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Note From the Artistic Director, Alexis Scheer

Virgo. Turning your grievances into gratitude will help you carry that thing you're carrying. Dance in your underwear to music your parents listened to for unexpected release.

Libra. Get some fertilizer and be the greener grass on the other side. Let them come to you. Wish on a bay leaf and eat it on the fifth Friday of the month.

Scorpio. Don't worry, what you're looking for is hiding in your ribcage. Try singing to it. Wear leather or lace when no one's looking.

Sagittarius. You have the fish on the line. Don't hesitate. Eat it or set it free. Wink at a flower to conjure your power.

Capricorn. Stop questioning your kingdom and cut the thorns from your crown. Write a letter to the animal inside and then eat it.

Aquarius. Nothing changes if nothing changes. Something changes if something changes. Carry a pebble in your pocket to summon sacred energy.

Pisces. You are your best when you do your best, when you do your best you are the best. Now set your bar higher. Whisper sacred text into an animal's ear.

Aries. What's for you won't pass you. Something you want is coming in a way you don't expect. Drink water that the moon has bathed in.

Taurus. Society is demanding you to focus on the currency they print, so shift your focus to currency grown from the earth to stay sane. Cut a peach for strength.

Gemini. Your inner child is begging to be indulged. Make a To Do List in green crayon of your favorite childhood activities. Do everything on your list.

Cancer. Many are asking for your help, but the one who needs it most is the one not asking. Eat an apple when you feel yourself turning inside out.

Leo. New things are on your horizon, so don't be afraid to trim your proverbial mane. Squeeze a lemon onto a promise.

Off the Grid Theatre Company
presents

The Weird

Directed by Steven Bogart

Gather by Kirsten Greenidge

Olivia..... Ciera-Sadé Wade
Lucy..... Ida Esmaeili
Nan..... Khloe Alice Lin
Jill..... Taylor Beidler
Richard..... Elliott Purcell

The Ear of Our Lord by John Kuntz

Elizabeth..... Rebecca Lehrhoff
Lynda..... Kara Arena
Carol..... Amanda Collins*
Cotton Mather..... Elliott Purcell
Rebecca..... Rosie McInnes

Letters from the Coven by Lila Rose Kaplan

I..... Alexis Scheer
II..... Ida Esmaeili
III..... Rebecca Lehrhoff
IV..... Taylor Beidler
V..... Rosie McInnes

Era Era by Obehi Janice

Woman..... Amanda Collins*
Patricia..... Alexis Scheer
Victoria..... Kara Arena
Matt..... Elliott Purcell

*Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

Run time: 90 minutes. No intermission

Note from the Director, Steven Bogart

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UNIVERSUM

Dramaturgy	Kira Rockwell
Scenic Design	Mary Sader
Costume Design	Rachel Padula-Shufelt
Lighting Design	Marcella Barbeau
Sound Design	Lee Schuna
Props Design	Alexis Scheer
Production Stage Manager	Geena M. Forristall
Production Assistant	Olivia Viola
Graphic Design	Mark Rockwell
Photography	Andrew LaBreck/Nile Scott Hawver
Administrative Assistant	Alejandra Parrilla
Master Electrician	Mandie Holt
Electricians	Ali Whitten, Mitchell Girgasky, Kevin Zabrecky, Emily Bearce

Off the Grid is a collective of artists committed to pushing the boundaries of artistic ability and engendering social empathy by developing and producing new works and re-imagining classical and contemporary repertoire. We strive to feed the artistic hunger of our company members and cultivate a breeding ground for well-rounded, innovative, and courageous artists.

off the GRID
theatre company

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Kara Arena is so pleased to be working with Off the Grid once again after appearing as Molly in *Never Fully Dressed (Without A Smile)* a staged reading written and directed by Alexis Scheer. Other credits include: *Red Noses*, *Spring Awakening*, *Coriolanus* (The Boston Conservatory), *Crazy For You* (Reagle Music Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (7 Stages Shakespeare Company). She recently performed in Goodspeed Opera House's New Works Festival where she played the role of Irma in *Picnic At Hanging Rock*. Boston Conservatory BFA Musical Theater. www.karaarena.com

Taylor Beidler (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her OTG debut! Taylor graduated this past May from Boston University with her BFA in Theatre Arts with a focus in playwriting and dramaturgy. As an actress, recent roles include Conrade/Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Boston University), Professor Scoot in *The Cradle Will Rock* (Boston University), and Cariola in *The Duchess of Malfi* (Boston University). Taylor's plays have been read/performed throughout Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, and London. She is a founding member of The Parkvale Collective, a company of artists working together to bring female-driven work abroad. Up next, Taylor will be heading to New York City to work as the dramaturg for The New Collectives production of *Trojan Women*, an innovative endeavor whose mission is to spread awareness and provide support for female refugees in our modern political climate. For more information, please visit www.taylorbeidler.com.

Amanda Collins* (Ensemble) Regional theatre: *The Totalitarians*, *Out of Sterno* (IRNE Nomination, Best Actress), *This Is Our Youth*, *9 Circles* (Gloucester Stage Company); *The Seagull* (Harbor Stage/Modern Theatre); *A Behanding in Spokane*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Speech and Debate*, *Shortstack*, *Colorado*, and *What Then* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater); *When The World Was Green*, *An Ideal Husband* (American Stage in Florida); *Taste of Sunrise* (Wheelock Family Theater); *9 Circles* (Publick Theatre Boston); *Men on Boats* and *My Name is Asher Lev* (Cape Rep); *The Island of Slaves* (Orfeo Group); *No Exit* (Payomet); Brecht's *The Life of Galileo* (Underground Railway); *Saving Kitty* with Jennifer Coolidge (Nora Theatre Company); *Back the Night* (Boston Playwrights'); and *Jester's Dead* (The Outfit in NYC). Television: *Olive Kitteridge* (HBO), *Boston's Finest* (ABC Pilot). Film: *Sea of Trees*. Amanda received her BA in History and Theatre from Regis College and is a proud member of Actors' Equity and SAG-AFTRA.

Ida Esmaeili. (Ensemble) Previously with Off the Grid: *Never Fully Dressed*. Boston acting credits include: *Greetings From Fallujah* (Boston Theatre Marathon XIX), *Devilfish Sleeps* (HowlRound), *The Skriker*,

(cont'd) *The Nightmare Box*, *Red Noses*, *The Penelopiad*, *Urinetown* (Boston Conservatory). Ida is originally from Sweden, but grew up in Singapore, and recently received her BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. www.idaesmaeili.com

Rebecca Lehrhoff (Ensemble) is a Somerville-based theater and visual artist whose work ranges from acting, theater devising and dance to scenic design, prop design and mural painting. Rebecca holds a MFA in Contemporary Performance from Naropa University and a B.S. in Theater from Skidmore College. She is a company member of Liars & Believers (LAB), a devised theater company in residence at the Boston Center for the Arts. Acting credits include: *Yellow Bird Chase* (LAB), *Who Would Be King* (LAB), *The Princess & The Pea* (Imaginary Beasts), *Beowulf* (Poets' Theatre), *Sacred Spaces Redux* (Exchange Artists), *Interference* (LAB), *Enigma Variations* (Flat Earth Theater), *The Good Woman of Setzuan* (Fort Point Theater Channel), *King Arthur* (Poets' Theater), *Beck: Song Reader* (Chimera Lab Dance Theater), *Cottage By The Sea* (Chimera Lab Dance Theater), *Mad Forest* (Naropa University/SITI Company).

Khloe Alice Lin (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Off The Grid debut in *The Weird*. Her recent Boston credits include *peerless* (Company One) and *Bear Patrol* (Vaquero Playground). She was in the original cast of the Chinese premier of *Vagina Monologues*, and has performed extensively in Beijing in her native tongue, Mandarin. She is a proud graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in comparative literature and theater.

Rosie McInnes (Ensemble) is a Boston-based performer, writer and educator and is honored to be working with Off the Grid for the first time. Recent credits include *A Bright Room Called Day* (Swarthmore College), *Circle Up!* (Youth Underground Ensemble, Central Square Theater) and *The Fear Project* (Open Theater Project). Much love and admiration to everyone continuing to love and resist.

Elliott Purcell (Ensemble) is delighted to work with Off the Grid Theatre for the first time! Recent Credits: *Hand to God* (Elliot Norton Nomination for Outstanding Actor in a play as Jason/Tyrone), *appropriate [SpeakEasy Stage]*; *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *Cymbeline*, *King Lear*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* [Commonwealth Shakespeare]; *Our Town* [Huntington Theatre]; *Laura, Meet Me in St. Louis*, [Stoneham Theatre]; *A Measure of Normalcy* [Gloucester Stage]; *Language of Angels* [Happy Medium Theatre]; *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Algernon), *The Song of Achilles*, *Orestia* [Newton Theatre Company]. Tour/NYC: *Jews on First* [Piece of Tish Productions]. Upcoming: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at SpeakEasy Stage.

Alexis Scheer (Ensemble) Previously with Off the Grid: *Blasted*, *Equus*, and *Dog Sees God*. Boston acting credits include *Franklin* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *The Housekeeper* (Fresh Ink Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Arts After Hours); *Annotated History... Muskrat* (Circuit Theatre Company); *a soft murder*, *Noises Off*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (The Boston Conservatory). Alexis is originally from Miami, FL, received her BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory, and is currently pursuing a MFA in Playwriting at Boston University. She also moonlights as the Producing Artistic Director of Off the Grid Theatre. www.alexisscheer.com twitter: @alexisscheer / insta: @scheer_madness

Ciera-Sadé Wade (Ensemble) is an actor, singer, dancer, dramaturg, and playwright/poet in the Boston area and is thrilled to make her acting debut with Off the Grid. She graduated from Boston University in 2013 with her BFA in Acting. Recent acting productions and readings include *Top Eye Open* (Hibernian Hall), *The Love of the Nightingale* (Open Theatre Project), *Pinocchio* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *For Colored Girls...* (BU post-grad), *Prudence* (Charlestown Working Theatre), and *Dry Bones Rising* (Argos Productions). Many thanks to her "weird" cast/crew mates for making this a memorable production.

Steven Bogart (Director) is a playwright, stage director, teacher and visual artist. He has directed for the American Repertory Theater (*Cabaret*), (*The Boston Abolitionist Project*), Wheelock Family Theatre (*Pinocchio*), Company One (*Shockheaded Peter*, *Dry Land*, *Peerless*), Boston Playwrights' Theater (Ginger Lazarus's, *Burning*, Dan Hunter's, *Legally Dead*), Liars and Believer's (*Lunar Labyrinth*). He has collaborated on projects with Neil Gaiman, James Carroll, Kate Snodgrass, and Amanda Palmer. Bogart's plays have performed in Boston (Boston Theater Works, Boston Theater Marathon), NYC (SPFNYC, 2007), and Chicago (Stage Left Theater, Leapfest). He is a 2015 Massachusetts Cultural Council fellow in playwriting, and was a 2009 Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant recipient in playwriting. His play, *Pigcat* was the recipient of the Holland New Voice Award at the 2010 Great Plains Theater Conference, and his play, *The Last Skywriter in the Universe* received a reading at the 2012 Warm Laps at the Boston Center for the Arts. He has participated in the Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive, and The Freedom Art Theater Retreat where he worked with other playwrights, designer and dramaturges. Bogart is an Artist-in-Residence in theater at Southern New Hampshire University. As a visual artist, he has exhibited his work at the Decordova Museum, Ueno Metropolitan Museum of Art (Tokyo), Boston, New York, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia and Chicago. He has loved working with Off the Grid Theatre Company on *The Weird*.

Kirsten Greenidge (Playwright) Recently named one of Boston's Best by The Improper Bostonian, Kirsten is the author of *Gather*, as well as *Zenith* (San Francisco Playhouse, 2017), a concert adaptation of Christopher Paul Curtis' *Bud, Not Buddy*, with original score by Terence Blanchard (Metro Stage 2018, the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, 2017), *Milk Like Sugar* (the Huntington, 2016, Women's Theatre/Playwright's Horizon's and La Jolla Theatre Company 2011), which received an Obie Award, as well as a Lucille Lortel Nomination, *Baltimore* (New Rep/Boston Center for American Performance at Boston University, 2016), *Splendor*, (Company One, 2013), as well as *The Luck of the Irish* (LCT3, 2013, and the Huntington 2012). She is a PEN/American Laura Pels Mid-Career Playwright Award recipient, Roe Green/Cleveland Playhouse New Play Award recipient (*Little Row Boat*), and a current Mellon Foundation/Howlround Artist-in-Residence at Company One Theatre where she works with Company One's emerging writer's group Playlab. Kirsten has enjoyed development experience at the Space on Ryder Farm's Family Residency, Huntington's Summer Works, The Goodman, La Jolla Playhouse, Kenyon Playwright's Conference, Denver Center's New Play Summit, P.73, Sundance, Sundance at UCROSS, Bay Area Playwrights, among others. Recent plays have been produced at the National Black Theatre Conference (*Baltimore*) and Edinburgh Fringe and Royal Exchange (*As Far As a Century's Reach*/the BIRTH Project), Mosaic Theatre, to name a few. Kirsten is an alum of New Dramatists, and a graduate of the Playwright's Workshop at the University of Iowa. She oversees the undergraduate Playwriting track at the School of Theatre at Boston University.

Obehi Janice (Playwright) is an award-winning artist and creator. A graduate of Georgetown University, she was named "Boston's Best Actress" by *The Improper Bostonian* in 2014. Her comedic short, *BLACK GIRL YOGA*, won the Reel 13/AfroPunk Film Competition (WNET/New York Public Media). Her work has been featured in *American Theatre Magazine*, *Bustle*, *WBUR*, *DigBoston*, *For Harriet*, and *The Boston Globe*. Her plays include *FUFU & OREOS*, *Ole White Sugah Daddy* and *Red Drink*. *Era Era* is her first Off the Grid collaboration. www.obehijanice.com (Twitter + Instagram: @fufuandoreos)

Lila Rose Kaplan's plays shine light on the stories we don't tell about women. Her heroines live in heartfelt comedies, bittersweet dramas, and musicals for young people. Her plays include *Home of the Brave*, *Jesus Girls*, *The Magician's Daughter*, *1 2 3 - a play about abandonment and ballroom dancing*, *We All Fall Down*, *Wildflower*, *Bureau of Missing Persons*, and *Biography of a Constellation*. Her musicals for young people include: *The Light Princess*, *The Pirate Princess*, and *The Magic Fish*. Productions: A.R.T., South Coast Rep, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, New Victory

(cont'd) Theatre, Second Stage, San Francisco Playhouse, Neighborhood Productions, Know Theatre, and Perishable Theatre. Development: Huntington Theatre, Trinity Rep, Arena Stage, Kennedy Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Theatreworks, PlayPenn, and The Lark. Awards: National Science Award in Playwriting and The International Women's Playwriting Award. Fellowships: Huntington Playwriting Fellowship, Playwrights' Realm Writing Fellow, Old Vic/New Voices Exchange, and the Shank Fellowship. Residencies: The Orchard Project, Space on Ryder Farm, New Rep Next Voices, Harvard Business School, and the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics. BA with Honors: Brown University. MFA in Playwriting: UC San Diego. Coming up next: *The Villains' Supper Club*, a new comedy about Motherhood and Villainy will premiere at Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Spring 2018. Lila Rose currently lives in Cambridge with her marine biologist and her curious daughter. www.lilarose.org

John Kuntz (Playwright) is an actor, playwright, director, and solo performer as well as the author of more than 15 full-length plays, including *The Hotel Nepenthe*, *The Salt Girl*, *Starfuckers*, *Jasper Lake*, *Sing Me to Sleep*, *The Annotated History of the American Muskrat*, and *Necessary Monsters*. Kuntz is a founding company member of the Actors' Shakespeare Project and has worked with the Huntington Theatre Company, American Repertory Theater, Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Playwrights Theatre, Company One, Nora Theatre Company, and many others. Directing credits include the Boston premiere of Sarah Kane's *Blasted* with Off the Grid as well as *Red Noses* and *The Balcony* at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where he is an Associate Professor of Theatre. He is the recipient of five Elliot Norton Awards, two IRNE Awards, a 2015 MCC Fellowship Award in Dramatic Writing, a New York International Fringe Festival Award and the Paula Vogel and Michael Kanin National Playwriting Awards.

Marcella Barbeau (Lighting Design) is a graduate lighting design student at Boston University. She just recently spent her summer with Cincinnati Opera as their assistant lighting designer. At BU, she has designed lights for *Mad Forest* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Marcella received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

Rachel Padula Shufelt (Costume Design) is pleased to make her Off The Grid Debut. She works as a freelance costume, wig and make-up designer in New England and New York and is a graduate of Emerson College. Recent costume design credits include; MEN ON BOATS at Speakeasy Stage ALICE IN WAR, LITTLE MURDERS at The Boston Conservatory, MORTAL TERROR, LEGALLY DEAD, ABSENCE, WINDOWMEN(nominated Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Design),

(cont'd) CHOSEN CHILD, and RECONSIDERING HANNA(h) at Boston Playwrights Theatre, EZIO with Odyssey Opera, DOUBT, UNCANNY VALLEY at Stoneham Theatre, TRAD and CRIMES OF THE HEART at Gloucester Stage Company, EDWARD II(winner of Eliot Norton Award for Outstanding Design) at Actor's Shakespeare Company.

Mary Sader (Scenic Design) recently graduated from Boston University with an MFA in Scene Design, where she most recently designed *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Exposed*. For Boston Playwrights' Theatre she has designed *Franklin*, *Memorial*, and *Sickle*. She has also worked for Gloucester Stage Company, Anthem Theatre Company, OperaHub, and on New Rep's Classic Repertory Company's 2016/17 tour. She earned her BA in Honors from Virginia Tech. www.marysader.com

Lee Schuna (Sound Design) is a freelance sound designer, composer, recording engineer, and graduate of the Music Industry program at Northeastern. This is Lee's first show with Off The Grid, and he is excited to join Steve Bogart again on his surreal adventures. Lee's other credits include: THE T PARTY, REALLY, and PEERLESS (Company One), FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (New Rep), THE KING STAG (Tufts), EVERYMAN (Apollinaire), SIGNIFICANT OTHER and GRAND CONCOURSE (Speakeasy). Lee is currently collaborating with fellow queer artist Anjimile on new music to be released on his pet record label, Human Nature Records. <http://humannaturerecords.com>

Kira Rockwell (Dramaturg) is a playwright, teaching artist, and budding dramaturg from Dallas, Texas. This is her first production with Off the Grid! Earlier this year, she acted as dramaturg for *The Honeytrap* (Boston Playwrights Theatre). Kira's play *Nomad Americana* will premiere in Boston this coming February 2018 (Fresh Ink Theatre). She is currently pursuing her MFA in playwriting at Boston University. She received her BFA in Theatre Performance from Baylor University (2014). Check out www.kirarockwell.com for more information.

Geena M. Forristall (Stage Manager) is a freelance stage manager and artist from Boston, MA. Previous stage management credits include: *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, and *Cymbeline* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Lyric Stage Company), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* (Company One), and *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk NYC/Emursive). She is also the production stage manager for the international tour of *Kultar's Mime*, a devised play that blends painting, poetry, theater, and music to explore the repetition of violence, the exploitation of minorities, and the corruption of politics. Geena holds a BFA in Theatre Arts from Hofstra University. www.gmforristall.com.

Special Thanks

Jeffery Peterson, Kate Snodgrass, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Joey Riddle, Katie Most, Rebecca Butler, Patsy Collins-Bandes, The Boston Conservatory, Alex Portenko, Darren Evans, Jarrett Byrnes, Dan Ryan, Anthony Gervais, Brooke Stanton, our Indiegogo backers:

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The Box Office is generally open Tuesday - Saturday, 12pm to curtain (or 6pm); Sunday, 12pm to curtain (or 4pm). Hours change weekly. For the most up-to-date hours, please visit BostonTheatreScene.com or call the Box Office at 617 933 8600.

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