music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim book by James Lapine

directed by Kim Strassburgert

musical direction and accompaniment by Mark Danisovszky

CAST: : in alphabetical order

Torasso/Ludovic **Bryan Banville**

Kevin Burroughs Augenti

Sandy Campbell* Fosca

Rizzolli/Fosca's Father **Andy Collins**

Barri **Patrick Gates**

Attendant/Mistress Nadia Guevara

Giorgio Jason Heil*

Tambourri Ralph Johnson

Lombardi **Brandon Sherman**

Attendant/Fosca's Mother **Christina Wenning**

Katie Whalley Clara Ricci Ruff Yeager

ion company member *Member Actors' Equity Association

Settting: A remote military outpost in Italy

Running time: 1hr 45 mins. There will be no intermission Special thanks: Lon & Denise Bevers, Mary Summerday, Jason Maddy, Sandy & Danny Campbell, Hannah Logan, Yolanda Franklin[†], Coronado School of the Arts, Bonnie Durben, Mitch Kaye (Piano Technician), Sgt. Martin Gallegos, Bargain Center, Mark Serbian, Ben Shaffer, Denny Barnes, Dowtella Tutino, Monica Perfetto,

Ross Barrientos, Catalina Maynard[†], the Opening Night Committee and the ion Luminaries!

Passion is based on the film, "Passione d'Amore" and was originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine Originally Produced on Broadway in 1994 by The Shubert Organization Roger Berlind - Capital Cities/ABC - Scott Rudin by Arrangement with Lincoln Center Theater Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

::: ion theatre company members ::: Co-Founders: Trina Kaplan & Matt Scott Founding Company Members: Dana Hooley, Linda Libby, Steven Lone, Brian Mackey, Catalina Maynard, Walter Ritter, Sara Beth Morgan, Kim Strassburger & Morgan Trant Company Members: Melanie Chen, Robin Christ, Karin Filijan, Yolanda Franklin, Evan Kendig, Jeffrey Jones, Karson St. John Courtney Fox Smith, Mary Summerday & Rachael Van Wormer Producers

Glenn Parist Claudio Ravgoza[†]

Stage Manager

Aaron Galindo

Sound Designer

Melanie Chen†

Lighting Designer

Karin Filijant

Scenic/Props Designer

Claudio Raygozat

Costume Designer

Jeanne Reith

Scenic Builders

Danielle Dunne **Aaron Galindo Jeffrey Jones** Evan Kendig[†] Hannah Logan Glenn Parist Claudio Ravgozat Kim Strassburger

> Volunteer Coordinator Trina Kaplan[†]

> > Usher Coordinator

Julie Ustin

New Play Development Catalina Maynard[†]

House Manager

Jen Sparkman Graphics | Webmaster

Claudio Raygozat

† ion company member

:: A few words on the inspiration for a modern classic::



Notes on a musical by dramaturge **Catherine Miller**

Iginio Tarchetti and Stephen Sondheim are very much alike. Both men are rule breakers; challenging the artistic aesthetic by experimenting and refusing to fall victim to conformity. Bohemians of their time, they soon became the revolutionaries of their chosen form. So when Sondheim sat down to watch Passione d'Amore, the film version of Tarchetti's novel Fosca, it was kismet. Sondheim notes in his book, Look, I Made A Hat, that about half an hour into watching Passione d'Amore, it struck him, "as a story worth singing". At first he wanted it to be a musical. But after much deliberation and analysis, Sondheim believed the characters to be "so outsized" for the musical theatre genre. It had to be an opera or something likened to such.

It should be noted here that Sondheim, as he states, has "successfully avoided enjoying opera", as well as writing it. As illustrated by his wide range of work, Sondheim focuses on "the song, not the singer". In his opinion, this is what opera composers do not do. And for the characters of Tarchetti's world, an operatic style would not serve their stories.

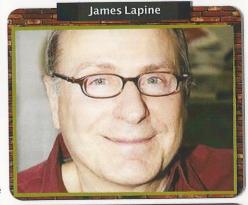
Sondheim found a collaborator in James Lapine, who would serve as the book writer and director for the original production. They had a fantastic working dynamic that had served them well in the past and Sondheim

thought that Lapine's knack for romanticism and dramaturgy would only add to the beauty of the piece.

Passion is "one long rhapsodic love song". And while there is dialogue interspersed, the constant repetition of motifs, the underscoring, and the restless nature of it all creates a clear through line.

You may walk away from this show confused or unable to accept what you have witnessed; grappling with the idea of how such a beautiful man could ever love such a manipulative and physically repellant woman. But like Tarchetti and Sondheim, Fosca and Giorgio are acting against the norms of their reality. They are refusing to conform. They are revolutionaries of love and passion. And as Sondheim notes, maybe you are reacting to the simple fact that, "we are all Fosca, we are all Giorgio, we are all Clara".

ion theatre company, 2014



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CAST & PRODUCTION



BRYAN BANVILLE

:: Lt. Torasso / Ludovic :: ion theatre: Debut. His other San Diego theater credits include - Cygnet Theatre: Side by Side by Sondheim (Man Vocalist), Assassins (David Herold/ Billy/Bystander), Man of La Mancha (Anselmo/ Multeer); The Old Globe:

Anna Christie (Longshoreman); Lambs Player's Theater: Mixtape (Brian); New Village Arts Theatre: Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings (Francis); and Coronado Playhouse: 42nd Street (Billy Lawlor). Additional theatre credits include Little Shop of Horrors (Orin Scrivello D.D.S.), Once on This Island (Daniel), You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Charlie Brown) and Schoolhouse Rock Live! He competed as a Top 16 Finalist as part of NBC's singing competition show "The Sing Off" with his college a cappella group Extreme Measures. Bryan can also be seen rocking out at SeaWorld as the Lead Vocalist with the original cast of Madagascar LIVE!: Operation Vacation.



KEVIN BURROUGHS

:: Pvt. Augenti::

ion theatre: Debut. Is thrilled to portray the role of Private Augenti in his ion theatre debut in Passion. As well as performing, Kevin has found a new love for choreographing musicals in which he recently co-

choreographed Hot Mikado (SDSCPA), with his former dance teacher, at the high school he graduated from. He also co-choreographed and performed in Hairspray (Southwestern College). He dreams of continuing to choreograph for musicals as a career as well as performing occasionally. Recent credits: In The Heights, Zoot Suit, The Who's: Tommy, Hairspray (SDRep); Oklahoma, The Wiz, Scrooge: The Musical (SDSCPA); The Nutcracker (San Diego Ballet).



SANDY CAMPBELL*

:: Fosca ::

ion theatre: Debut. Sandy is thrilled to be making her ion theatre debut in Passion, her tenth Stephen Sondheim show. Favorites include: Parade and Communicating Doors (Craig Noel Awards), The Norman Conquests,

Assassins, and A Little Night Music (Cygnet Theatre Company), Clybourne Park (San Diego Rep), Macbeth and Midsummer Night's Dreamthe Musical (Intrepid Shakespeare Company), Light in the Piazza, The Music Man, Fiddler on the Roof (Lamb's Players Theatre), Hairspray, Ragtime, Sweeney Todd, The Spitfire Grill and The Most Happy Fella (Moonlight Stage Productions). Recording Crazy World available through iTunes and CDBABY. Many thanks to Ion, Kim, Mark and Dianna.



ANDY COLLINS

:: Maj. Rizzoli / Father:: ion theatre: Parasite Drag, Gypsy, Chicago: A Speakeasy Cabaret. Other credits include: Company, Assassins, Cabaret, The Matchmaker, My Fair Lady, Pageant (Cygnet Theatre); She-Rantulas From Outer Space in 3-D, Pippin, Twist,

The Break Up Notebook, The Daddy Machine, Valhalla, Falsettos, Jeffrey, The Rocky Horror Show (Diversionary Theatre); The Full Monty, Bye Bye Birdie (SD Musical Theatre); Guys & Dolls (Lambs Players).



PATRICK GATES

:: Lt. Barri ::

ion theatre: Debut. Patrick is a triple threat singer, actor, dancer with a rich voice, and wide vocal and acting ranges. Patrick is the 2012 Globe Honors winner for Best Actor, Spoken Word category. He has received the National

CAST & PRODUCTION

Youth Arts (formerly National Youth Theater) award for Best Actor in a Musical 4 times - for Daddy Warbucks in Annie (Christian Youth Theater, 2010), The Beast in Beauty and the Beast (Christian Youth Theater 2011), Harold Hill in The Music Man (Christian Youth Theater 2011), Captain Hook in Disney's Peter Pan (Junior Theater, 2012), and Captain Von Trapp in The Sound of Music (San Diego Junior Theater, 2012). Patrick has also performed with San Diego Christian College (Snoopy in Snoopy!!!, 2010, and Curly in Oklahoma!, 2012). You can view some of his recent performances on YouTube.



NADIA GUEVARA

:: Attendant/Mistress:: ion theatre: Debut. Nadia is happy to make her ion debut in this production of Passion. Credits include: The Winter's Tale (The Old Globe), Car Plays (La Jolla Playhouse/Moving Arts)

(Flat Seven Productions), Spring Awakening as Wendla (American Rose Theatre), Claudia Meets Fulano Colorado (Carlsbad Playreaders), Miss Saigon (Moonlight Stage Productions), Summer and Smoke (New Village Arts). Other favorite credits: Rosencrantz in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, and Rosie in Bye Bye, Birdie. Nadia can be seen this summer in Diversionary Theatre's upcoming production of bare: a pop opera.



JASON HEIL*

:: Giorgio::

ion theatre: Angels in America: Millennium Approaches & Perestroika (Braunagel Award). Other San Diego Theatre: Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Lamb's Players Theatre (Associate Artist),

Cygnet, North Coast Rep, Compass, Moonlight, and Starlight. Directing work at Moonlight and Intrepid.



RALPH JOHNSON

:: Dr. Tambourri::

ion theatre: Gypsy, Grev Gardens. Ralph Johnson is very pleased to return to ion in this production of Passion. In the last year he has appeared in Fiddler On The Roof and An American Christmas with Lamb's Players Theatre (Associate

Artist), Pygmalion with Grossmont College, and The Wizard of Oz with Moonlight Stage Productions. Thanks to Kim, Mark, Glenn, and Claudio for this opportunity. What a journey. What a ride.



BRANDON SHERMAN

:: Sgt. Lombardi :: ion theatre: Debut. Brandon Sherman started his musical career at a young age, appearing as Colin from The Secret Garden and later in roles such as Valjean in Les Miserables, Tom Collins in

RENT!, Pooh-Bah in Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado, and others throughout Southern California. Mr. Sherman has been a contracted member of the San Diego Opera Chorus since age 19 and has performed in Carnegie Hall under John Rutter's baton, as well as internationally in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Lichtenstein. An accomplished pedagogue, Mr. Sherman graduated with a Bachelors in Applied Arts and Science in Voice and has taught private voice for five years as a recognized Associate NATS (National Association of Teacher of Singing) member. He is also the Director of Musical Theatre for the Poway School District in an after-school enrichment program, KidzTyme.



CHRISTINA WENNING

:: Attendant / Mother ::

ion theatre: Debut. Christina is happy to be making her ion theatre debut. Credits include Alpenstock (San Diego Fringe Festival, Critic's Pick); Rough Magic, Inherit the Wind, Dead

CAST & PRODUCTION

Man's Cell Phone (Palomar Performing Arts);
Patience, The Magic Flute (Ohio University Opera
Theatre); Acis and Galatea, Little Red Riding
Hood, Fair Means or Foul (Ohio Northern Opera
Theatre); Grand Hotel, Cabaret, Beauty and the
Beast, Once Upon a Mattress (Freed Center for
the Performing Arts). Christina is a teacher of
voice and piano, and she holds a Master of Music
in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Ohio
University. Christina would like to thank Kim,
Glenn and Claudio for this opportunity!



KATIE WHALLEY

:: Clara::

ion theatre: *Gypsy* (Craig Noel Award), *Sondheim Valentine*). San Diego credits: The Old Globe – *A Doll's House*; Cygnet Theatre – *Company* (April, Asst. Choreographer), *Spring Awakening* (Asst. Choreographer), *Parade*

(Iola, Dance Captain), Man of La Mancha
(Antonia, Dance Captain), Cabaret; San Diego
Musical Theatre – Chicago; Lamb's Players
Theatre – Mixtape; Starlight Theatre – Hello
Dolly! Regional credits: Musical Theatre of
Georgia – White Christmas, Secret Garden, Big
River, The Producers; McLeod Playhouse –
Nunsense, Thoroughly Modern Millie; Galatean
Players – Rivets; Janesville Armory – A Wonderful
Life. She holds a BFA in Music Theatre from
Illinois Wesleyan University. For her new
husband, Bryan. katiewhalley.com.

Artist Sponsor: Diane Carpinelli



RUFF YEAGER

:: Col. Ricci ::

ion theatre: Wonder
Wounded Heroes, Grey
Gardens. Recent stage
appearances include The
Captain in Anything Goes
and Marcade in Love's
Labour's Lost - Utah
Shakespeare Festival; Lear
on the 2nd Floor - Kallisti

Vocal Ensemble; The Man Who Came to Dinner -Coronado Playhouse; The Threepenny Opera, Romance, King Lear, A Christmas Carol - San Diego Rep. He was an ensemble member at Sledgehammer Theatre where he was seen in The Frankenstein Project 2.0, The Dream Play, Berzerkergang, and Phaedra in Delirium among many others.

MELANIE CHEN[†]

:: Sound Designer::

ion theatre: Edgar & Annabel, Far Away, Bug, reasons to be pretty, In the Heat of the Night, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Grey Gardens, Punk Rock, The Little Flower of East Orange, Blasted (Noel Nomination), Request Programme '11, Angels in America Parts 1 & 2 (Craig Noel Award), Grace, The Woolgatherer, Body Awareness, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Jack Goes Boating. Melanie Chen recently completed her MFA degree for sound design at the University of California, San Diego in March 2014. She has experience recording and mastering voiceovers, working with body microphones, mixing musics, and creating sound designs for live theatre and dance productions and most recently assistantdesigned sound for the San Diego Repertory Theatre's In the Time of the Butterflies and the World Premiere of Rest at South Coast Repertory Theatre. UCSD credits: Drums in the Night, Casagemas (New Play Festival '12), Tonight We Improvise, In the Red and Brown Water, Hookman (New Play Festival '11). Select San Diego regional theatre: The Humbug Holiday Spectacular, Becoming Cuba (North Coast Repertory Theatre); One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (New Village Arts). Recently, she assisted Drama Desk Award winner and Tony nominated sound designer Cricket Myers and awardwinning composer Michael Roth on La Jolla Playhouse's production of Sideways, written by Oscar winner Rex Pickett and directed by Tony Award winner Des McAnuff. ion company member and resident sound designer.

MARK DANISOVSZKY

:: Musical Director/Accompaniment::

ion theatre: **Debut.** After beginning a Doctoral program in Biochemistry at Northwestern University, Mark returned to his primary passion by studying piano with David Pope, a student of Ernst Von Dohnanyi and Arnold Schultz. At the San Diego Rep: Mark Blitzstein and pianist for A Cradle Will Rock, The Dybbuk, Red Noses, A Christmas Carol, 6 Women With Brain Death, Long Story Short and The Threepenny Opera for which Mark won the 2009 Craig Noel Award for Musical

CAST & PRODUCTION

Direction. At the La Jolla Playhouse: Solo pianist for James Lapine's Luck, Pluck, and Virtue with Neal Patrick Harris, onstage accordionist and Oronte in School for Wives, and Mother Courage in co-production with the Berkeley Rep. As accordionist, Mark has appeared with the Atlanta Symphony, the San Diego Symphony and the Hilton Head Orchestra where he was the soloist for Alan Hovhaness' Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. With the San Diego Opera: onstage accordionist for Barber's Vanessa and also Berg's Wozzek directed by Des MacAnuff. Mark was musical director for Rip Van Winkle and Hansel and Gretel and accompanist for the Artist in Residence program for the Opera's Education Department and was most recently the accordionist, arranger, and conductor for Fiddler on the Roof at Lamb's Players Theatre. Also: Accordion soloist for Bernstein's Mass with the La Jolla Symphony. Mark celebrates his 50th year of playing the piano with this performance.

KARIN FILIJAN[†]

:: Lighting Designer::

ion theatre: Edgar & Annabel, Far Away, Bug, reasons to be pretty, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, Shining City, Ass, or A Midsummer Night's Fever, In the Heat of the Night, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Grey Gardens, Punk Rock, The Little Flower of East Orange, Julia, The Mystery Plays, Heddatron, Blasted, Request Programme '11, Angels in America: Millennium Approaches & Perestroika (Craig Noel Award), Gypsy, Grace, Body Awareness, The Woolgatherer, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Wonder Wounded Heroes, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Song of Extinction. Karin has an MFA in lighting design from UCSD and teaches theatre arts at Cal State University San Marcos. Recent lighting design: Eleemosynary (Moxie); [Title of Show], Moscow, Speech & Debate (Diversionary); Summer & Smoke (New Village Arts); Plays by Young Writers '09, '10 (Playwrights' Project); North Coast Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, Renaissance Theatre Co., 6th@Penn Theatre, Lamb's Players Theatre, Avo Playhouse, Scripps Ranch Theatre. Karin has been honored with a KPBS Patté Award for Theatre Excellence, ion company member and resident lighting designer.

AARON GALINDO

:: Stage Manager::

ion theatre: *Bug, reasons to be pretty*. Mr. Galindo has worked in the theatre since he was 15. He finds it to be the most beautiful form of art there is. In that time, Mr. Galindo has worked in every corner backstage from sweeping dirt to designing to leading crews into the fray that is the rehearsal process. His study of theatre may have changed but his passion for it is eternal.

GLENN PARIST

:: Producer::

Founding Producing Artistic Director/Co-founder with Claudio Raygoza of BLKBOX. For ion, most recently directed Shining City, Ass or A Midsummer Night's Fever, Punk Rock, The Little Flower of East Orange & The Mystery Plays and produced Edgar & Annabel, Far Away, Bug, reasons to be pretty, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, In the Heat of the Night, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Grey Gardens, Julia and Topdog/Underdog. Recent ion credits: Request Programme, Angels in America (Noel Nomination) Grace, The Woolgatherer, bash: latterday plays, Wonder Wounded Hereos, Parasite Drag & Hurlyburly (Noel Nomination/ Noel Award, Ensemble), Punks (Patté/Ensemble). Also in San Diego: The Divine Sister, The Pride (Diversionary Theatre) Adam Baum (6th @ Penn); Step Into the Night (Playwrights Project). In NYC (Director) Recovering the Dark at The Kitchen; Two Women Write (for the theatre) at Tribeca Film Center; Second Coming at Bank Street Theatre. HB Playwrights (former Artistic Director): The Flip Side, After All, The Roadblock. Carnegie Mellon University (MFA Directing). Mr. Paris was named Producer of the Year 2010 (with Claudio Raygoza) by the San Diego Critics Circle for a year of Outstanding Productions and ion's production of Angels in America earned the Circle's inaugural Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work at a Small Theater in 2011 and once again earned the Braunagel Award for ion's Body of Work in 2013.

CLAUDIO RAYGOZA[†]

:: Scenic / Properties / Producer ::

Founder/Executive Artistic Director. He has directed, acted, designed, written and/or

CAST & PRODUCTION

produced over 60 productions for ion including most recently: Edgar & Annabel, Far Away, Bug, reasons to be pretty, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, Shining City, Ass or A Midsummer Night's Fever, In The Heat of the Night, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Grev Gardens, Punk Rock, The Little Flower of East Orange, Julia, The Mystery Plays, Topdog/ Underdog, Request Programme, Heddatron, Blasted, Angels in America, Gypsy, Body Awareness, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Jack Goes Boating, Song of Extinction, Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune. As a playwright: Julia, La Gaviota & Punks. Other local work: New Village Arts; La Jolla Playhouse; Moving Arts; SD Rep; 6th@Penn; Diversionary; University of San Diego; MOXIE; Mo'olelo; Cygnet; Lynx Performing Arts. Regional: Los Angeles Theatre Center; Borderlands Theatre; MYETheatre; Arizona Theatre Company; Several acting/directing in Paris, France. Mr. Raygoza has been recognized with multiple nominations and awards for his work as a director, playwright, actor and producer. Mr. Raygoza was named Producer of the Year 2010 (with Glenn Paris) by the San Diego Critics Circle for a year of Outstanding Productions while ion's production of Angels in America earned the Circle's inaugural Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work at a Small Theater in 2011. Last year, ion once again earned the Braunagel Award for its Body of Work in 2013.

JEANNE REITH

:: Costume Designer::

ion theatre: Debut. In her career as a Theatrical Costume Designer Jeanne has dressed over 350 productions. She has served as Resident Designer for Lambs Players Theatre Coronado and Associate Artist for Cygnet Theatre. Over two dozen of her costume designs have received Costume Excellence Awards including Cygnet's Little Foxes, and A Little Night Music and at Lambs Players: An Ideal Husband, Servant of Two Masters, and The Boy Who Fell Into The Book. Awards include: Craig Noel, Patté, LA Weekly, Backstage West, Dramalogue, and Critics Circle. Jeanne teaches Draping, Patternmaking, and other fashion related classes at San Diego Mesa College, West City Continuing Education and SDUIS. Thank you Kim, Claudio and Glenn for the invitation to serve you at ion.

KIM STRASSBURGER[†]

:: Director::

ion theatre: Grey Gardens (San Diego Premiere); A Sondheim Valentine, Gypsy with Claudio Raygoza (2012 Craig Noel Award Nomination), Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Best Director, 2011 San Diego City Beat) with Ion Theatre (Founding Company Member)o: A Speakeasy Cabaret. Seascape with New Village Arts; Artistic Director of Playwrights in Process New Play Festival, Passion in Concert, Assassins in Concert with Cygnet Theatre; Romeo, Romeo, and Juliet with Vox Nova Theatre Company. Dramaturgy credits include: Ion Theatre: The Grapes of Wrath, The Glass Menagerie, Marat/Sade; Cygnet Theatre: Parade, Cabaret, Sweeney Todd, The History Boys; North Coast Repertory Theatre: Little Women. Kim recently studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and will be attending the Lincoln Center Theatre's Directors Lab. Kim also teaches acting at the Coronado School of the Arts. ion company member.

[†]Member ion theatre *Member Actors' Equity Association



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