since 2011. Recent Arena Stage productions include Holiday, The High Ground, Exclusion, POTUS, Tempestuous Elements, and Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile. She previously spent 12 seasons on the stage management staff at the Denver Center Theatre Company and has also worked with The Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, MN, and Virginia Repertory Theatre in Richmond, VA.

STEFANIA GIRON ZULUAGA (Assistant Stage Manager)'s credits include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Signature Theatre); Murder on the Orient Express, Destiny of Desire (The Old Globe); Something's Afoot, Songs of the Moon, Into the Woods (5th Avenue Theatre); Quixote Nuevo, Fat Ham, The Tempest, I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (Seattle Rep); Quixote Nuevo, Seussical (South Coast Rep); A Christmas Carol (ACT); Little Shop of Horrors, Mamma Mia!, and The Book Club Play (Village Theatre). Beyond The Stage Door 2024 Cohort. Education: Seattle University.

# **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 theater, Hartford Stage, in 2003. During her decadelong 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 antiracism 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 Sharqai Leadership Award in 2022.

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



The actors and stage manager 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.



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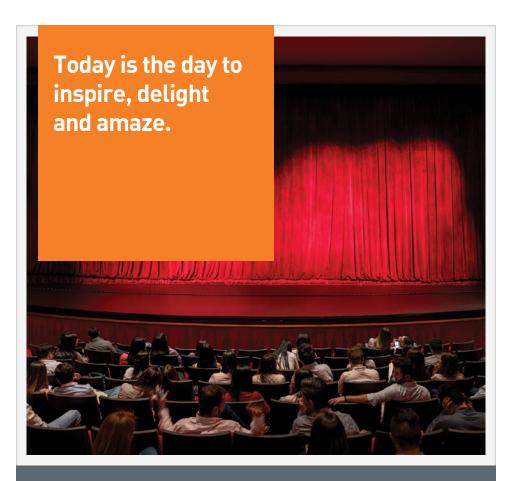
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