

LOS ALTOS STAGE COMPANY

**DEAD MAN'S
CELL PHONE**

BY SARAH RUHL



September 3 – 27, 2015

*T*he mission of the Los Altos Stage Company is to engage the community and artists in creating and experiencing intimate, professional-quality theater. The Los Altos Stage Company is a quintessential neighborhood playhouse celebrating the full canon of American theater. We strive to bring together a diversity of theater practitioners, enthusiasts, and supporters to create, explore and celebrate musicals, comedies, dramas that together weave a rich tapestry of American culture and experience.

Each season, the Los Altos Stage Company seeks to balance work that entertains, engages, provokes and inspires our audience. Leveraging the special nature of our intimate 99-seat theater, we believe in building deep connections between artist and audience, in offering high production values, and in creating an audience experience that is warm, welcoming, and personal.

The Los Altos Stage Company plays an essential role our community by creating and presenting live theater in Los Altos, serving as a cultural hub for local residents, and inspiring a passion for the performing arts in current and future generations. By fostering a deep commitment and connection to the performing arts locally, we seek to advance a more vibrant cultural community throughout our region. Since our inception, the Los Altos Stage Company has produced more than 120 productions.



Los Altos Stage Company
presents

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

by Sarah Ruhl

**Directed by
Jeffrey Lo**

Costume Designer
Tanya Finkelstein

Stage Manager
Marissa Stough

Lighting Designer
Nick Kumamoto

Choreographer
Lee Ann Payne

Scenic Design
Kuo-Hao Lo

Projection Designer
Gary Landis

Props Designer
Ting-Na Wang

Technical Directors
Gary Landis and Dan Wilson

Sound Designer
David Corsello

Assistant Director
Jessica Do

Fight Director
Kit Wilder

Assistant Costume Designer
Gabriel Dominic Carlos

Dance Captain
Adrienne Walters

Fight Captain
Scott Solomon

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE Off-Broadway in 2008. Originally produced June 2006 by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director. DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

THOUGHTS FROM THE STAGE

Dead Man's Cell Phone is about everything and nothing. It's about very human choices, triumphs and mistakes. It's a peek into the mysteries of modern life that will have everyone who watches it nodding in community. The play illustrates the power of a device or a situation to enter our lives in a seemingly innocent fashion and then proceed to take on a life of its own, in essence playing a lead role in determining the course of the story and the fate of the characters.

As the story unfolds, it increases in complexity. The characters grow as they wrestle with the facets of their own human conditions and just how much to reveal or not reveal and just how much to commit or not commit to those around them. The simple on ramp of a ringing phone progresses to a complex pathway of assumptions, choices and consequences, revealing insights into both thoughtless actions and over-analyzed decisions. The progression of the nature of who each character is and who they become as the plot unfolds illustrates how fascinated we are all by the mystery of each other.

When I first read the title, I assumed the plot would center on the distraction of inescapable connectivity. Interestingly enough, though, the play was written just before the introduction of the smart phone and the onset of our new global pastime, gazing into our screens. What I learned in reading the script, is that the story is not really about the phone itself, or even about our inability to unplug, but rather the power that a seemingly innocent device or an everyday situation has to create an unexpected turn of events that reveals, at least in part, what makes human beings such complex, fascinating creatures.

- Lucy Carter, Los Altos Stage Board Member

THE CAST



Kristin Walter
Jean



Scott Solomon
Gordon



David Scott
Dwight



Judith Siebenthal
Mrs. Gottlieb



Marjorie Hazeltine
Hermia



Adrienne Walters
*Other Woman/
Stranger*

THE ACTORS

Marjorie Hazeltine (Hermia) Marjorie is making her debut with LASC. Local credits include Dale Pittman in *The North Plan* at Renegade Theatre Experiment, *The Unknown in The Star Without a Name* at Dragon Productions, Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Northside Theatre, Lindsay in *Some Girl(s)* at Dragon Productions, and Catherine in *Proof* at Northside Theatre. Marjorie holds an M.A. in Performance Studies from UNC Chapel Hill, and she currently teaches middle school English in San Jose.

Judith Miller (Mrs. Gottlieb) Judith has had the pleasure of playing many diverse characters for Bay Area theater audiences. She most recently portrayed Juliana Smithton in *The Other Place* at Dragon Productions Theater Company in Redwood City. As a resident actor at San Jose Stage Company, her roles have included Haley in the critically acclaimed production of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*, Emma Parker/Ensemble in *Bonnie and Clyde, the Musical* (TBA nomination for "Best Ensemble"), Patricia Pickle, the Foley artist in *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show*, and Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*. Judith has also performed with San Jose Repertory Theatre, Woodminster Musical Theatre, Marin Theatre Company and has provided voice over work for various dance programs for The Margaret Wingrove Dancers.

David Scott (Dwight) Daivid is returning to Los Altos Stage Company after many years. As a much younger actor, David performed in *How the Other Half Loves* with LASC. During that time, David also performed with San Jose Rep, TheatreWorks, Shakespeare in Menlo Park, and City Lights. A graduate of SJSU's Theatre Arts department, David has worked for the last fifteen years as a high school and middle school drama teacher. Having returned to performing recently, David's credits include *Eat the Runt* and *Collapse* at Renegade Theatre Experiment, and *Tartuffe* at Silicon Valley Shakespeare Company.

Scott Solomon (Gordon) Scott spent the month of June performing Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* at Broadway by the Bay. Favorite recent roles include the Father in *Eurydice* at Palo Alto Players, Gavin Ryng Mayne in *House & Garden* at the Pear Ave Theatre, Alan Raleigh in Palo Alto Player's *God of Carnage*, Arthur Humphrey in *See How They Run* at Hillbarn Theatre, Henry in *The Real Thing* and Austin in *True West* at Coastal Repertory Theatre. Scott lives his dream in Half Moon Bay with his husband, Milton, and their sweet Shiba Inus, Sonny and Kira. This is Scott's first appearance with Los Altos Stage Company.

Kristin Walter (Jean) Kristin was last seen at LASC as the crazy bride, Amy, in *Company*. Other Bay Area credits include Debra in *Kimberly Akimbo* at the Pear Ave. Theatre, Edith in *The Women* at California Theatre Center, and Rona Lisa Peretti in *25th Annual... Spelling Bee* and Brenda in *Pajama Game*, both at Foothill Music Theatre. Also a playwright, Kristin's shows were originally produced at Manhattan Children's Theatre and are available through Samuel French publishing. Her adaptation of *The Last of the Dragons* ran this past summer at the Edinburgh Fringe in Scotland and was selected as one of the top 13 best shows for children at the festival. During the school year, Kristin teaches theatre to the amazing girls at Castilleja.

Adrienne Walters (The Other Woman/Stranger) Adrienne was last seen at Los Altos Stage Company as Olive Ostrovsky in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Recently, she appeared in Theatreworks' *Peter and The Starcatcher* as Molly Aster and in *Through the Fire in San Francisco* as Buffy Summers. Past credits include; *Norman Rockwell's America* with TheatreWorks' 2014 New Works Festival, Graduate Student in *FSM: Free Speech Movement* with Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Foothill Theatre receiving a TBA and BATCC Award nomination, the world premiere of *Our Practical Heaven* with Aurora Theatre Company, Ilse in *Spring Awakening* with Center REpertory Company, and Violet in *Speakeasy* with Boxcar Theatre. www.adriennewalters.com

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Jeffrey Lo (Director) Jeffrey is a Filipino-American playwright and director based in the Bay Area. He is the recipient of the 2014 Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award, the 2012 Emerging Artist Laureate by Arts Council Silicon Valley and Theatre Bay Area Director's TITAN Award. His plays have been produced and workshopped at The BindleStiff Studio, City Lights Theatre Company, Custom Made Theatre Company and the Orange County Playwrights Alliance. Recent directing credits include *Eurydice* at Palo Alto Players *Some Girl(s)* at Dragon Productions and *The Drunken City* at Renegade Theatre Experiment. Jeffrey has also worked with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, TheatreWorks & San Jose Repertory Theatre. He is the Casting Associate and Company Manager at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, the founding artistic director of The 06 Ensemble and a proud alumnus of the UC Irvine Drama Department.

Marissa Stough (Stage Manager) Marissa is a local Bay Area Stage Manager. She is excited to join Los Altos Stage Company for this production! Marissa would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support. She should also like to send a special shout out to coffee for keeping her sane (especially during Tech Week). Places! Enjoy the show!

Kuo-Hao Lo (Scenic Designer) He has served as resident Set Designer/Technical Director at Palo Alto Players 2005-2009 and New Conservatory Theatre Center 2009-2012. His designs received awards including TBA Awards 2014 for Outstanding Scenic Design *August, Osage County* at CCCT, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Outstanding Achievement Award Set Design—*Dames at Sea* (2009), *Sugar Witch* (2010) at NCTC, and 2013 Faces of Theatre Bay Area Honorees. B.F.A in theatre from National Taiwan Arts Academy in Taipei, Taiwan, and M.A in Theatre from Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Missouri. www.kuahorlodesign.org.

Tanya Finkelstein (Costume Designer) Tanya is a theatre producer and both a lighting and costume designer. Some of Tanya's recent costume designs include Palo Alto Players' *Eurydice* and San Jose Stage Company's *Death of a Salesman*. A selection of her other design work includes costumes for four world premieres at TheatreWorks, hair & makeup at The Magic, lighting and costumes for Dragon, costumes for EmSpace Dance, costumes/lighting/producing for Collective Theatre Productions and numerous designs for Renegade Theatre Experiment where she is the Managing Director. Tanya graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz receiving her Bachelors of Art in Theatre Arts and Graduate Certificate.

Nick Kumamoto (Lighting Designer) Nick is a lighting and video designer working in the greater San Jose area. He is the resident lighting and video designer at City Lights Theater Company and is the master electrician for Palo Alto Players. In addition to working for both of these companies, he also often designs for Children's Musical Theater of San Jose and West Bay Opera. He is a graduate of Santa Clara University and a recent recipient of the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award.

David Corsello (Sound Designer) Prior to returning to the West Coast, David worked as a freelance sound designer in New York and regionally. He currently works on 3D audio research at DTS, Inc. Past New York credits include: *Canon in D Minor*, *Fourteen Flights* (NYC Fringe); *The Groove Factory* (New York Musical Theatre Festival); *American River* (Theater for the New City); *Mariela in the Desert* (Repertorio Español); *Macbeth* (The New School); *L'Chaim* (Columbia University); *Ruined* (Marymount Manhattan College); *Murder Ballad* (Asst., Manhattan Theatre Club); *February House* (Asst., The Public Theater). Regional: *Glengarry Glen Ross* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Altar Boyz* (Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival); *The Baltimore Waltz* (Cape Rep Theatre). MFA Sound Design and Master of Engineering, UC San Diego.

Ting-Na (Props Designer) Ting-Na is grateful to return to LASC after designing the set for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (collaboration with LAYT) during summer. Her other props and painting credits for LASC includes *Urinetown*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Fox on the Fairway* and *The Great American Trailer Park*. Other recent credits include set design for *The Tempest* (Silicon Valley Shakespeare), props design for *The Norwegians* (Renegade Theater Experiment).

Lee Ann Payne (Choreographer) Lee Ann is thrilled to be back in Los Altos, having previously choreographed *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Smokey Joe's Café*. Lee Ann earned an MFA in Musical Theatre from SDSU, and also works locally and nationally as an actor and teacher. She is on staff with Zohar School of Dance in Palo Alto. More at www.leeannayne.com.

Kit Wilder (Fight Director) Kit has trained with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and with members of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and he has been a member of the Society of American Fight Directors and the Academy of the Sword. He has staged fights and other mayhem for countless schools and theatres throughout Bay Area, including San Jose Stage Company, Opera San Jose, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Santa Clara University, Foothill College, TheatreWorks, and of course City Lights Theater Company of San José where he is Associate Artistic Director. Kit is also an acclaimed Bay Area actor and director.

Gabriel Dominic Carlos (Assistant Costume Designer) Gabriel is a designer and visual artist based in Santa Cruz. He has designed costumes for Renegade Theatre Experiments, Shakespeare to Go, and multiple shows at UC Santa Cruz. In addition to his design work, Gabriel is known for street style photography and commercial work throughout Santa Cruz. He is currently attending UC Santa Cruz studying Film Production and Art Photography.



Follies 2015

A SALUTE TO IGNOMINIOUS IDOLIZING OF IDIOCY!

October 1, 2 and 3, 2015

What's happened to our pols and pundits now? How is bragging about being uninformed still a thing? Fortunately, the Follies is here to set us all straight by singing topical parodies that put those pretentious peeps in their place. Why read blogs or watch the news when you can come to the Follies and learn the latest? You'll be entertained with delightful music, hilarious emcee patter, the faux pas du jour, all brought to you by the ever-up-for-it Follies troupe. And, the shows raise funds for Los Altos Stage Company while you have a good time and get to mingle with The Electeds and The Normal People! Ignoramuses, beware: Follies has you in its sights.

A pre- and post-show reception with wine, appetizers and dessert completes the fabulous package. (Friday and Saturday evenings only)

Follies Pre-Show Reception: 6:30 pm (Fri. and Sat. evenings)
Follies Show: 7:30 pm

All Follies tickets are a tax-deductible donation to Los Altos Stage Company.

Tickets and Info: www.lostaltosstage.org or 650.941.0551

2014-2015 CONTRIBUTORS

Los Altos Stage Company gratefully acknowledges the many businesses, corporations, foundations and individuals whose generous support makes our productions possible. Contributions listed below reflect gifts received over the past year. For corrections or to make a contribution, please contact Gary Landis @ 650-941-0551 • P.O. Box 151, Los Altos, CA 94023.

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650/941-0551
www.losaltosstage.org**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE: BUS BARN THEATER
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022
In the Hillview Community Center

BOX OFFICE

Is located next to theater. Tickets and Information: (650) 941-0551. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Will Call opens 30 minutes before curtain.

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm, Sunday at 3 pm
unless otherwise noted.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES

Preview Thursday: \$28
Opening Night: \$36
Wednesday: \$28
Thu/Fri/Sat: \$36
Sunday: \$30
Student price of \$18, excluding Opening Night

GROUP DISCOUNTS

Are available to groups of 10 or more. Call the Box Office for details.

TICKET EXCHANGES

Only subscribers can exchange their tickets, free of charge. All exchanges are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee the same assigned seats. Sorry, no ticket refunds.

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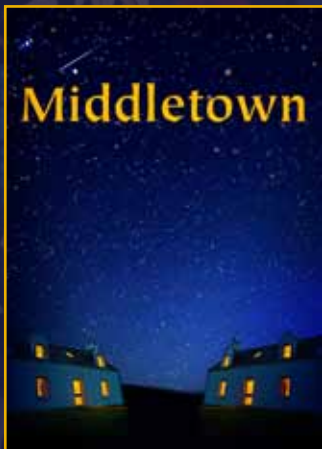
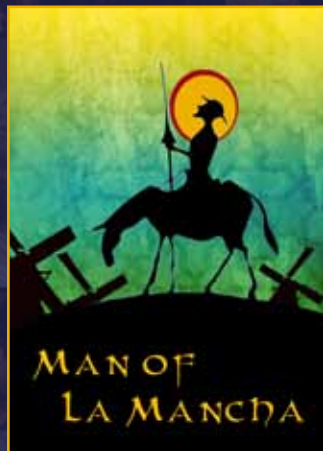
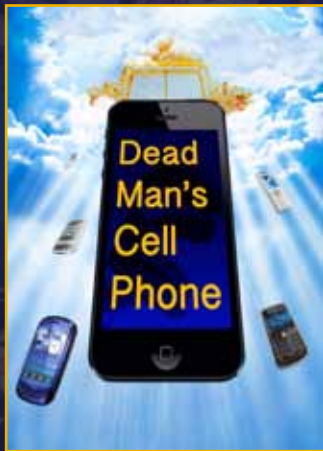
Is available. Please notify the Box Office in advance when purchasing tickets.

PLEASE REMEMBER

There is no smoking in the theater. Cameras and recording devices are prohibited.
As a courtesy to other patrons, please turn off your pager, cell phone or watch alarm during the performance.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2015-2016



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**Tickets and Information:
www.losaltosstage.org**