

Claudio Raygoza†
Founder/Executive Artistic Director

Glenn Paris†
Founding Producing Artistic Director

ion theatre on the Elaine Lipinsky Stage proudly presents the San Diego premiere of

THE MYSTERY PLAYS

by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

directed by Glenn Paris

CAST : : in alphabetical order

Sherri Allen : : Lucy, Patty, Amanda, Teacher, Inmate

Benjamin Cole : : Nathan, Insp. Godet, Stimson, Inmate

Gemma Grey : : Abby, Sally, Grace

Nick Kennedy : : Ben, Hospitality Kid, Elliot

John Polak : : Mystery Man, Conductor, Kinderman,
Sheriff Davis, The Caretaker

Ethan Tapley : : Joe, Steward, Gary, Inmate

Sound Design
James Dirks

Lighting Design
Karin Filijan†

Costume Design
Valerie Henderson

Properties
Evan Kendig†

Projections
Claudio Raygoza†

Scenic Design
Brian Redfern

Production Stage Manager
Sylvia Trinh

Wardrobe Supervisor
Amy Blatt

Fight Director
Benjamin Cole

Producer
Claudio Raygoza†

Volunteer Coordinator
Trina Kaplan†

Usher Coordinator
Jules Schreiber

Company Coordinator
Catalina Maynard†

Graphics | Webmaster
Claudio Raygoza†

Part 1: The Filmmaker's Mystery
Part 2: Ghost Children

Running time: 120 mins.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Special thanks: Diversionary Theatre, Bret Young, Lon & Denise Bevers, Melanie Chen, Melinda Miller, Tom Stephansky, Mario Ortega, Revivals, Mesa College, Sue Mercier & Evolve Salon, Bonnie Durben and a huge thanks to Joe Huppert!

Produced by special arrangement with **Dramatists Play Service.**

† ion company member

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, Evan Kendig, Jeffrey Jones, Karson St. John, Courtney Smith & Rachael VanWormer

PLAYWRIGHT

: : Currently working on 'American Psycho' as a musical : :



Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa is an award-winning playwright, comic book and television writer. His plays, including *Good Boys and True* and *Based on a Totally True Story*, have been produced Off-Broadway (Manhattan Theatre Club, 2nd Stage) and regionally (Steppenwolf, South Coast Rep). For Marvel Comics, he has written *The Fantastic Four*, *Nightcrawler* and *Spider-Man*, and is currently adapting the Stephen King novel *The Stand*. Last year, his revision of the classic musical *Its a Bird, Its a Plane, Its Superman!* premiered at Dallas Theater Center. Additionally, he has written for the HBO series *Big Love*. Currently: *American Psycho* with Duncan Sheik, *Glee* on Fox.

“

From an interview with Mr. Sacasa by Edward Sobel. To read the rest of the interview, please visit www.steppenwolf.org.”

ES: What made you interested in being a playwright? How did that even start for you?

Ra: Writing has always been a part of my family; reading has always been a part of my family. I suspected very early on that I would somehow be a writer. Now, I truly thought I would probably be a reporter or a journalist, and, in fact, I started my

career as a professional writer as a journalist in Washington, D.C. working for the free weekly there, the City Paper, and also doing some freelance for the Washington Post.

ES: What kind of beat were you covering?

RA: It was sort of a smorgasbord. I did some Arts reporting and reviewing. I was also on the city beat and I did some investigative reporting on the political scene in Washington, D.C. But I would say that the bulk of my stuff was Arts reporting and reviewing.

ES: So, how did you end up writing a play yourself?

RA: In high school I developed a deep love for theater — going to theater, seeing theater, and acting in theater. And even though I never thought, ‘Oh my God, I’m going to be an actor,’ I very much liked theatre people; I liked being around them; I liked talking and hanging out with them; I like working with them.

ES: You’ve since learned better, I hope.

RA: Exactly. (Chuckles) In college I took a playwriting class, I really enjoyed it. At Georgetown University there was a festival of one-acts where you could submit a one-act play and they would perform it. And you’ll be happy to know that for four years I submitted a one-act play to Mask and Bauble, which is the oldest, continuous college-level theatre company in the United States. For four years running I was rejected out of hand. Now, of course, they embrace me as though I was a prodigal son. While I was at McGill University in Montreal, where I went to graduate school to get a degree in English literature, you could either write an academic thesis or a creative thesis. I had written short plays, I had written short stories, I had even written a novel (not a very good one), but I thought, ‘I’m going to do a creative thesis.’

ion Member Snapshot : :

Dana Hooley
Company member since 2008
ion debut: *The Glass Menagerie*
Actor

Projects: *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Frozen*, *Body Awareness*
pictured



CAST & PRODUCTION



SHERRI ALLEN

:: Lucy, etc. ::
ion theatre: *The Grapes of Wrath*. Sherri is honored to be working again with ion theatre. Sherri has worked with numerous local and regional theatre companies, including La Jolla Playhouse, Old Globe, PCPA Theaterfest, Asolo

Theatre, San Diego Repertory, Santa Rosa Summer Repertory, North Coast Repertory, Moonlight Stages, Poor Players, and Lamb's Players. She most recently appeared as Mrs. Soames in *Our Town* with Cygnet Theatre. Sherri studied at Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from San Diego State University, and has a teaching credential from California State University San Marcos. She is an associate faculty member at MiraCosta College where she teaches classes in Fine Arts, Improvisation, and The Golden Age of Radio. With thanks & love to Mom & Orrick.



BENJAMIN COLE

:: Nathan, etc. ::
ion theatre: *Debut*. Benjamin is delighted to be joining the ion theatre family. He relocated recently from Michigan where he was the Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at Grand Valley State University. There he taught acting and stage

combat. During his time in San Diego, Ben has acted in *Almost, Maine* with Scripps Ranch Theatre and *Coming Attractions* at Moxie Theatre. Look for him next in *Holiday Spirits* at Scripps Ranch Theatre.



GEMMA GREY

:: Abby, etc. ::
ion theatre: *Blasted*. Elsewhere: Irina in *Three Sisters* (Edinburgh Festival), Carole in *The Good Samaritan* (Hampstead Theater, Lnd) Laertes in an all female *Hamlet* (The White Bear, Lnd). Film/TV



NICK KENNEDY

:: Ben, etc. ::
ion theatre: *Heddatron*, *Grace*, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. Poor Players Theatre: *Titus Andronicus*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (dir.), *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Coriolanus*, *Hamlet* (dir.), *Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry IV*

Part I, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (dir.), *Twelfth Night* (dir.), *Measure for Measure*, *Macbeth*, *Antony & Cleopatra* (dir.), *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *The Tempest* (dir.), *Romeo & Juliet* (dir.) Other select credits include *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Pericles Prince of Tyre*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Runner Stumbles*. Co-founder of Poor Players Theatre Company. B.A.s in English and Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin. M.A. in English from SDSU.



JOHN POLAK

:: The Mystery Man, etc. ::
ion theatre: *Parasite Drag*, *The Pillowman*. *Chiang Kai Chek*, *Patriot Act* (Sledgehammer Theatre); *Edward II*, *Facing East* (Diversionary); *Orestes* (The TheatreInc.); Bay Area credits: *Murder of*

Crows (Crowded Fire); *Shoppers* (Campo Santo); *The Bacchae* (Shotgun Players).



ETHAN TAPLEY

:: Joe, etc. ::
ion theatre: *Debut*. Ethan began acting in high school, starring in roles such as Hamlet and as Professor Bhear in *Little Women*, going on to study the craft at Palomar College. He made his San Diego debut in

Moonlight Theater's *The Mousetrap* earlier this year and is very excited to be performing with ion theatre. Other roles include Lucentio in *The Taming*

CAST & PRODUCTION

of *the Shrew*, Bobby in *Run for Your Wife*, Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Daniel in *The Compleat Wrks of Wilm Shkspr* (abridged), and Witch 1/ Murderer 1/ Ross in *Macbeth*.

JAMES DIRKS

:: Sound Design ::
ion theatre: *Debut*. Recently graduated from UC San Diego with a B.A. in History and a minor in Theatre, where he discovered a passion for both sound design and playwriting. UC San Diego credits include: *New Directions '12* and *Othelloman* (ASD). Outside of UC San Diego, he worked as sound designer for *Spider Baby: The Musical* at the 10the Avenue Arts Center.

KARIN FILIJAN†

:: Lighting Design ::
ion theatre: *Heddatron*, *Blasted*, *Request Programme '11*, *Angels in America Parts 1 & 2* (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.

VALERIE HENDERSON

:: Costume Design ::
ion theatre: *Debut*. Valerie is excited to be making her ion theatre debut! San Diego Repertory Theatre: *Tortilla Curtain*, *Walter Cronkite is Dead*; North Coast Repertory Theatre: *Tip of the Cap*, *Drawer Boy*, *King O' the Moon*, and *Gee's Bend*; Moxie Theatre: *Or*; Diversionary Theatre: *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*. She has also designed several modern dance pieces in San Diego with such companies as *Joe Alter Dance Group*, *Malashock Dance Co.* and *Little Known Dance Company*. She received her M.F.A. in Costume Design and Technology from San Diego State University.

EVAN KENDIG†

:: Properties ::
ion theatre: *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*: Co2 "Blood Cannon" operator. *Heddatron*: Robot Designer/Builder/Operator, Technical Crew. *Blasted*: Set Construction. Regional: Circle Circle dot dot: *The Break-up Break-down*: Set Construction, Deck Electrician. *Ragnarok*: Set Construction, Deck Electrician. *Deconstruction of a Drag Queen*: Set Construction, Co-Set Dresser, Co-Prop-Master, Deck Electrician. Triad Productions: *Curse of the Starving Class*: Deck Electrician.

GLENN PARIS†

:: Director ::
Founding Producing Artistic Director/Co-founder with Claudio Raygoza of BLKBOX. For ion, most recently produced *Topdog/Underdog* and directed *Request Programme*, *Angels in America* (Noel Nomination) *Grace*, *The Woolgatherer*, *bash: latterday plays*, *Wonder Wounded Heroes Parasite Drag & Hurlyburly* (Nomination, Direction / Noel Award, Ensemble). Also in San Diego: *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 by the San Diego Critics Circle and ion's production of *Angels in America* earned the Circle's inaugural Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work at a Small Theater in 2011.

CLAUDIO RAYGOZA†

:: Producer | Projections ::
Founder/Executive Artistic Director. For ion, directed and produced nearly 50 productions including: *Topdog/Underdog*, *Request Programme*, *Heddatron*, *Blasted*, *Angels in America* (Noel Award), *Gypsy* (Noel Nomination, Direction), *Body Awareness*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Jack Goes Boating*, *Song of Extinction*, *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Hurlyburly*, *Bent* (with Diversionary), *Frozen*, *The Trojan Women*, *U.S. Drag*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Pillowman*, *Punks*, *Mud*, *All in the Timing*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Chairs*, *Marat/ Sade*, *Saturday Night at the Palace*, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Other work: La Jolla Playhouse; Moving Arts; New Village Arts; Cygnet Theatre; MOXIE; SD Rep;

CAST & PRODUCTION

Diversionary; University of San Diego; Los Angeles Theatre Center; Arizona Theatre Company; Various acting/directing in Paris, France. Mr. Raygoza has earned multiple Patté awards for directing & acting and was named Producer of the Year 2010 by the San Diego Critics Circle while ion's production of *Angels in America* earned the Circle's inaugural Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work at a Small Theater in 2011.

BRIAN REDFERN

:: Scenic Design ::

ion theatre: *Topdog/Underdog*. San Diego credits include designs for The Old Globe/USD, Cygnet Theatre, Intrepid Shakespeare, Compass, Vantage, Joan Kroc Center, JayDeeKay Films, SDSU, PLNU, Scripps Ranch Theatre and others. Brian has assistant designed for numerous regional plays and musicals nationally and internationally at The Old Globe, The La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Opera, South Coast Repertory, Huntington Theatre, Tectonic Theater Project, Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Royal Bath, UK, and also this year's recent hit production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Broadway. To see more of Brian's work, visit www.redfernscenticdesign.com.

“ From ion's Facebook page: Here are some more photos of rehearsal from *Mystery Plays*...” Like ion on Facebook or look us up on Yelp for fresh details or special deals.

SYLVIA TRINH

:: Production Stage Manager ::

ion theatre: *Sondheim Valentine (PSM)*, *Angels in America Parts 1 & 2 (ASM)*. Sylvia is originally from Los Angeles and now calls San Diego home! She earned her Bachelor Degree in Communications and minored in Theatre at the University of California, San Diego. UCSD credits: *New Beginnings Dance Showcase 2012 (PSM)*, *Being Henrietta - Staged Reading (PSM)*, *Bodies in the Park - BNPF 2011 (PSM)*, *The Threepenny Opera (PA)*, *The Revenger's Tragedy (Asst. Scenic Designer)*, *Danton's Death (Spot Op.)*. Other Credits: *TedxSemesterAtSea - Morocco (PSM)*, *Bye Bye Birdie (Light Board Op.) - Mission Playhouse in San Gabriel, CA..*

PRODUCTION HISTORY

(2004) ... Saturday Night at the Palace
A Raisin in the Sun * Marat/Sade
The Chairs * Krapp's Last Tape * Not I
All in the Timing * The Glass Menagerie
The Grapes of Wrath * Mud * Punks
The Pillowman * La Gaviota
Request Programme
A Streetcar Named Desire
In a Dark Dark House
Bash: Latterday Plays * U.S. Drag
The Trojan Women
The Cripple of Inishmaan * Speed-the-Plow
Frozen * Bent * Hurlyburly
Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue
Back of the Throat * Gam3rs
Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune
Parasite Drag * Song of Extinction
Jack Goes Boating * Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
Wonder Wounded Heroes
The Lieutenant of Inishmore * Chela
Body Awareness * The Woolgatherer
Grace * Gypsy: A Musical Fable
Angels in America * Blasted
Heddatron, Topdog/Underdog... (now)



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