



SUNFLOWER

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 4 p.m.

“What matters is not whether a play is light-hearted or serious, but—be it comedic or otherwise—whether it speaks to people about their problems, how it speaks to them, what impact it has on them. . . We wish only to put on plays that meet certain standards of urgency, that are intellectually penetrating, complex, challenging, and powerful.”

-- Vaclav Havel, “The Kind of Theater We Want to Do”
from a letter to Alfred Radok, August 4, 1963



Consulate General of the Czech Republic
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NYC Cultural Affairs

The program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Rehearsal for Truth Spring Weekend showcases stage readings from emerging Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and Slovak playwrights translated into English. The program includes a full length Romanian production. The plays, featuring local New York performers and directors, reflect on current social and political issues.

The Company:

Playwright:	Andrea Pass
Translator:	Patrick Mullaney
Director:	Adrian Alea
Cast:	Alberto Bonilla Kimberlee Walker Cindy De La Cruz John Noble Barrack Esaú Mora Molly Rose Heller Kat Peña Jennifer Seastone

The Play

In ***Sunflower***, a young couple with a dysfunctional marriage and illness taking over their lives faces losing their home. Familiar situations, and scenes from contemporary life, become a series of revealing snapshots through the eyes of adults as well as children.

The play is set in a small town and involves ordinary characters: the young idealist teacher, the friendly caretaker, three young teens, the handsome doctor, the hopeful shop assistant, the troubled woman in the psychiatric ward. They all bear witness to the story of this three-person family. The father and the 10-year-old, Janka, are trying to cope with the increasingly erratic behavior of the mother. *Sunflower* is a vibrant tableau of everyday life, vulnerable and burdened with financial problems, broken families, and taboos and shame surrounding mental illness.

Playwrights

Andrea Pass is a playwright and director. Her work deals with social issues while also exploring the human condition and the transformative power of theater. Her plays include *Nothing Else Happened*, *New World*, *Sunflower*, *One Must Descend to Hell*, *Inside-out*, *The Silent Province*, *Hide-and-Peek*, *The Leader*, *The Hobo Dog* and *Crows*. Pass's plays have been produced or developed by a FÜGE, Lifeboat Unit, RÉV Theatre Education Company, PanoDrama and Vígszínház. She was awarded the prestigious István Örkény Playwrights Grant for young playwrights on two occasions as well as the Grand Prize at the 8th Youth and Children's Theatre Showcase and the Special Award at the 8th Kaposvár Biennale. Pass has had three plays published in print one of them recently in the Polish Dialog theatrical magazine. She graduated as a theater historian from the University of Veszprém, Hungary and spent time in Nancy, France and London, UK on scholarships during her studies. She worked as an assistant to Béla Pintér and Viktor Bodó.

Director

Adrian Alexander Alea is a creative director and producer based in NYC. He is passionate about exploring the human condition through story-telling and entertainment focused on diversity, community, and social justice in the commercial and non-profit industries of Theater, Live Events, and Music Videos. Currently, Adrian is producing and directing a staged musical adaptation in development of Cristina García's award-winning novel *Dreaming in Cuban* (music and lyrics by IBEYI) and a TV mini-series in development called *Los Chen* written by Christina Quintana and featuring music and lyrics by Michelle J. Rodriguez. Alea's recent projects include *STAND* by Caridad Svich (New Dramatists reading; featuring Daphne Rubin-Vega and Grace McLean; Dir.), *Maria* by Alberto Bonilla (The Secret Theater, Resonance Ensemble; Dir.), *HERCULES* (Disney Theatricals and The Public Theater's Public Works; AD). He has directed *Fucking A* by Suzan-Lori Parks (Yale University), *AUTOPSIA A UN COPO DE NIEVE* by Luis Santillán (The Lark), and *The Spanking Machine* by Marga Gomez (Syracuse Stage, Solo Artist Residency) and was assistant Director in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park), *Kill Move Paradise* (National Black Theater), *Venus* (Signature Theatre), *Alice By Heart* (musical workshop at MCC), and *The Odyssey*

(Public Works). Previously, he was a management associate for The Medina Company and Jennifer Lopez. Main projects: Jennifer Lopez's Las Vegas Residency (*All I Have*) and "*Ain't Your Mama*" music video. He holds a BA from Columbia University and MS from Northwestern University.

adrianalea.com

Performers

Alberto Bonilla

Selected Credits- Broadway: *Marvin's Room*. Off-Broadway: *The Diorama*, *Much Ado*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Cherry Orchard*. Film/Tv: *The God Committee*, *Russian Doll*, *Iron Fist*, *Last Week Tonight*, *Hunger*, *Gotham*, *Blue Bloods*, *Person of Interest*, *Cop Out*, *Youth in Oregon*. MFA Rutgers, Alberto is also a director, playwright and fight choreographer. | albertobonilla.com

Kimberlee Walker

The Flood (Lyric Theatre, Belfast, Northern Ireland); *Come Back To Me*; *Manikato* (Shakespeare In Paradise, Nassau, Bahamas); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (New York Shakespeare Exchange); *Mary Stuart*, *Could This Meeting Have Been An Email*, *Bonesetter: A Tragislasher* (Spicy Witch Productions); *Where Do You Come From?* (Rabbit Hole Ensemble); *No Poem, No Song* (Subjective Theater Co.) *Know Your Logic*; *Gigahoes*; *Attack Of The Zombie Babes!* *The Oriochi 8* and the upcoming *Text Talk*.

Cindy De La Cruz

Dominican American actress and New York native, recent credits include: *Storm Still* (Drama League/Sheen Center); *Our Town* (Olney Theatre Center); TV: *The Village* (NBC); Film: *Killroy Was Here* (Dir. Kevin Smith). | www.Cindy-DeLaCruz.com

John Noble Barrack

New York: *Inside My Head* (Urban Stages), *FIT* (Notch Theater Co.); Regional Theater: *A Christmas Carol* (Trinity Repertory Co), *Robin Hood* (Williamstown Theater Festival), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *If All the Sky Were Paper* (Martha's Vineyard Playhouse); Education: MFA Brown/Trinity Rep 2018, BS Theater Skidmore College; Special Thanks to my Mother of Dragons.

Esaú Mora

Esaú Mora is a Xicano actor and writer. NYC Credits: Juliet in *Dreamers Often Lie* at The Brick; Dumb Bunny in *Porto* at The Bushwick Starr; Posthumous in *Cymbeline*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Sicinius in *Coriolanus* for BRSP NYC; Wes in *Harbored* for En Garde Arts. Regional Credits: *That Thing That Time*, *Lost Weekend* at the

Actors Theatre of Louisville. *Wondrous Strange*, *Wellesley Girl* at the Humana Festival. Workshops: *How to Defend Yourself* for the Humana Festival, *Here We are Here* at Baryshnikov Arts Center, *Workshop!* At The New Victory, *The Houses with Ramos* at Dartmouth Theatre Department. Training: BFA with an Emphasis in Acting from SOU.

Kat Peña

Kat Peña is a Dominican actor from the Bronx. Some credits include: Yaz in *Water by the Spoonful* (Cahill Theater/Regional), Goneril in *King Lear* (The Brick), *Elvira: The Immigration Play*(Collaboraction Theatre, Chicago), *Big Green Theater*(The Bushwick Starr), *Escolastica* in *Eight Tales of Pedro* which won Best of Fest at The UnFringed Festival (The Secret Theater), Michelle in award-winning short comedy, *Reina*. Kat is an actor and teaching artist with the People's Theatre Project. She is a co-creator and producer of Cafecito Films and their Shakespeare series, *Bits of the Bard*, which can be found on YouTube.

www.katpena.com.

Molly Rose Heller

Molly Rose Heller is a multidisciplinary theatre-maker. Select credits: *Notes From The Basement* (Center at West Park), *Existential Questions* (Green Room 42), *Olivia Harris' Planet Joy* (City Winery), *Design for Living* (Berkshire Theatre Group), *Imagining the Imaginary Invalid* (Mabou Mines) and *Plath*. (FringeNYC). B.A. Columbia University; B.A. Jewish Theological Seminary.

Jennifer Seastone

Jennifer Sea has performed for The Wooster Group, Daniel Fish, Lucy Thurber, Alec Duffy, Thomas Bradshaw and many others. She is a member of minor theater and has performed in most of Julia Jarcho's work. She is also a visual artist and she has shown her work in New Zealand and in New York. | www.JenniferSeastone.com