

BALLAST

BY GEORGETTE

KELLY

DIRECTED BY

MATT M.

MORROW

FEATURING

**MAXTON MILES BAEZA, DANA CASE
DANA ALIYA LEVINSON, JENNIFER PAREDES
SKYLER SULLIVAN*, JACQUE WILKE***

STAGE MANAGER
SEBASTIAN PERFETTO

COSTUME DESIGNER
ELISA BENZONI

SOUND DESIGNER
EMILY JANKOWSKI

SCENIC DESIGNER
RON LOGAN

LIGHTING DESIGNER
SHERRICE MOJGANI

PROPERTIES MASTER
BONNIE DURBEN

PROJECTION DESIGNER
TARA KNIGHT

EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
MATT M. MORROW

GENERAL MANAGER
MATT HARDING

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract.

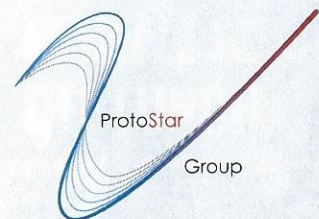
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THE COMPANY

BALLAST

By Georgette Kelly

FEATURING

Maxton Miles Baeza	XAVIER
Dana Case	ENSEMBLE
Dana Aliya Levinson	GRACE
Jennifer Paredes	SAVANNAH
Skyler Sullivan*	ENSEMBLE
Jacque Wilke*	ZOE

Run time is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes with no intermission.

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MAY 18
- MAY 21
2017

SPARK

NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 6pm- Reception (Fritz's Lounge)
MAY 18TH 7pm- LE SWITCH with talkback following (Black Box)

FRIDAY 7pm- THE NETHER with talkback following (Black Box)
MAY 19TH 12pm- Master Class with Philip Dawkins (Mainstage)

SATURDAY 4pm- THE HARVEST with talkback following (Black Box)
MAY 20TH 8pm- BALLAST (Mainstage)
 9.30pm- Reception (Fritz's Lounge)

SUNDAY 12pm- Master Class with Jennifer Haley (Mainstage)
MAY 21ST 2pm- SWIMMING CIRCLES with talkback following (Black Box)

TICKET INFORMATION

\$15- Admission to one reading | \$25- Admission to one Master Class
 \$40- All four readings | \$75- All four readings & both Master Classes
 \$100- All four readings, both Master Classes, & the World Premiere
 of Ballast on Saturday, May 20 at 8pm
 *Receptions & Talkbacks included in ticket prices

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The SPARK NEW PLAY FESTIVAL is generously sponsored by **BILL AND JUDY GARRETT**

THE COMPANY

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Matt M. Morrow
 Stage Manager Sebastian Perfetto
 Scenic Design..... Ron Logan
 Costume Design..... Elisa Benzoni
 Lighting Design..... Sherrice Mojgani
 Projection Design Tara Knight
 Assistant Projection Design..... Marilia Maschion
 Properties Master Bonnie Durben
 Sound Design Emily Jankowski
 Master Carpenter..... Scott Amiotte
 Charge Artist..... Kristen Flores
 Sound Assistant..... Mason Pilevsky
 Master Electrician..... Sean Murray

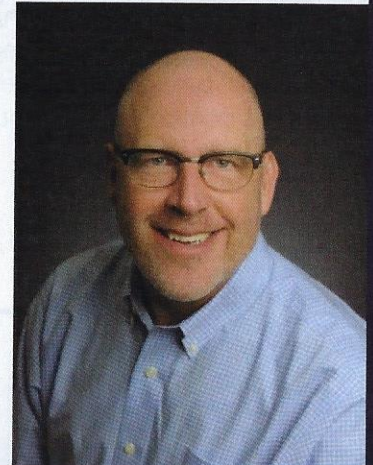
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NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT



One of my favorite parts of making a play is creating a community. I love gathering around a table to read a play aloud, like gathering around a bright fire to hear a story. I love the first day in a rehearsal room, when the alchemy of casting and design begins its magic in earnest. I love the depth of collaboration that becomes possible when artists hold onto each other over time, despite the constant change that is inherent in theatre and the world.

And, perhaps most of all, I love the audience that comes together for a night, and then goes out and talks about what they have seen with the people they love.

BALLAST is a play that grew from a desire for community. This is the play I would have wanted to see at a time in my life when I was in love with a trans woman, and I was crippled by the isolation caused by the fear that no one would understand my story, her story, our story—that we would have no community.

With each step in this play's development, however, that fear has been outpaced by connection. Since its very first reading at Hunter College, BALLAST has created community and dialogue with terraNOVA Collective in New York, The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, and The Source Festival in Washington D.C., among others. The World Premiere you see today is a culmination of these travels, and of a deep collaboration over time with Diversionary's Executive Artistic Director, Matt M. Morrow.

I am incredibly grateful for the community that has now come together around this play in San Diego, and for the many trans and queer artists who have offered their feedback to me. It is my great hope that for you, BALLAST will strike a chord, whether you have firsthand experience with gender transition, or whether you are coming to the table to learn about a community that is new to you.

Sincerely,


Georgette Kelly

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Working with playwrights is the primary reason I dedicated my life to the theatre. I'm in constant awe of their ability to create a story out of thin air. I continue to be mesmerized by Georgette Kelly's remarkable writing in BALLAST. It has been incredibly rewarding to have watched and supported its development since 2012, when I first helmed a workshop of it in New York City while Georgette was studying with the incomparable playwright Tina Howe at Hunter College.

Georgette is a fearless writer, and BALLAST courageously confronts complex issues facing the Trans community today with intelligence, poetry and sophistication. Her writing whisks us to realms I've never encountered on the stage before. This particular challenge inspired me: How do you create a dream on stage? How does it feel, and how are other characters represented in this inherently expressionistic realm? These are the questions I've been creatively wrestling with during the process of bringing this play to life. I'm incredibly grateful to have the partnership of Tara Knight, Projection Designer extraordinaire, to realize these sequences in appropriate ethereal magnificence.

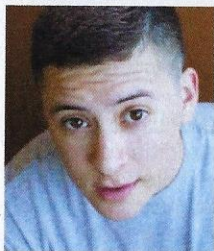
Beyond the extraordinary creative ambition of BALLAST, this play burns with a growing sense of urgency. The Trans community is gaining visibility, thanks in large part to shows like *Transparent* and *Orange is The New Black*, but it also faces some serious challenges that we have all been following in the media. Theatre is my tool to respond to inequities in the world, and I couldn't be more proud to be producing and directing Georgette's profound play at this particular moment. I hope you enjoy the World Premiere of BALLAST as much as we did creating it for you.

Warmest regards,



Matt M. Morrow
Executive Artistic Director

THE COMPANY



MAXTON MILES BAEZA (Xavier) is honored to be making his Diversionsary Theatre debut with *Ballast*. Previous credits include: the national tours of *Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (McCoy Rigby Entertainment); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Peter Pan* (3-D Theatricals); *Red Car Trolley News Boys*, *Disney Jr. Live on Stage!* (Disney California Adventure). "Many thanks to the team for this opportunity, without which I wouldn't be able to share such an amazing story that so closely resonates with my own."



DANA CASE (Ensemble) is happy to make her debut with Diversionsary Theatre in this beautiful new play. Elsewhere: *Orange Julius* (MOXIE); *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Seascape*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Lie of the Mind*, *The Waverly Gallery*, *True West*, *Humble Boy*, *Be Aggressive*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Buried Child* (New Village Arts Theatre); *Curse of the Starving Class* (NVA/Cygnnet Theatre) Also, roles at The Old Globe Theatre, Gaslamp Theatre, Sushi, Sierra Repertory Theatre and Project Theatre. Dana earned an MFA in Acting from Cornell University and is a member of SAG-AFTRA. Thank you to Matt, Georgette, and the entire Diversionsary family. Always, love to Bill

and Chase.



DANA ALIYA LEVINSON (Grace) is an actress, composer and lyricist, orchestrator, and a transgender activist. Favorite acting credits: *H.E.R., Volume 1* (Long Form Music Video, Sony/RCA, dir. Natalie Rae Robison), *The Vagina Monologues* (Mightee Shero Mini-Tour, dir. Ira Kip/Player's Theatre, dir. Dana Iannuzzi) and *The Highs and Down Lows* (Patti). Upcoming Film: *The Dress You Have On* (Jess, dir. Courtney Hope Thérond). Favorite writing credits: *Encore* (Comédie Nation, Paris), *Fifth Republic* (NYMF 2010 under the title *Les Enfants de Paris*), and *MADAME* (NYMF 2011). Many thanks to Brad Calcaterra and The Studio fam, Andreadis, Jenevieve Brewer, and

of course, Dana's family!



JENNIFER PAREDES (Savannah) is excited and so grateful to be debuting at Diversionsary Theatre with *Ballast*! Recent Stage Credits: *Into the Beautiful North*, *Manifest Destinities*, and *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (San Diego Repertory Theatre); *Perfect Arrangement* (Intrepid Theatre); *Seven Spots on the Sun* (InnerMission Productions); *Lydia* (Ion Theatre); *El Huracán* (DNA New Work Series, La Jolla Playhouse); *OJO: The Next Generation In Travel* (WoW Festival, La Jolla Playhouse); *September and Her Sisters* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Blamed: An Established Fiction* (winner of Best Dramatic Production at SD Fringe); *BASH/SLAM JAM* (Lambs Players Theatre); *The Nutcracker* (New Village Arts); *The Shape of Things* (USD). Jennifer received her B.A. in Theatre Arts at University of San Diego. For more information, please visit Jenniferparedes.net

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THE COMPANY



SKYLER SULLIVAN* (Ensemble) is grateful to be returning to Diversionary Theatre with *Ballast*. Previously for Diversionary: *A Civil War Christmas* and *The Big Gay Improv Show*; New Village Arts: *Emilie*. NYC credits include *Largo desolato*, and *The Vibrator Play*. Regional: *Strata*, and *Midnight Radio* (Bricolage, Pittsburgh); TV: *Sesame Street* and *The Electric Company* (PBS). In addition, Skyler is a hospital clown with Healthy Humor, and will be in residence this summer at Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for sick kids. MFA Brooklyn College.



JACQUE WILKE* (Zoe) is thrilled to be back on the Diversionary stage! Selected credits: Cygnet Theatre: *Stupid F*cking Bird*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, and *Mistakes Were Made*; San Diego Repertory Theater: *Honky* (Craig Noel Award); La Jolla Playhouse: *Yoke*, *The Car Plays*; Intrepid Theater: *The Winter's Tale*, *All My Sons*; North Coast Repertory Theatre: *Unnecessary Farce*, *Lend me a Tenor*, *Mistletoe*, *Music*, and *Mayhem*, and *Don't Dress for Dinner*; Moonlight at the Avo: *Blithe Spirit*; Diversionary Theater: *The Divine Sister*, *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *Scrooge in Rouge*, *Next Fall*, *Fair Use*, *The New Century*, *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*; MOXIE: *Or*; New

Village Arts: *The Seven Year Itch*, and *The Heidi Chronicles*; Circle Circle Dot Dot: *Red Planet Respite*, *The Break-up Breakdown*; Bang Productions: *Side Man*; Laterthanever Productions:



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He Said, She Said. Jacque is a proud member of Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA.

MATT M. MORROW (Director) Please see Executive Artistic Director

GEORGETTE KELLY (Playwright) is a playwright with one foot in New York and the other in Chicago. Her play *Ballast* was featured on The Kilroys List and has been a finalist for the O'Neill, the Lark Playwrights Week, and the Alliance/Kendeda National Graduate Playwriting Competition. Georgette's other plays include: *I Carry Your Heart*, *F*ck la vie d'artiste*, *In the Belly of the Whale*, and an adaptation of Jeanette Winterson's *Lighthousekeeping*. She received the inaugural Hope on Stage Playwriting Award, and her work has been developed with The Kennedy Center, The National New Play Network, The DC Source Festival, The Alliance Theatre, terraNOVA Collective, Taffety Punk, Diversionary Theatre, and Chicago's DCASE. Georgette is a resident of Chicago Dramatists and a member of The Dramatists Guild of America. She holds a B.A. in Performance Studies from Northwestern University and an M.F.A. in Playwriting from Hunter College where she studied with Tina Howe, Arthur Kopit, and Mark Bly. GeorgetteKelly.com.

SEBASTIAN PERFETTO (Resident Stage Manager, Stage Manager) is grateful to call Diversionary home as both Production Coordinator and Resident Stage Manager. Sebastian has a BA in Theatre Arts and Performance Studies from the University of San Diego. At Diversionary: *Well*, *The Boy Who Danced on Air*, *Now or Later*, *In the Va Va Voom Room*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Bright Half Life*, and *A New Brain*. Elsewhere: *RENT* (Southwestern College), *Annie* (California Youth Conservatory), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *All My Sons*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream the Musical* (Intrepid). As Production Assistant/ Assistant Stage Manager: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Fox on the Fairway*, *Side by Side*, *Chapter Two* (North Coast Repertory Theatre), and *The Two Gentleman of Verona* (The Old Globe/USD MFA Program).

RON LOGAN (Scenic Design) is grateful to be designing his fourth show at Diversionary. Previous Scenic: *Into the Woods* (Point Loma Nazarene University); *Abundance* (Backyard Renaissance); *A New Brain*, *Amazons and Their Men*, *Lizard Boy* (Diversionary); *The Elephant Man* (Backyard Renaissance / Oceanside Theatre Company); *Sea of Souls*, *Ryes*, *Six*, *Grove* (ion - workshopped original plays); *Geeks! The Musical* (ion's BlkBox). Co-scenic: *Bug* (ion). Co-Projection Design (with Joe Huppert): *The Dybbuk of Hannah and Sam's Wedding* (San Diego Rep); *Lizard Boy* (Diversionary); *The Elephant Man* (Backyard Renaissance / Oceanside Theatre Company); *The Oldest Boy* (San Diego Rep - Craig Noel Award Winner). Other: Creative Director for the San Diego International Fringe Festival since its second year. Graphic Designer for Scripps Ranch Theatre's 2014-15, and 2016-17 seasons. Co-producer of SD Fringe's *That 24 Hour Thing* (entering fourth year) with Hannah Logan. Professional graphic designer for 27 years.

ELISA BENZONI (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be back working with Diversionary Theatre. Select credits include *Mystery of Love and Sex* (Diversionary Theatre), *Sex with Strangers* (Geffen Playhouse), *The Who and The What*, *Our Town*; *Tall Girls*; *Brahaman/I*; *Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Constellations* (Old Globe); *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*, *Reckless*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Measure for Measure* (USD/Old Globe); *The Illusion*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Fox on the Fairway* (Nominated for a Craig Noel Award), *Hedda Gabler*, *Chapatti*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *Emilie*, *Sylvia*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (New Village Arts); *Snakeskin*, *Lifeblood Harmony*, *Chagall*; *A Man Found Wanting* (Malashock Dance); *The Storm*; *The Threepenny Opera*; *A Man, His Wife, and His Hat* (UCSD). Assistant

THE COMPANY

costume credits: *Dialogues des Carmelites* (Teatro Petruzzelli, Bari), *Paradise Found* (Menier Chocolate Factory, London), *Milk Like Sugar* (La Jolla Playhouse), *As You Like It*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Old Globe). Elisa holds a costume design MFA from UCSD. www.elisabenzoni.com

SHERRICE MOJGANI (Lighting Designer) Recent designs include *Bright Half Life* (Diversionsary Theatre); *The Dybbuk for Hannah and Sam's Wedding*, *Outside Mullingar*, *My Mañana Comes*, *Steal Heaven*, *HONKY*, *The Mountaintop*, *Clybourne Park* (San Diego REP); *Blue Door*, *Ruthless: The Musical*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Jade Heart*, *Mud Blue Sky*, *Skinless*, *Freedom of Speech* (MOXIE Theatre); *The God of Carnage*, *Golda's Balcony*, *The Nutcracker*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (New Village Arts); *ART* (Intrepid Theatre). Sherrice holds a BA in Theater Arts from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA in Lighting Design from UC San Diego. sherrice.weebly.com

TARA KNIGHT (Projection Designer) Diversionsary Theater: *Amazons and Their Men*. La Jolla Playhouse: *Hollywood* (Nominee for 2016 Craig Noel Award Outstanding Projection Design), *A Dram of Drummhicit*, *Our Star Will Die Alone* (Without Walls Festival). Dance: *The Floating World* (San Diego Museum of Art, Emmy Award), *Camera Dances* (Co-Director, Best Experimental Film, Amsterdam Film Festival), *Right Here* (Co-Director, Festival Screenings: Finland, Portugal, Brazil, Italy). Animation: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Animation Assistant). *High Tide* (Director, Best Animation, Amsterdam Film Festival), *Mikumumentary Series* (Director, Screenings: Discovery Channel, South by Southwest Interactive, Time Warner "Future of Storytelling," Mori Art Museum in Tokyo). Tours: 2014 *Hatsune Miku Expo* (Hammerstein Ballroom, Late Night with David Letterman, Nokia Theatre). Associate Professor of Critical Media Practices, University of Colorado, Boulder.

MARILIA MASCHION (Assistant Projection Designer) is very excited to be working on her first production at Diversionsary. Meriliaa multimedia artist based in San Diego. Recently, she has produced video for Bill Condon's *Sideshow* on Broadway and assisted projection designers Tara Knight and Sean Nieuwenhuis on La Jolla Playhouse's *Hollywood* and *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robot* respectively.

BONNIE DURBEN (Properties Master) Diversionsary Theatre: *Well*, *2.5 Minute Ride*, *The Mystery of Love and Sex*, *The Boy Who Danced on Air*, *Now or Later*, *She-Rantulas*, *Baby With The Bathwater*, *A New Brain and Amazons and Their Men*. Mira Costa Theatre: *These Shining Lights*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Seven*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Urinetown*. Moonlight Theatre Productions; *Sister Act*, *Peter Pan*, *Titanic*, *Addams Family*, *Music Man*, *Shrek*, *All Shook Up* and *Big Fish*. Intrepid Theatre: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*, *Quality of Life*, *Hamlet*, and *I Hate Hamlet*. Member of the Society of Property Artisans and Managers.

EMILY JANKOWSKI (Sound Designer) is a Sound Designer and Composer based in Southern California. This is her Diversionsary debut! Moxie Theater credits: *Blue Door*, *Brownsville Song* (B-side for Tray), *Orange Julius*, *Lesson 443*, *A Discourse on the Wonders of the Invisible World*, *Jade Heart*. UC San Diego credits: *A Doll House*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Storm*, *June Moon*. *The Trip: 3 Plays in a Tattoo Shop*, *All the Rooms of the House*. Additional credits: *Ex Machina* (NYC Fringe '13), *The Rest of Your Life* (Axial NYC). Interactive sound installations: *It Should Be Breathing*, an installation involving sound generating pressure sensors, a collaboration with MFA print-maker Gretchen Jankowski, Cal State Long Beach alumnus. Emily holds an MFA in Sound Design for Theatre from UC San Diego, and a BFA from UC San Diego in Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts, Music. Emily is also the Radio

THE COMPANY

Operations Assistant at KPBS and the Technical Director for KPBS Midday Edition. www.emilyjankowski.com.



MATT M. MORROW (Executive Artistic Director) Since joining Diversionsary, Matt has directed the San Diego Premiere of *The Mystery of Love and Sex*, the West Coast Premieres of Jordan Harrison's *Amazons and Their Men* and Christopher Shinn's *Now Or Later*. Prior to joining Diversionsary Theatre, Matt was the Associate Artistic Director of City Theatre Company, a LORT theatre in Pittsburgh dedicated to producing work written in the past five years. With City he directed the Regional Premiere of Jessica Dickey's *Charles Ives Take Me Home*, the World Premiere of Tami Dixon's *South Side Stories* (Pittsburgh Post Gazette & Tribune Review's Top Ten of 2012), Kim Rosenstock's *Tigers Be Still*, and workshops of the new musical *The Shadow Sparrow* by Anton Dudley, Keith Gordon and Charlie Sohne, and *Don't You F*cking Say A Word* by Andy Bragen for City's Momentum Festival of New Works.

He has developed new work with The Sundance Theatre Institute, The Banff Centre, American Conservatory Theater, Lincoln Center, PlayPenn, and Page 73 Productions in residence at the Yale School of Drama. His work as a director has been seen in NYC at Amas, Playwrights Horizons, Urban Stages, EST, HERE, Dixon Place, Cherry Lane, The York, The Tank, NYC Int'l Fringe, Midtown Int'l Festival, among others. Favorite credits include: *SCarrie! The Musical* (Bricolage Productions), *Only Children* (Lincoln Center), the first NYC revivals of *The Falsetto Trilogy*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *john and jen*, and Lisa Kron's *2.5 Minute Ride*. His production of Jennifer Haley's *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* with Bricolage Production Co. Top Ten of 2010 by The Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

Matt is currently developing Jennifer Haley's *FROGGY*. He served as The John Wells Professor of Directing at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama (Graduate & Undergraduate Directing programs), and is a member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab. He holds a BFA in Directing from Carnegie Mellon University. www.mattmmorrow.com



MATT HARDING (General Manager) joined the Diversionsary team in October of 2013, and served as assistant director for *A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration in Concert*. Prior theatre experience includes bit parts in high school and college productions, most of which included bursting through a door with the line "What's going on in here!?" He most recently worked as Director of Marketing at the Greater San Diego Business Association and holds a certificate in Nonprofit Marketing. Matt's experience includes creating and leading Tucson, Arizona's 2005 - 2006 Pride on Parade events; leading Tucson's GLBT Chamber of Commerce through a name and brand change; Senior Sales manager positions at some of Tucson's leading convention hotels, and an extensive background in hospitality management.

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