

Co-Artistic Director **RONAN MARRA**

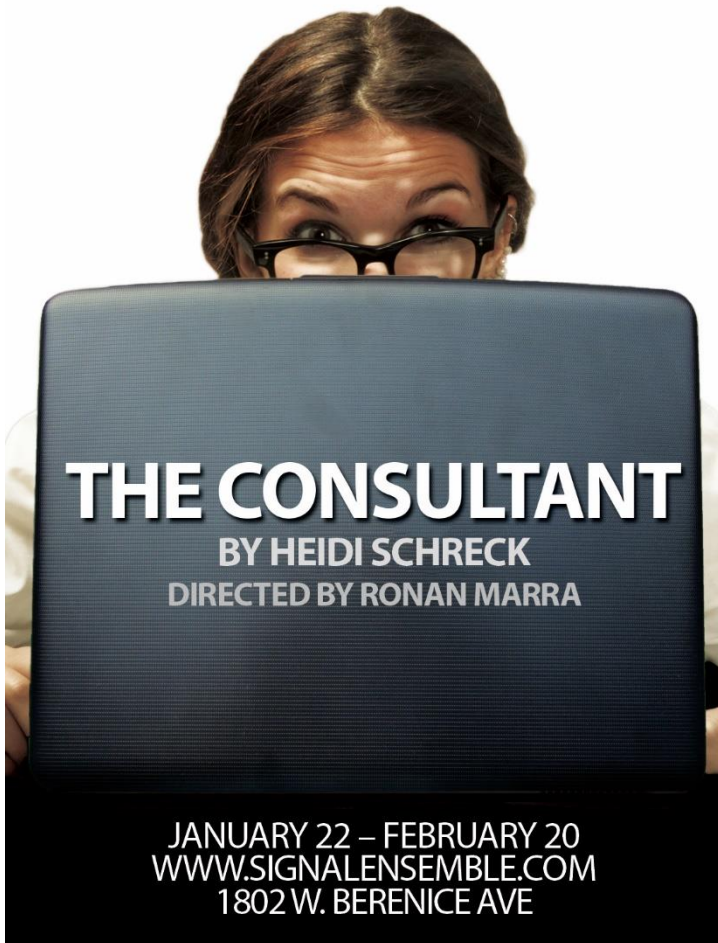
Co-Artistic Director **JOSEPH L. STEARNS**

Managing Director **STEPHANIE INGRAM**

SIGNAL ENSEMBLE THEATRE

Presents

It's all working out perfectly.



THE CONSULTANT

A Chicago Premiere By
HEIDI SCHRECK

Directed By
RONAN MARRA*

JANUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 20, 2016
Thursday, Friday & Saturday @ 8:00pm |
Sunday @ 3:00pm

Tickets \$15 / \$23

"The Consultant" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

CAST

ARIEL BEGLEY*	Amelia
MAGGIE CAIN	Barbara
BEN CHANG	Jun Suk
COURTNEY JONES*	Tania
JOE MCCAULEY*	Mark

PRODUCTION TEAM

RONAN MARRA*	Director
ELSA HILTNER†	Costumes Designer
JULIE E. BALLARD†	Lighting Designer
CHRISTOPHER J NEVILLE	Properties Designer
IAN ZYWICA	Scenic Designer
ANTHONY INGRAM*	Sound Designer
MICHELLE SELLERS*	Stage Manager
BUCK BLUE†	Technical Director

** Indicates An Ensemble Member*

† Indicates An Artistic Associate

BIOS PRESENTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Julie E. Ballard (Lighting Designer) has made Signal Ensemble Theater home since 2004. She has been a part of 23 productions, none of which she can categorize as her favorite, because they all were. Any chance to work with this incredible company is a "favorite". This company on more than one occasion has been a lifeline. Her thanks to Ronan (we went to undergrad together!), Joe, Steph, Tony (he is in my wedding party), Mel, Buck....the list is ENDLESS. It means more than you know... VIVA LA SIGNAL! www.overlaplighting.com



Ariel Begley (Amelia) is honored to be involved in Signal's final production, *The Consultant*. Previously with Signal she has been seen in *Successors* and *Plainsong*. She is the co-artistic director of Imaginez Ensembles, a traveling cirque company with which she has co-created, produced and toured four original works. Other Chicago credits include Fox Valley Rep, Oak Park Theatre Festival, Lifeline, Right Brain Project, Bristol Renaissance Faire, Actor's Gymnasium and others. She holds a BFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University and has studied abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre. She would like to thank her Signal family for their love, support and for providing her with an artistic home for these last three years.

Buck Blue (Technical Director) Buck's previous set designs here at Signal include *The Drowning Girls*, *Devil's Day Off*, *Plainsong* and *Lascivious Something* (Jeff nomination). He was also scenically involved with *Butcher*, *Red Bud*, *Successors*, *Princes of Waco*, *Motion*, *Aces*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Aftermath* (Remount), *Aftermath*, and *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. Currently he is in his eleventh year as the Technical Director/Production Manager at The Chicago Academy for the Arts, where he oversees production elements for Music, Dance, Visual Arts, Media Arts, Musical Theatre, and Theatre. He is also working on his fourth year at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Other shows include *Bastinello & Luerezia*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Buck is also a founding member of Quest Theatre Ensemble in Chicago where he is recently worked on *Return of Neverland*. Past shows include, *Blue Nativity*, *Children of the Light*, *The Phantom Bride*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *3X3*, *Pinocchio*, *A Revue to Remember*, *The Drunkard*, *The Sword and the Stone*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Peoples History of the United States*, *Into the Woods*, and *Evolution/Creation*.



Maggie Cain (Barbara) was most recently featured as Mrs. Claus in *Barney the Elf* with The Other Theatre Company. Maggie has also performed with Mary-Arrchie (*The Glass Menagerie* – BroadwayWorld Chicago Award for Best Ensemble), Griffin Theatre (*Men Should Weep* – Jeff Award for Best Play, *Kin*, *Stage Door*), Steep Theatre (*Pornography*, *Moment*), Raven Theatre (*Good Boys and True*, *Stop Kiss*, *Book of Days*), City Lit (*Lovers*), and LiveWire (*Beverly Enters Stage Left*). Look for her on YouTube in *Watching Game of Thrones with Your Mom* (XVP Comedy). She is represented by Paonessa Talent Agency. Love always to Barry and Andrea.



Ben Chang (Jun Suk) is thrilled to make his Signal Ensemble Theatre debut. Chicago credits include *A Christmas Carol* at Goodman Theatre, *Pal Joey* at Porchlight Music Theatre, *Volpone* at City Lit Theater, *Iphigeneia* at Aulis with Lights Out Theatre Company and *The Blue Shadow* at Lifeline Theatre. Regionally, he appeared in *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* at Theater Alliance of Washington, D.C., *Red Herring* at Circle Bar B Dinner Theatre, *The Paper Dragon* at Ensemble Theatre Company of Santa Barbara, and a touring production of *Romeo and Juliet* with North Carolina Shakespeare Festival. He has appeared on the television show *Empire*.

Brontë DeShong (Assistant Props Design)

Elsa Hiltner (Costume Design) is delighted to work with Signal on *The Consultant*. Past designs at Signal include *Devil's Day Off*, *The Next Thing*, *This Is War*, *Lascivious Something*, *Successors*, *Hostage Song*, *East Of Berlin* and *The Russian Play*, *Aftermath*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *The Birthday Party*. Other favorite credits include *Paulus*, *Night Over Erzinga* (Silk Road Rising); *Grounded* (American Blues Theater); *Grace* and *One Time* (Next Act Theatre); *Jeeves Takes A Bow*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Twelfth Night* (First Folio Theatre); *Forgotten Future*, *This Is Not A Cure For Cancer*, *Crime Scene*, *Jon*, and *1001* (Collaboraction); *El Grito Del Bronx* (Collaboraction/Teatro Vista/The Goodman Theatre). For more information about her designs please visit <http://www.elsahiltner.com>.

Anthony Ingram (Sound Design) is glad he's been here for so much fun. Working on basically every Signal show since 2004, Tony has focused on sound, but has worked in all production areas at least once (with the exception of costumes - he doesn't get along with sewing machines). Thanks and love to the group of artists, collaborators and friends who has kept him entertained, inspired and very, very busy during this long strange trip. Oh, and besides all of the art, Signal found him a wife too (love you Steph). Viva la Signal. <http://www.anthony-ingram.com>.



Courtney Jones (Tania) is excited for one more show with Signal Ensemble where she has also been seen in *This is War* (Tanya) and *The Next Thing* (Kate, Jeff Nomination Principal Actress - Musical). Recent Chicago credits include *The Revel* at the House Theatre, *Ordinary Days* at BoHo Theatre (Jeff Nomination for Supporting Actress- Musical) and *Titanic* with Griffin Theater. Other Chicago credits include Strawdog, InFusion, Writers' Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare. Regional credits include Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Texas Shakespeare Festival, and First Stage Children's Theater. She is grateful for the experiences Signal has afforded her and excited about what the future brings for her Signal family.

Ronan Marra (Director) is a Chicago-based director and playwright. He is a co-founder and Co-Artistic Director of Signal Ensemble Theatre. Directing credits with Signal include *Devil's Day Off* by Jon Steinhagen, *The Next Thing*, *This Is War* by Hannah Moscovitch, *Lascivious Something* by Sheila Callaghan, *Successors* by Jon Steinhagen, *Hostage Song* by Clay McLeod Chapman and Kyle Jarrow, *East Of Berlin* and *The Russian Play* by Hannah Moscovitch, *Aces* by Jon Steinhagen, *Aftermath*, *The Ballad Of The Sad Cafe*, *1776* (Jeff Award - Best Production, Musical, Jeff Nomination - Best Director), *Seascape*, *Waiting For Godot*, *Landslide* (two Jeff Award nominations), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Learning To Fly* and more. He has also directed for Fox Valley Repertory, Chicago Dramatists, the side project and New Leaf Theatre.

Playwriting credits with Signal include the book for *The Next Thing* (Jeff Nomination - New Work; music and lyrics by Jon Steinhagen), *Motion*, *Aftermath*, *Landslide* (Jeff Nomination - New Work) and *Learning To Fly*. Ronan's plays have been produced or workshopped in Chicago, NYC, LA and Cleveland. He is a 2012 finalist for the Woodward/Newman Drama Award (*Motion*) and recipient of the 2006 Illinois Arts Council Finalist Award in Scriptworks (*Landslide*). New City named him one of the "Fifty People Who Really Perform in Chicago" in 2012. ronanmarra.com



Joe McCauley (Mark) is an ensemble member of Signal Ensemble Theatre and Eclipse Theatre. Most recently he has performed in *Red Bud*, *Lascivious Something* and *MOTION* with Signal and *The Lisbon Traviata*, *Bedroom Farce* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night* with Eclipse. Other recent Chicago credits- *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West* (Timeline Theatre), *Unnecessary Farce* (Fox Valley Rep), *The Clean House* (Bluebird Arts) and *Days to Come* and *Juno* and the Paycock (The Artistic Home). Other companies worked with include Theater Wit, City Lit, American Theater Company, Collaboraction and The Annoyance Theater. Joe is a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato with a B.S. in Theatre Arts and a veteran of the U.S. Navy...much love to Isabelle.

Christopher Neville (Props Designer) designed properties for *Butcher, The Drowning Girls, Red Bud and Devil's Day Off* and assistant costume designed *Devil's Day Off and The Next Thing*. Christopher has worked with costumes at Victory Gardens Theater, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Opera Theater, Theatre at the Center, American Blues, and Signal Ensemble. He has also designed properties for Congo Square Theater, Griffin Theatre, Northlight Theatre, American Blues Theater, Side Show Theatre and worked as assistant designer at Lookingglass Theatre Company and Paramount Theater. Christopher trained at Peninsula Players Theatre as a production intern and received his B.F.A from Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

Heidi Schreck (Playwright) is a playwright and two-time Obie Award-winning actor. Her first play *Creature* was produced in New York in by New Georges and Page 73 in a well-received production directed by Leigh Silverman. Her second work *There Are No More Big Secrets*, directed by Kip Fagan, premiered at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, and was a New York Magazine and Time Out New York's Critic's pick. Most recently, The Long Wharf produced her dark recession-era comedy, *The Consultant*, which was developed at Playwrights Horizons and also directed by Fagan. A former Page 73 Playwriting Fellow and Sundance artist, Schreck is currently working on commissions for South Coast Repertory Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan Foundation, and True Love Productions. She appeared as an actor in Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Theatre World Award) in 2010. She has also performed extensively at theaters such as The Public (Shakespeare in the Park), Manhattan Theatre Club, Two-Headed Calf, The Foundry, Clubbed Thumb, The Women's Project, The Roundabout, Williamstown, Berkeley Rep and Center Theatre Group. On television, Schreck has appeared on *The Good Wife, Law & Order: SVU*, and Showtimes' *Nurse Jackie*, where she has also worked as a writer. Schreck is Playwrights Horizons' first Tow Foundation playwright in residence.

Michelle Sellers (Stage Manager) is so honored to be working on this final show with Signal! Previous credits with Signal include Stage Management for *Drowning Girls, Devils Day Off, Plainsong, Lascivious Something and Hostage Song*. Other Chicago credits include *We Are Not These Hands, My Filthy Hunt, Halfshut, Pretty Penny* and *The Modern Prometheus* at The Right Brain Project as well as *The Gas Heart* with The Nine. Thank you so much to the entire Signal family for welcoming me into the company with open arms. The last few years have been absolutely amazing; filled with new friends, beautiful art and so much fun! You will all be forever in my heart!

Ian Zywica (Set Design) Ian is a Chicago-based scenic designer and is happy to be returning to Signal where he previously designed *Butcher*.

SIGNAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Barbara & Richard Lambrecht
Ronan Marra, Sr.
Garry & Sharon Snook
Joseph Stearns

LIGHTHOUSE CIRCLE \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Signal Ensemble Members

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Susan & Richard Bagby
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TORCH CIRCLE \$250 - \$499

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Jon Hallas
Marian Henley
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Joan Madej
Bill & Nancy McCully
Heather McLane
Michaela McMahan
Ellen Miller
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