

2024/25 SEASON

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**The OTHER  
AMERICANS**

DIRECTED BY RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON

**OCT 18 – NOV 24**



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## ARENA STAGE

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John Leguizamo (Nelson) for *The Other Americans*. Photo by Tony Powell.



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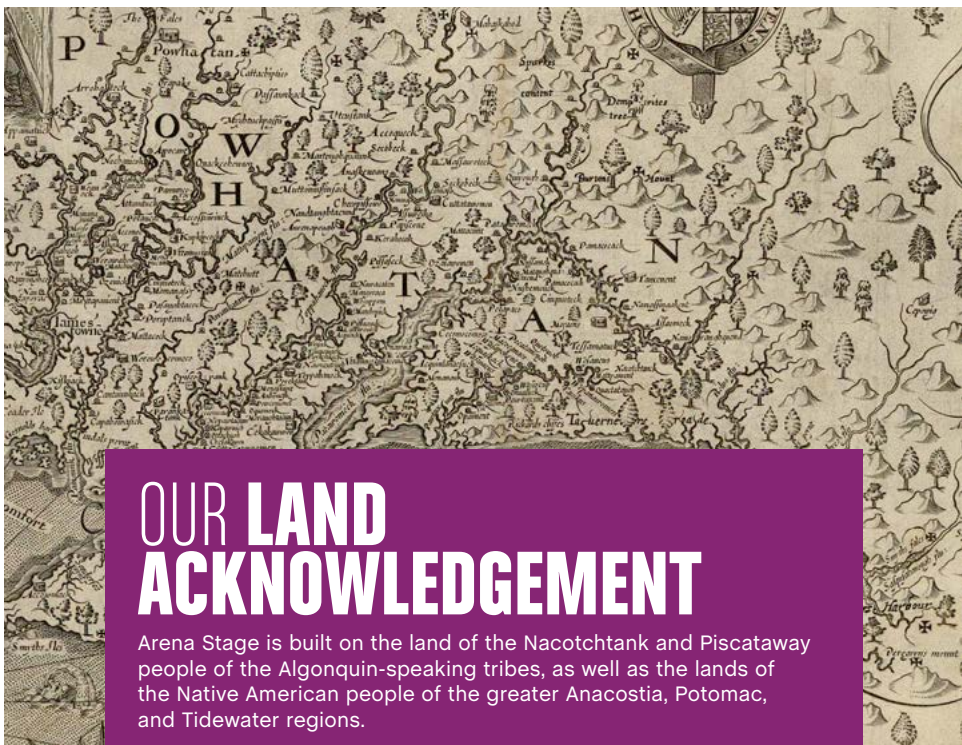
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#ArenaStage #ArenaStageDC #OtherAmericansDC



# 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.



## OUR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Arena Stage is built on the land of the Nacotchtank and 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

For nearly 75 years, Arena has fought to reflect our country's multifaceted humanity in a continuous effort to serve, as Zelda Fichandler once brilliantly described, "the revelation and shaping of the process of living." John Leguizamo's *The Other Americans* is a searing new addition to the theatrical canon in that venerated tradition of the Great American Tragedy. *The Other Americans* ushers in a new era, bringing a modern and vibrant family, never before seen on stage, out of the margins and squarely into the center as they grapple with the cost of pursuing the American Dream.

When I first encountered an early draft of John Leguizamo's *The Other Americans*, I immediately understood that Nelson Castro would take his place on the continuum of stories defined by fractured men trapped in lives smaller than their spirits, and the reality of the tremendous cost paid by those who love them most. Inspired by actual events, it seeks to shine a bright and unflinching light on the profoundly human journey of this Colombian-American family's pursuit of the promise of our country—never before witnessed on our stages. And yet, this tragedy is a familiar one. Leguizamo's patriarch, Nelson Castro—like Willy Loman, Walter Lee Younger, James Tyrone, and Troy Maxson canonically before him—grapples with the idea that the world somehow owes you a stronger hand than you've been dealt and it's up to you, and you alone, to fight for what you deserve. We all bear witness to the wreckage of these choices, and in his toils, we can see ourselves—our fits, furies, and failings, and our fundamentally human hope for something better.

As Arena Stage continues its work producing art that reveals the full spectrum of the American spirit, we are called to create space for the birth of groundbreaking and oftentimes heartbreaking art which centers the love, passion, and resilience of real families, searching for healing against the ire of a world intent on rendering their experiences invisible.

Richly layered, complex, and full of love, the Castro family is undeniably and canonically American. We are invited into their kitchen—to the spicy aroma of sofrito cooking, to disco music's contagious refrains—as they dance, cook, bathe in laughter, kindle old loves, and nurture new ones, all the while reaching across the divide for acknowledgment and understanding. The Castro family's central backbone—a relentless determination to find joy, and each other, amidst the wreckage—is the universal lifeblood of the human spirit. These small and precious moments of tenderness are a necessary salve for Nicky, Toni, Patti, and Nelson, and indeed for all of us, as we look for joy in the face of a tenuous future.

It is impossible not to find resonance in the particulars of the Castro family's lives and their triumphs and struggles as parents, lovers, entrepreneurs, and dreamers. Leguizamo has brought us a quintessentially American story, and I hope you find healing in its undeniable truths.

**Hana S. Sharif**

Artistic Director, Arena Stage

Arena Stage  
Washington, DC

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Welcome to the premiere of John Leguizamo's  
*The Other Americans*.

You may have noticed the lovely landscaping around Arena's building as you entered today, or as you have walked by. Those more seasoned patrons may remember several different attempts over the last 14 years to make our outside space as beautiful as our inside. Unfortunately, you may also remember more than one not entirely successful attempt! I'm pleased that now it looks wonderful.

The current landscaping is a brilliant example of the Southwest Business Improvement District or SWBID. What is a BID? A BID is a not-for-profit organization funded by business owners (or private property owners) within a specific geographic area that uses resources to supplement government services, like neighborhood cleaning, security, capital improvements, and other initiatives for the betterment of the community.

As you may be aware or remember, Arena's Southwest neighborhood looked quite different 20 years ago. Longtime patrons will recall the Waterside Mall and how it split 4th Street. The waterfront had a number of businesses, including the Channel Inn, Hogate's, and Phillips Flagship. The Fish Market was (mostly) in the same spot but with an entirely different look.

When the Washington Nationals moved in down the street in 2005, Arena was excited to have renewed attention to the neighborhood. Then Arena launched its own renewal which resulted in our fabulous Mead Center for American Theater. However, in 2011 the Wharf was still a dream. As the time of the Mead Center's opening and construction of the Wharf began, Steve Moore championed the concept of a BID for Southwest. Parts of the neighborhood were in disrepair, but moreover he knew that it would be necessary to keep the community together throughout the massive changes happening.

In 2014, Steve Moore as Executive Director and the SWBID's only other employee took up residence in Arena's administrative office as our guests and built the framework for the SWBID. Within two years they had found separate office space and made great strides toward brightening our area. The refurbishment of the Duck Pond was an early victory, as were beautiful murals and getting folks out in the now ubiquitous blue shirts to keep the sidewalks clean. The SWBID provides gathering opportunities for residents, such as Sunday Suppers and the Farmers Market on 4th Street.

SWBID is back in Arena's building again, providing cleaning services inside as well as landscaping services outside. We're supported by their security services as well.

I harken back to one of Arena's founding principles which is to be resident in the community as a way to welcome authentically artists, like the company for *The Other Americans*, and you, as our audience, in a community we've built, treasure, and maintain together.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edgar".

Edgar Dobie  
Executive Producer  
President of the Corporation



## 1. *The Other Americans*

By John Leguizamo

Premiered: 2024

Arena Production: 2024

Trey Santiago-Hudson for *The Other Americans*  
(2024/25 Season). Photo by Tony Powell.



2



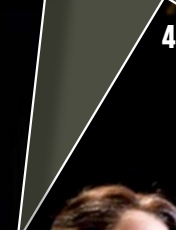
## 2. *A Raisin in the Sun*

By Lorraine Hansberry

Premiered: 1959

Arena Production: 2017

Will Cobbs and Jeremiah Hasty in  
*A Raisin in the Sun* (2016/17 Season).  
Photo by C. Stanley Photography.



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## 4. *A View from the Bridge*

By Arthur Miller

Premiered: 1955

Arena Productions:  
1956, 2008

Naomi Jacobson and Delaney Williams in  
*A View from the Bridge* (2007/08 Season).  
Photo by Scott Suchman.



6

3

## 3. *A Delicate Balance*

By Edward Albee

Premiered: 1966

Arena Productions:  
1982, 2009

Ellen McLaughlin and Terry Beaver in  
*A Delicate Balance* (2008/09 Season).  
Photo by Scott Suchman.

## 5. *The Piano Lesson*

By August Wilson

Premiered: 1987

Arena Production:  
2005

Carl Cofield and Harriett D. Foy in  
*The Piano Lesson* (2004/05 Season).  
Photo by Scott Suchman.

## 6. *All My Sons*

By Arthur Miller

Premiered: 1947

Arena Productions:  
1954, 2000

Beth Fowler and M. Emmet Walsh in  
*All My Sons* (1999/2000 Season).  
Photo by Scott Suchman.



# FAMILY BUSINESS:

A LOOK BACK AT CLASSIC  
AMERICAN FAMILY DRAMAS  
AT ARENA STAGE



## 7. *Awake and Sing!*

By Clifford Odets  
Premiered: 1935  
Arena Productions:  
1971, 2006

Miriam Silverman and Adam Green in  
*Awake and Sing!* (2005/08 Season).  
Photo by Scott Suchman.

## 8. *Fences*

By August Wilson  
Premiered: 1985  
Arena Production: 1990

Yaphet Kotto, Kim Hamilton, and  
Wally Taylor in *Fences* (1989/90 Season).  
Photo by Joan Marcus

## 9. *Death of a Salesman*

By Arthur Miller  
Premiered: 1949  
Arena Productions:  
1974, 1976, 2008

Stanley Anderson, Robert Prosky, and Bruce Weitz  
in *Death of a Salesman* (1974/75 Season).  
Photo by Alton Miller.

## 10. *Long Day's Journey into Night*

By Eugene O'Neill  
Premiered: 1956  
Arena Productions:  
1965, 1975, 1995, 2012

Anthony Zerbe, Rene Auberjonois, and  
Michael Higgins in *Long Day's Journey into Night*  
(1964/65 Season). Photo by George de Vincent.

## 11. *The Glass Menagerie*

By Tennessee Williams  
Premiered: 1944  
Arena Productions:  
1951, 1989

Dorthea Jackson and Lester Rawlins in  
*The Glass Menagerie* (1950/51 Season).  
Photo by Lee Salsbery Studios.

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PUBLIC THEATER

OSKAR EUSTIS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | PATRICK WILLINGHAM, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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JOHN LEGUIZAMO'S

The OTHER  
AMERICANS

DIRECTED BY

RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON

SET DESIGNER

ARNULFO MALDONADO

COSTUME DESIGNER

KARA HARMON

LIGHTING DESIGNER

JEN SCHRIEVER

SOUND DESIGNER

JUSTIN ELLINGTON

HAIR DESIGNER

LASHAWN MELTON

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY JOHNSON

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JAMES LATUS\*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

ANA MUÑOZ\*

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# SETTING

Forest Hills, Queens, New York, 1998.

# CAST

*(in order of appearance)*

Nelson .....	JOHN LEGUIZAMO*
Patti .....	LUNA LAUREN VELEZ*
Eddie.....	BRADLEY JAMES TEJEDA*
Veronica.....	SARAH NINA HAYON*
Norma.....	ROSA ARREDONDO*
Nicky .....	TREY SANTIAGO-HUDSON*
Toni .....	REBECCA JIMENEZ*

## UNDERSTUDIES

For Nelson – JUAN FRANCISCO VILLA\*

For Patti/Norma – SARAH NINA HAYON\*

For Eddie/Nicky – JOHNNY ANTHONY\*

For Veronica/Toni – ODETTE GUTIÉRREZ DEL ARROYO

*\*Members of Actors' Equity Association*



Trey Santiago-Hudson (Nicky) for *The Other Americans*. Photo by Tony Powell.

# FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Original Music .....	<b>RICKY GONZALEZ</b>
Movement Coaches .....	<b>EMMANUEL HERNANDEZ, ADORALYNN PAGAN</b>
Assistant Set Designer.....	<b>BRIAN BERNHARD</b>
Vocal Consultant.....	<b>LISA NATHANS</b>
Production Assistant.....	<b>JENNA KEEFER</b>
Script Production Assistant.....	<b>GRACE O. GYAMFI</b>
Lighting Assistant.....	<b>CHRISTIAN HENRRIQUEZ</b>
Stage Carpenters.....	<b>CATHERINE COONEY, HANNAH MARTIN</b>
Props .....	<b>SIMON ADRIAN, KAYLA PROUGH</b>
Light Board Operator.....	<b>SCOTT FOLSOM</b>
Audio Engineer .....	<b>ALEX CLOUD</b>
Second Audio.....	<b>LUCIEN REUBENS</b>
Third Audio .....	<b>TIARA NEWMAN</b>
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	<b>ALICE HAWFIELD</b>
Wardrobe.....	<b>COURTNEY JOHNSON, CAITLIN O'BRIEN</b>
Wigs, Hair, and Makeup Supervisor .....	<b>JAIME BAGLEY</b>
Crew Swing .....	<b>TREVOR COMEAU</b>

# SPECIAL THANKS

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

- Denny Blackwell
- Forest 24 Hour Laundromat – Arlington, VA

The videotaping or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices. Drinks with a lid are allowed in the theater. Eating is not permitted inside the theater.



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# CAST



**JOHN LEGUIZAMO** (*Nelson*)'s Broadway credits include *Latin History for Morons* (Tony Award and Tony nomination), *Ghetto Klown* (Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award), *Freak* (Emmy Award, Drama Desk Award, Tony nominations), *Sexaholic...A Love Story* (Tony nomination). Select Film: *The Infiltrator*; *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar* (Golden Globe nomination, ALMA Award); *Moulin Rouge!*; *American Ultra*; *John Wick*; *Chef*; *Summer of Sam*; *Ice Age* series; *The Lincoln Lawyer*; *Romeo + Juliet*. TV: *The Green Veil*, *When They See Us*, *Waco* (Emmy Award nomination), *Bloodline*, *The Kill Point*, *ER*, *My Name Is Earl*, *The Brothers García*, *House of Buggin'*, *Miami Vice*. Books: *Pimps, Hos, Playa Hatas*, and *All the Rest of My Hollywood Friends: My Life*; *Ghetto Klown* (Eisner Award nomination). He co-wrote the musical *Kiss My Aztec!* with Tony Taccone. John's directorial debut *Critical Thinking* (with Michael Kenneth Williams) premiered in 2020. Awards: two Obie, three Drama Desk, three Outer Critics Circle, one Emmy, and six Cable ACE awards.



**LUNA LAUREN VELEZ** (*Patti*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut under the direction of Ruben Santiago-Hudson. Their first collaboration was *The Happiest Song Plays Last* at Second Stage. Other theater credits include Broadway's *Into the Woods*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at The Old Globe, and *Water by the Spoonful* at the Mark Taper Forum. Luna is proud to have been part of some of television's most groundbreaking shows such as *New York Undercover* (ALMA Award) and HBO's *Oz* (ALMA Award). Most recently, Luna costarred alongside Jeff Daniels in Season 2 of Amazon's *American Rust*. She starred as Captain Maria LaGuerta on Showtime's Emmy Award-winning series *Dexter* (ALMA Award). Luna reprised her role as Rio Morales in the critically acclaimed *Spider-Man*:

*Across the Spider-Verse* (Imagen Award). Film credits include *Transformers: Rise of the Beast*, *The First Purge*, *City Hall*, *America Adrift*, and opposite Samuel L. Jackson in *Shaft*. Luna's breakout performance in the cult classic film *I Like It Like That* earned her an Independent Spirit Award nomination. For Liz, familia siempre. Instagram: @lunalaurenvelez



**BRADLEY JAMES TEJEDA** (*Eddie*) is making his Arena Stage debut. He is a native Tejano from the Harlandale district of San Antonio, Texas. He trained at the University of the Incarnate Word (BA Theatre Arts, 2013) and then at the Yale School of Drama (MFA Acting, 2016). He just finished his first season as a company member at the 89th annual Oregon Shakespeare Festival where he played Will in *Born with Teeth* and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. On Broadway, he played Young Man 1 (Adam/Leo) in Matthew Lopez's *The Inheritance*, and then reprised the role at the Geffen Playhouse for its West Coast LA premiere and the Audible production. Off-Broadway: *The Night of the Iguana* (La Femme Theatre Productions at Signature Theatre, Fight Coordinator). Regional: *El Coquí Espectacular*, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (Two River Theatre); *Ralph in The Lord of the Flies* (Nebraska Repertory Theatre); *Biron* in *Love's Labor's Lost* (St. Louis Shakespeare Festival); and company member of the Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis since 2019: *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Rose Tattoo*; and *Suddenly, Last Summer*. TV/Film: CBS's *Blue Bloods* and *FBI*; Comedy Central's *Alternatino*; and Apocalyptic Artists Ensemble's *Julius Caesar*.



**SARAH NINA HAYON** (*Veronica / u/s Patti/Norma*) is a bi-coastal actress and a three-time Drama Desk Award nominee. Passionate about new plays, she has developed many works on and off Broadway. Recent Theater: *English* (Berkeley Rep, Mina Morita), *Richard III* (The Public's Shakespeare in the Park, Robert O'Hara), *Wintertime* (Berkeley Rep, Les Waters), *Seascape* (A.C.T., Pam MacKinnon, BACC nomination), *Sweat* (A.C.T., Loretta Greco),

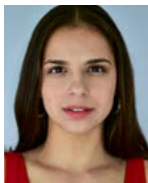
*Swimmers* (Marin Theatre, Mike Donahue, TBA Award). TV/Film: *The Other Two*, *Fairyland*, *FBI*, *For Life*, *13 Reasons Why*, *Succession*, Danny DeVito's *Curmudgeons*, *The Surrogate*. She is a proud graduate of NYU's Tisch and a member of LAByrnth Theater Company.



**ROSA ARREDONDO** (*Norma*) is a multi-hyphenate and native New Yorker. Her most recent TV credits include Francey Jones on CBS's *So Help Me Todd*, and Sheriff Valenti on *Roswell, New Mexico*. Other credits include Ava Duvernay's *When They See Us* and *Mare of Easttown* with Kate Winslet as well as recurring and guest roles on *Ordinary Joe*, *Quantico*, *Gone, The Equalizer*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Good Wife*, *Blindspot*, and *Blacklist*. Her theater credits include the Broadway revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Arena Stage's *Guys and Dolls*, Sea Dog Theater's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, and her one-woman show *I Walked Across the Ocean Floor* at Royal Family Productions. Some film credits include *Still Alice*, *The Secret Art of Human Flight*, *Pinball*, and *Babygirl*.



**TREY SANTIAGO-HUDSON** (*Nicky*) is thrilled to be making his debut at Arena Stage with this premiere of *The Other Americans!* A proud graduate of the Acting Department at Binghamton University, Trey has also studied acting at Stella Adler and Oregon Shakespeare. Off-Broadway credits include *Toros* (Second Stage Theater) and *Awake* (The Barrow Group). TV credits include *New Amsterdam* (NBC), *The Walking Dead: Dead City* (AMC), and *Shrinking* (Apple TV+). Film credits include *You Hurt My Feelings* (A24) and *Vineyards* (fam4 Media).



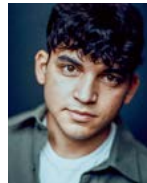
**REBECCA JIMENEZ** (*Toni*) is an actor and writer from Miami, based in New York City. Off-Broadway: *Comedy of Errors: Mobile Unit* (The Public Theater), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP/Second Stage). NY Theater: *Superstitions* (New Ohio), *Sketchy Eastern European Show* (The Players Theatre). She has developed work with New York

Theatre Workshop, Roundabout Theatre Company, Page73, Playwrights Horizons, Ojai, Playwrights Realm, and others. BFA graduate from SUNY Purchase. Para mi familia.



## JUAN FRANCISCO VILLA

(*u/s Nelson*) is a Colombian-American native New Yorker who made his DC debut in his award-winning solo show *Empanada for a Dream* at 1st Stage. He co-directed *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* and *columbinus* at 1st Stage and was awarded Helen Hayes Awards for them. Juan worked at The Public Theater (NYC) and graced the stages of Steppenwolf, the Goodman, and Teatro Vista in Chicago. He took his talents to LA where he worked with Oscar winner José Rivera at the Geffen Playhouse and was part of a sold-out run as Pablo Fu\*\*ing Escobar in *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* at the Kirk Douglas. You will catch him in the new season of Ryan Murphy's *Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story* with Javier Bardem. He had recurring roles on *Blue Bloods* (CBS) and *General Hospital* (ABC). He's used his voice acting talents to work with Ethan Hawke, Judy Reyes, Toni Collette, Dania Ramirez, Minnie Driver, Danny DeVito, and Aubrey Plaza. He is a company member of IAMA and the Playwrights Unit. He is a graduate of the Maggie Flanigan Studio (NYC). Instagram: @juanempanadavilla



## JOHNNY ANTHONY

(*u/s Eddie/Nicky*) is a NYC-based actor who is thrilled to be back at Arena Stage! He graduated from Pace University, as well as completed the Uta Hagen Institute's Core Summer Intensive at the prestigious HB Studio. Regional theater credits include *B/Henry* (*u/s*) in *Sanctuary City* at Arena Stage, L.C. Harold Dawson in *A Few Good Men* at Cumberland Theatre, Kyle in the NYC premiere of *Tom*, Officer Rizzo in the NYC premiere of *When the Hen Crows*, and Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*. On camera, Johnny can be seen in *West Side Story* (dir. Steven Spielberg), *American Horror Story: Delicate*, *Law & Order*, as well as various short films and commercials.  
[www.johnnyanthony.com](http://www.johnnyanthony.com)  
Instagram: @thejohnnyanthony



## ODETTE GUTIÉRREZ

**DEL ARROYO** (*u/s Veronica/Toni*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut! Recent credits include Janet Van De Graaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone*

(Workhouse Arts Center), Daniela in *In the Heights* (NextStop Theatre), and Aggie in *Finn the Musical* workshop (The Kennedy Center). Other credits: Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (The Arlington Players), Anita in *West Side Story* (Columbus Children's Theatre), Vivienne in *Legally Blonde* (Off the Lake Productions). When not performing, you can find Odette practicing medicine as a Physician Assistant in the DMV area and most importantly, being a mommy to her 3-year-old son, Luca. Odette wishes to thank her husband, Jake, for his unwavering love and support! Instagram: @odette\_gutierrezdelarroyo

## ARNULFO MALDONADO

(*Set Designer*)'s Arena Stage credits include *American Prophet* and *Exclusion*. Broadway: *Yellow Face*; *Home*; *A Strange Loop* (Tony nominee); *Topdog/Underdog*; *Trouble in Mind*. Off-Broadway: Atlantic, CSC, Lincoln Center, MCC, MTC, New Group, Playwrights Horizons, Public Theater, Roundabout, Second Stage, Signature, Soho Rep. Regional: Alley Theatre, A.R.T., Berkeley Rep, CTG, Guthrie, Steppenwolf, Woolly Mammoth. Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Set Design, Princess Grace Fabergé Theater Award, Lucille Lortel Award recipient and multiple-nominee, Drama Desk nominee, Henry Hewes Design Award nominee. [arnulfomaldonado.com](http://arnulfomaldonado.com) Instagram: @arnulfo.maldonado.design

## KARA HARMON

(*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to return to DC. Previous productions at Arena Stage include *Native Gardens* and *Nina Simone: Four Women*. Recent projects in the DC area include *The Color Purple* at Signature Theatre and *The Wiz* at Ford's Theatre for which she received a Helen Hayes Award. Select off-Broadway productions include *Cullud Wattah* at The Public Theater, *The Niceties* at Manhattan Theatre Club, and the inaugural production at the Perelman Center in New York City of *Watch Night*. Regionally, Kara's work has been seen at Goodspeed, the Goodman Theatre, the Alliance Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, The Old Globe, and many others. Please enjoy her work at [www.karaharmondesign.com](http://www.karaharmondesign.com).

## JEN SCHRIEVER

(*Lighting Designer*) is a Tony Award-nominated lighting designer based in New York City. She has earned multiple prestigious recognitions, including a Tony nomination for her work on *A Strange Loop*, an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Lighting Design, and a Russian Golden Mask Award nomination for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Mariinsky Theatre. Jen's Broadway credits include *Mother Play*, *Death of a Salesman, 1776*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, and more. She has also contributed to acclaimed Off-Broadway and regional productions, including *The Preacher's Wife* and *Hippest Trip*. In opera, her work has been seen at the Metropolitan Opera and Seattle Opera. An adjunct professor at SUNY Purchase College, where she studied, Jen is also a proud mom.

# CREATIVE

## JOHN LEGUIZAMO

(*Playwright*)  
see bio on page 15.

## RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON

(*Director*) is a Tony Award-winning actor and a WGA-, Emmy-, and Golden Globe-nominated writer. As a director, Ruben has been awarded the Drama Desk, Audelco, Outer Critics Circle, Lucille Lortel, Drama League, Helen Hayes, three Obie awards, and a Tony nomination. The Public Theater/NY Shakespeare Festival, under the leadership of George C. Wolfe, originally commissioned Ruben's autobiographical play *Lackawanna Blues*. Ruben performed the play, garnering an Obie Award and a Tony nomination. Theater directing credits include *Jitney*, *Othello*, *Paradise Blue*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Cabin in the Sky* for Encores!, his own *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine*, *Things of Dry Hours*, *The Happiest Song Plays Last*, *The Piano Lesson*, *The First Breeze of Summer*, and *My Children! My Africa!*.



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# STC

**JUSTIN ELLINGTON** (*Sound Designer*), born in Alexandria, Virginia, and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, is a versatile composer and sound designer who is thrilled to make his Arena Stage debut. His impressive portfolio spans theater, film, and radio, with Broadway credits including *Home, Jaja's African Hair Braiding* (Tony nomination), *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When the Rainbow is Enuf* (Tony nomination), *Topdog/Underdog*, *Pass Over*, and *Clyde's*. Off-Broadway, he's contributed to productions at New York Theatre Workshop, Lincoln Center, and The Public Theater. Justin has earned awards like the Obie, Audelco, and Henry Hewes Design awards, and has been recognized by ASCAP and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He is currently a Lecturer in Sound Design at the David Geffen School of Design at Yale University.

**LASHAWN MELTON** (*Hair Designer*) is a native Washingtonian hair and wig designer. Arena Stage credits include *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, *Tempestuous Elements*, *Snow Child*, *Nina Simone: Four Women*, *The Pajama Game*, *Smart People*, and *Disgraced*. Theater: *The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes*, *Fairview*, *Describe the Night*, *Botticelli in the Fire* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre); *On Your Feet!* (GALA Theatre); *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* (The Kennedy Center); *Comedy of Tenors* (Olney Theatre); *School Girls* (Round House Theatre); *Raisin in the Sun*, *Emma The Musical*, *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); *Little Women* (Montgomery College). Film: *Lioness*, *White House Plumbers*, *Rustin*. Education: Fashion Merchandising, Graphic Design, UDC. Stage Makeup, Montgomery College.

**TIMOTHY JOHNSON** (*Associate Director*) most recently served as Associate Director for *Empire The Musical*, Off-Broadway at New World Stages. For his Off-Off-Broadway production of *On Strivers Row* by Abram Hill at Metropolitan Playhouse, *The New York Times* said "Timothy Johnson has shaped 16 striking performances here." The production received four Audelco award nominations including Best Direction for Timothy and Best Revival. His other directing credits include: *She's Got Harlem on Her Mind*, Metropolitan Playhouse; *Destiny of Desire*,

*The Old Globe* (Associate Director); *Cabin in the Sky*, New York City Center Encores! (Assistant Director). Timothy is a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. He's performed onstage opposite Mary Martin, Carol Channing, Larry Kert, and in productions directed by Wynn Handman and Robert Wilson. [www.igniteyourcreativity.org](http://www.igniteyourcreativity.org)

**THOMAS SCHALL** (*Fight Director*) Broadway: over 100 shows. *An Enemy of the People*, *Cabaret*, *Purlie Victorious*, *Cost of Living*, *Company*, *A Soldier's Play* (Drama Desk Award, Outstanding Fight Choreography), *War Horse*, *Romeo and Juliet*. Public Theater: *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Titus Andronicus*. NYTF: *Red Speedo*, *Othello*, (Drama Desk nomination). Met Opera: *Le Nozze de Figaro*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tosca*.

**ANN C. JAMES** (*Intimacy Coordinator*) made her debut as the first Black intimacy coordinator of Broadway for *Pass Over*. Broadway: *Sunset Boulevard*, *A Wonderful World*, *Lempicka*, *Hamilton*, *Parade* (Tony Award 2023 for Best Revival of a Musical) *Sweeney Todd*, *Heart of Rock and Roll*, *The Outsiders*, *Jelly's Last Jam*. Off-Broadway: *Empire Records*, *Shit. Meet. Fan.*, *Table 17*, *Bad Kreyol*, *Sunset Baby*, *White Girl in Danger*, *How to Defend Yourself*, *The Comeuppance*, *Evanston* *Salt Costs Climbing*, *My Broken Language*. Regional: *Empire Records*, *The Light and the Dark*. James' company, Intimacy Coordinators of Color, was just awarded a Special Citation from the Obie Awards and the American Theatre Wing. James has partnerships with Adelphi University, New York University, Columbia University, American Conservatory Theater, Brown University, Trinity Repertory Theater, ART/New York, and the American Repertory Theater at Harvard.

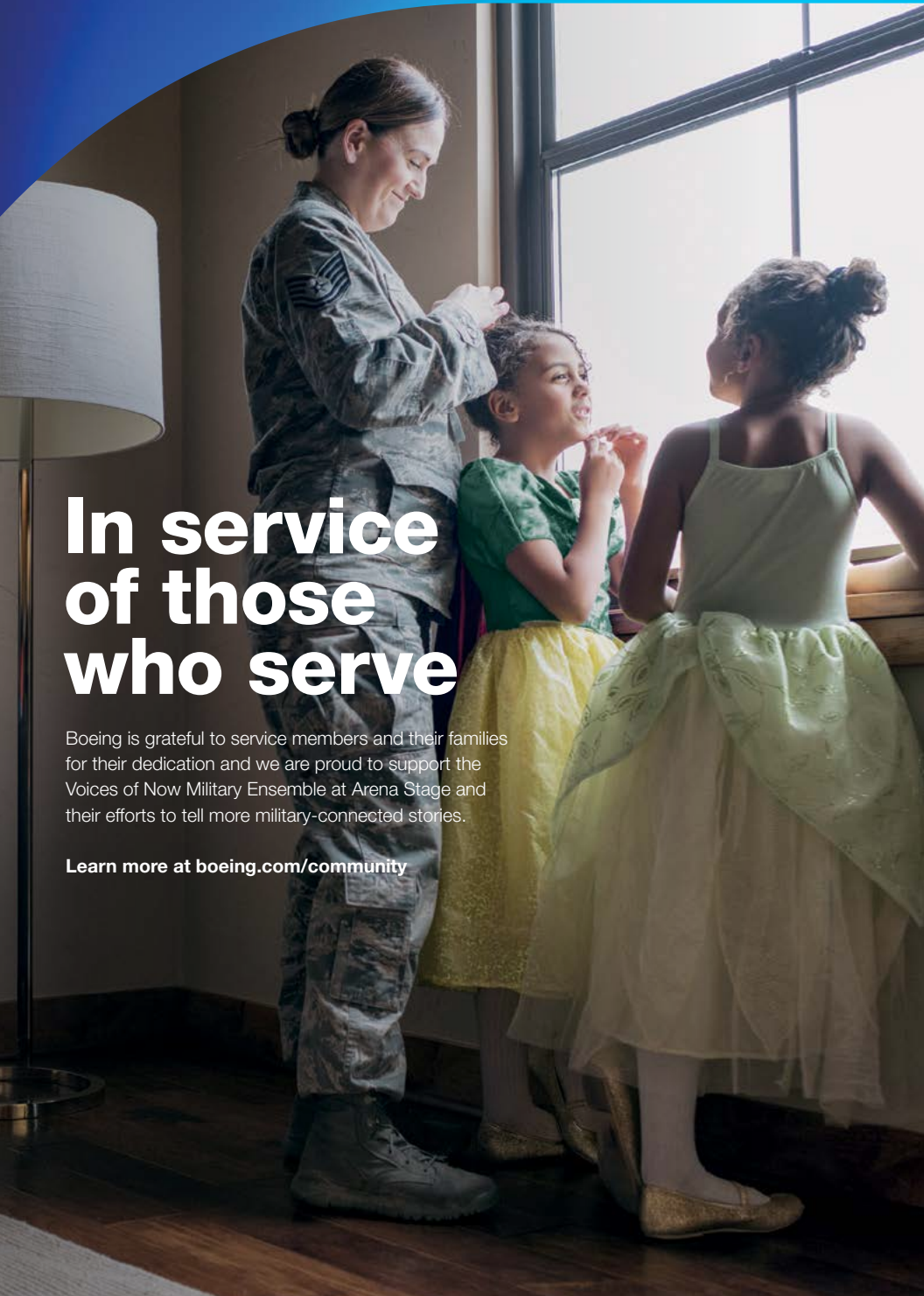
**JACK MOORE** (*Dramaturg*) is a New York-based dramaturg, teacher, and theater administrator originally from the District of Columbia. Jack works as the Associate Director of New Work Development at The Public Theater, where he has served the development of dozens of new plays and musicals over the last decade and leads the Emerging Writers Group. Projects Jack has dramaturged have premiered at theaters across the country and have received numerous honors including Obie Awards,



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Tony Award nominations, the Princess Grace Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. He has taught courses in dramaturgy, theater history, and administration at NYU, the Atlantic Theater School, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Tepper Semester at Syracuse University and has served as a juror/consultant for the Windham-Campbell Prize, the Leah Ryan Prize, and the Kilroys, among many others.

## **CAPARELLIOTIS CASTING/ DAVID CAPARELLIOTIS AND JOSEPH GERY**

(*New York Casting*) Select Broadway/Off-Broadway: *Mary Jane*; *Prayer for the French Republic*; *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*; *2:22 A Ghost Story*; *Grey House*; *Summer, 1976*; *The Comeuppance*; *Ohio State Murders*; *Cost of Living*; *Macbeth*; *The Minutes*; *Skeleton Crew*; *Ink*; *Letters From Max*; *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; *The Waverly Gallery*; *Boys in the Band*. Select theatres: Signature NYC, Atlantic, Ars Nova, The Old Globe, CTG. TV/Film: New Amsterdam (NBC, series casting), *The Boys in the Band* (Netflix, original casting).

**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 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 Theater of St. Louis under Hana S. Sharif.

**JAMES LATUS** (*Stage Manager*) began stage managing professionally 43 years ago and began his career as an assistant director at Arena Stage on *Undiscovered Country*. He stage managed at Shakespeare Theatre Company in DC from 1989–2011. Broadway credits include *The Collaboration*, *The Kite Runner*, *Oklahoma!*, *True West*, *Farinelli and the King*, *Time and the Conways*, *Indecent*, *Jitney*, *All The Way*, *A Time To Kill*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia*

*Woolf?*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Pee-Wee Herman Show*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Elaine Stritch At Liberty*, *Stones in his Pockets*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *The Capeman*. He worked Off-Broadway at The Public Theater, Shakespeare in the Park, Playwrights Horizons, BAM, and numerous regional and international productions. He sits on the board of the Stage Managers' Association Foundation.

**ANA MUÑOZ** (*they/them/elle* (Assistant Stage Manager) is a queer + Latine theater artist and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. They're incredibly excited to make their Arena Stage debut. Past stage management highlights: Off-Broadway: *Assassination of Julius Caesar* (PSM, Bedlam), *Arcadia* (Sub ASM, Bedlam), *Walk On Through* (PA/Sub ASM, MCC Theater); other NYC: *Music City* (PSM, Reading, Bedlam), *Sound Bites Eleven* (ASM, TheatreNow NYC). Regional: Fisher Center @ Bard (NY), Central Square Theater (MA), Alabama Shakespeare Festival (AL), Hippodrome State Theatre (FL), Cleveland Playhouse (OH), TheatreSquared (AR), and Trans Theatre Fest Madison (WI). Education: University of Montevallo (PVI). Ana wants to thank their Papa, Dr. Johnathon Muñoz, for raising his kids to treasure their Latinidad, and their fiancé, Mars, for his love.

**THE PUBLIC THEATER** Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Lab, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Suffs* by Shaina Taub, and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz.

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# 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 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.

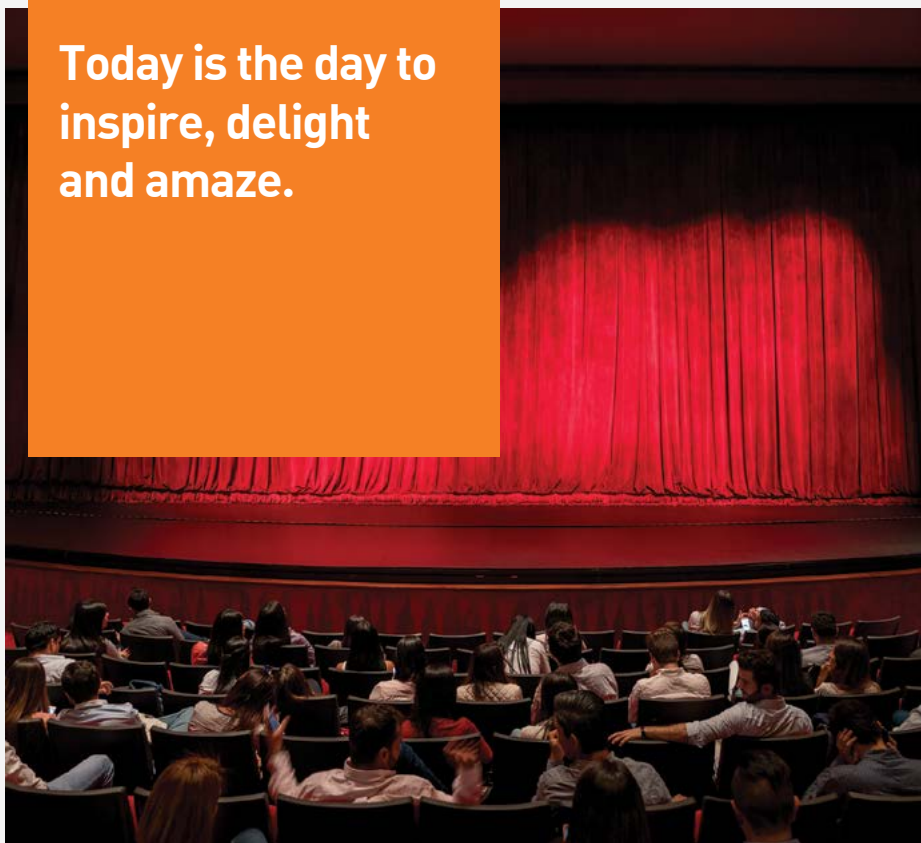
Arena Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theater.



Luna Lauren Velez (Patti), John Leguizamo (Nelson), Trey Santiago-Hudson (Nicky), and Rebecca Jimenez (Toni) for *The Other Americans*. Photo by Tony Powell.



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# THE MOLLY SMITH FUND FOR NEW WORK

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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(l-r) Brooke Ishibashi, Jane Lui, and Tim Lui in *Cambodian Rock Band* (2023/24 Season). Photo by Margot Schulman.

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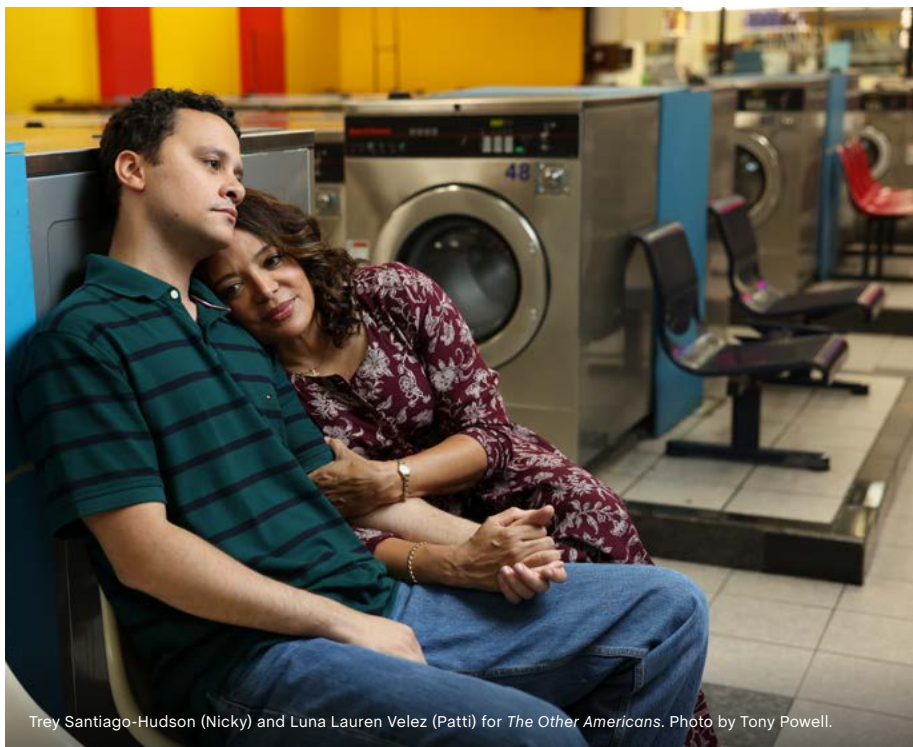
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Trey Santiago-Hudson (Nicky) and Luna Lauren Velez (Patti) for *The Other Americans*. Photo by Tony Powell.





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Artistic Fellow..... Abigail Thomas\*  
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Associate Costume Director .....Cierra Coan  
Drapers.....Seth Gilbert, Erika Krause  
First Hands .....Michele Macadaeag,  
Elizabeth Spilsbury  
Craftsperson.....Deborah Nash  
Wardrobe Supervisor.....Alice Hawfield  
Wigs, Hair, and  
Makeup Supervisor.....Jaime Bagley  
Dressers.....Caitlin O'Brien, Sabrina Simmons

## SALES & AUDIENCE SERVICES

Senior Director, Sales &  
Audience Services .....Isaac Evans  
Sales Operations Specialist &  
Executive Assistant.....Sabrina Zillinger

## SALES OFFICE

Associate Director of Sales Services &  
Operations .....Caroline Hunt  
Junior Tessitura & Ticketing  
Systems Specialist.....Aaron Hutchens  
Managers of Sales Services..... Hannah Damanka,  
Marion Levy Qualls

## Lead Sales & Audience

Services Associates .....Kashaun Connor,  
Olivia Martin

## Sales & Audience Services

Associates.....Mary Ann Anderson-Garlic,  
Jamie Lazarus, Colin O'Bryan,  
Iara Rogers Benchoan, Gary Shackelford

## GROUP SALES

Lead Manager of Group Sales .....Donald Jolly  
Group Sales Coordinators.....Brandon Ferguson,  
Meaghan Karch

## AUDIENCE SERVICES

Director of Audience Services .....Andrew Rampy  
House Managers.....Ric Birch,  
Bruce Perry, Ellie Pline

## Additional Staff for

this production .....Stephanie Atkinson,  
Alex Butler, Grant Collins, Dalton Lamberth,  
Hayley McGuirl, Frances Pepper

## EVENTS & RENTALS

Manager of Events & Rentals.....Chrystal Vaughan  
Lead Events & Rentals Specialist .....Trevor Haren

## MERCHANDISING, FOOD, & BEVERAGE

Associate Director of Merchandising  
& Guest Experience.....Jody Barasch  
Lead Bartender, Hospitality.....Erika Wallace  
Lead Bartender, Operations.....Edwin Cortez  
Bartenders.....Kaitlyn Sakry, Gary Shackelford



# THIS FALL AT ARENA STAGE


OCT 31 – DEC 15



**DATA**

BY MATTHEW LIBBY  
DIRECTED BY MARGOT BORDELON

NOV 23 – DEC 29



*Agatha Christie*  
**DEATH  
on the NILE**

ADAPTED FOR  
THE STAGE BY **KEN LUDWIG**

DEC 13 – 22

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