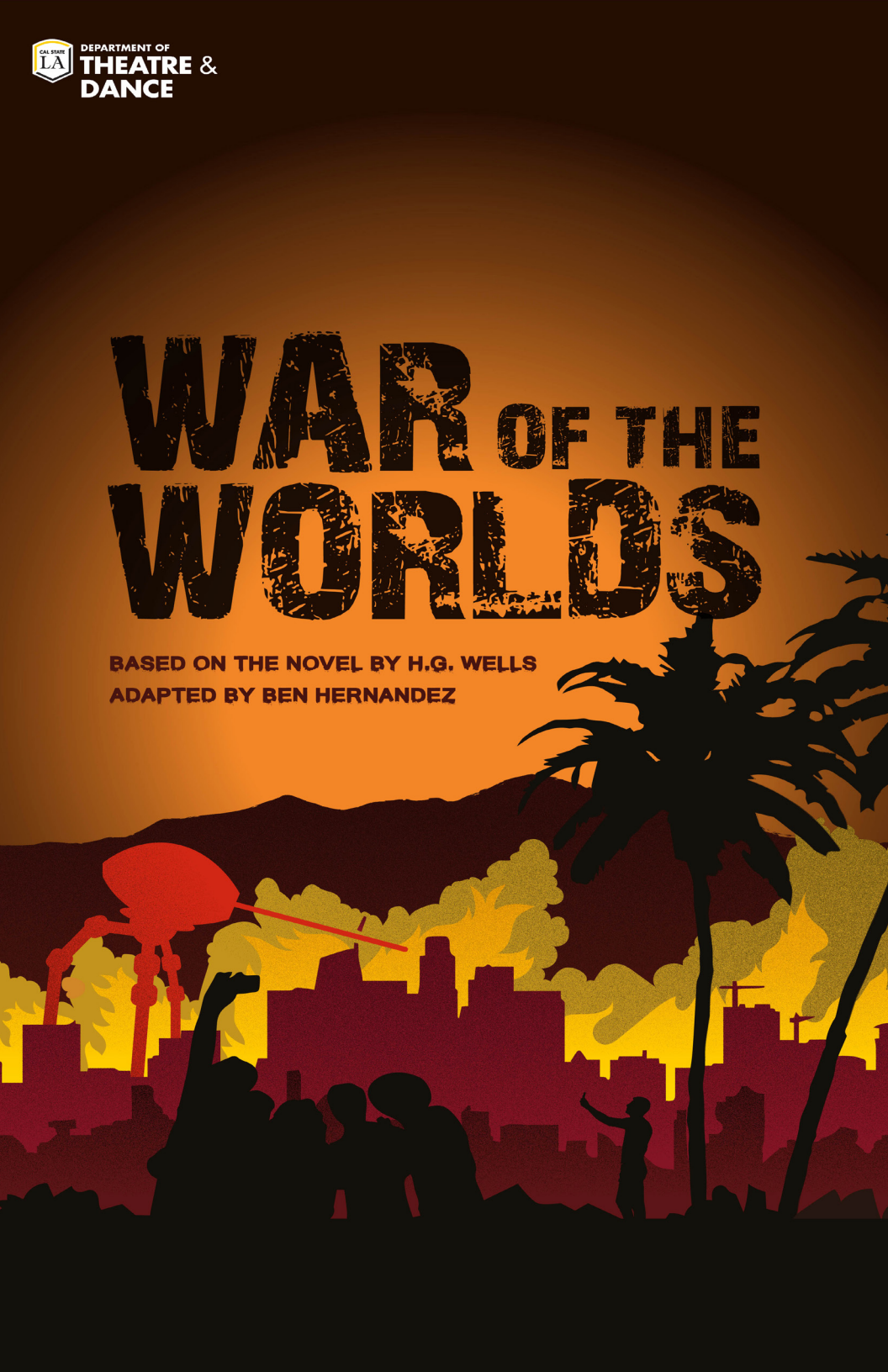
DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE &
DANCE

WAR OF THE WORLDS

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY H.G. WELLS
ADAPTED BY BEN HERNANDEZ



War of the Worlds

Based on the Novel by

H. G. Wells

Adapted by

Ben Hernandez

with

Dane Gbrayes, Irma Gill, Cloteail Henry, Rob Lecrone, Matthew Marposon, Gabriela Mendoza, Godwin Obeng, Frank Ramirez, Thomas Sackett, Natalie Sanchez

Production Design
Laura Hernandez

Sound Designer
Philip G. Allen

Costume Design
Amanda Alvarez
Arturo Vega

Alien Design
Carlos Gomez

OBS Broadcast Engineer
Karla Galaviz

Stage Manager
Midori King

Assistant Stage Managers
Daniel Balladares, Damaris Lima

Director
Stephen Rothman

THE CAST

Dane Gbrayes ..... Alex
Irma Gill ..... Gabby
Cloteail Henry ..... The Influencer
Rob Lecrone ..... The Officer
Matthew Marposon ..... The Soldier
Gabriela Mendoza ..... The Reporter
Godwin Obeng ..... The Witness
Frank Ramirez ..... Michael
Thomas Sackett ..... Yuri
Natalie Sanchez ..... Rachel

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Audio Operator ..... Eric Lam
Technical Consultant ..... Joseph Gallegos
Digital Fight Choreographer ..... Rob Lecrone
VFX/Video Editing ..... Laurent Gudemann, Karla Galaviz
Graphic Design ..... Michelle Ferra-Galindo
Scenic Artist ..... Elizabeth Pietrzak
Poster and Graphics ..... Matthew Roth
Social Media/photography ..... Jaleese Ramos
Student Production Managers . Vincent Maldonado, Chelsea Upton
Stream Team ..... Amanda Alvaraz,
Charles Millican, Jacob Nava
Christian Pineda, Christian Rodriguez

Costume Shop Supervisor ..... Bruce Zwinge
Electrics Shop Supervisor ..... Tim Jones

Faculty Technical Director ..... Daniel Czypinski
Faculty Production Manager ..... Meredith Greenburg
Department Coordinator ..... Brittany Mejia



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for thePerforming Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

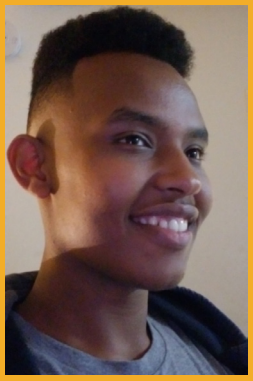
Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Veronica Vera, Heather Fipps, Rico Garcia, Matt Gatlin, Kim Neal, Kristiina Hackel, Artie Peralez, Rosalie Dierking, Keny Marine, Angel Molina, Howard at Ellen's Silkscreening, Patrick Sharp, The FLC and the faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Letters and the Department of Theatre and Dance; Katherine Weiss, Associate Dean; Dr. Linda Essig, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters for all of your support.

We would be remiss if we did not give a special shout-out to Bruce Zwinge, for being the one in the shop, and in the parking lot - running our on- and off-campus distribution of equipment, costumes and props! Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the students!

A very special thank you to all of the productions, workshops, webinars and podcasts that informed the creation of this show. Especially to University of MD, Bard College, The Art of Facing Fear, San Francisco Shakespeare Company, Mark Stern's Tech Fridays, and USITT!



Dane Gbrayes (Alex) is a 21 year old African-American actor born in Kenya with an Ethipoian Parent and raised in Ktown. With a passion for all facets of the Theatrical Arts, Dane is currently finishing his BA from Cal State LA in Theater with a Pan-African Studies minor. Dane strives to meld the two worlds of theater and the African diaspora to center stories that are usually hidden from the mainstream.



Irma Gill (Gabby) is a first-year graduate student in the MFA program in Television, Film, and Theatre - Acting Option at Cal State LA. Irma earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts and Dance Studies from Humboldt State in May 2019. This is Irma's first production with Cal State LA. Favorite roles on stage include Rosali in *Real Women Have Curves* by Josefina Lopez and Vanessa in *Adoration of the Old Woman* by Jose Rivera. After completing her undergraduate degree, Irma moved to the rainy city of Portland, Oregon where she did freelance, worked as an extra, and as a stand-in for Netflix's "Trinkets" and TBS' "Chad". But she gave up her work as a stand-in to pursue her MFA degree as she works on her dream of one day becoming an acting professor.



Cloteail Henry (The Influencer) is a Senior at Cal State LA. Her major is Theatre, with an option in performance, and a minor in Pan African Studies. This is Cloteail's first production in Theatre, having performed with both Dance and the Music Department in the past. Cloteail is the choreographer of the all black majorette team on campus called Halisi Steppers. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. Cloteail began her dancing career at age four and began singing in 7th grade. Her love for theatre happened her last year of high school when she danced and sang in the musical, *Catch Me If You Can*. She has worked with social media influencers, danced and acted with Todrick Hall on numerous occasions; including a video with Tiffany Haddish. After graduating this fall semester, she plans on taking a semester off to audition and build her resume. Cloteail plans on getting a Masters in Theater from a Historical Black College.

THE CAST



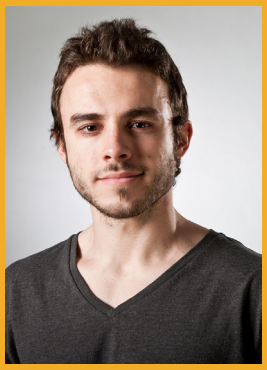
Gabriela Mendoza (The Reporter) Gabriela Mendoza is a senior at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts with an option in Performance. She is a transfer student from East Los Angeles College where she studied acting. During her time at ELAC she was in productions such as *The Crucible, Dracula,* and *Rhinoceros*. She plans on receiving her Bachelor's degree in Spring 2021.



Rob Lecrone (The Officer) Rob Lecrone is an actor from Alaska who has been in LA since late 2012. He believes acting can provide insight, catharsis, entertainment, and self-confrontation for both artist and audience to help point the way to a better future. He strives for community-building through art and is passionate about new works development. Rob is the lead producer and a cast member for the U.S. version of *The Art of Facing Fear*. A featured artist at the Valdez Theatre Conference in Alaska, he coaches in the conference's monologue workshop and co-produces and hosts the nightly Fringe at the annual event. He has appeared in several main-stage conference shows, most recently Julia Lederer's *With Love and a Major Organ*, which he also co-produced and sound designed for the 2017 conference. Rob returned to school in 2017 for his MFA. His thesis project, a dystopian play, *Bloodless* by Nicholas Walker Herbert, had a truncated run due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Rob previously trained at the Howard Fine Acting Studio and graduated from Upright Citizen's Brigade's long-form improv program. In New York, he completed a course in Hagen Teacher Training at HB Studios. Last Spring, he taught undergraduate acting at Cal State LA. A proud member of Sacred Fools, Rob appeared in Arthur M. Jolly's *A Gulag Mouse* as well as the Fools' Hollywood Fringe Show, *Jane Austen's Emma Frankenstein*. He also had the joy of playing in Serial Killers, Sacred Fool's competitive episodic theatre, in numerous roles and episodes of that weekly late-night wonder.



Godwin A. Obeng (The Witness) is delighted to be a part of this wonderful production directed by the one and only Prof. Dude Rothman. Godwin has had the opportunity to be a part of some great shows but "War Of The Worlds" is a special one in so many ways, partly because of Prof. Dude. Godwin has done extensive theatre and film/tv work. He played Uncle Yelin in the Detroit Rep. production of *Yemaya's Belly*. He is currently working on a tv show and a movie.



Matthew Marposon (The Soldier) is thrilled to join the Cal State Los Angeles cast in presenting Ben Hernandez's adaptation of "War Of The Worlds" directed by Steven Rothman. Marpo is an actor, editor & director in his final year at Cal State LA pursuing his M.F.A. in Television, Film, & Theatre production. His previous education includes: The UCLA Professional Performance Program, the Mocap Vaults, Groundlings Improv, Margie Haber Studios, Profiles Theatre Chicago, The New York Film Academy: Paris & Hollywood, Columbia's semester in Shanghai contemporary Arts program & semester in Los Angeles Directors Program as well as receiving his BA in Film & Video Studies from Columbia College Chicago. Marpo has almost exclusively preformed for the screen starring in independent film projects such as: ISO, I'M STILL HERE, BEHIND YOU, MADEIRA, THE OCEAN, DATE & TIME, PAN- THE SERIES, NO WHITE FLAGS, VICIOUS, and recently received a best actor nomination for GRAYSON. Marpo is currently working on his documentary thesis: "ENDGAME" a personal look into technology addiction through the lens of video games. When not performing he likes to unicycle, run marathons, and travel the world with his wife.



Frank J. Ramirez (Michael) is a first year MFA Candidate at Cal State LA, majoring in Television, Film, and Theatre, with an option in Acting. This is Frank's first production with Cal State LA, having recently graduated from Arizona State University, earning his BA in Organizational Leadership. Favorite roles on stage include Preacher Haggler in *Dark of the Moon*, The King in *The Cave Dwellers*, and Jimmy in *Narcisse*. Frank would like to thank Patrick and Frank Sr. for always supporting his artistry.

THE CAST



Thomas Sackett (Yuri) is a first semester transfer student at Cal State LA and is honored to be able to share the screen in his first outing. He first attended Fresno State University for three years, studying under professors such as Bradley Myers, J, Daniel Herring, and Ed EmanuEl in the late 2000's. After a brief recess from acting, Thomas returned in 2018 to pursue his career as an actor again, joining the Riverside Community Players for productions of *The Man Who Shot Liberty Vallance, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,* and *Aladdin and the Magic Lamp*. A hardened mind, a manic approach, and quick reflexes have gone into building a dynamic actor willing to put their body and mind for their craft.



Anatalia/Natalie Sanchez Vallez (Rachel) is a first-year MFA student in Television, Film and Theatre at Cal State LA. She has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and minor in Theatre and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley. This is Anatalia's first production at Cal State LA following her appearances as La Sirena at the Staged Stories Live Stream Series with Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble and as an ensemble member of LA Playback. Favorite roles on stage include: Ana in *Real Women Have Curves*, Della in *Zoot Suit* and Homunculus in *Los Faustinos*. Besides acting, Anatalia is an activist and writer passionate about using art as a tool for creating consciousness and community. Her first book of poetry and monologues *the most spectacular mistake* was published this year by FlowerSong Press. You can find more about her work at: https://anataliavallez.com/

PRODUCTION TEAM



Ben Hernandez (He/Him/El) (Playwright) is a queer, first generation Latinx creator working on showcasing and uplifting stories with/about/for QBIPOC. His plays include *Polygon, Goodnight Charlie*, and now this adaptation of H. G. Wells' novel, The *War of the Worlds*, written for the CSULA department of theater and dance. Ben is a former member and founder of the Sidetracked Creative Artists and the Valley Collegiate players. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater, this spring.

Laura Hernandez (Production Designer) is a senior at Cal State LA, awaiting her B.A. in Theatre with an option in Design and Production. After having transferred from Pasadena City College, she participated as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches* and the Prop Master for *Bloodless*. Her background in film and her knowledge in theatre has led to a new-found passion for themed entertainment. Laura would like to thank her friends and family for always believing in her, and she would like to thank the department for whole-heartedly supporting student-made work.





Amanda Alvarez (Costume Designer) is a senior at Cal State LA, earning her B.A. degree in Theater Arts: Design and Production option. Prior to transferring, she worked 4 years at her previous college's community theater, Cabrillo Stage. There she honed her skills as a Stitcher, Cutter/Draper, Wardrobe Supervisor, and prop fabricator. Theatrical credits include: 10+ productions at Cabrillo Stage, most notably: *Beauty and the Beast, Oliver!, Disney's Mary Poppins,* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. For Cal State LA, Amanda has designed and crafted two full body puppets for the Opera *Lucinda y Las Flores de la Nochebuena.*

PRODUCTION TEAM



Arturo Vega (Costume Design) is a third-year student in the Department of Theatre and Dance This is the first production he has worked on for Cal State LA, and he hopes to continue designing costumes for future Cal State LA productions.



Midori (Dori) King (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on her 3rd production, Ben Hernandez's adaptation of *War of The Worlds* directed by Steve Rothman. Dori is 19 years old, an undergraduate is in her second year at Cal State LA. Majoring in Theatre, Design & Production, Dori is pursuing her dream of becoming a professional stage manager. She worked on various productions for both Alhambra High School and Cal State LA. Performances such as *Bloodless* (Assistant Stage Manager-CSULA), *Angels in America: Part One: Millennium Approaches* (Prop Master- CSULA), *Flowers for Algernon* (Stage Manager- Alhambra High School), and *Annie* (Assistant Stage Manager- Alhambra High School). She has interned at the Long Beach Playhouse having worked two shows as Assistant Stage Manager, *La Cage Aux Folles, and My Fair Lady*.



Daniel Balladares (Assistant Stage Manager) is a student within the College of Arts & Letters of Cal State LA. He is pursuing his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre, Design and Production. He is currently the Assistant Stage Manager for CSULA's production of *War of the Worlds,* adapted by Ben Hernandez, directed by Steve Rothman. Daniel is a transfer student from East Los Angeles College where he designed Costumes for *Chavez Ravine* by Culture Clash directed by Ramiro Segovia, which he received the Don Childs Award and the Focal Press Award at the 2019 Kennedy Center America College Theater Festival, Region 8, held in Downtown Los Angeles.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Damaris Lima Perez (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to be an Assistant Stage Manger for *War of the Worlds*. During Cal State LA's Fall 2019 season she debuted as the Stage Manager for *Angels in America*. She will be graduating from Cal State LA in Spring 2021 with a BA in Theatre with an option in Design and Production.



Philip G. Allen (Sound Design) is a sound designer, mixer and audio educator with more than 30 years of professional experience. He has designed permanent sound systems for the Music Center of Los Angeles, the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City and numerous smaller venues. His television credits include sound system design and equalization for the 56th and 59th Golden Globe Awards and the 33rd Academy of Country Music Awards. On film he contributed the sound design to the feature film Soultaker. As a theatrical designer he has designed more than 100 theatrical shows, including *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* on Broadway;the 2002 to 2005 national tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* starring Carl Anderson; *Spamalot, Hair, Chicago* & *The Producers* at The Hollywood Bowl; *The Ten Commandments* starring Val Kilmer at the KodakTheatre; *The Creature From The Black Lagoon* at Universal Studios Hollywood; *Measure forMeasure, Midsummer Night's Dream,* and *Cinderella* at the Ahmanson Theatre; *Harps &Angels, Pippin, The House of Blue Leaves, The Talking Cure, Like Jazz, Big River, Flower Drum Song* and *First Picture Show* at the Mark Taper Forum; and all fifteen seasons of the Reprise Theatre Company's productions at UCLA's Freud Playhouse. Other design work includes *PaintYour Wagon, Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks* and *Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* at the GeffenPlayhouse*; Casa Valentina, Smokey Joe's Café, Under My Skin, Art, Play On, Only a Kingdom,* and *Blame it on the Movies* at the Pasadena Playhouse; *Masada* at the Shubert Theatre in LA; *Forever Plaid* and *Blues in the Night* at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami; and the US workshop productions of the musical *Zorro* with music by John Cameron and the Gipsy Kings. On Broadway, he assisted long-time design partner Jon Gottlieb on 2001's *If You Ever Leave Me I'm*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Coming With You. He served as Production Sound Engineer for Jason Robert Brown's *13* at the Taper, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at La Jolla Playhouse, and was the head soundman for the national tours of *Titanic,* The Pointer Sister's *Ain't Misbehavin' and Man of La Mancha* with Robert Goulet. He won the 2009 NAACP award for Sound Design for *Once On This Island*, 2003 NAACP award for Sound Design for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the 2001 Ovation Award for *Flower Drum Song*, and the 1999 LA Drama Critics Circle Award for *Cinderella*, as well as five LA Dramalogue Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design, and two Ovation Award nominations for Best Sound Design. Mr. Allen created the BFA Sound Design and VoiceOver Acting curricula at the USC School of Dramatic Arts where he serves as an Associate Professor. He has also taught graduate design courses at UCLA and Cal Arts.



Stephen Rothman (Director) is a Tenured Full Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance here at California State University, Los Angeles having joined the faculty in 2001. He is best known by West Coast Theatre audiences for his work as founder and artistic leader of the revitalized Pasadena Playhouse. He also served as artistic director of the Sacramento Theatre Company. His directing career has taken him across the country and around the world, including a 2008 production of Harold Pinter's BETRAYAL in Florence, Italy for the Florence International Theatre Company. Rothman's American Resident/Regional Theatre credits include more than 100 plays in 16 different States for 40 different theatre companies. He is especially proud of his work on numerous world premieres including SPARKY AND THE FITZ starring Academy Award winner Eli Wallach at the George Street Playhouse in New Jersey, LEARN TO FALL starring France's award-winning clown/artist Buffo at The Attic Theatre in Detroit, GILLIGAN'S ISLAND, THE MUSICAL for Chicago's Organic Theatre and FATHER, SON, AND HOLY COACH for the Santa Monica Playhouse to name just a few. Included among Rothman's most recent directorial work is the 2020 World Premiere of BLOODLESS as well as the 2019 production of THE UNSEEN HAND both here at Cal State LA. Additional recent shows include the 2017 production of CAT'S PAW for Actor's Co-op here in Los Angeles. And prior to that was the March 2015 production of AMERICAN BUFFALO for Deaf West Theatre. The play was named a "Critics Choice" by the LA TIMES, LA WEEKLY, and BACKSTAGE. And that show was revived for a December 2017 production at CATCO in Columbus, Ohio where it received critical

and audience acclaim as well. Rothman has had the privilege of collaborating with Deaf West Theatre since 1994 and other American Sign Language (ASL) productions he has directed with the company include: OF MICE AND MEN, ORPHANS, WHAT ARE YOU…DEAF?, and PINOCCHIO. Other work Rothman is particularly proud of includes a residency in the summer of 2013 at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, Massachusetts where he directed both the World Professional Premiere of LEAP YEAR in addition to the play ACCOMPLICE. Among the theatre awards Rothman has received include winning Florida's Carbonell Award for "Best Director" for GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS at Florida Stage as well as a Los Angeles Dramalogue win for his direction of an American Sign Language production of ORPHANS for Deaf West Theatre. And most recently (November 2017) he was awarded the 2016-2017 STAGE SCENE LA award for "Outstanding Direction, Drama/Intimate Theatre" for his work on CAT'S PAW at Actor's Co-op. For American television, Rothman had the good fortune of spending two seasons directing episodes of THE NEW WKRP IN CINCINNATI. At California State University, Los Angeles Rothman served as the two term Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance and he received the 2012/2013 University Award as "The Outstanding Professor of the Year." In spring 2015 he was granted a sabbatical award and both taught classes and created an original 8-episode sitcom at The Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts in Sweden. Rothman is a proud 36-year member of The Society of Director's and Choreographers (SDC) where he also served for 8 years on their Executive Board. He has been a member of the Director's Guild of America (DGA) for 28 years. Additionally, Rothman is an invited member of the National Theatre Conference (NTC), a former 8 year Tony Award voter, a member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM), a Trustee of the Pension and Health Fund for the Society of Stage Director's and Choreographers, and He serves on the Advisory Board for the British Academic Journal COMEDY STUDIES. Rothman's alumni awards include being named a University "Grad Made Good" at Florida State University as well as having the honor in November 2018 of being named to the "Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame" at Riverview High School in Sarasota, Florida, his childhood home. While Rothman truly loves his life in the arts his most fun production continues to be his son Will "Banno" Rothman who provides him with the best living theatre possible.

Coming in December...

See What I See, a Live-Streamed Event of Original Performance from the Students in Theatre & Dance and Music



Students in TA 4810 Devised Theatre are developing original performances in response to current challenges and events, which will be shared with the campus community and the public via live broadcasts on social media and other digital platforms. This extremely powerful event is not to be missed.

All performances are Free.
For reservations and streaming link please visit the Theatre and Dance website at **www.calstatela.edu/theatredance**

Performance Schedule

Tuesday, December 8 @ 7pm
Wednesday, December 9 @ 4pm and 7pm
Thursday, December 10 @ 4pm and 7pm
Friday, December 11 @ 4pm and 7pm

We would love to have you join us as we continue our virtual season in the Spring of 2021

For information on all of our productions, please visit our website: www.calstatela.edu/theatredance

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Our email address, for all questions, is TAD@calstatela.edu

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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