

SRT

SCRIPPS
RANCH
THEATRE



What is *reality*?

What is *love*?

D29



Love
SONG

written by John Kolvenbach
directed by Claire Simba

Legler Benbough Theatre at Alliant International University
9783 Avenue of Nations, Off Pomerado Road East of I-15

Box Office: 858.395.0573
ScrippsRanchTheatre.org

Director's Notes

The opportunity to direct Love Song came to me at a time when reopening theaters was still a burgeoning hope. As I stepped into a role that was previously held by another, taking over most of his cast, I asked myself what it was about this play that wouldn't allow me to turn this challenging opportunity down.

Empathy and love.

As quick as we are to point out everything that makes us different from our neighbor, this play taps into everything that makes us similar. Love is what we all yearn for – self love, familial love, marital love, romantic love. When I turn on my TV, I am bewildered at how many souls are looking for just that. From The Bachelor to Love is Blind, all we are looking for is to connect.

As an artist, I always seek to reach as many people as possible, to be as honest, and vulnerable as possible. When this play fell into my lap, I was emerging from months of quarantine, had just given birth to my third child, and was, myself, struggling with the need to connect, the need to love myself again.

This play made me laugh, and then it made me cry. It made me forgive myself for my imperfections, and it made me hope to share this gift with others.

Nothing is ever as simple as it looks, being human certainly is not. But if there is anything I'd love for you to walk away with, it is the deep understanding that with love, anyone can prevail, and if not that, perhaps be brave enough to try. And that has the count for something, doesn't it?



Claire Simba



CAST

(in order of appearance)

BEANE	Paul Eddy
JOAN	Leigh Akin
HARRY/WAITER	John DeCarlo
MOLLY	Claire Kaplan

SETTING

At a place and in a time with people.

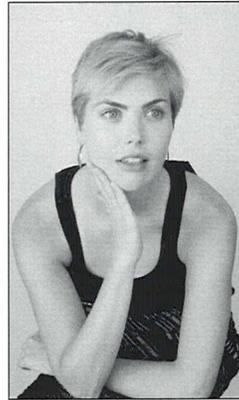
The play will run for 90 minutes without an intermission.

PRODUCTION TEAM

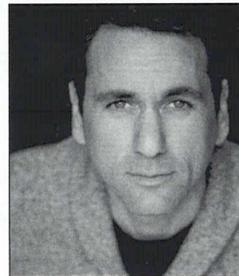
DIRECTOR	Claire Simba
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Barbara Barber
STAGE MANAGER	Blake Brown
SET DESIGN/SET DRESSING/ PROPS DESIGN	Alyssa Kane
SET CONSTRUCTION/ SCENIC PAINTER	Nathan Waits
COSTUME DESIGN	Bernice Brosious
LIGHTING DESIGN	Jared Jacobs
SOUND DESIGN	Robert May
SCENIC ASSISTANT	Ben McLaren
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Haley Jacob

CAST

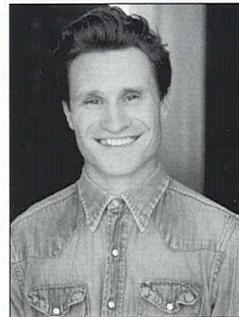
LEIGH AKIN (Joan) is a singer, actor, and illustrator most recently seen on the SRT stage as Joanna in *Move Over, Mrs. Markham*. She has performed across the United States in theaters including Soho Rep, Florentine Opera, Bronx Opera, and Skylight Music Theater. She recently performed the role of Katherina Cavalieri in *Amadeus* (North Coast Rep), and the role of Beth in the west coast premiere of *Book of Leaves* (Roustabouts Theatre Company). She helped to create and perform a two-person ZOOM parody of the *Godfather II* which premiered in the 2022 Tucson Fringe Festival. During quarantine she kept herself busy producing a series of cooking-show-cabarets from her apartment called “*Leigh Sings Songs and Makes Waffles.*” You can watch them and more of her work at LeighEllenAkin.com.



JOHN DECARLO (Harry/Waiter) is very excited to be returning to Scripps Ranch Theater with *Love Song*. John was last seen at SRT in *Italian American Reconciliation; Move Over, Mrs. Markham* and *The Lion in Winter*. Elsewhere: *Amazons and Their Men, Beautiful Thing*, and *The Moors* (Diversionary); *Perfect Arrangement* (Intrepid); *Mauritius; Man from Nebraska* and *Bug* (Cygnet). *Stage Kiss; Off the Ground; Golden Boy; Julius Caesar; Summer and Smoke; The Heidi Chronicles; The Seven Year Itch; Death of a Salesman; Ah, Wilderness; Of Mice and Men; Comedy of Errors; Brilliant Mistake* and *Buried Child* (NVA)



PAUL EDDY (Beane) is an actor/musician from Kentucky who began his career in NYC. Some NYC credits include the OBA nominated *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Atlantic Theatre Co), Lisa Loeb's hit *Camp Kappawanna* (Atlantic Theater Co), *Artaud Artaud* (Signature Theater). San Diego Credits include *Buddy Holly* in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Musical* (NVA/Intrepid Theater) and was nominated for a San Diego Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical, and *Charlie* in *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* (Scripps Ranch). Graduate of the Atlantic Theater Intensive Training Program and Georgetown College. www.paulswenseddy.com



CLAIRE KAPLAN (Molly) got her BA at UCSD and her MFA in European Devised Performance at Columbia Chicago and Arthaus Berlin. She is co-artistic director of The West, an international devising collective, and has also worked frequently with The Trip. She has performed original work in San Diego, Ridgecrest, Chicago, Edinburgh, and Berlin. The West's work has also been seen at The Hollywood Fringe, The Echo, the Lyric-Hyperion, and Bootleg, and their play *Lady into Fox* was awarded *Timeout's* second best play in LA. Regional: South Coast Rep, The La Jolla Playhouse, East West Players. www.thewest.la



THE PRODUCTION TEAM

CLAIRE SIMBA (Director) completed her M.F.A at the Old Globe/USD Shiley Graduate Theater program and her B.F.A in Theatre from the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. She last directed *The Mango Tree* (Moxie Theater). Her New York acting credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Harlem Shakespeare) and *Please Bring Balloons* (NYCCT). She has appeared regionally in the acclaimed U.S. premiere of *Clue* (Bucks County Playhouse), *Twelfth Night* (Old Globe Theater), *A Christmas Carol, Peter and the Starcatcher* and *Safe House* (Cincinnati Playhouse).

BARBARA BARBER (Production Manager) first produced *Scapino* for SRT in 2005. Since then she has produced *Sylvia, Inspecting Carol, The O'Conner Girls, The Shadow Box, Crimes of the Heart, Almost Maine, Over the River and Through the Woods, a feminine ending, The Liar, Sunset Park, Skin Deep, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Good People, For Better, Return Engagements, FoxFire* and *Heisenberg*, all for SRT. She also serves as SRT's Producing Director.

BERNICE BROSIUS (Costume Design) has worked in Theater since she was 15, and now for more than 50 years. Her love for the theater has placed her in positions of acting, directing, and stage management. Now her love for sewing and fashion has blended with her love for theater. She has been working in the costume end for the last four years and this is her second production with Scripps Ranch Theater. She would like to thank Scripps Ranch Theater, the directors, and producers for the wonderful opportunity to be part of the creative end of this production.

BLAKE BROWN (Stage Manager) is currently a senior studying theatre and communication at the University of San Diego. This is his first-time stage managing a professional show. He has acted in original productions of *Antigone in Munich* and *Credible*, as well as stage managed University of San Diego past productions of *FML: how Carson McCullers saved my life* and *Silent Sky*.

JARED JACOBS (Lighting Design) is San Diego based, mostly recently designing *Spamalot* (OB Playhouse & Theatre Company), *Marry Me, Dennis Branigan* (Tenth Avenue Arts Center), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (OB Playhouse & Theatre Company). Specializing in musical theater, plays, and other custom lighting projects, he originally began designing at a young age in Maine. Jared later joined the Marines where he was stationed in San Diego and began to work with many theaters in the community. When he isn't working on lighting design he enjoys surfing, working in IT, and riding the trolley. www.jacobslighting.com

ALYSSA KANE (Set Design/Scenic Painter/ Dressing/Props Design) has had the pleasure of working with SRT many times over the years. Some of her favorite past productions at SRT are *Move Over, Mrs. Markham* and *Foxfire*. Recent projects include *Azul* (Diversionary) and *Sapience* (Moxie). Alyssa is an operational board member at SRT. By day she works at the San Diego River Park Foundation. She is also a performer and founding member of burlesque and variety troupe The Nude & Rude Revue in Southeast Alaska. www.AlyssaKaneScenicDesign.com

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THE PRODUCTION TEAM

(continued)

ROBERT MAY (Sound Design) is a freelance sound designer whose credits include: for New Village Arts - *The Miss Firecracker Contest*; for Portland Stage Company - *Halpern and Johnson*; for North Coast Rep - *The Rainmaker, The Last Five Years, Halpern and Johnson*; Scripps Ranch Theatre - *Love Song, Move Over, Mrs. Markham, Deathtrap, Blithe Spirit, The Last Night of Ballyhoo*; Renaissance Theatre - *The Gingerbread Lady, Shirley Valentine*; Playwrights Project, and various productions at San Diego Junior Theatre. Robert is also an award-winning director and actor.

BEN MCLAREN (Scenic Assistant) is a currently a 4th year theatre major at UCSD. He has been involved in theatre since he was 10 years old. After graduation Benjamin is hoping to go into local theatre work. He has a lot of experience acting and directing, as well, and helping out anywhere he can offstage. Benjamin's been on multiple crews working on constructing and painting sets, and light setting.

NATHAN WAITS (Set Construction) has been set building and stage managing productions in San Diego for 8 years. Previously, he served as the master carpenter for 1222 Oceanfront Ave (New Village Arts), he is the resident set builder for Scripps Ranch Theatre and Sage Creek High School (including set design), and also serves as the Facilities Manager for Oceanside Theatre Company at the Sunshine Brooks Theatre. Other credits include serving as the stage manager for *Desert Rock Garden* (NVA); *Mary Poppins, Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Lion King* (Carlsbad Community Theatre); *Shrek the Musical* and *A Christmas Carol* (Oceanside Theatre Company). He is very excited to be getting back into the world of theatre after the long break from the pandemic. He thanks you for coming to see the show and hopes you enjoy it!

HALEY JACOB (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to be joining the Scripps Ranch Theatre team in her first production as an ASM. Haley is a student at the University of San Diego and first became interested in theatre production after working as a Construction/Paint Crew member for the USD Department of Theatre's production of *FML: how Carson McCullers saved my life*. Haley spends her time working as an editor for her university's newspaper and staying active in the school's theatre department. Haley is excited about her first ASM opportunity and looks forward to gaining more theatre and backstage experience in the future.

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THANK YOU 2022 DONORS!

We extend our sincere gratitude to all of our donors for their support and commitment to bringing high-quality productions to the SRT stage. It is the generosity of these individuals that allows SRT to continue bringing incredible performances and impactful outreach programs to our community. Thank you!

GIVING BACK TO THE ARTS

Charitable contributions ensure that we are able to continue bringing high-quality productions to the stage and meaningful programs to the community. Every gift makes a difference! To make a donation, please visit our website at www.scrippsranchtheatre.org.

SRT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

REMAINING 2022 SEASON

THE TAMING

Written by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Marti Gobel

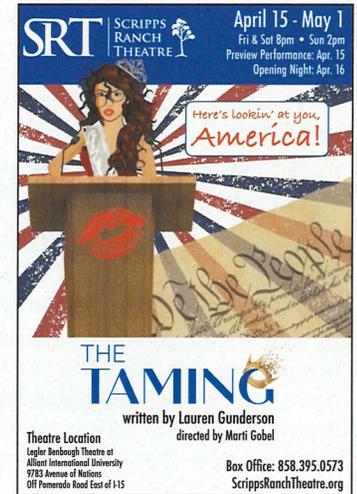
April 15 - May 1

Preview performance: April 15

Opening Night: April 16

In this hilarious, raucous, all-female “power-play” inspired by Shakespeare’s *Shrew*, contestant Katherine has political aspirations to match her beauty pageant ambitions. All she needs to revolutionize the American government is the help of one ultra-conservative senator’s aide on the cusp of a career breakthrough, and one bleeding-heart liberal blogger who will do anything for her cause. Well, that and a semi-historically-accurate ether trip.

This madcap romp tackles modern American political extremism, feminism, James Madison, Shakespeare, and beauty queens. The three slightly insane women at its core just might be political geniuses. Here’s lookin’ at you, America.



I HATE HAMLET

Written by Paul Rudnick

Directed by Phil Johnson

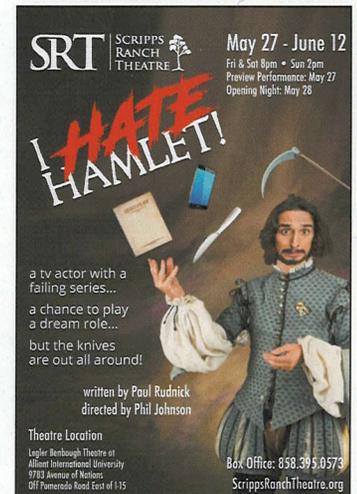
May 27 - June 12

Preview Performance: May 27

Opening Night: May 28

Andrew Rally is a TV actor with a failing series and a chance to play the dream role of Hamlet. When the ghost of the famous Shakespearean actor John Barrymore appears for the sole purpose of convincing Rally to accept the role, he has to choose between Shakespeare and a new TV deal worth millions.

Enter a beautiful girlfriend clinging steadfastly to her chastity and a glamorous agent who claims to have had an affair with Barrymore and the results are fast, clever, and hilarious. A comedy valentine to people who love the theatre and the eccentric people in it.



SAVE WITH SEASON TICKETS

Get three shows for the price of two!

Any single ticket purchase for *Love Song* may be used toward the purchase of a season ticket.