SERIOUS PLAY THEATRE ENSEMBLE
and
THE KO FESTIVAL OF PERFORMANCE
Present

MOVING WATER

Live: July 22-25, 2021 | Workroom/A.P.E.@Hawley
Online: July 30 - August 1, 2021

A devised theatre production by SERIOUS PLAY THEATRE ENSEMBLE
Written by ERIC HENRY SANDERS
Directed by SHERYL STOODLEY
With original music by JONNY RODGERS
Video/Sound/Scenic Design: ROBIN W. DOTY
Performers: KERMIT DUNKELBERG XIMENA SALMERÓN WILL SWYERS
Lighting Design: SABRINA HAMILTON
Dramaturg/Visual Artist: ROSALYN DRISCOLL
Stage Manager/Video Op: HOLLY GETTINGS
Asst. Lighting Designer, Lighting Board Op/Crew KIETO MAHANIAH
Live Sound Mix/Soundscape: CHRIS MARTI
Costumer: JULIA VENCENZA WHALEN
Video Design Assistant: NICK VERDI
Production Assistant: KIM MANCUSO
Post-show Facilitators: ROSALYN DRISCOLL (live), TRENDA LOFTIN (web)
Press/Social Media: NIKKI BECK & LAUREN HORN

Performers who contributed during the development of the piece:
Gabriel CiFuentes, Abuzar Farrukh, Jhayden Sheftall, Elizabeth Solomon

THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION

We ask that you please turn off all electronic devices during the performance and refrain from taking photos or video.

There will be a post-show discussion with the ensemble and collaborating artists, hosted by MOVING WATER dramaturg/visual artist Rosalyn Driscoll following the matinee performance on Sunday, June 25. We will also be sending you an invitation to be our guests next weekend at any of the three web post-show discussions, with special guest panelists.

Please let your friends know that an edited, high-end video version of MOVING WATER will be shown on the web as part of the Ko Festival of Performance next weekend. Friday and Saturday July 30 & 31 at 8pm and Sunday, Aug 1 at 4pm. Visit kofest.com for tickets.

Director’s Statement

Serious Play artistic director, and the core collaborating artists, recognize that water is a global, as well as a national issue, and is integrally intertwined with systemic racism, racist climate policies, and environmental capitalism. To this end, we have done extensive research and invited guest experts to lead workshops around water facts, issues and social justice for this devised production. They have guided us toward a deeper understanding of water in our own lives, both its natural beauty and its immense strength, which has greatly influenced the creation of this new production. We often discussed the broader implications of the social, scientific and political research we gathered on water, as well as the visual art we used for inspiration. We found it of great value to carefully listen to our international actors’ points of view, and all they shared with us about their life experiences and water. We have learned much about this essential, life-giving element, the process of making theatre art together apart, and much about ourselves as artists and as people. We were propelled forward by our belief that theatre can make a difference. Arts matter. We are one ensemble voice, in one city, one country, one world, creating a production that seeds change. We must all take up the challenge of reconnecting with and listening to the water. Together we must regain harmony with the natural world and strive toward climate change resilience. Time is running out.

...Sheryl Stoodley

THIS PRODUCTION IS AVAILABLE FOR TOURING.
Contact: seriousplaytheatre@gmail.com 413-588-7439
Don’t forget to visit our new website to find out more about us: seriousplay.org

Serious Play Theatre Ensemble is a project of Cultural Images Group Inc., a nonprofit, tax deductible corporation, and is a proud member of the Network of Ensemble Theaters, New England Presenters, and, for over 30 years, an Associate Artist with A.P.E.

We support the Northampton Community Arts Trust, whose mission it is to protect and ensure the long term viability of Northampton through the acquisition & preservation of affordable and accessible space for creative work in the heart of the community.
CO-PRODUCERS

SERIOUS PLAY THEATRE ENSEMBLE was co-founded by Sheryl Stoodley and Robin Doty in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1995 on the third floor Artspace at Thones. Now in its 27th year of continuous operation, Serious Play is an ensemble-based company that has launched numerous award-winning productions, toured locally, nationally and internationally and now serves as both creators and presenters, bringing visiting artists and productions from around the world to perform in the Connecticut River Valley of Western Massachusetts. Based in Northampton MA as part of APE since 1995, Serious Play works to reshape society’s conversation around prominent social issues through the art of ensemble theatre. The ensemble leads explorations in the unique work of physical theatre; we train actors, devise, and deconstruct productions, and focus on theatre as an innovative art form with an emphasis on the collaborative process. Serious Play is an associate artist with APE@Hawley, part of the new Northampton Arts Trust / Workroom Theatre at 33 Hawley St.

THE KO FESTIVAL OF PERFORMANCE, now in its 30th season, is a festival of ideas — where the only certainty is surprise! Our performances value diversity, authenticity, and are curated to incite curiosity and to provoke compelling conversations with global, national, and personal resonances. Each summer the Ko Festival presents a series of original, devised work curated on a theme, with lively post-show discussions that provide opportunities for civic dialogue following each performance, and lobby displays that help contextualize the work. In non-pandemic years, KoFest is usually housed on the Amherst College campus, but this year we are teaming up with Serious Play for one live performance run, with the rest of the season web-based and centering on themes of Justice, Environmental Safety and Climate Change. In the off-season, Ko offers production, design and touring services. More at kofest.com.

SERIOUS PLAY ENSEMBLE AND COLLABORATING ARTISTS

KERMIT DUNKELBERG (Sergei) Acting with Serious Play on and off since 2009, creating the role of Slobodan Milosevic in the original production of Milan Dragićević’s Milosevic at the Hague, touring with Serious Play to Serbia and writing an article about the production and tour, published in American Theatre. More recently, he created the role of Clov in Serious Play’s production of Samuel Beckett’s Endgame. He is interested in the nexuses between movement and acting, acting and story-making, and the sung and spoken word. Kermit is co-founder, with Kim Mancuso, of Pilgrim Theatre Research and Performance Collaborative, founded while Dunkelberg was studying in Poland with actors from the Polish Laboratory Theatre. He has co-created and performed in many projects with Pilgrim Theatre, including Moon Over Dark Street, Letters from Sarajevo, and Faust. At Ko, he has appeared in Laura Harrington’s N (Bonaparte), as “N”, The Wild Place and The House Not Touched by Death.” He also regularly hosts post-show discussions for Ko.

XIMENA SALMERÓN (Luna) was raised and studied acting in Mexico City. She has performed as an actress as well as a director and mask-maker in Mexico, and in various venues around the world. She has been a part of the Teatro Itinerante Rocinante (Rocinante Itinerant Theatre) and a founding member of the company RáfagaTeatro, and the Crazy Compass Theatre. She holds a BA in Theatre from La Casa del Teatro. In 2016 she moved to Paris, France, to study movement and physical theatre in the École International de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq and later at the École Philippe Gaulier, where she was taught by the clown genius Philippe Gaulier himself. She has been a resident artist at the Fondation des Etats-Unis from 2016 to 2018 where she participated in various projects with international actors. Her parents are anthropologists, so she traveled with them, living in different locations around the world. She currently lives in Northampton, MA where she is co-owner of the Iconica Social Club.
WILL SWYERS (Drew) grew up in Northampton, MA, participating in dance, movement, theatre training, and performing in local theatre productions, playing the lead role in Hamlet and Danny in Grease. He has acted with: New Century Theatre, and spent many seasons in Hampshire Shakespeare Company, and Amherst Leisure Services productions. A talented tap dancer and mover, Swyers participated in Serious Play Intensive Theatre Training workshops. He furthered his actor training while attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. Subsequently he attended and graduated from L’Ecole Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq, Paris, France. While in France, he choreographed and produced the world premiere of Songs of Death and Taxes. Now back in Northampton, Swyers rejoin Serious Play as an actor, choreographer, Lecoq teacher and co-owner of the Ionica Social Club in Northampton.

SHERYL STOODLEY (Director) is the Artistic Director of Serious Play Theatre Ensemble. She has performed, directed & taught physical actor training and ensemble theatre-making with regional and academic theatres throughout New England. Sheryl trained and acted with Stage One Theatre Lab at the Boston Center for the Arts. She holds an MA in Theatre from Smith College and served on the theatre faculty of Holyoke Community College. Sheryl led acting workshops with women in MA prisons, created and directed the original play, Ain’t No Man Dragged That Moon Down Yet. Cultural Images Group published the play in the book of inmates writing, The World Split Open. Other productions directed by Stoodley include: Milosevic at the Hague, which toured to the JoakimIntfrest, Serbia —receiving an international theatre award, and an article in American Theatre; as well as Alice Tuan’s Coastline, Marat Sade: What’s Left is Not Right, with new music by Elizabeth Swados; and Hamlet: Asalto a la Inocencia, which played at the Women in Theatre Festival in Athens. Serious Play received much acclaim during their two Edinburgh Fringe tours of The Red Guitar, collaboratively created with musician John Sheldon. Sheryl has received the Jane Ahlfeld Award and the BJ Goodwin Award from the Northampton Arts Council.

ROBIN W. DOTY (Video, Sound and Scenic Design) is a graduate of the University of Florida in visual arts and photography. Robin has worked as a Video and Multimedia Producer at WGBY TV Springfield, and for many years in the Boston PBS/educational market. He worked with WGBH and Chedd-Anger Production Co. and others as a freelance videographer and producer. As a collaborating artist, he has created scenic and sound design and fabrication, lighting design/operation, video documentation for Serious Play since its inception, and produced Serious Play productions and tours in Boston, NYC, Greece, London, Serbia and Edinburgh. Doty worked for many years with the Museum of Science, Boston, as the Managing Director of the Mugar Omni IMAX Theater. Robin co-founded Cultural Images Group, Inc. (1985) and Serious Play Theatre Ensemble (1995) in Northampton, Massachusetts with wife Sheryl Stoodley. As Managing Director, he has coordinated grant writing and fundraising for all projects since the company’s founding.

ERIC HENRY SANDERS (Playwright) collaborated with Serious Play, creating and shaping the dramatic story of Moving Water. His plays and films include Recently, Long Ago, Reservoir; Maybe Probably, The Prince Among Men, The Heliopause, and many others. His writing has been produced and developed in theatres across the country and abroad, including the Goodman Theatre (Chicago), the Union Theatre (London), Theatre89 (Berlin), New Group (NY), The Drilling Company (NY), Primary Stages (NY), Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre (NY), Cherry Lane Alternative (NY), Florida Repertory Theatre (Fort Myers), The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and Victory Gardens Theatre (Chicago). Awards include: the Artist Fellowship in Playwriting from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Edward Poole Lay Fellowship in Playwriting from Amherst College. A Brooklyn native, he teaches narrative and screenwriting at Hampshire College (Amherst, MA) and Mt Holyoke College. He is a Lark Playwrights Fellow, an Associate Artist at Chester Theatre, and a member of the Dramatists Guild. More at Erichsanderson.com

JONNY RODGERS (Composer/Musician) hails from Oregon and is a renowned glass musician, composer and performer. He toured for years as an indie musician, writing songs that blend neoclassical, indie-folk and

**SABRINA HAMILTON** (Lighting Design/Virtual Lobby Display/Co-Producer) is the Artistic Director of the Ko Festival of Performance, having co-founded it 30 years ago. For many years she worked with the New York theatre company Mabou Mines as Lighting Designer, Production Manager, Stage Manager, Performer, and Assistant Director. Other credits include work at the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Goodman Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum and 6 years as Route Lighting Designer for New York’s Village Halloween Parade. International lighting credits include work in 15 different countries. Sabrina's directing work, primarily original pieces, has been seen in New York, Berlin and throughout New England.

**ROSALYN DRISCOLL** (Dramaturg & Lobby Display) is a visual artist whose work, primarily in sculpture and installation, is grounded in the body, sensory experience and perception. A decade of making and exhibiting tactile/haptic sculpture is documented in her book, *The Sensing Body in the Visual Arts: Making and Experiencing Sculpture* (Bloomsbury, 2020). Driscoll’s first installation/performance with water—the seed for this production—was in London, 2014; since then she has been developing a project on springs and groundwater. She has been awarded fellowships and residencies from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (twice), New England Foundation for the Arts, Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, Dartington Hall Trust, UK, and L’AiR Arts, Paris. Her work has been exhibited in the US, Europe and Asia.

**JULIA VINCENZA WHALLEN** (Costumer) has been costuming in the Pioneer Valley since 2014. She has loved designing for many local institutions including Serious Play Theatre Ensemble, Hampshire Shakespeare, The Academy of Music, The Drama Studio, Real Live Theater and Eggtooth Productions. She is currently the Costume Shop Supervisor at Hampshire College.

**HOLLY GETTINGS** (Stage Management, Video Operator) is a Ko Festival Core Artist, where she serves as Technical Director. After studies at Boston U. she started working with Reality Theater, Mass. College of Art and then moved into music production, specializing in acoustic, jazz, opera, ballet and vintage rock shows. She has toured with both music and dance programs and has designed at most of the major venues in the Boston area, as well as Carnegie Hall, the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, NJ and other venues in CT, and OH. Technical Director for the Cambridge River Festival, she also works extensively at Harvard University.

**TRENDA LOFTIN** (Social Justice Consultant/Post-show Host) served as Arts Integrated Equity Consultant for *Moving Water*. Loftin is a BIPOC-identified Western Mass consultant, theatre artist, and activist. Committed to using theatre to raise awareness, question patterns, inspire action, and build community, she integrates artistic expression with nuanced identity exploration. Body-centered and collaborative, Trenda works closely with theatre companies, organizations, and individuals to address inequity within programs, practices, and policies utilizing interactive and creative approaches. In addition to her work as an artist and facilitator, she is a worker-owner of The Compost Cooperative and a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors.
SERIOUS PLAY THEATRE ENSEMBLE SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

PRODUCTION SPONSORS
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Gordon Thorne, in memory of all he did for Northampton Arts Community

Extra Special Thanks from Serious Play to Robin Doty, who is often behind the scenes, but has given so much of his ingenuity, talent & time over the years to the success of every SP production.

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