

# WESTBILL

THEATRE WEST PROGRAMME

# WALKING IN SPACE

September 8 — October 8, 2023





Theatre West Presents the World Premiere

## WALKING IN SPACE

September 8 — October 8, 2023

Written by

**Garry Michael Kluger**

Directed by

**Arden Teresa Lewis**

Produced by **Meg Lin**

In association with Theatre West

Associate Producers

**Ernest McDaniel**

**Garry Kluger**

### CAST

*(in order of appearance)*

**Kathie Barnes:** Francine Silberman

**Liv Denevi:** Lori Silberman

**Mary Elisabeth Somers:** Patricia Silberman

**Cecil Jennings:** Kirby Silberman

**Hogan Mason:** Matthew Silberman

**David Mingrino:** Dr. Jerome Collar

**Andrew Cereghino:** Keith Schwartz

### PLACE

Baltimore, Maryland

### TIME

1972

### SETTING

A single-family home

Running Time 2:15 – including intermission

### PRODUCTION CREW AND STAFF

Assistant to the Director/ASM: **Amelia Vargas**

Stage Manager: **Dillon Mount**

Set Designer: **Ernest McDaniel**

Lighting Designer: **Malcolm Wilson**

Costume Design: **Arden Lewis**

Sound Design: **Garry Kluger**

Public Relations: **Lucy Pollak**

Key Art: **Steve Mitchell**

Graphic Design: **Doug Haverty**

SFX Makeup: **Liv Denevi**

Set Construction: **Samantha Gregory, Cliff Foerster**

Box Office Manager: **Michael Van Duzer**

Volunteer Coordinator: **Anne Leyden**

Front of House: **Scottie Nevil**

Webmaster: **Glen Ewing**

Production Photography and Video –

**Garry Kluger, Bill Sehres, David P. Johnson**

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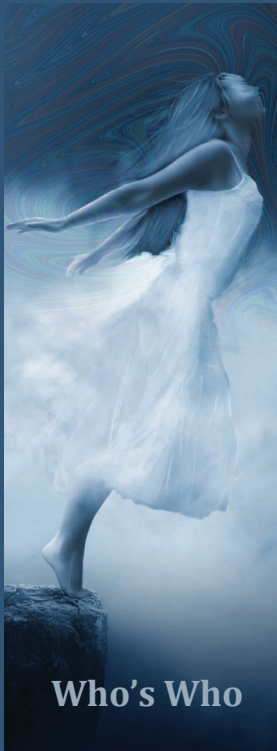
Kathie Barnes



Liv Denevi



Hogan Mason



Andrew Cereghino



Cecil Jennings



David Mingrino



Mary Elisabeth Somers

## CAST

Listed in Alphabetical Order

**Kathie Barnes** (Francine Silberman) Kathie works in TV, Film and Theater and was a series regular in the Warner Brothers online series

*Deception*. She is Blessed to have been nominated for 2 Best Actress Awards for theatrical roles. *Independence: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker*, her solo show, written and directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz, continues to be performed in Los Angeles and around

the country. So Grateful and Excited to be part of this Amazing Cast!!

**Andrew Cereghino** (Keith Schwartz) Andrew is beyond thrilled to be making his Theatre West debut! His most recent stage performance was as Shep in *Bell, Book and Candle* at Theatre Palisades and recently he guest-starred for the second consecutive season of Amazon Prime's *The Bay*. A graduate from the Ruskin School of Acting, he is repped by: Sheer Talent Management / Affinity Artists Agency.

**Liv Denevi** (Lori Silberman) Liv is an LA native creative type who fell in love with theater. She found a home at Theatre West in 2016, and joined as an actor in 2019. Since then, she has taken part in many of Theatre West's productions, from readings, to Zoom Shakespeare, to Stage Management. She's grateful to have found a company to grow with, and is so excited for you to see this show!

**Cecil Jennings** (Kirby Silberman) Cecil hails from Jacksonville, Florida (go jags!) and studied acting at Florida State University. His past Theatre West credits include Darryl in *Moose on the Loose*, The Wolf in *Little Red Riding Hood*, and Romeo in *Classic Couples Counseling*. You can catch Cecil doing funky fresh bits with his sketch comedy group This or That. Cecil would like to thank this wonderful cast and crew for a spectacular journey. Enjoy!

**Hogan Mason** (Matthew Silberman) Hogan is primed to bring his unique brand of humor to the Theatre West stage for the first time! After following in the footsteps of David Letterman at Ball State, where Hogan studied both behind and in front of the camera, he landed in LA. Studying under the tutelage of Patrick Malone

at the Young Actors studio and chasing the sweet sound of laughter with his sketch group SketchULater, Hogan is repped commercially by CESD Talent.

**David Mingrino** (Dr. Jerome Collar) David has been on stage in over 100 productions... He was recently seen in the world premiere of *The Man Who Saved Everything* as the title role at Theatre West. His theatre credits also include, *The Petrified Forest*, *Room Service* (which received 6 Ovation nominations, including best ensemble cast), *411 Joseph* (which ran 5 months at the Group Repertory Theatre), and *Picnic*. In summer stock and dinner theatre, he has been in many a musical including *Motel*, the Tailor in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Jesus in *Godspell*, and the Emcee in *Cabaret*. He even got to dance "Steam Heat" in *Pajama Game*. He has been in three independent features, *The Haunted Maze* (now on Amazon Prime), *Sweet*, and *The Devil Within*. His short film list is long... It includes *Rocky: The Final Battle*, *Retribution* (available on Amazon), and *The Mind Game* (which can be seen on Vimeo). His directing credits include *The World Goes Round* and the cabaret shows, *Vamping Till Ready* and *Desire*, which he also conceived.

**Mary Elisabeth Somers** (Patti Silberman) Mary is a Russian American actress based in Los Angeles. Formerly a professional dancer, she is an alum of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and South Coast Repertory's intensive program. Mary made her Theatre West debut as Desdemona in Lloyd Schwartz' *Classic Couples Counseling* and cannot wait to return to TW's mainstage this September as Patti Silberman. She is managed by Ryan Thomson at Venture Entertainment Partners.



## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Garry Michael Kluger** (Playwright/Associate Producer/Sound Designer) Garry has authored three books, nineteen plays, two TV pilots, twelve documentaries, and several series. *Walking In Space* is his 2nd full-length play to be produced at Theatre West. Garry likes to refer to this play as his non-fictional, fiction play since events in the play detail actual events from his teenage years. Garry's first play for Theatre West, *A Thorn In The Family Paw*, won Best New Play from the Stage Scene L.A. Awards, and Garry won Best Writer-Original Play, from the Valley Theatre Awards. He has won the DFAP International One Act Festival for "The Other Half," and the Gold Award for "Office Hours" and the Silver Award for *In A Yellow Wood* from the World Series Of Screenwriting. He's also won Highly Recommended from the Segora Playwrights Festival in France for *Prodigal Returns*, and was twice a finalist from the Sterts Theatre in London for his one acts, *The Other Half* and *Brotherhood*.

### **Arden Teresa Lewis**

(Director/Costume Designer) Arden's first feature documentary film, *Leveling Lincoln*, just launched on the PBS APP and is distributed by NETA for TV broadcast as of May 2023. Her script, *Gravel Road*, was a 2022 semi-finalist at the Ojai Film Festival, a finalist at Big Apple Film Fest and the Lady Filmmakers Festival in Beverly Hills among others. She collaborates often with the playwright, Garry Michael Kluger, including the critically acclaimed *A Thorn In The Family Paw* and is thrilled to be helming *Walking In Space* in 2023. She directed *The Night Forlorn, or Waitin' on Godsford*, which won Best Production of a Play at the 2018 Valley Theatre Awards. She has acted OFF Broadway at

Primary Stages, The Bouwerie Lane Theatre, Soho Playhouse, regionally at the Paper Mill Playhouse and the La Mirada Civic Theatre. She received the Lilian Nesburn Award from the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild for her play, *Grandma Good* and was a semi-finalist for the Jane Chambers Award with her play, *Baby Dreams*, which was published in TCG Magazine. Her play, *Little Rhonda*, was produced at Theatre Geo and is part of the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater Archives at the Los Angeles Central Library. Published in two anthologies: *Scenes For Women By Women* and *Even More Monologues For Women By Women*. Her other long-time partner and collaborator is her husband, director and magician, Charlie Mount. A member of Theatre West, Arden teaches full time in the Los Angeles Unified School District and holds a BA in Theatre from UCLA. IG: ATLewisFilms or Website: ardenteresalewis.com

### **Meg Lin** (Producer)

Meg made her Theatre West mainstage production debut as Honabigi in Dina Morrone's *Moose on the Loose*. Prior to working in the industry, Meg was a former K-12 teacher and principal. Her solo show, *What Am I, Chopped Suey?*, won the 2022 Hollywood Fringe Festival's ENCORE Producers Award, was part of the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, was featured in BroadwayWorld, and Meg performed an excerpt of the show for the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival's 30th Annual Celebration. Meg also co-wrote, co-produced, and starred in a short film, *Victoria's Manor*, that has won multiple film festival awards, including Best Indie Short Film by the 1st Monthly Film Festival. Her script, *Mimeo*, was a Quarterfinalist in both the 2022 HollyShorts Screenwriting Competition and the Vail Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Meg is honored to be producing this

thoughtful and timely play. Follow Meg on IG: @iammeglin

### **Ernest McDaniel**

(Associate Producer/Set Designer) Ernest studied theatrical arts and design at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq - Paris, France and mime at École Internationale de Mimodrame de Paris Marcel Marceau - Paris, France. He is an actor, mime, director, and designer, who has won Best Technical Director of Michigan, and Best Set Design for *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. His performance work and designs have been seen, both nationally and internationally. Performance credits include: *Mikhail Baryshnikov's Past Forward*, Paris, France, International Montreaux Detroit Jazz Festival, multiple National Tours of his 1 man mime show, National Tour of Raisin. Production credits include: Producer of *The Positively Fourth Street Fair Music and Performance Festival*, *Sally Spectre*, and *The Man Who Saved Everything* (nominated for 6, 2019 Valley Theatre Awards), Art Director for *Coin Laundry*, Property Master/Second Unit Art Director for *One Half Gone*. Set Design for *Animal Farm* and *Haiti*, and Lighting Design for *Sacred Resistance* and *Not That Jewish* (both got Ovation Recommendations).

### **Dillon Mount** (Stage Manager)

Dillon is a local with an interest in creative media, who has rubbed shoulders with theater lovers all his life. He's had an enjoyable time at Theatricum Botanicum's Shakespeare's program and working as crew on the independent student film *Pinky Promise*. Dillon has embarked on an educational journey in post-production for film and television. He is happy to be part of this production, and hopes you enjoy the show.

**Amelia Vargas** (Assistant to the Director/Assistant Stage Manager) Amelia is a USC School of Dramatic Arts graduate. She's excited to lend her hand to this production as assistant to the director. She is a big fan of Kettle Brand Jalapeño Potato Chips and sea otters.

**Malcolm Wilson** (Lighting Design) Malcolm is a recent graduate of the UCLA Theater program, where he studied lighting design and concept rendering. Since joining Theatre West in 2022, he has played a key role in updating the theater's technical capabilities and has supervised the technical components of multiple productions, among them *SOLOpalooza 2.022*; *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*; *Winter Wishes: A Holiday Cabaret*; *Barbara Minkus: 18 Minutes of Fame*; and *Moose on the Loose*. Malcolm also designs lights for plays and musicals across Los Angeles, including schools and theaters, and other special projects, such as the filmed production of *Tessa Bell: Men, Money and Madness* at Theatre West. He hopes you enjoy the show!

### **Scottie Nevil**

(Front of House Manager) Theatre West has played a big part in shaping Scottie's love of theatre. She graduated from UCLA in 2018 with her BA in Theatre and is thrilled to bring her training to the TW stage.

### **Lucy Pollak** (Public Relations)

Lucy Pollak has been providing publicity services for intimate and mid-size theater companies in Los Angeles for over 30 years, as well as for independent theater, music and dance productions and large events and festivals such as the annual Emmy Award-winning L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center. She repped the debut production of Deaf West Theatre's

*Spring Awakening*, which went on to a Tony-nominated Broadway run. In New York, she publicized off-Broadway premieres of Murray Mednick's *Mayakovsky* and *Stalin* at the Cherry Lane, *Latina Christmas Special* at the Soho Playhouse, and *Our Man in Santiago* at the new AMT Theatre. From 1981 to 1990, she was production manager/staff producer at the Odyssey Theatre, where she co-produced over 100 productions with artistic director Ron Sossi. For the 1993 Los Angeles Festival, she line produced Reza Abdoh's controversial *Quotations From A Ruined City*. She is the recipient of a Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award (*Master Class*), an LA Weekly Award (*Mary Barnes*), four Drama-Logue Awards (*Mary Barnes*, *Idioglossia*, *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, *It's A Girl!*), and a Women in Theatre Recognition Award. She has served on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Theatre Alliance, Women in Theatre and P.A.T.H. (Performing Arts Theatre for the Handicapped).

**Doug Haverty** (Graphic Design) Doug has designed for theaters and performing arts worldwide, including creating 500 package designs (LP, CD, DVD, Blu-Ray, Box-Sets) for Universal, Warner Bros., EMI and Sony, among others, for the likes of James Brown, David Cassidy, Lucie Arnaz, Petula Clark, Amanda McBroom, Tom Wopat, Sam Harris, Melora Hardin, Dixie Carter, "Weird Al" Yankovic, Jefferson Starship and many more. Doug has supplied event graphics for the LAJS, ASMAC, Thaliens, LAPD, LAFD and Grammy Awards, and co-designed the coffee table book *Ukulele: A Visual History*. Doug is a published playwright, librettist and lyricist who also co-moderates the Theatre West Writers Workshop with Chris DiGiovanni.

## THANK YOUS

The producers, cast, and crew of *Walking In Space* would like to thank the following people for their invaluable help in this production

Charlie Mount, Jeremy Mount, Lori Kluger, Randy Palisoc, Bruce Kluger, Anne Leyden & Benjamin Scuglia, Eugene Hutchins, Bonnie Dukes, Leesa Freed, Steve Nevil & the Kaplan-Loring Foundation, Universal Print and Copy, Sweet Lily Bakery, Ivy Jones, Mona Jean Cedar, TL Forsberg, Jennifer Blanco, Linda S. Wong, the membership of Theatre West for their support, all of our volunteers, including our guest talk-back speakers, and finally a special thanks to our outgoing Artistic Board members: Ashley Taylor, Rick Simone-Friedland, and Ernest McDaniel.

## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

This may come as a surprise to some people, but drug addiction is not new. In fact, addiction is probably as old as time itself.

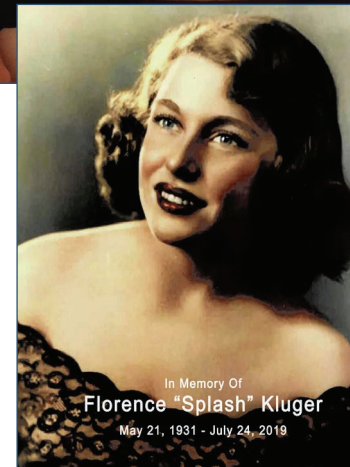
While *Walking in Space* doesn't go back to the beginning of time (only 1972), its theme is ancient: drug addiction hurts all it touches. Though I am not now, nor have I ever been, addicted to drugs, I do have personal knowledge of the pain it can bring. The intent of the play is not to redefine or even rehash the definition or implications of drug addiction. I believe they are quite well known. My purpose was to freeze a moment in time to show how one particular drug addiction almost took down an entire family.

I'm sure most of you know, or have known, someone like Franny Silberman. (I certainly have!) And hopefully you also know that addiction, in whatever form, is not a "death sentence." It could be, but doesn't have to be. It can be beaten. It takes, faith, love, support and, most importantly, professional help. One does not have to go through this struggle alone. Help is always there. But you do have to ask for it -- whether for yourself or for someone you care about. Addiction is a disease. But like many diseases, it can be overcome. Take it from someone who's seen it up close.

Garry Michael Kluger – Playwright – *Walking In Space*



Kluger family (Circa 1960)



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"The truth was, Librium and Valium were marketed using such a variety of gendered mid-century tropes—the neurotic singleton, the frazzled housewife, the joyless career woman, the menopausal shrew—that what Roche's tranquilizers really seemed to offer was a quick fix for the problem of 'being female'."

— Patrick Radden Keefe, *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty*

The cast of *Walking in Space* rehearsed this play about addiction all summer as a 6 billion-dollar settlement to protect a pharmaceutical family from lawsuits over OxyContin deaths

played out. I remember decades ago the over-prescribing of "downers" among my friends' parents, mostly among the mothers, to whom these drugs, and others, were directly marketed. The younger members of our cast have made a direct correlation from "mother's little helper" of the 70s to the current opioid crisis and how it has ruined lives in their own generation. The sad reality of decades of mercenary abuse of the public by big pharma is made all too real and

relatable in Garry Michael Kluger's play. I am honored to have the chance to direct it and grateful to have this unique group of actors to portray the truth in this play.

— Arden



## ABOUT THEATRE WEST

*Theatre West was established in 1962 and is celebrating its 61st season as the oldest continually running professional theatre company in Los Angeles. It is a membership collective of actors, playwrights, directors and technicians. Theatre West's alumni include Ray Bradbury, Beau Bridges, Richard Dreyfuss, Sally Field, Betty Garrett, Martin Landau, Lee Meriwether, Jack Nicholson, Carroll O'Connor, Sherwood Schwartz, Joyce Van Patten, Jim Beaver and Paul Winfield. Theatre West has produced more than 300 plays and musicals. Of these plays, nearly 70% are original works developed on its workshops and many have led to feature films, regional tours and Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, including 'A Bronx Tale' by Chazz Palminteri, 'A Very Brady Musical' by Lloyd J. Schwartz and Hope Juber and, most recently, 'Our Man in Santiago' by Mark Wilding that premiered in New York on September 16, 2022.*

*Our 2023/24 season includes the world-premiere of **Walking in Space** by Garry Michael Kluger; **Sally Spectre** by David P. Johnson; and Storybook Theatre productions of **Hansel and Gretel** by Lloyd J. Schwartz, **Hope & Laurence Juber** (in English and Spanish on tour in July); **Aladdin, The Princess, and The Magic Lamp** by Lloyd J. Schwartz; and **Cinderella** by Lloyd J. Schwartz and Michael Paul.*

*We welcome you to our theatre and invite you to unplug with us!*

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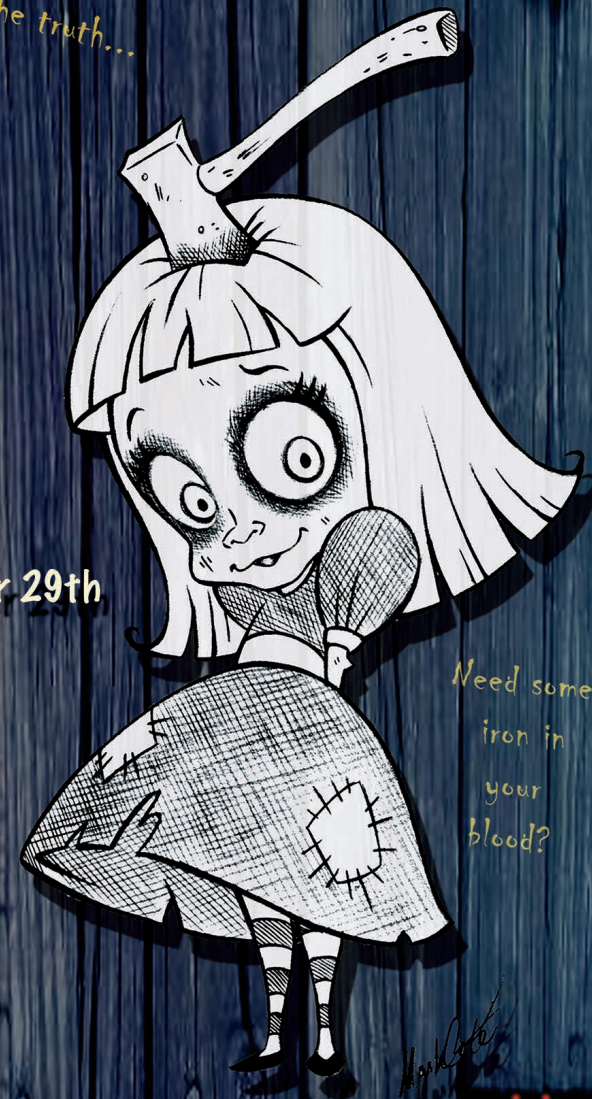
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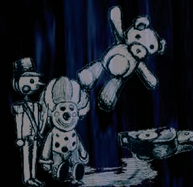
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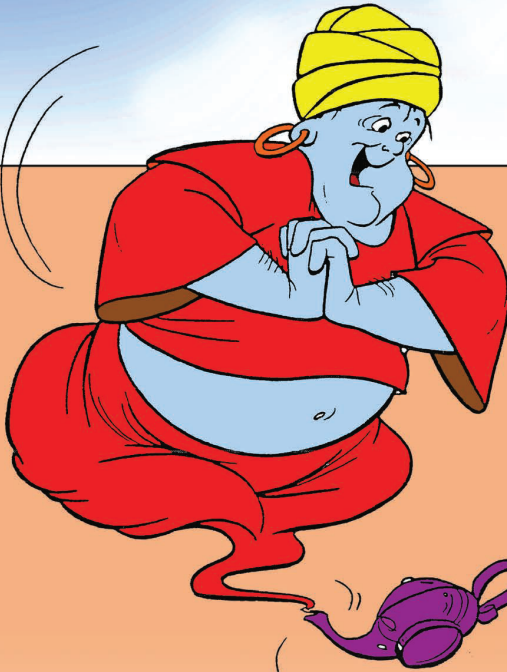
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