# THEATRE PROJECT



Directed by Elana Elyce Featuring Scott Sawa

Streaming February 5 - 25, 2021 on Broadway World

# NTERROBANG THEATRE PROJECT

presents the revival of



# Elana Elyce

HERE LIES HENRY was first produced in 1995 by da da kamera as part of the Six Stages Festival at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre in Toronto, Ontario.

HERE LIES HENRY is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, Gary Goddard Agency, www.ggagency.ca

LIGHTING DESIGN

Michelle E. Benda

DRAMATURG

Daniel Brooks

STAGE MANAGER

Shawn Galligan

sound design/composition Timothy McNulty

VIDEOGRAPHY

Starbelly Studios

PRESS RELATIONS

David Rosenberg

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Richie Vavrina

COSTUME DESIGN

LaVisa Angela Williams

ADDITIONAL EDITS
Christopher Aaron Knarr

Notes from Director, Elana Elyce

# **RARE**

I don't want to say much, as I fear my outpouring of affection for this show will get ahead of me and reveal too much before you get a chance to watch it. One-person shows are increasing in number and popularity for a variety of reasons. When I had my first experience with Here Lies Henry I had seen two solo shows in my life and one was auto-biographical, the other historical. So I hadn't exactly been exposed to the power of story-telling from a singular voice in this way and I was fascinated. I thought it was so clever and each night I watched it, there was something new to latch on to. It brought to the fore all the things I love about how this artform awakens the spirit and broadens perspectives. It gave me things to think about that have never left me.

# RELEVANT

Personally, I am obsessed with Truth. Not necessarily THE truth, I'm not talking about facts, but personal truth. While we are constantly surrounded by the absence of truth in the way of facts, I marvel over what seems to be the absence of an honesty with self. Henry teases us with his Truth, forcing us to sort through what is real and what is not and slyly causing us to question what we believe . . . and who we are. I don't need to do much to overlay that idea on the landscape we currently exist in. Except in this case, at least it's fun.

# **RAW**

What could be more raw than a man, alone, on a bare stage talking to mostly strangers? Beyond the environment, we see Henry wear, and perhaps remove all the masks he - and we - layer on over our lifetimes. It asks a lot of an actor to convey each layer with clarity and heart; our incredible actor does so with seeming ease, leaving me open to be fascinated and deeply affected by Henry all over again. Ten years later.

I hope it does the same for you.

TIME - Now PLACE - Here

#### RUNNING TIME IS 75 MINUTES. THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION.

#### Cast



**SCOTT SAWA** (Henry) is overjoyed that ITP is releasing this video presentation of our play, after a shortened run due to Covid. Scott's not a braggart, so he won't mention he was nominated for a Non-Equity Jeff Award for Solo Performance for this role. Recent work includes ITP's THE SPIN. In the before times, his favorite roles were Cliff Bradshaw in CABARET (Cowardly Scarecrow); George/ Valentina (u/s) in CASA VALENTINA, and Bob Neal in TEN DOLLAR HOUSE (Pride Films & Plays). Other favorites: POSEIDON,

BEWILDERED! (Hell in a Handbag); HEY! DANCIN! HEY! MUSICAL! (Factory); NIGHTMARE IN PARADISE, FIGHT NIGHT, THE MOST ADO: A PARTY PLAY (Nothing Special). TV/Web: CHICAGO FIRE, REDLINE TO HOWARD. Scott is currently preparing a podcast, "You're On In Five! The Art of Understudying", co-hosted with ITP icon Elana Elyce, featuring conversations with Chicago actors about their experiences and technique as understudies, to be released in early 2021. www.ScottSawa.com



JOSH KEMPER (u/s Henry) makes his ITP debut with this production. He has been an active member of the Chicago storefront community since his move to the city six years ago. Favorite companies to work with include Hell in a Handbag, Black Button Eyes Productions, Cowardly Scarecrow, Pride Film & Plays, and Metropolis Performing Arts. Josh originally hails from Baltimore, MD where he received his B.F.A. in Acting from University of Maryland, Baltimore County and was a company member with

Red Branch Theatre Company. Love and thanks for support to AR, CJ, SR, and his family.

#### Creative Team



**DANIEL MACIVOR** (Playwright) is originally from Cape Breton and currently divides his time between Toronto and Avondale, Nova Scotia. Daniel has written numerous award-winning theatre productions and his work has been translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish, Czech, German and Japanese. Daniel received the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama for his collection of plays I STILL LOVE YOU and in 2008 he was awarded the Siminovitch Prize for Theatre. He is also the recipient of an Obie Award and a GLAAD Award for IN ON IT, as well as a

Canadian Screen Award for his feature film script WEIRDOS.



<sup>?</sup> **ELANA ELYCE** (Director/Artistic Producer) first worked with Interrobang in 2011, appearing in THE ARGUMENT by Gregory Moss. She joined staff as producer for the 2012 production of HERE LIES HENRY by Daniel MacIvor and went on to produce the first two productions of Season 3. Originally from Detroit, she began teaching and directing while still a teenager with Detroit's Summer Youth Arts program, working with teens and young adults, and did so for fifteen years in various organizations, schools and camps. Within

that time, opportunities to direct adults began with a Detroit production of A SON COME HOME by Ed Bullins with Urban Spirit Theatre Company. Since being in Chicago, (cont.)

she has directed multiple readings and short plays, as well as a critically acclaimed production of THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES with Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre in Evanston. Elana also acts, writes and coaches, is a company member with The House Theatre of Chicago and is the Business Manager of The Chicago Inclusion Project. www.elanaelyce.net



\*\*GEORGETTE VERDIN (Managing Artistic Director) has been working with ITP since 2014. She is a freelance director, theater & speech educator and arts integration specialist. She was the founding theater teacher at Polaris Charter Academy, an Expeditionary Learning School in West Humboldt Park, where she taught full-time for eight years. Recent directing credits include TRIBES (Nina Raine) at Western Michigan University, Jeff recommended productions of OUT OF LOVE (U.S. Premiere, Elinor

Cook), GRACE and RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS (Craig Wright), and TIME STANDS STILL (Donald Margulies), as well as the 2013 & 2016 Yale Drama Series winners, STILL (Jen Silverman) and UTILITY (Emily Schwend). Georgette has also worked with Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Facility Theatre and Chicago Dramatists, among others. Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She is an associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

MICHELLE E. BENDA (Lighting Designer) was thrilled to design her fourth show with Interrobang Theatre Project! She previously designed OUT OF LOVE (Non-Equity Jeff Award Nominee) UTILITY and I CALL MY BROTHERS. Additional lighting design credits include TEEANGE DICK (Theater Wit); SHORT SHAKESPEARE! THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); POISON (The Plagiarists); EVERYBODY (Brown Paper Box Co.), HAMLET (The Gift Theatre), THE GENTLEMAN CALLER (Raven Theatre), BURY ME, OHIO STATE MURDERS, (Dandelion Theatre). She has assisted lighting designers at Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and TimeLine Theatre Company. Michelle holds an MFA in Lighting Design and Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**SHAWN GALLIGAN** (Stage Manager) With a background in performance, Shawn switched to stage management in 2011. But that's not to say he would balk at being dragged back onstage. He has worked for theaters in Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin, both onstage and backstage. For ITP he has stage managed a show just about every season. Shawn currently resides in Door County, Wisconsin where he is the ASM at Northern Sky Theater. He is also a recreational cyclist, bike mechanic, and a lover of board games and miniature gaming. During this pandemic he has worked as a barista and found an appreciation of cigars.

**LOUIS LOTHAN** (Master Electrician) hails from Chicago, Illinois and continues to work there today. He has served as Master Electrician on EthiopianAmerica (Definition Theatre Company), Self Accusation (Theatre Y), and Peter and the Starcatcher (Walter Payton College Prep). His design experience includes Radium Girls and Broadway Gems IV. He has served as a technician on various productions such as Nevermore Park, The Fly Honey Show, Columbia College Dance Center, and BlackOak Technical Productions. LouisLothan.com

**TIMOTHY MCNULTY** (Sound Designer/Composer) is a Chicago-based musician, composer and sound designer, and is very jazzed to be working with Interrobang Theatre Project for the first time! After studying music at the State University of New York at Oneonta, Tim landed in Chicago in 2010, and has since worn many hats. He spent five years as a guitarist, vocalist and arranger with The BlackWilloughbys, an old-time Americana band. He has also been working as a music director, composer and/or sound (cont.)

designer for dozens of theatrical productions in recent years, for companies all throughout Chicago, including Underscore Theatre, Filament Theatre, Akvavit and Silk Road Rising, among many others. Tim is currently one half of the duo Parlant Parlant, with DJ/Producer Bumbac Joe, and a member of instrumental rock band Gone Valleu.

**RICHIE VAVRINA** (Production Manager) is a production manager, scenic designer and lighting designer. He was production manager for the live version of HERE LIES HENRY in 2020. This is his seventh production with ITP, having worked on most of their productions since 2017. He owns his own design business, QZLX, specializing in production design for large events. During the pandemic he has branched out to many forms of digital art, as well. Visit www.DesignQZLX.com to view his work and/or get in touch!

**LAVISA ANGELA WILLIAMS** (Costume Designer) is happy to be working as Costume Designer with Interrobang Theater Company and is also a designing member of CityLit Theater. Some of her notable works have been SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION and PROMETHEUS. Her favorite genres to design include contemporary, fantasy, and sci-fi. Her favorite design materials are fabric, leather, metal, plastics and foam. Aside from traditional consuming, she also makes (body props), designs for fashion editorials, and helps young actors with print work.

? denotes ensemble member

#### Staff

Managing Artistic Director	Georgette Verdir
Artistic Producer	Elana Elyce
Literary Manager	Laura Berner Taylo
Marketing Associate	Nancy Payne
Creative Director	Zoë Verdii
Production Artist & Box Office Manager	Christopher Aaron Knar
Casting Coordinator	Sarah Gise
Digital Media Director	Ion-Paul Schau

#### **Ensemble Members**

Georgette Verdin • Salar Ardebili • Brynne Clippard (aristic assoc.) • Laura Berner Taylor Elana Elyce • Shawn Galligan • Sarah Gise • Matthew Martinez Hannon (artistic assoc.) • Noël Huntzinger (artistic assoc.) • Christopher Aaron Knarr • Joe Lino LaVisa Angela Williams (artistic assoc.) • Claire Yearman Richie Vavrina (artistic assoc.) • Zoë Verdin

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#### Special Thanks

Ed Anderson, CJ Hyland, Christopher Aaron Knarr, Rebecca Lawson, Joe Lino, Cathy McCann, Timothy McNulty, Timmy Samuel, James E. Williama Jr. and Jessica Vann.







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#### ITP's 11th Season is supported in part by generous grants and sponsorships from

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Also supported by The MacArthur Funds for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation



























#### **Interrobang Theatre Project**

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