

Oceanside Theatre Co. & Backyard Renaissance Theatre Co.



# the Elephant Man



Written by Bernard Tomerance

Directed by  
Christopher Williams & Francis Gercke

**SCENIC DESIGN**  
Ron Logan

**PROJECTION DESIGN**  
Joe Huppert

**SOUND DESIGN**  
Joe Huppert

**COSTUME DESIGN**  
Raz Lehman

**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
Karin Filizian

**ORIGINAL MUSIC**  
Joe Huppert

**STAGE MANAGER**  
Eden Michel

produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

# CAST

Francis Gercke\*.... John Merrick  
Nick Cagle\*..... Dr. Frederick Treves  
Andrew Oswald\*... Carr Gomm  
Pinhead  
Jessica John..... Mrs. Kendal  
Brian Salmon..... Ross  
Patrick McBride... Bishop How  
Pinhead Manager  
Policeman (London)  
Celeste Innocenti.. Pinhead  
Princess  
Duchess  
Dagmar Fields..... Nurse Sandwich  
Pinhead  
Countess  
Brian Butler..... Snork  
Policeman (Belgium)  
Policeman (London)  
Anthony Methvin.. Lord John  
Conductor  
Pinhead

\* denotes member of Actors Equity Association

**ACT I - 48 minutes**

**Locations: London & Belgium**

**ACT II - 50 minutes**

**Locations: London**

**There will be a 15 minute intermission  
between Acts**

Dialect Coach - Jillian Frost

Dramaturg - Peter Arkadina

Box Office Manager - Adrian Andersen

Crew - Austin Chacon, Sam Wisdom, Alex Ochoa

Properties donated by Onstage Playhouse & Mesa College

Gowns created by Renetta Lloyd of NattyLouCreations

Scenic Sewing by Beth Kincaid Connelly

Projection Screen donated by John Anderson &

Mark Robertson and San Diego Repertory Theatre

## Special Thanks

San Luis Rey Rotary Club - Anne Speraw, President

Mira Costa College Theatre San Diego Repertory Theatre

La Jolla Playhouse Jay Varo Wilson & Willow

Dhyana Jahl Deborah Dodaro Kim Fradella Simon Weinberg

Adam Schmidt Mesa College Onstage Playhouse

Janine Chow Moonlight Stage Productions Brian J. Wimmer

Janene Shepherd Tracy Williams Andrew Layton Staples

## Donate Today

Both Oceanside Theatre Company and Backyard Renaissance Theatre Co. are able to bring you exciting theatrical productions primarily through donations. Ticket sales account for a small fraction of production costs.

We want to continue to provide our community with the best theatre can offer, by hiring the best artists. Please consider supporting our theatre ventures by making a tax-deductible donation. Every dollar helps!

[oceansidetheatre.org](http://oceansidetheatre.org) & [backyardrenaissance.com](http://backyardrenaissance.com)



### **About Oceanside Theatre Company**

The Oceanside Theatre Company's mission is to create professional quality theatre for a vibrant and diverse population. OTC will strive to reach a wide audience base and encourage and improve artistic growth in the community by producing a broad repertoire of theatre, giving local theatre artists creative opportunities and offering educational theatre and outreach programs.. For more information go to: [www.oceansidetheatre.org](http://www.oceansidetheatre.org).

### **About Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company**

Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company is a 501C3 organization with an "art to the gut" sensibility. Founded in 2015 in San Diego, Calif., Backyard Renaissance believes that exceptional storytelling is rooted in a sense of joyful play, human connection and gutsy intensity. For more information go to: [www.backyardrenaissance.com](http://www.backyardrenaissance.com).

## **THE DIRECTORS AND CAST**

### **About Christopher M. Williams – (OTC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – ELEPHANT MAN CO-DIRECTOR)**

Christopher has been the Artistic Director of Oceanside Theatre Company since its creation in 2011. Other theaters he has directed for include North Coast Rep, Southwest Shakespeare Company, New Village Arts, Intrepid Theatre, and Scottsdale Theatre. As an actor, Chris recently starred as Nathan Rothschild in the new Off-Broadway musical, *Rothschild & Sons*, opposite Robert Cuccioli. He has also appeared onstage with Arizona Theatre Company, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Actor's Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Southwest Shakespeare and AZ Jewish Theatre. He served as a theatre and film instructor for MiraCosta College, Scottsdale College, Glendale College, and the Southwest Shakespeare Conservatory for many years. Along with stage managing, fight directing, writing and graphic designing, Chris is a producer of the recent WWII feature, *Walking with the Enemy*, starring Jonas Armstrong and Sir Ben Kingsley.

### **About Francis Gercke (BACKYARD RENAISSANCE ARTISTIC DIR. – ELEPHANT MAN CO-DIRECTOR/PLAYING John Merrick)**

Francis Gercke is Artistic Director of Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company, founded in 2015. A graduate of The Actors Studio Drama School at the New School for Social Research, Fran Gercke is an award winning actor and director, as well as an instructor in San Diego at the college level and privately for the past 15 years. In 2001, Gercke co-founded New Village Arts Theatre in Carlsbad and served as the artistic director until 2008. From July 2008 through August 2010, he worked with Cygnet Theatre as the associate artistic director. He is a member of Actor's Equity Association and has worked professionally in San Diego with such companies as the San Diego Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, Lambs Players Theatre, North Coast Repertory Theatre, ion theatre, Moonlight Stage Productions, New Village Arts Theatre, and Sledgehammer Theatre.

### **About Nick Cagle (PLAYING Frederic Treves)**

Nick is the voice of Double D in the Massively Multiplayer Online video game H1Z1. Film/TV credits include: HBO's UNSCRIPTED directed by George Clooney and THE PRICE SHE PAID on CBS. Regional Theater Credits: Uncanny Valley (San Diego REP); The Exit Interview (San Diego REP); Peer Gynt (La Jolla Playhouse); Louis and Keely Live at the Sahara (The Geffen Playhouse) directed by Taylor Hackford; Miss Nelson's Missing (Main Street Theater Company); The Three Musketeers (Sierra Repertory Theater); Hamlet (The Curtis Theater); Godspell (The Orange County Performing Arts Center); The Nerd (Laguna Playhouse); A Wonderful Life (Laguna Playhouse). Other Los Angeles Credits: King Lear (The Antaeus Company); Chekhov X4 (The Antaeus Company); A Splintered Soul (The Odyssey Theater) and The Misanthrope (ANDAK theater company). Nick trained at The Boston Conservatory, is a graduate of The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and a member of Actors Equity Association.

### **About Jessica John (BACKYARD RENAISSANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – PLAYING Mrs. Kendal)**

Jessica John is Executive Director of Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company, founded in 2015. In 2001, Jessica co-founded Backyard Productions in San Diego and served as the executive artistic director until 2008. As an actor, she is an associate artist of Cygnet Theatre and has worked professionally in San Diego with such companies as the North Coast Repertory Theatre, ion theatre, Moonlight Stage Productions, New Village Arts Theatre, New Fortune Theatre Company, Moxie Theatre, Oceanside Theatre Company, Diversionary Theatre and Renaissance Theatre. Honors include: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (SD Playbill - Best Actress), Burn This (SD Critic's Circle - Best Actress); New Village Arts: The Playboy of the Western World (Patte - Best Actress); and Renaissance Theatre: A View from the Bridge (SD Critic's Circle - Best Actress). She was named one of the "Top 50 People to Watch" by San Diego Magazine.



**About Andrew Oswald (PLAYING Carr Gomm)**

Andrew is an actor and director who has worked locally, regionally, and in New York. He is a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Local Credits include Charlie in *The Whale* and Harry in *Company* (Cygnet Theatre) and Hank Hadley in *Regrets Only, Boys and Girls*, and *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* (Diversionary Theatre). Regional Credits include Orsino in *Twelfth Night* (Orlando Shakespeare Festival), Bottom and Malvolio (New Hampshire Shakespeare Festival), and Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* (Lincoln Amphitheatre). In New York he has worked at Soho Rep, Tribeca Theatre Lab, Nada, and New York City Opera. He was Co-Artistic Director of Bedtime Sketch Comedy for two years and he directed last year's production of *Baby with the Bathwater* at the Diversionary Theatre. He is also an acting teacher at Infinity Dance and Performing Arts.

**About Brian Salmon (PLAYING Ross)**

Brian has appeared on a number of local stages over the centuries, including The Old Globe, San Diego Rep, Moonlight Amphitheatre and most recently at North Coast Repertory Theatre in *Fox on the Fairway*. He received the Critics Circle Award for his portrayal of Lenny in *Rumors* at North Coast Rep and the Dramalogue Award for playing Rance in *What the Butler Saw* at the Blackfriars Theatre.

**About Patrick McBride (PLAYING Bishop How)**

Patrick has enjoyed acting, directing, and teaching for over 25 years. Favorite acting roles include Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Laurence in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, James Joyce in *Travesties*, Jack in *The Boys Next Door*, and Bob Cratchit (and many others) in *A Christmas Carol*. Favorite directing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Twelfth Night*, as well as the La Jolla Playhouse POP tours of *The Flimflam Man* and *Alice's Wild Ride*. He teaches Performing Arts at the Urban Discovery Academy and is a founding member of Luminary Arts.

**About Dagmar Fields (PLAYING Nurse Sandwich and others)**

Dagmar Krause Fields is absolutely delighted to work with the Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company for the first time. Most recently she appeared in New Village Arts Theater's production of *Emelie*, and before that in *Lion in Winter* (Moonlight Stage Productions), *Unnecessary Farce* (Northcoast Rep), *Regrets Only* (Diversionary), *I Hate Hamlet* (Intrepid Shakespeare), *Lost in Yonkers* (Oceanside Theatre Co), and *Blythe Spirit* (Moonlight Stage Productions). Other productions include *Leading Ladies*, *Anything Goes*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crazy for You*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Foreigner*, *Magic Fire*, *Hay Fever*, and *Radio Gals* (Moonlight); *Morning's at Seven*, *Amy's View* (Northcoast Rep) *Into the Woods* (Lambs Players), *American Dream* (Renaissance Productions), and *Night Must Fall*, *Hamlet*, and *Home* (Octad One); among others.

**About Anthony Methvin (PLAYING Lord John and others)**

Anthony Methvin is making his performing debut with Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company, where he is proud to be the Program & Events Manager. He has also served as director for the company's Backyard Unleashed readings of *Assistance* and *Bachelorette*. He was Assistant Director on *Baby With the Bathwater* at Diversionary Theatre, *Buyer & Cellar* at The Old Globe, *Dogfight* at Cygnet Theatre, and *Spring Awakening* at Palomar College. Local performances include Roger in *A New Brain*, Kent in *Harmony, Kansas*, and Reed in *Boys and Girls* at Diversionary, where he is also Artistic Associate. Other favorite roles include Leo Frank (*Parade*) and Prior (*Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*). His play, *Bleed Like Me* has been developed both locally in San Diego and at FSU, where he graduated with a BFA in Acting.

**About Celeste Innocenti (PLAYING Pinhead and others)**

Celeste Innocenti is thrilled to be working with Backyard Renaissance and this great cast. Celeste has performed on stages all over San Diego, and is the Artistic Director of Chronos Theatre Group, a non-profit theater which connects diverse audiences with works from world cultures and time periods. With Chronos, she recently produced and co-directed (with Rhys Green) *The Balcony* by Jean Genet, translated by Jean-Claude van Itallie, and performed the role of Madame Irma. In October, Chronos will present the "tragic farce" *Accidental Death of An Anarchist* by Nobel Prize-winning Italian author Dario Fo, in which she will play the role of the Journalist. You can find more about Celeste (and Chronos) on the websites [www.celesteinnocenti.com](http://www.celesteinnocenti.com) and [www.chronostheatre.com](http://www.chronostheatre.com).

**About Brian Butler (PLAYING Snork and others)**

Brian is thrilled to join the talented cast and crew of *The Elephant Man*. Previous work includes: *The Aliens* (Ion Theatre); *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Stage Kiss*, *The Nutcracker* (New Village Arts); *Titus Andronicus*, *Hay Fever*, *Peter Pan* and *Wendy* (SDSU); *Blythe Spirit*, *Hamlet* (Grossmont College). Directed *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at SDSU and two short films for Rosewood Five Studios. San Diego Film Awards Nominee for Best Supporting Actor. Attended BADA's Midsummer in Oxford Program at Magdalen College. Featured in upcoming feature films: *South of 8*, *Thane of East County*, and *Bullets, Fongs and Dinner at 8*. Brian would like to thank his friends and family for all their love and support. [www.brianbutler.com](http://www.brianbutler.com)