

Feb 5 - Mar 5, 2023

MOXIE
Theatre



"A subtle, moving
testament to our times"

BROADWAY WORLD



BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

A play about fathers,
daughters, and what
we choose to see.

by Anna Ouyang Moench

Writer of the hit TV series, *Severance*

OPENING NIGHT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

BIRDS

OF NORTH AMERICA

by Anna Ouyang Moench

Directed by Lisa Berger

CAST

Caitlyn
John

Farah Dinga
Mike Sears*

CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL TEAM

Stage Manager
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Technical Director
Assistant Stage Manager
Scenic Artist
Dramaturg
Production Manager

Megan Aguilar-Ames
Robin Sanford Roberts
Danita Lee
Joshua Heming
Matt Lescault-Wood
Robert Malave
Gabby Stryker
Julie Lorenz
Robert Nickel
Megan Aguilar-Ames

TIME & PLACE

Many falls. John's yard. Baltimore County, Maryland.

*Appearing through an agreement between MOXIE Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage managers in the United States.

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA was developed with assistance from Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, Stephen Wietz, Producing Ensemble Director.

director's note

But if it's warm like this late into the fall, then suddenly goes real cold, well, then I worry about the birds who didn't get the message to migrate.

I worry they won't have time to get where they need to be.

Signals are everything.

—Birds of North America

Attention is the beginning of devotion.

—Mary Oliver

For me, good storytelling embodies a universal truth told through a personal narrative. This play is the embodiment of that idea. Our playwright, Anna Ouyang Moench, has said she wanted to write a story about climate change. Told through the lens of a complicated relationship between a father and a daughter, our play is seeking to answer the question—what happens to our internal and external worlds when we don't see what is in front of us?

The birds, the other characters in our story, are messengers of caution and hope. The simple miracle of birds reminds us to keep our eyes open, to look around and to embrace the mystery of existence.

My hope is that this production will be an invitation to you to look for the signals and to turn towards them.

Lisa Berger, Director

special thanks & acknowledgements

Many thanks to the following volunteers, community members, businesses and organizations who supported this production of Birds of North America.

Tiffany Arita, Rai Feltmann, Emily Johansson, Robert Nickel, Chris Rynne, Reid Semmens, Sierra Shreves, Renee Stackhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, SDSU Theatre. Our house managers: Jennifer Burch, Mike Carroll, Janelle Conde, Enid Farrell, Lisa Kennedy, Wendy Mattas, Sheila Robinson

the playwright



ANNA OUYANG MOENCH

she/her is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays have been produced at the Geffen Playhouse, the Playwrights Realm, East West Players, InterAct Theater, and many other theaters across the country and around the world. Anna is a 2020 Steinberg Award winner and the recipient of a Gerbode Special Award in the Arts commission for a new play that will be produced at Magic Theater in 2022. She has been commissioned by NAATCO for a new play premiering in 2021. In television and film, Anna has worked with Netflix, Apple TV+, HBO, UCP, eOne, PictureStart, and Universal. Anna lives in Los Angeles with her family.

the director



LISA BERGER

she/her is a Professor of Theatre and Director. Her San Diego directing credits include *When It Comes* and *Skelton Crew* (The Old Globe, reading), *How High the Moon*, *Reindeer Games*, *Paper Cities*, *The Whale* (reading) and *The Car Plays: Incident Row* (La Jolla Playhouse); *The Car Plays: We Wait* (La Jolla Playhouse, Moving Arts), *Red Bike* (MOXIE Theatre), *The Moors*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (Patte Award), and *Looking for Normal* (Diversionary Theatre), *Parlour Song* (Backyard Renaissance), *Credible*, *The Secret in the Wings*, *Anatomy of Gray*, *Eurydice* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (USD), *Metamorphosis* (San Diego City College), *The Collector* (Animal Cracker Conspiracy), *Righteous Exploits* (So Say We All), *A Behanding in Spokane* (Cygnet Theatre), *Buried Child*, *Simpatico*, *Things We Want* (New Village Arts), *Killer Joe* (Compass Theatre) (Patte Award), *Miss Julie* (Stone Soup), *Crimes of the Heart* and *Anonymous* (Canyon Crest Academy) *Buried Child* (UCSD), *Handbag* (AASD) and *Islands of Repair* (NYC Fringe). She received her MFA from the University of Montana and is also a graduate of The William Esper Studio in New York City. She currently teaches at Mira Costa College and the University of San Diego. She is co-artistic director of Meisner/Chekhov Integrated Training Studio.

the cast

FARAH DINGA (CAITLYN)



they/them is a San Diego-based Pakistani-Queer theatre actor, playwright, producer, and educator. Trained at the University of California San Diego, you may have seen their work at: Diversionary Theatre, The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, New Village Arts, MOXIE Theatre, SD REP, University of San Diego, and many more. They are also the current Rising Tides commissioned playwright with Diversionary Theatre and National New Play Network.

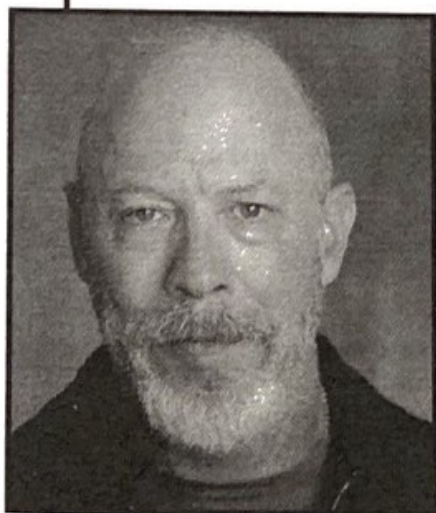
IG: farahdinga

MIKE SEARS (JOHN)

he/him Film: *Bite, Implied Consent, The Bush League*. Television: *Law and Order: SVU*. Theatre/NYC: *When Words Fail* (Houseman Theatre), *Leap* (Abingdon Theatre), *To Have and To Hold* (Phil Bosakowski Theatre). Off-Off Broadway: The American Globe Theatre, Boomerang Theatre Summer Shakespeare, New Dramatist, New York Fringe Festival, The Present Company, NY Musical Theatre Works, The Producer's Club and The Duplex. Regional Theatre: *Trouble In Mind, What You Are, Rain, Kiss Me, Kate, Othello, Henry V/GFA, Twelfth Night/GFA* (The Old Globe), *Sideways, His Girl Friday, Hands on a Hard Body, Bonnie and Clyde* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Parlour Song* (Backyard Renaissance, Critics Circle Award), *A Behanding In Spokane, Man From Nebraska* (Cygnet Theatre), *Tortilla Curtain* (San Diego REP), *The Mystery of Love and Sex, Birds of a Feather* (Diversionary Theatre), *Killer Joe* (Compass Theatre), *Tuesday's With Morrie* (North Coast REP). Mike is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York City.

www.mikesears.org

IG: @Mike.Sears.5050 & @mark.spears.acting.tips



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the creative & technical team

MEGAN AGUILAR-AMES (STAGE MANAGER)

she/her MOXIE Theatre: *Mother of the Maid, Sapience, Red Bike, Dance Nation, Herland, Voyeurs de Venus, The Madres*. Other theatre: *Henry IV (USD) Mother of Exiles, The Ruby in Us, What You Are, Life After (The Old Globe), How High the Moon (WOW Festival), The Moors (Diversionary), Outside Mullingar, Accomplice (Scripps Ranch Theatre)*. This is Megan's second show as MOXIE's new Production Manager. Education: B.A. in Design Technology for Theatre at SDSU.

ROBIN SANFORD ROBERTS (SCENIC DESIGNER)

she/her was the scenic designer for the Tony nominated *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* on Broadway. Previous credits at MOXIE include: *Discourse on the Wonders of the Invisible World*. She has also designed over 25 productions for The Old Globe Theatre including: *Alive and Well, The Price, Fiction, Bus Stop* (Critics Circle award), *Blue/Orange*, and *Betrayal* (Critics Circle award, Patte' award). Ms. Roberts has designed for San Diego Repertory Theatre, Diversionary Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, Arizona Theatre Company, San José Repertory Theatre and Swine Palace Productions. Ms. Roberts holds a degree in Architecture from LSU and a MFA in Scenic Design from UCSD. She is the resident scenic designer and professor of practice for the USD Department of Theatre. www.robinsanfordroberts.com, IG: @mizrobin

DANITA LEE (COSTUME DESIGNER)

she/her is delighted to work with MOXIE again on this piece! Favorite projects include *In the Heights* (Music Theatre Wichita), *Handbagged* and *The Madres* (MOXIE), *Water by the Spoonful* and *Bad Jews* (Cygnet). ACD credits with The Old Globe Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, and North Coast REP. She holds an MFA in Costume Design from SDSU. Thanks to the incredible team and the wonderful cast—what a beautiful exploration of life and human connection! And to Michael J., the Lee & Woo families, SW, and DVW—you are magic! danitalee.com

JOSHUA HEMING (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

he/they is a second year MFA student at San Diego State University studying lighting design. Previous work includes lighting designer for *Love's Labor's Lost, A Raisin in The Sun*, and projection designer for *The Long Christmas Ride Home* at SDSU. For more information please visit their website at www.joshuahemingld.com. He would like to thank his partner for all the love and support she provides.

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MATT LESCAULT-WOOD (SOUND DESIGNER)

he/him is excited to be back at MOXIE. Previous credits include: *Eurydice, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Hickorydickory, ENRON, Eternally Bad, The Kid Thing, Bliss, Voyeurs de Venus, Red Bike, Mineola Twins (MOXIE); Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, Little Shop of Horrors, A Behanding In Spokane, Man of La Mancha, Assassins, Company, Spring Awakening, Pageant, Sons of the Prophet, My Fair Lady, Shockheaded Peter, Spamalot, Last 5 Years (Cygnet); Lizard Boy, The Moors, The Loneliest Girl Alive, This Beautiful City, Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Diversionary); Evita, Roz and Ray [2017 San Diego Critics Circle Nominee], Hand To God, Black Pearl Sings, Beachtown, Fun Home, A Doll's House Part 2, Sweat, 33 1/3: House of Dreams (San Diego REP)*. Matt has a Degree in Theatrical Design and Technology from SDSU.

GABBY STRYKER (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

she/her was born and raised in San Diego. She is so thankful to be back working with MOXIE again after *The Children*. She has previous stage management experience with San Diego Repertory Theatre and the La Jolla Music Society as a stage management fellow and assistant stage manager. She has also worked at Tufts University as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Sense and Sensibility*, and Production Stage Manager for *Silent Sky* and Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*. She sends warmth and gratitude to her friends and family for supporting her journey in the arts.

Creating opportunities for young Designing Women+!

The Hurston Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of Dea & Osborn Hurston.

Thanks to their leadership and support, **MOXIE is able to partner with SDSU** every season to select outstanding women+ studying theatre design and give them paid, professional design positions. This gives young women+ just starting their career a leg up in the world of professional theatre design, still severely lacking in equal opportunities.

If you are interested in sponsoring this kind of opportunities for women+ in theatre, contact valentina@moxietheatre.com.