



Facility Theatre Presents

R I G H T N O W



by Catherine-Anne Toupin, translated by Chris Campbell

directed by dado

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Imagination and fiction make up more than three quarters of our real life.”

“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”

“Those who are unhappy have no need for anything in this world but people capable of giving them attention. The capacity to give one’s attention to a sufferer is a very rare and difficult thing; it is almost a miracle; it is a miracle.”

Simone Weil,

french philosopher, mystic, and political activist

When we tell a story in a theater, we repeat it and repeat it, night after night. Those moments of the actor's lives are gone forever as they repeat the lives of a fictional character instead of living their own life. It is a consensual exchange, this transaction that the actor makes.

In the text of this play, we are placed into a world where there is another consensual layer; each character decides to relinquish a piece of themselves so that something else may take place. It can be seen as an act of generosity and attention as the story unfolds. There are layers of consent upon consent in the script. The actors and I found ourselves confronted with the extraordinary demands of multiple vulnerabilities and the toll this takes on both the individual and the collective.

We had to learn to be very kind to each other as a consequence, or perhaps as a prize.

When you give over to the art and the effort of attention, the act of it becomes so full, that the "I" disappears.

Right Now, or in other words, the present moment, is not finite, or affixed, because time is only the substitute for eternity, or the absence of time. And so the fabric of the world in this play has been dicey for us chronologists, we have schedules and deadlines, we have boundaries and thresholds. We are still learning how to be in the world Catherine-Anne Toupin wrote. We are thrilled you are here to see it.

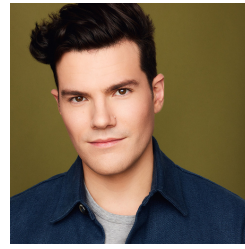
"Everyone has a preference, even in the smallest things."

Catherine-Anne Toupin

CAST

*Alice.....Maria Stephens**
Ben.....Josh Odor
*Juliette.....Shawna Franks**
*Francois.....Elliot Baker**
*Gilles.....Kirk Anderson**

**denotes company member*



Maria Stephens (Alice / Artistic Producer) (she/her) was last seen on stage at Facility as *Phoebe in Phoebe in Winter*, by Jen Silverman. Elsewhere in Chicago Maria has worked with Red Twist, The Gift, Broken Nose, A Red Orchid, Trap Door, Hell in a Handbag, The Factory, The Artistic Home, Apple Tree Theatre, and The Mammals. Maria is grateful to be on stage again. Thanks for coming out to the theatre tonight.

Josh Odor (Ben) (he/him) is grateful for the opportunity to work with Facility Theatre. Most recently Josh was seen in Steppenwolf's *No Man's Land*, Lookingglass' *Her Honor Jane Byrne*, Steep's *Paris* and *Origin Story* at The Cincinnati Playhouse. Josh has worked with The Goodman, TimeLine, Rivendell, Jackalope and The Artistic Home among others over the past 20yrs. TV/Film credits: The Chi, Chicago Med/PD/Fire, Boss, Betrayal, Janie Jones and The Express. Josh is represented by DDO Chicago and is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA

Shawna Franks (Juliette) (she/her) is a founding member of Facility Theatre where she played the role of Boggett in *Phoebe in Winter* and Vivian in *Silence That Follows*. Chicago credits include: *Grand Concourse* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company where she was honored to cover performances for the amazing Mariann Mayberry and most recently as Miz Martha u/s in *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Tail of Miz Martha Washington*, *The Woman Before* at Trap Door Theatre. Shawna played the role of Dottie in the original production of *Killer Joe* (Next Lab Theatre). International credits include: *Killer Joe* (The Vaudeville Theatre, London, West End), The Bush Theatre (London), The Traverse Theatre, (Edinburgh), *Hell Cab* Tivoli Theatre, (Dublin). She has performed in various productions in Los Angeles, New York, and Phoenix where she is the founding Artistic Director of Space 55 Theatre. TY to J&S and PB.

Elliot Baker (François) (he/him) is an Anglo-American writer and performer who has been working with Facility Theatre since their inception. He wrote their first production, *The Silence That Follows*, and played the role of LIAM in *Phoebe in Winter*. He has also worked with various other companies including: Oak Park Festival Theatre (JACK; Elizabeth Rex), Northlight Theatre (BRIAN u/s; *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*), and Writers Theatre (ORSINO u/s; *Twelfth Night*). In the UK Elliot has been seen performing his own work at Poet's Palace, Says Events, and Resonance Poetry.

Kirk Anderson (Gilles / Set Designer) (he/him) is a long time theatre artist in Chicago. He has been a member of both European Repertory Theatre and TUTA. His play "The Jewels", was produced by TUTA under his direction. Kirk has worked with many of Chicago's theatre companies. Most currently Kirk performed in Facility's production of "Phoebe In Winter" and "The Ruse Of Medusa." Other Chicago credits include "Between Riverside And Crazy", "The Diary Of Anne Frank", "Huck Finn", "Lady

Madeline", "Uncle Vanya" "Penelope" Fight choreographer. (Steppenwolf Theatre) "The Ballad Of Emmet Till" (Goodman Theatre) "Ghosts" (Mary Archie). "The Woman Before", "John Doe", "Overweight, Unimportant: Misshapen" (Trapdoor Theatre). "There Is A Happiness That Morning Is" (Theatre Oobleck). "The Wedding", "Fulton Street Sessions", "Mozart And Saliari", "The Jewels" (Tuta). "Dandelion Wine" (Chicago Children's Theatre). "Teibele And Her Demon", "Go Away-Go Away", "Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead", "Slavs!", "Zoyka's Apartment" and "Ivanov". (European Repertory Company).

PRODUCTION TEAM & DESIGNERS

*Director.....dado**
Playwright.....Catherine-Anne Toupin
Production Manager/Intimacy Director.....Erin Sheets
Assistant Directors.....Sam Hurwitz & Katherine Swan*
Stage Manager.....Marz Allswede
Assistant Stage Manger.....Jae Robinson
*Set Designer.....Kirk Anderson**
Costume Designer.....Natasha Vuchurovich Dukich
Lighting Designer.....Richard Norwood
Sound Designer.....Santiago Quintana
Properties Designer.....Brandii Champagne
Scenic Carpenter.....Tom Daniel
Assistant Costume Designer.....Lucy Elkin
*Associate Sound Designer.....Sam Clapp**
Artistic Producers.....Sam Hurwitz & Maria Stephens

**denotes company member*

dado (Director) (she/her) is a visual artist and theater practitioner in the Chicagoland area. She was born in East Chicago, Indiana. She has two children. She is interested in value perceptions and how they inform empathic systems.

Facility Theatre: The Silence That Follows (by Elliot Baker), Phoebe in Winter by Jen Silverman, little match girl passion by David Lang (Edes Prize, University of Chicago), The Ruse Of Medusa by Erik Satie.

A Red Orchid: Directing: In Quietness by Anna Moench (winter, 2024), The Malignant Ampersands by Brett Neveu (world premiere), Killing Game by Eugene Ionesco, Simpatico (at AROT and McCarter Theater), The Mutilated by Tennessee Williams, The Room by Harold Pinter, Fastest Clock in the Universe by Philip Ridley, The Hothouse by Harold Pinter, The Seahorse, Red Handed Otter, Megacosm, The Unseen, Grey Zone. Acting: The Moors, Traitor, Strandline, Celebration Incubators: Act V by Katherine Swan produced by A Red Orchid at Facility Theatre, The Silence That Follows by Elliot Baker, Celebration by Harold Pinter with live music by Mauricio Kagel, A Night Out by Harold Pinter

More bio for dado and links to works at howlround.com/commons/dado-gyure

Catherine-Anne Toupin (Playwright) (she/her) is a French Canadian actress and writer. Graduating from The Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Montreal in 1999, she has become a well-known actress in Quebec, with numerous theatre, film and television credits. As a playwright, Toupin has written three full-length plays: *À présent*, *L'envie* and *Alexandre*, as well as many short plays. In 2005, *Right Now* (*À présent*) won the Prix Françoise-Berd, awarded to the best new play by a young author. The play has been translated into four languages and has previously been produced in Canada, Italy and Mexico.

Marz Allswede (Stage Manager) (he/him) has been working in theater since 2014. Throughout that time he has stage managed for storefront theaters in Oklahoma City and Chicago, worked as a technician for The Lyric Theater of Oklahoma and the Athenaeum Center, performed his own written work globally, and produced Minerva University's first ever 10 Minute Play Festival. He has recently graduated from the School of the Art Institute's Writing MFA program and is excited to be working with Facility Theater on the production of *Right Now*.

Brandii Champagne (Props Designer) (they/any) is a Louisiana native and is Co-Artistic Director of Theatre L'Acadie. They are a director, actor, and all around creative and are absolutely thrilled to be doing props for *RIGHT NOW!* Some of their recent credits include *Eloise* in *Today Tonight Soon* (actor), *If This is the End* (director, scenic designer), *Spotted: a short film* (director, SFX makeup design), to name a few. More of their work can be found at: brandiichampagne.com / Instagram: @brandii.champagne

Tom Daniel (Scenic Carpenter) (he/him) is thrilled to be creating sets for Facility once again. He has been building for over 35 years, and he loves creating a three-dimensional piece of art, for other artists to perform on.

Sam Hurwitz (Assistant Director / Artistic Producer) (she/they) is stoked to be back with Facility Theatre as an Artistic Producer and Company Member after a brief hiatus teaching in Hanoi, Vietnam. Sam is an NYC-raised theater artist passionate about bringing new audiences to live performance by challenging theater traditions. Sam also serves as the Audience Services Assistant at TimeLine Theatre where they work on accessibility, community engagement and audience development. Thank you to the whole team - it is a great pleasure to support this work. And thank you Michael, always.

Richard Norwood (Lighting Designer) (he/him) is honored to work with Facility and long time collaborators Dado and Kirk. Richard has designed lights for Trap Door Theatre, Congo Square, Remy Bumpo, Zephyr Dance and numerous other Chicago theatres. Richard is the production manager for the theatre at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

Santiago Quintana (Sound Designer) (he/they) is a huge fan of Facility Theater and all the talent it houses. Santiago has created and shown work in many capacities as engineer, musician, director, and movement artist. He has produced experimental sound pieces shown at Elastic Arts' CLEAT multi-channel audio series, Color Club noise series, and Facility Theater. Most recently he wrote and produced *O Death*, a music show revisiting Appalachian and north Atlantic folk songs about death, also shown at Facility. He is thrilled to work with such talented artists in the production of *Right Now*.

Erin Sheets (Intimacy Director / Production Manager) (she/her) is a director and all-things-theatre maker from New Orleans. She is the Co-Artistic Director of Chicago's Theatre L'Acadie where she has

directed recent shows such as *Things That Are Round* (performed at Facility Theatre!), *70 Scenes of Halloween*, and the world premiere of *Today Tonight Soon*, a post-apocalyptic play performed on the water's edge at Loyola Beach. This year, she Assistant Directed the highly acclaimed world premiere of *Motherhouse* with Rivendell Theatre Ensemble. Next up in January: Director of Big Noise Theatre's *Grey Gardens*. To learn more visit: erinesheets.com / @erinesheets

Katherine Swan (Assistant Director) (she/her) is a playwright, director, and actor. Her directing credits include productions of *Beaten*, *Integrity*, and *The 800 Pound Gorilla*, all with The Artistic Home. Her plays have been recently performed at the Reboot Festival in London, *The Road* in Los Angeles, and *A Red Orchid Theatre* in Chicago. Her play *Pony* was a winner of the Carlow Little Theatre's 2021-22 International One Act Play Competition in Carlow, Ireland. Her play *Bench* is slated for publication in the Smith & Kraus anthology *Best Ten-Minute Plays, 2023*. She is part of the Playground-Chicago Writers Pool for 2023-2024.

Natasha Vuchurovich Dukich (Costume Designer) (she/her) lives and works between Chicago, IL and Belgrade, Serbia. Natasha has most recently finished production design for *The Pragmatists* at Trap Door Theatre as well as a Danilo Kiš international project at Mladi Theatre in Novi Sad. Other favorite costume design projects include *Scapino* at Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, FL, *Gentle*, *Baal*, and *Uncle Vanya* at TUTA and *The Fundamentals*, *Between Riverside and Crazy* and *Grand Concourse* at Steppenwolf Theatre. Natasha is a founding member of TUTA Theatre. Other Chicago area credits include theatre and opera projects at Trap Door, Theatre at The Center, Light Opera works, European Rep, Northwestern Opera, Roosevelt, and DePaul Operas. Nationally Natasha's work has been seen in Washington DC (at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre), LA and New York City. Independent feature film costume designs include *Black Mail* and *Cast in Grey*. She was a professor of costume design at James Madison University in Virginia and Loyola University in Chicago. See Natasha's work at www.natashavdukich.net

UNDERSTUDIES

Hannah Hammel (*Alice*), Raul Arambula (*Ben*), Lynne Baker (*Juliette*), Derek Preston Ray (*Francois*), and Eric Lumbard (*Gilles*).

Hannah Hammel (*Alice*, u/s) (she/her) is a Chicago-based actor, director, producer, and educator. She has performed with Oil Lamp Theater, Perennial Theatre, Walnut Street Theatre, Shakespeare in the Woods, Newnan Shakespeare, Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival, and many others. She is the co-founder and Marketing and PR Director of Spicy Witch Productions, a feminist theater company in New York City. Select recent credits include playing Olympe in Oil Lamp's *The Revolutionists*, playing Olga in a film adaptation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, and directing *God of Carnage* and *Rage Play* (premiere) at Northern Illinois University. MFA Acting – Northern Illinois University. BA English – Haverford College. Represented by Lily's Talent. Hannahacts.com

Raúl Arámbula (*Ben*, u/s) (he/him) is thrilled to be working with Facility Theatre. Selected work includes: Chicago: *Colectivo El Pozo*: Peter Malmö (Janssen/Ronny); St. Patrick's Summer Theatre: *The 39 Steps* (Richard Hannay); Minnesota: DalekoArts: *Native Gardens* (Pablo); Theatre Pro Rata: *By the Bog of Cats* (Carthage); Lyric Arts: *It's a Wonderful Life* (George Bailey), *The Mousetrap* (Paravicini); Wayward Theatre: *A Christmas Carol* (Marley);

Theatre Coup d'Etat: Julius Caesar (Brutus); Frey Theatre: Romeo and Juliet (Romeo); Zephyr Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing (Claudio), As You Like It (Silvius); Northfield Arts Guild Theatre: The Lion in Winter (Geoffrey); SOAR Regional Arts: The Diary of Anne Frank (Peter).

Lynne Baker (Juliette u/s) (she/her) is thrilled to be working with the brilliant folks at Facility Theatre for the first time. Recent: On the Greenbelt (Strawdog); Beyond Therapy (Eclipse, Jeff nom); The Crowd You're in With (Aston Rep); Nice Girl (Raven); People in the Wind (Haven); and Scapin (Citadel). Lynne has also performed with The Artistic Home, Invictus, Babes with Blades, Theater Evolve, and Piven, among others. TV: Chicago Fire; Film: Double Major (Best Feature, Windy City Film Festival 2018), Happily Never After (Feature, Lifetime Movie Network). Lynne is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

Derek Preston Ray (François u/s) is incredibly excited for his Facility Theatre debut! Derek is a stage and film actor in the Chicago area whose recent work includes Light Falls at Steep Theatre, Strangulation Day at Curious Theatre (in collaboration with Rhinofest), and On Either Side of All the Late Unpleasantness with Possibilities Theatre Company. Derek can also be heard performing on Spotify with The Merry Beggars in their Saints podcast series. Derek has a BS degree in Acting from Illinois State University.

Eric Lumbard (Gilles, u/s) (he/him). After a long hiatus, Eric returns to Chicago theatre with this production. Past credits include Fool For Love and La Turista with Azusa Productions, The Possessed with National Pastime and Prop Thtr, Thanatos with National Pastime, The Shirt with Our Turn Productions, and 1,001 Afternoons in Chicago, the New Plays Festival, and Now Dig This with Prop Thtr. He's grateful for the opportunity to work with the talented people at Facility Theatre.

Facility Theatre is extremely grateful to the generous donors who helped bring this show to life.

Beau O'Reilly, Bether Weiss, Brian Shaw, Carolyn Hoerdemann, Charles Mulloy, David Holcombe, David May, Diana Slickman, DJ Howard, Elliot Bibat, Emilio Williams, G. Darin and Troy Tsoulos, Jamie Kreppein, Jeffrey Mills, Jenni Lamb, John Tipton, Jorge Salas, Kaitlynn Ryan, Karen Stephenson, Katherine Swan, Kelsey Austin, Kirsten Fitzgerald, Lawrence Grimm, Maria Stephens, Marissa Steele, Martha Reineke, Maura Junius, Paul Somers, Robert Gerstein, Roc Roney, Sam Hurwitz, Sarag Wood-Prince, Shawna Molenaar-Schoonveld, Henry Bolzon, Nick Barelli, Jenny Magnus, Patrica Krahnke, Maggie Fitzsimmons, David Cerda, Jonny Moran, Maggie Rotheberg, Georgette Verdin, Ed Jones, Katherine Datz, Amir Bell, Ziggy Malecki, Leavey Ballou, Micheal Rashid, David Lipschutz, Justine Serino, Julia Relova, Sarah Wieland, Eustace Allen, Will Kinnear, Lisa Roth, Lois Scott and David May

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