

Claudio Raygoza[†]
Founder/Executive Artistic Director

Glenn Paris[†]
Founding Producing Artistic Director

Kim Strassburger[†]
Associate Artistic Director

Season Sponsors
Lon & Denise Bevers **Pamela S. Wagner & Hans Tegebo**

ion theatre proudly presents on the Elaine Lipinsky Stage a revival of:

The Normal Heart

by **Larry Kramer**

directed by **Glenn Paris[†] & Claudio Raygoza[†]**

CAST : : in alphabetical order

Stewart Calhoun	::	Tommy Boatwright
Alexander Guzman	::	Felix Turner
Fred Hunting	::	Craig/Hiram Keebler
Michael Lundy	::	Mickey Marcus
Joel Miller	::	Bruce Niles
Glenn Paris [†]	::	David/Grady/Doctor
Claudio Raygoza [†]	::	Ned Weeks
Daren Scott	::	Ben Weeks
Kim Strassburger [†]	::	Dr. Emma Brookner

Setting: Various locations in New York City between 1981 and 1984.

Running time: 145 mins. There will be one ten-minute intermission.

The production contains the use of non-tobacco, herbal cigarettes and a theatrical haze effect.

::: ion theatre company :::

Co-Founders: Trina Kaplan & Matt Scott

Founding Company Members: Deanna Driscoll, Sylvia Enrique, Dana Hooley, Jeffrey Jones, Linda Libby, Steven Lone, Brian Mackey, Catalina Maynard, Sara Beth Morgan, Walter Ritter, Kim Strassburger, Karson St. John, Courtney Fox Smith, Morgan Trant & Rachael VanWormer

Company Members: Rhianna Basore, Laura Bozanich, Melanie Chen, Robin Christ, Karin Filijan, Yolanda Franklin, Jason Heil, Jennifer Jonassen, Andrew Kennedy, Nick Kennedy, Evan Kendig, Jennifer Kozumplik, Hannah Logan, Ron Logan, Jorge Rodriguez, Jon Sachs, Julie Sachs & Mary Summerday
2015/2016 Bevers Fellowship Company Member: Kate Schott

::: ion theatre company Board of Directors :::

Karen Quiñones, Chair

Lynn Basquez, Gail S. Ebner Carol Ann Flanagan, Clark Mires & Julie Ustin

Immediate past Chair: Gail S. Ebner :: Chair Emerita: Denise Bevers & Elaine Lipinsky



Season and Corporate Partners

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The Patio on Goldfinch/Gina Champion-Cain, Proprietor

PRODUCTION : : in alphabetical order

Assistant Director
Isaac Fowler

Properties Designer
Melissa Hamilton

Volunteer Coordinator
Trina Kaplan[†]

Stage Manager/Lighting Designer
Kevin Kornburger

Assistant Scenic Designer
Lisa Meyer

Social Media Liaison
Michael Mizerany

Scenic, Sound, Projections Designer
Claudio Raygoza[†]

Muralist Designer
Kate Schott[†]

Costume Designer
Mary Summerday[†]

Usher Coordinator
Julie Ustin

Construction Team
Isaac Fowler

Kevin Kornburger

Lisa Meyer

Glenn Paris[†]

Claudio Raygoza[†]

Carlos Rodriguez

Kate Schott[†]

[†] ion company member

From :
"September 21, 1939"
by W.H. Auden

The windiest militant trash
Important Persons shout
Is not so crude as our wish:
What mad Nijinsky wrote
About Diaghilev
Is true of the normal heart;
For the error bred in the bone
Of each woman and each man
Craves what it cannot have,
Not universal love
But to be loved alone.

ion theatre lovingly dedicates this production to champions we lost this year

Rosalie Kostanzer

*

Alex C. McDonald

*

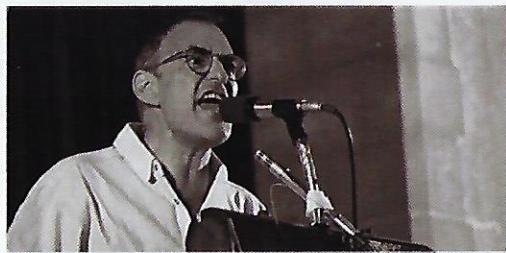
George Weinberg-Harter

and to entire generations of men, women and children lost to this plague

Original New York Production
by New York Shakespeare Festival
Produced by Joseph Papp

Special thanks: Daren Scott, Rachael Fowler, Kate Schott[†], Alex Barrera, Gina Champion-Cain, Keith Miller/ALS Association of San Diego & Rylee Scott (wheelchair), Karen Quiñones, Gail S. Ebner & Tom Stockfisch; Linda Morrow & Rob Schott; Homer & Nina Eaton; Jon & Carol Gebhart; Trina Kaplan[†]; Andrew Rincon of Samuel French, Inc.; Marvin Hanashiro of UCSD Medical/Lead the Way; Gigi Cantin, Alberto Cortés, Ben Coyle, Bill Patten & Maurya Siedler of Mama's Kitchen; Tim Davison of Impulse; Ben Cartwright of The Center; Sara Duran of Christie's Place; and ion Luminaries Julie Ustin, Deborah Pantoni, Howard Finney & Carol Ann Flanagan!

PLAYWRIGHT



Larry Kramer

Larry Kramer is an American playwright and novelist, born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, educated at Yale University. He worked as an executive in the film industry, first in London and later in New York. In 1970 he wrote and produced the screenplay for Ken Russell's acclaimed adaptation of D. H. Lawrence's *Women in Love*.

His controversial novel *Faggots* (1978) was praised by some for its forthright account of the New York–Fire Island gay circuit in the free-wheeling 1970s, but others criticized the novel for its seemingly moralistic tone towards the gay sub-culture in which Kramer had himself participated. With the advent of AIDS, Kramer's confrontations against the political and medical establishment won the approval of many in the gay world. In 1981 he founded the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, and in 1988 he helped to form ACT-UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). Kramer later broke with both organizations and himself contracted AIDS. *The Normal Heart* (1985) is the first drama to deal directly with the AIDS crisis, which is also the subject of essays in *Reports from the Holocaust: The Making of an AIDS Activist* (1989). *The Destiny of Me* (1991) is an autobiographical play dealing with Kramer's family and coming out.



The Normal Heart at The Public Theatre

Gay Men's Health Crisis

GMHC is the world's first and leading provider of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and advocacy. Building on decades of dedication and expertise, the organization understands the reality of HIV/AIDS and empowers a healthy life for all. In 1981, six gay men (and their friends) gathered in writer Larry Kramer's living room to address the "gay cancer" and raise money for research. This informal meeting provided the foundation for what would soon become Gay Men's Health Crisis. In 1982, an answering machine in the home of volunteer Rodger McFarlane acted as the first AIDS hotline — receiving over 100 calls the first night. Today, GMHC continues to pioneer HIV prevention, care and advocacy. Our Mission: GMHC fights to end the AIDS epidemic and uplift the lives of all affected.

CAST & PRODUCTION



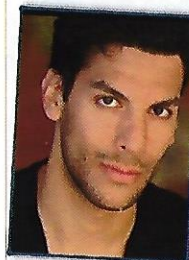
STEWART CALHOUN

Tommy Boatwright

ion: ***Sunday in the Park with George***.

Other San Diego credits include *A New Brain*, *Marry Me A Little*, *Next Fall*, *Scrooge in Rouge*

(Diversionary); *Assassins* (Cygnet); Los Angeles Theatre credits: *dark play or stories for boys* (Theatre at Boston Court); *Thrill Me*, *The Leopold and Loeb Story* (Havok); *How Cissy Grew* (Seaglass); *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush*, *A Wrinkle in Time* (South Coast Rep) *Above the Line* (Bootleg); In Chicago, Calhoun has worked with Chicago Shakes and The Goodman. Film/TV: *Criminal Minds*, *The Eves*. BFA -The Theatre School at DePaul University.



ALEXANDER GUZMAN

Felix Turner

ion: ***Lydia***. Recent credits this year:

Taming of the Shrew, *Seminar*, (InnerMission), and *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* (Scripps Ranch

Theatre). Favorite acting credits: *The Lion in Winter* (Moonlight Stage Productions), *ENRON* (Moxie Theatre), and *Angels in America: Parts 1 & 2* (Palomar College). He will next be seen in *Awake and Sing* by Clifford Odets at New Village Arts Theatre in March. He would like to thank Claudio and Glenn, the wonderfully talented cast and crew, and his beautiful wife for her patience and support with his weight loss for the show. He would also like to dedicate his performance to the men and women

who have been taken by this disease, and who are still living with it to this day. You are not forgotten.



FRED HUNTING

Craig/Hiram Keebler

ion: ***Debut***. Theatre credits include: *Double Dose of Twilight Zone* (OnStage Playhouse); *The Braverman Chronicles* (Matrix Theatre); *A Lonely*

Impulse of Delight (Tiffany Theater). Television/film credits include a guest supporting role: *Suddenly Susan* (NBC); 4 Seasons as host of local TV talk show: *Center Street* (KSL-TV NBC Affiliate, SLC, UT); lead role and co-writer of the independent film: *Pure Race* (Cornerstone Films); lead role: *Quest for a Go-Getter* (Mountain Pictures). Major thanks to Claudio and Glenn for this opportunity! Fred is profoundly grateful to work with such a remarkable cast and crew to tell this powerful, essential story.



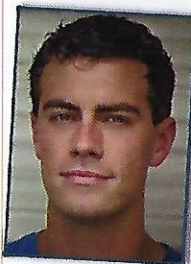
MICHAEL LUNDY

Mickey Marcus

ion: ***Debut***. Michael is thrilled to be making his ion theatre debut in one of his favorite plays. Regional credits: *High Society* (Theatre Zone, FL), *Funny*

Thing...Forum (Theatre Zone, FL), *Nice and Other Hateful Words* (Shetler Studios, NYC), *Bed* (All Souls Players, NYC), *Rumors* (Show Palace, FL), *Barefoot in the Park* (Alhambra Theatre, FL), *Cabaret* (Show Palace, FL), *Christmas Carol* (Glendale Centre, LA, CA). Thank you Claudio, Glenn and Thomas. Enjoy the show!

CAST & PRODUCTION

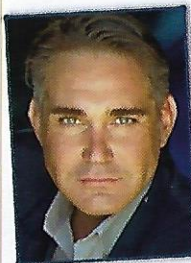


JOEL MILLER

:: Bruce Niles ::

ion: **Debut.** Joel is honored to make his ion debut in such an important and moving piece of theatre. Joel was last seen as Nicky on *Avenue Q*, having

previously played Jesus in *Godspell* and Dan in *Next to Normal* (Ocean Beach Playhouse & Theatre Company). Joel's other local performances include working as an understudy and a Swing/Ensemble member in *Violet* (San Diego Repertory Theatre), and on a local TV spot for Kearny Mesa Infiniti. In his hometown of Portland, OR, Joel appeared as Jason in *Bare* (Tin Pan Alley Theatre Co.) and as a Nazi/Ensemble member in *The Producers* (Lakewood Theatre Co.).



DAREN SCOTT

:: Ben Weeks ::

ion: **Debut.** Most recently seen playing Marc in Intrepid Theatre's production of *ART*. As a founding ensemble member of New Village Arts, he

has worked almost exclusively there, acting, directing, assistant directing for well over a decade. Other local theatres he has worked as an actor include Cygnet, Diversionary (one being *Divine Sister* directed by none other than Glenn Paris), Renaissance Theatre, Backyard Productions, and Vantage. He works as a theatre photographer doing both marketing and or production photos for many theatres around town. His "day" job is casting associate for D. Candis Paule CSA at Candis Casting, where

they have been working on season one of Fox TV show, *Pitch*.

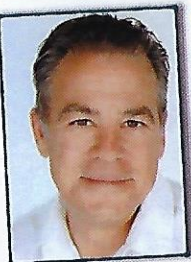


KIM STRASSBURGER[†]

:: Dr. Emma Brookner ::

ion: **The Pillowman, Parasite Drag, All in the Timing.** Kim is the Associate Artistic Director of ion theatre and is happy to return to the stage in *The Normal*

Heart. Other acting credits include *Simpatico* at New Village Arts Theatre; *Scrooge in Rouge, Dear Harvey* at Diversionary Theatre; *Noises Off, Biedermann and the Firebugs* at Cygnet Theatre; *The Man Who Came to Dinner* with Phil Johnson and Ruff Yeager at Coronado Playhouse; *Berzerkergang, Kid Simple, A Dream Play, and Bronze* at Sledgehammer Theatre (Associate Artist). Kim is also a director and has most recently at ion theatre directed *Sunday in the Park with George* with ion Producing Artistic Director, Glenn Paris. Kim was the recipient of a National Artist Teacher Fellowship that funded her study at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) in 2013. In 2014, Kim also became a member of Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab. In addition to her professional work, Kim teaches at Coronado School of the Arts.



GLENN PARIS[†]

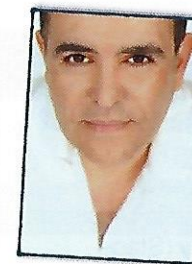
:: David/Grady/
Examining Doctor ::

:: Co-Director ::

ion actor: **Airline Highway, The Chairs, Mud, The Little Flower of East Orange.** Also: **Founding Producing**

Artistic Director of ion theatre,

CAST & PRODUCTION



CLAUDIO RAYGOZA[†]

:: Ned Weeks ::

:: Co-Director, Scenic, Sound, Projections ::

Founder/Executive Artistic Director. He has directed, acted, designed, written and/or produced all 90+

productions for ion. Also, with Glenn Paris, he founded ion's Actor Academy in 2014 which has seen several graduates win multiple local, national and international awards and scholarships. *Other local work:* New Village Arts; La Jolla Playhouse; Diversionary; San Diego REP; Cygnet; Lynx Theatre; Intrepid Theatre; 6th@Penn; MOXIE; Mo'olelo; Sledgehammer; UCSD; USD. *Regional:* UCLA, Moving Arts; MYE Theatre; Los Angeles Theatre Center; AADA; Borderlands Theatre; Arizona Theatre Company; Several acting/directing in Paris, France. *Off-Broadway:* producer, writer, director, designer for *Sea of Souls* at the Peter J. Sharp (Playwrights Horizons). Mr. Raygoza has been recognized with multiple awards and nominations for his work as a director, playwright, actor, and theatre producer and was named **Producer of the Year 2010** (with Glenn Paris) by the San Diego Critics Circle for an entire year of Outstanding Productions while ion's 20th Anniversary revival of *Angels in America* Parts I & II, sanctioned by Tony Kushner, earned the Circle's inaugural Braunagel Award for **Outstanding Work at a Small Theater** in 2011. ion once again earned the Braunagel Award for its theatrical **Body of Work** in 2013. Having penned six world premieres for ion, Mr. Raygoza's award-recognized play, *Julia*, is scheduled for publication. UCLA School of Theatre, Film & Television.

CAST & PRODUCTION

ISAAC FOWLER

:: Assistant Director ::

ion: **Airline Highway, Lydia, Jesus Hates Me.** Isaac is grateful to be back for another show with ion. Previous shows include *Jesus Hates Me* (Production Assistant), *Lydia* (Assistant Director), *Airline Highway* (Stage Manager). Special thanks from the bottom of my heart to Rachael Fowler whom I would surely be homeless and starving without.

MELISSA HAMILTON

:: Properties Design ::

ion: **Refuse or the Golden Door, Lydia, Jesus Hates Me, The Jacksonian, Airline Highway.** Melissa is very excited to be working with ion theatre as a properties designer. She has worked previously with Mr. Raygoza on many shows including *Last Train to Moscow*, *The Web*, *Sweet Bayou* and *Birdbath* to name a few. Melissa was co-founder of The Theatre, Inc. which produced *One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest*, *Iphegenia at Aulis* and *Orestes*. Melissa just finished a production of *La Pastorela* and *The Pitch* at The San Diego Rep.

KEVIN KORNBERGER

:: Stage Manager/Lighting Design ::

ion: **4000 Miles, Lydia, Jesus Hates Me.** As SM: most recently for *Emilie* (New Village Arts), *I Ought to Be in Pictures* (Talent to aMuse), and *The Trip to Bountiful* (New Village Arts); As Lighting Designer: most recently designed lights for *Johnny Tenorio* (Chronos Theatre Group), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Onstage Playhouse), *The Maids* (Talent to aMuse), and *The Lion in Winter* (Onstage Playhouse). He has also designed and run lights for small-venue live jazz and flamenco performances around San Diego. He heartfully thanks

Claudio, Glenn, and the cast and crew for creating this opportunity for magic.

LISA MEYER

:: Assistant Scenic Design ::

ion: **Debut.** Thrilled to be working at ion, Lisa would like to thank Claudio and Glenn for reinvigorating her passion for theatre. She studied Scenic Design at Emerson College. This is her first theatrical production in San Diego.

MARY SUMMERDAY[†]

:: Costume Design ::

ion: **4000 Miles, Lydia, Jesus Hates Me, The Jacksonian, Master Class, Sea of Souls** (San Diego and New York productions) **This Wide Night, GEEKS! The Musical, Edgar and Annabel, Far Away, Bug, reasons to be pretty, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, Ass or A Midsummer Night's Fever, In the Heat of the Night, The Little Flower of East Orange.** Mary is a veteran costume designer who graduated with a BFA from the University of California, San Diego, she initially pursued acting through the La Jolla Playhouse Student Conservatory and British Academy of the Dramatic Arts Midsummer at Oxford Program, until she discovered theatrical design. She is passionate about telling stories through costume, whether via flowery period, stark modern or gritty futuristic. Mary's tenure at ion has included many unique design opportunities, from disco divas and pro wrestlers to psychotic addicts and grungy ex-cons, and much more. ion workshop productions for *Sea of Souls*, *Ryes*, *Six*, and *Grove*; Other credits include New Village Arts' *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and UCSD Theatre Department's *Marriage, Medicine, Money, and Mayhem* and *reasons to be pretty*.

[†]member ion theatre

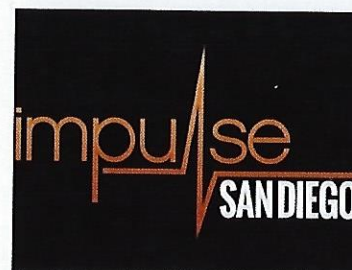
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