

TO VIEW BOOKLET, SCROLL DOWN

**THE FUGAZI**

PRESENTS

# DEAR SAN FRANCISCO

FROM  
**THE 7 Fingers**



# WELCOME TO CLUB FUGAZI

*Constantly risking absurdity*

*and death*

*whenever he performs*

*above the heads*

*of his audience*

*the poet like an acrobat*

*climbs on rime*

*to a high wire of his own making...*

*-from Lawrence Ferlinghetti's Constantly Risking Absurdity (#15)*

Poet, neighbor, and City Lights founder Lawrence Ferlinghetti once read his poems in this room. So, too, did Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Diane di Prima, and many others. Thelonious Monk recorded *Thelonious Alone in San Francisco* here. The Grateful Dead's first album release party was here in 1967. The great pop and classical singers of Italy rocked these walls throughout the 40s and 50s. And, of course, the absolutely inimitable *Beach Blanket Babylon* completed its 45-year run here in December of 2019.

Then came COVID-19 and the lockdown. 21 months of darkness fell on Club Fugazi.

We are so honored and inspired to be able to light the lights once again. We opened in September of 2021, and that feeling has not left us.

Club Fugazi Experiences is a homecoming for each of the principals. Gypsy and Shana, both Bay Area natives, co-founded The 7 Fingers here before decamping to Montreal 20 years ago, where support for contemporary circus was both wide and deep. And with their colleagues, they have built The 7 Fingers into one of the most acclaimed and prolific contemporary circus companies in the world, mostly out of view of their Bay Area families and friends. Myself, I had been gone for 15 years, after making theater in San Francisco for two decades. We never stopped working to get home. Co-founder Eric Eislund, though he's always lived in the Bay Area, had never had an opportunity to do a project here.

And so, like the poet and the acrobat of Ferlinghetti's poem, we climb out on a high wire of our own, risking absurdity, to bring you a new, contemporary experience of San Francisco in a room filled with favorite memories for millions. Every trip to Club Fugazi, whether to see The 7 Fingers, or events we haven't yet foreseen, will hopefully—through joy, beauty, surprise, virtuosity, and delight—remind you of the rich history and potent future of this city and the people who love it.

The emblem of the City's flag is a phoenix. San Franciscans know what it is to fall and to get back up. To collapse, burn, and rise from the ashes. We have lived the risks of loving here. And we are here.

*Dear San Francisco* opens with the following lyrics:

*From fire to ashes, from ashes to tremor*

*My city is calling.*

*From fire to ashes, ashes to light*

*My city is rising.*

*-"Fire" by Colin Gagne*

We have answered that call. And our City *is* rising once more. We are pleased to be part of that. And we're very glad you are in the room.

DAVID DOWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Club Fugazi Experiences presents

# DEAR SAN FRANCISCO

CO-CONCEIVED AND CO-CREATED BY

Shana Carroll and Gypsy Snider

**A production of The 7 Fingers**

DIRECTED BY

Shana Carroll and Gypsy Snider

CO-PRODUCER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Dower

MUSIC COMPOSED BY

Colin Gagné

SET, LIGHTS, AND VIDEO BY

Alexander V. Nichols

SOUND BY

Jake Rodriguez

COSTUMES BY

Keiko Shimosato Carreiro

WITH

Sereno “Reno” Aguilar Izzo, Dominic Cruz, Devin Henderson,  
Maya Kesselman, Oliver Layher, Shengnan Pan,  
Chloe Somers Walier, Enmeng Song, Kyran Walton

**WORLD PREMIERE OCTOBER 12, 2021**

**Club Fugazi, San Francisco, CA**

Running time approximately 90 minutes

No intermission

No flash photography

**Share your #dearsanfrancisco experiences with us on social  
@clubfugazif @the7fingers**

Club Fugazi Experiences is a project of Full Circle Theatricals



# DEAR SAN FRANCISCO

## CREDITS

### CREATED & CO-CONCEIVED

Shana Carroll Gypsy Snider

### CAST

Sereno "Reno" Aguilar Izzo	Maya Kesselman	Chloe Somers Walier
Dominic Cruz	Oliver Layher	Enmeng Song
Devin Henderson	Shengnan Pan	Kyran Walton

### DIRECTORS

Shana Carroll Gypsy Snider

### CREATIVE

Alexander V. Nichols ..... Venue & Production Designer  
Colin Gagne ..... Composer  
Jake Rodriguez ..... Sound Designer  
Keiko Shimosato Carreiro ..... Costume Designer  
Ahren Buhmann ..... Associate Video Content  
Creator & Programmer  
Christine Cochrane & David Lynch ..... Lighting Programming  
Isabelle Chasse ..... Assistant Choreographer  
Charis Lam ..... Prop Master  
Sara Felder ..... Script & Dramaturgical Consultant

### PRODUCERS

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Dower

#### CO-FOUNDER

Eric Eislund

#### CEO OF THE 7 FINGERS

Nassib El-Husseini

#### CO-PRODUCERS

Deborah Barrera Terry Lorant & Pete Jacobson

Erica & Russel Berg Tim Mott & Ann Jones

Clair Frederick & Rob Hamner

## MUSIC CREDITS

### ORIGINAL MUSIC AND LYRIC:

Colin Gagné

### IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Guillaume St-Laurent ..... additional music and arrangements  
*(Umbrella Juggling)*

Jean-Sébastien Leblanc ..... additional music and arrangements  
*(Hoop Diving)*

Antoine Seychal ..... additional music and arrangements  
*(Trapeze, Teeterboard)*

Isabella Diaz ..... additional music and lyrics for banjo & guitar  
*(Diabolo)*

### SINGERS:

Alexandre Désilets	Ricky Santoro	Maude Côté-Gendron
Mykalle Bielinsky	Maude Brochu	Dominique Côté
	Véronique Gauthier	

### INSTRUMENTISTS:

Luzio Altobelli	.....	Accordion
Raphaël D'Amours	.....	Guitars
Guido Del Fabbro	.....	Violin
Alex Dodier	.....	Tenor Saxophone
Jonathan Gagné	.....	Drums
Gabriel Godbout-Castonguay	.....	Piano
Jean-Sébastien Leblanc	.....	Clarinet, Bass Clarinet
Mathieu Roberge	.....	Upright Bass
Guillaume St-Laurent	.....	Piano

## SOUNDTRACK

Bring home the original music that accompanies the exhilarating acts of *Dear San Francisco!* Click or scan below to stream and purchase on Spotify, Apple Music, and Bandcamp.



**PRODUCTION**

Jenjen Wong .....	Artist & Performance Manager
David Lynch .....	Lighting & Video Engineer
Jennings McCown, Jr. ....	Lead Rigger & Carpenter
Federico Tezzon .....	Sound Engineer
Andrew Dorland .....	Production Manager
Ben Clark .....	Consulting Technical Director
Dave Freitag .....	Rigging Consultant
Claire Kendrick .....	Master Electrician
J�r�mi Levesque, Evan Weintraub .....	Assistant to the Director

**CLUB FUGAZI STAFF**

Rishi Kapur .....	Director of Accounting & Business Operations
Dori Daniels .....	Director of Ticketing & Box Office Operations
Vincent Oliver .....	Box Office Associate
Kenneth Stapleton .....	Box Office Associate
Anca "Ferosha" Botez .....	Box Office Associate
Matthew Layne .....	Manager of Group & Private Event Sales
Rosa Michelle Santos .....	Accounting & Business, Operations Assistant
Jordan Stewart .....	House Manager

**GUEST EXPERIENCE TEAM**

Walt Anthony .....	Usher Lead
Gina Bennett .....	Guest Experience Associate
Jeremy "Boat" Boatman .....	Guest Experience Associate
Anca "Ferosha" Botez .....	Server Lead
Luis "Strobe" Canales .....	Kitchen Lead
Joey Dehaven .....	Guest Experience Associate
James Green .....	Guest Experience Associate
Facundo "Mezzanini" Guevara .....	Guest Experience Associate
Makaio Henri .....	Guest Experience Associate
Sandra Junor .....	Guest Experience Usher
Rod Lester .....	Bar Lead
Travis Rowland .....	Guest Experience Associate
Tara Rutigliano .....	Guest Experience Associate
Rosa Michelle Santos .....	Guest Experience Associate
Aaron Channing-Wilson .....	Guest Experience Associate
David "Emma" Wrubel .....	Guest Experience Usher
Trevor Vance .....	Guest Experience Associate

**MARKETING & PUBLICITY**

Kevin Kopjak,  
Prismatic Communications ..... Press & Media Relations  
Carla Befera & Company ..... Marketing Consultants  
Fatima Saldivar ..... Social Media Consultant

**MEDICAL**

Catherine S. Forest, MD ..... Consulting Physician  
Stephanine Greenspan, PT, DPT ..... Physical Therapist

**PRODUCTION VENDORS**

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# THE CAST



## **SERENO "RENO" AGUILAR IZZO** *(he/him)*

is a juggler and acrobat. He was born in New York City and grew up in Guanajuato, Mexico. Sereno graduated École Nationale de Cirque in 2018, has been on stage since 2003, and has performed in over 10 countries around the world including touring with The 7 Fingers shows *Passagers* and *Duel Reality*.

*Juggling, Duo Trapeze, Hand to Hand / Porter*



## **DOMINIC CRUZ** *(he/him)*

is a Bay Area native born and raised in the East Bay, and has been immersed in the performing arts his entire life. His mother is a musician and two older brothers are also circus artists. He began his circus training at the age of 5 with Master Lu Yi in the SF Youth Circus at the San Francisco Circus Center. Following in his brothers' footsteps, he then continued his training at the National Circus School of Montreal. Since graduating, Dominic has worked for Cirque du Soleil, The 7 Fingers, Cirque Éloize, Midnight Circus, and co-founded the Back Pocket circus company in Belgium, co-creating and touring their first show *La Vrille du Chat*. Specializing in acrobatics, hoop diving, and pole climbing, Dominic also studied piano, sang in a choir throughout his childhood, and loves all things science fiction. He is overjoyed to be performing in his home community with The 7 Fingers in the historic Club Fugazi.

*Acrobatics, Hoop Diving, Pole Climbing*



## DEVIN HENDERSON *(he/him)*

gets his circus interest and talent naturally, having been born into a family that was very active in the ever-evolving San Francisco circus scene. He attended the San Francisco Circus Center, then continued to hone his circus skills at École National de Cirque de Montréal. Upon mastering hoop diving and the Chinese pole, Devin graduated and made his professional debut in The 7 Fingers productions of *Traces*, continuing with *Sequence 8*, and *Queen of the Night*. He's also performed in Cirque du Soleil's *Luzia* and *Volta*. Other notable productions include Midnight Circus *Chicago*, *Analog*, and Back Pocket's *La Vrille du Chat*. Devin's appearance in Dear San Francisco marks his 10-year anniversary performing with The 7 Fingers. [@devhasnoinsta](#)

*Acrobatics, Banquine, Chinese Pole, Hoop Diving, Teeterboard*



## MAYA KESSELMAN *(she/her)*

is a native of San Francisco and was part of the San Francisco Youth Circus at the Circus Center from ages 10-18. Her dream of becoming a traveling circus artist began to come true when she attended L'Ecole Supérieure des Arts de Cirque in Brussels, Belgium. After graduating with the hoop diving trio, Trio Anneaux, Maya went on to win a gold medal and the Public's Choice award at The Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain. After touring Europe with her trio, she went on to perform in Cirque du Soleil's *Luzia*. She has also completed three tours with Midnight Circus in Chicago, and co-founded the Belgian circus company, Back Pocket, touring as an artist in their first show, *La Vrille du Chat*.

*Hoop Diving*



## OLIVER LAYHER *(he/him)*

has been in circus since the age of 9, where he began his training at Circus Harmony in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. He began as a juggler and worked his way up to the elite acrobatics troupe where he became a porter. Throughout the years, he has performed in hundreds of shows around the United States and internationally in disciplines such as Hand to Hand, Banquine, Juggling, Unicycle, and Diabolo. Oliver went on to attend the National Circus School in Montreal, majoring in Hand to Hand. After graduating Oliver joined The 7 Fingers' show *Duel Reality*, which is currently performing on Virgin Voyages. One of his favorite things about circus is that it combines many different art forms such as music, theater, and dance. Oliver also enjoys reading, watching movies, and playing the piano.

*Hand to Hand, Banquine, Juggling, Unicycle, Diabolo*





## SHENGNAN PAN *(she/her)*

is a native of Shangdong, China. Pan started her circus training at the age of 8 in Shangdong and has been training and performing ever since. She began her North American touring career in 2011 with Cirque du Soleil, remaining with the company through 2013. She joined the cast of The 7 Fingers' *Amuse* in 2013 and has continued working with the company on tour and in Montreal in a variety of projects, including *Intersection* and *Vice y Vertu*. She lives with her family in the East Bay city of San Leandro.

*Diabolo, Foot Juggling*



## CHLOE SOMERS WALIER *(she/her/they)*

grew up a shy wild child in Vermont. She grew up deeply involved with all things athletic and expressive. She found her way to the New England Circus Arts school and graduated with a solo act in solo trapeze which took her to the Riga Cirkz Festival, where she won the People's Choice Award. Additionally, she performed at the Melbourne Fringe Festival, the International Juggler's Association Festival and twice at the Periplo International Circus Festival. She has headlined tours with Tour de Fat, Bindlestiff Family Cirkus, and the MOTH Poetic Circus. Chloe has coached and created numerous acts for the Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour and has line directed for The 7 Fingers. Chloe was a featured performer on the "Late Late Show with James Corden". She has toured with the 7 Fingers shows *Passengers* and *Duel Reality* on Virgin Voyages. Since joining *Dear San Francisco*, she has performed for the Club Fugazi appearance at the Chase Center Warriors' playoff game.

*Hula Hoops, Trapeze*





## ENMENG SONG *(he/him)*

comes to The 7 Fingers from Shandong, China. At 11 years old, Song began performing with an accomplished troupe of Shandong Acrobats. However, it didn't take long for audiences around the globe to be captivated by his stage presence and his performance of circus skills based upon Icarian games, diabolo, and acrobatics. Song fast became a crowd favorite, appearing in nine productions by The 7 Fingers, including *Amuse*, *Intersection*, *Queen of the Night*, *Traces*, *Vice & Vertu*, *Cuisine & Confessions*, as well as the Bench Fashion Show and Hermès Fashion Show. Song has also toured the USA, performing with UniverSoul Circus and Cirque du Soleil in both *IRIS* and *Volta*. He won the 2010 Gold Medal at the Monte Carlo Festival and the 2008 Wuhan International Competition. **@songenmeng**

*Acrobatics, Diabolo, Hoop Diving, Hat Juggling*



## KYRAN WALTON *(he/him)*

is a St. Louis, Missouri native and has been a part of the circus since 2009. He started at Circus Harmony and a few years later became a member of their Elite troop, The St. Louis Arches. Kyran has performed in various disciplines including Banquine, Hand to Hand, Contortion, Hand-Balancing, Juggling, Unicycle, and Flying Trapeze, among others. Kyran is also a graduate from the National Circus School in Canada, majoring in Hand to Hand/Hand-Balancing. Over the past 13+ years, Kyran has performed internationally including joining The 7 Fingers' show *Duel Reality* with Virgin Voyages. In Kyran's free time he loves to teach circus and pass the art form on to the youth.

*Banquine, Hand to Hand, Contortion, Hand-Balancing, Juggling, Unicycle, Flying Trapeze*

# THE DIRECTORS



## GYPSY SNIDER *(she/her)*

Co-founder and artistic director of The 7 Fingers, Gypsy Snider wrote and directed *SisterS*, *Réversible*, *Intersection*, *Amuse*, *Un Dia*, *Traces*, and *Loft*. She has choreographed televised feature performances for America's Got Talent, Her Majesty's Royal Variety Performance, the illusionist Darcy Oake's Edge of Reality, and several large scale fashion shows for Bench in the Philippines.

In 2013, working with director Diane Paulus on a new vision of *Pippin*, she choreographed and wove circus into the revival of the Broadway musical. Gypsy's work on *Pippin* earned her a Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award.

Gypsy began her circus career at the age of 4 when her parents founded the Pickle Family Circus. She grew up touring the West Coast with the company. In 2002, while in her home town of San Francisco, she wrote and directed for The New Pickle Circus.

Gypsy wrote and directed *Ships in the Night*, a gender blending contemporary musical dance revue for Richard Branson's new Virgin Voyages cruise line. The 2020 televised UEFA Draft featured an 8-minute piece created and choreographed by Gypsy dedicated to the 12 participating cities of the season of European Football.

Gypsy is also a guest teacher and guest director at the National Circus School of Montreal. In 2015, she received the Evolving Circus Award in New York City presented by Diane Paulus. She was invited to speak at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC in 2017 on the evolution of Circus Arts in the United States.

*Photo Credit: Olivier Tétreault*

# THE DIRECTORS



## SHANA CARROLL *(she/her)*

As co-founding artistic director of The 7 Fingers, Shana Carroll directed and/or co-directed *Passagers, Cuisine & Confessions, Séquence 8, Traces, Psy, Loft, La Vie, Le Murmure du Coquelicot*, and *FeriAmuse*. Through The 7 Fingers collaborations and special projects, she created the show within the Queen of the Night experience at the Diamond Horseshoe in New York City and co-designed the first segment of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Shana has also frequently collaborated with Cirque du Soleil, most recently as co-director of their first show on ice, *Crystal*, and previously as acrobatic designer and choreographer of *Paramour* (Broadway) and *Iris* (Los Angeles), and as director-choreographer of Cirque du Soleil's performance at the 2012 Academy Awards.

Shana is well known for her acrobatic and circus choreography. She choreographed four gold medal winning numbers at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris. She has received Best Choreography nominations at the Drama Desk Awards (*Traces*) and the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards (*Circumstance*), and directed and choreographed *Duel Reality*, an immersive circus show based on *Romeo and Juliet* for Richard Branson's new Virgin Voyages cruise line.

Originally from Berkeley, California, and daughter of beloved San Francisco Chronicle columnist Jon Carroll, Shana began her career as a trapeze artist with San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus. Shana continued on a 20-year career in the air with Cirque du Soleil and many others before co-founding The 7 Fingers.

*Photo Credit: Olivier Tétreault*

# THE CREATIVES



## COLIN GAGNÉ *(he/him)*

*Composer*

has been composing music and designing sound for circus, theater, and musicals for quite a while. After a diploma in electroacoustic composition at Université de Montréal, he worked with Akousma, Mutek, Cirque Éloize, Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and The 7 Fingers, among others, while teaching musical technologies at CEGEP de St-Laurent. Recently, he signed the music for *Réversible* (The 7 Fingers, Dir.: Gypsy Snider), *Une chambre de verre* (Nord Nord Est, Dir.: Benoit Landry), *Vice et Vertu* (The 7 Fingers, Dir.: Samuel Tétreault), *Edmond* (Juste pour Rire, Dir.: Serge Denoncourt), *La liste de mes envies* (Théâtre du Rideau Vert, Dir.: Marie-Thérèse Fortin), and designed sound and sounds for *Fame The Musical* (Juste Pour Rire, Dir.: Serge Postigo), *Hotel* (Cirque Éloize, Dir.: Emmanuel Guillaume), *Saloon* (Cirque Éloize, Dir.: Emmanuel Guillaume), *Le Journal d'Anne Frank* (TNM, Dir.: Lorraine Pintal), while doing musical arrangements and sound design for Sochi's Olympic Games Opening with The 7 Fingers in 2014. When he has some free time, he creates electronic music, under the name InocL.



## ALEXANDER V. NICHOLS *(he/him)*

*Production Designer/Scenic Designer*

design work extends from lighting, video, projections, scenery, costumes and spans from dance, theater, opera to architectural lighting and art installations. The Berkeley, California native got his start at a young age designing scenery and lighting for Berkeley Ballet Theatre where his mother, Sally Streets, was Artistic Director and his sister Kyra Nichols, a Principal Dancer at New York City Ballet, and brother Robert Nichols, a former member of Chicago City Ballet, would make guest appearances. From these familial roots Mr. Nichols has emerged as a designer for dance and theater on an international level. He has served as Resident Visual Designer for the Margaret Jenkins Dance Co. since 1988, as resident lighting designer for the Pennsylvania Ballet, Hartford Ballet, American Repertory Ballet and as Lighting Director for American Ballet Theatre. His designs have been set on companies including San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, Alberta



Ballet, ODC/SF, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater. He has collaborated with choreographers including Christopher d'Amboise, Val Caniparoli, Ann Carlson, Sonya Delwaide, Marguerite Donlon, Dominique Dumais, Alex Eckman, Joe Goode, Jean Grand-Maitre, Bill T. Jones, Annabelle Lopez-Ochoa, Graham Lustig, Mark Morris, Matjash Mrozewski, Mikko Nissenen, Kevin O'Day, Kirk Peterson, Stephen Petronio, Yuri Possokhov, Michael Smuin, Myles Thatcher, Helgi Tomasson, and Brenda Way.

In theater, Mr. Nichols' designed the video for *Broadway To Oz*, Hugh Jackman's 2015 Australian Arena tour. His Broadway credits include the scenic, lighting, and projection design for Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*, lighting design for *Latin History For Morons*, projection designs for *Hugh Jackman - Back on Broadway* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. Off Broadway credits include: *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me* (set/lighting/video), *In Masks Outrageous and Austere* (lighting), *In The Wake* (lighting/video), *Through The Night* (set/lighting/video), *Taking Over* (lighting/video), *Bridge and Tunnel* (lighting), *Los Big Names* (scenic/lighting/projection), and *Horizon* (scenic and lighting). Additional theater credits include production designs for Mark Taper Forum, Guthrie Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage Co., Huntington Theater, Seattle Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, the National Theater of Taiwan, and the Alley Theater.

Mr. Nichols experience also reaches to live music where he got his start by assisting Lighting Designer Harri Kouvenen in the garage band days of the heavy metal bands Metallica, Exodus, and Laaz Rockit. He has since developed collaborations with: Opera Philadelphia ("Elizabeth Cree" lighting/projection); LA Philharmonic ("Nixon In China" scenic/projection); Cleveland Symphony Orchestra (*Bluebeard & Magnificent Mandarin* scenic/lighting/video); San Francisco Opera (*Svadba* scenic/lighting); Composer Philip Glass and photographer Frans Lanting ("Life - A Journey Through Time" video direction/visual choreography); Kronos Quartet ("Visual Music" scenery/video); Paul Drescher Ensemble ("Sound Stage" scenic/lighting); and ("Awed Behavior" scenic/lighting), Gamelan Sekar Jaya ("Kawit Legong" lighting); and Bill Frisell ("Disfarmer Project" scenery/video). He also designed the lighting for "Aid and Comfort II", an AIDS benefit in collaboration with Eiko Ishioka featuring Laurie Anderson, Herbie Hancock, Phillip Glass, John Adams, and the Kronos Quartet.

Mr. Nichols is a recipient of a San Francisco Certificate of Honor for his work at American Conservatory Theater. He has also received four Isadora Duncan Awards, four Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, and three Dean Goodman Awards, as well as two nominations each for Henry Hewes Design Awards and Los Angeles Ovation Awards.



## JAKE RODRIGUEZ *(he/him)*

*Sound Designer*

is a sound designer and composer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Credits Include: *Between Two Knees* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Woman Laughing Alone with Salad, The Events* (Shotgun Players); *Sweat, Vietgone* (American Conservatory Theater); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (American Conservatory Theater, Theatre Calgary, Grand Theater, The Old Globe); *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (American Conservatory Theater, Guthrie Theater); *Everybody* (California Shakespeare Theatre); *Angels in America, An Octoroon* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *we, the invisibles* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *The Christians* (Playwrights Horizons, Mark Taper Forum); *Girlfriend* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), among others. Jake received the 2004 Princess Grace Award for Sound Design and is the creator of Cricket, a mobile theatre sound design and playback software program. Jake completed a design internship at American Conservatory Theater, and studied at San Francisco State University School of Theatre and Dance.



## KEIKO SHIMOSATO CARREIRO *(she/her)*

*Costume Designer*

is a Collective and Board Member with the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe. Since 1987, she has been an actor, designer, co-writer, and director with the company and has been in almost every summer show. Carreiro has performed at theaters throughout the Bay Area, including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theater, The Magic Theater, The Aurora Theater, Word for Word, and Center Rep. She was nominated for The Shellie Award for Outstanding Actress in the role of Grace in *The Sisters Matsumoto* at Center Rep.

She is an award-winning costume designer, nominated for Theatre Bay Area's Best Costumes, Bay Area Critics Circle Award, and recipient of the 2018 Meritorious Achievement Award (American College Theater Festival).

Carreiro teaches with the San Francisco Opera Guilds' "Book to Bravo" and "Voices for Social Justice" programs and enjoys raising up the next generation of artists/activists.

# THE PRODUCERS



## DAVID DOWER *(he/him)*

*Co-Producer and Executive Director*

Like the Fingers founders, David Dower's journey as a theater producer began in San Francisco, where he founded Z Space and produced over fifty productions over a twenty-year span.

From his place behind the bar at Zuni Cafe, David launched the original Z Collective, comprised of waiters, bartenders, and maitre d's, producing a dozen shows over five years before morphing into The Z Space, which is still in operation in the Mission District. In that time, David began a long collaboration with monologist Josh Kornbluth, with whom he developed and directed new works for the stage including *Ben Franklin: Unplugged*, *Love & Taxes*, *Citizen Josh*, *Andy Warhol: Good for the Jews?*, *Sea of Reeds*, and staged the films *Red Diaper Baby* and *Mathematics of Change* in 2006. David also developed and directed new works by many Bay Area artists and ensembles, including Anne Galjour, Gary Leon Hill, Charlie Varon, and Word for Word.

David led Z Space for 12 years before leaving to assume the role of Associate Artistic Director at Arena Stage in Washington, DC. In six seasons there he oversaw the production of three Tony-winning shows (*33 Variations*, *Next to Normal*, and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolff*) and the development of three shows that ultimately earned the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (*Next to Normal*, *Fun Home*, and *Sweat*). He also oversaw the production of the long-running hit Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies*, which re-established DC's long-dormant Lincoln Theater, Ellington's home theater, and the record-breaking hit *Oklahoma*, which opened the new Arena Stage building and ultimately sold over \$5 million in tickets in its two extended runs there.

David then became Artistic Director at ArtsEmerson, in Boston, where he presented a season of international theater in four venues in the city's theater district, including The 7 Fingers' shows *Sequence 8*, *Traces*, *Cuisine & Confessions*, *Réversible*, and *Passengers*. He returned to San Francisco at the end of 2020 to assume the role of Executive Producer for The 7 Fingers US operations and lead the Club Fugazi project.



## **ERIC EISLUND** *(he/him)*

*Co-Producer and General Manager*

is the owner and managing partner of Act 5 Entertainment and the co-owner of ImaginaTOURS Entertainment. He has produced, operated, and promoted a diverse mix of live entertainment projects across North America and around the world in a range of venues that include arenas, theaters, and exhibition centers. The company's foundation rests on the global experience, talent, and contacts that Eric has established over the past 30 years successfully bringing live entertainment productions to over 50 countries, generating over \$1 billion in revenues.

Eric has worked with a variety of major productions and brand owners including Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Disney On Ice, Cirque du Soleil, Walking with Dinosaurs, Warner Bros, Universal Studios, Nickelodeon, Mattel, and more.

As co-founder of the international production company ThemeSTAR, Eric produced over 40 tours in 17 languages selling over 3.5 million tickets. Along with his partners, Eric negotiated an acquisition of the company by AEG to form AEG Themestar in 2008.

Act 5 Entertainment is active as a co-producer and general manager of theatrical and experiential projects in North America and international territories including Nelson Mandela – The Official Exhibition.

Eric is based in San Francisco where he resides with his wife and two teenage sons.





## **NASSIB EL-HUSSEINI** *(he/him)*

*Co-Producer and CEO of The 7 Fingers*

is committed to exploring the horizons of human creativity in all its complexity, Nassib El-Husseini has charted a singular and wide-ranging course. After leaving his native Lebanon in the late 1980s, Nassib worked as an advisor and volunteer with numerous Quebecois, Canadian, and international governmental and non-governmental agencies. Following studies in administration and international relations at the American University of Beirut, he obtained a Ph.D. in political science from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) in 1996. In 1998, he published *L'Occident Imaginaire* (Éditions PUQ).

Nassib El-Husseini's trajectory took a major turn in 2003, when his path crossed that of seven artists determined to make their mark on the world of contemporary circus. With their first show just created, a clear-eyed ally was all the troupe needed to conquer the world. Nassib placed his experience and his passion for art and innovation at the service of the nascent troupe that would become one of the jewels of artistic expression.

As chief executive officer of the company, Nassib has brought his resolutely avant-garde, innovative vision and has turned towards a vast exploration of possibilities. Propelled by these ideas, The 7 Fingers have become a major player in the international art scene.

Nassib El-Husseini is currently the president of the board of directors of CINARS (International Exchange for the Performing Arts) and was a member of the board of the Conseil des arts de Montréal from 2012 to 2018, as well as a member of the organizing committee of the Canadian Arts Summit in 2019. He sits on the boards of the Société des arts technologiques (SAT), and the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership (Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles). Nassib is also a member of the National Advisory Committee for the National Creation Fund and of the Founding Board of Directors, Movement Arts Creation Studio, Inc. (MACS).

In 2013, Nassib was awarded the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)'s Prix Reconnaissance in recognition of his exceptional career. In 2014, he received the Artists for Peace Award on behalf of The 7 Fingers. In 2019, he was presented the Carmelle and Rémi Marcoux Chair in Arts Management's Cultural Manager Award from HEC Montréal. Shortly after, he was named Chevalier (Knight) by the Ordre de Montréal.

**DEBORAH BARRERA** (she/her)*Co-Producer*

is a Tony award-winning Producer, representing FireMUsed Productions, LLC. Broadway Productions include: *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations*; *An American in Paris*; *American Idiot*; *La Cage aux Folles* with Kelsey Grammer; *Hands on a Hard Body*; Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Sweat*, *One Man, Two Guvnors* starring James Cordon; *The Glass Menagerie* directed by John Tiffany; *China Doll* starring Al Pacino; *Hughie* starring Forest Whitaker and directed by Michael Grandage; David Byrne's *Here Lies Love*; *The Mountaintop* with Samuel Jackson; the 2014 revival of *The Heidi Chronicles*; *Elling* starring Brendon Fraser and Denis O'Hare; *Sylvia* revival with Matthew Broderick; the West End production of *1984*; and investments in the Broadway/touring productions of *Hamilton*, *Freestyle Love Supreme*, *Shuffle Along*, and *Hello, Dolly!*. Off Broadway, FireMUsed Productions proudly produced PigPen Theatre Company's *The Old Man and the Old Moon*.

Deborah is a longtime supporter of new work, having developed several with regional theatres, and serving as a panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts. She currently works with the Edgerton Foundation in their new works funding program, and is a mentor for Theatre Accelerator. She is a Tony Awards voter and a long-standing member of the Broadway League, serving on the Legislative Council, and Diversity and Inclusion committees. In 2020, she founded the Women's Independent Producer Group, which has joined with, in support of, the Broadway Advocacy Coalition and the Costume Industry Coalition. Her Board service includes Moises Kaufman's award-winning Tectonic Theatre project in New York. In San Francisco, she is a standing member of the San Francisco Ballet Auxiliary Board, and works with the capital campaign team, along with annual fundraising events for Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

# CLUB FUGAZI EXPERIENCES

Club Fugazi Experiences was created in 2020 by Montreal-based The 7 Fingers to reanimate this historic venue and provide the company with a San Francisco home. Since the Fingers' founding in 2002 here in San Francisco, the artist collective has been looking for an opportunity to put down roots in their home city. The Club is host to the resident show, *Dear San Francisco*, created by The 7 Fingers and will host additional events late nights and early weeknights when the show is not in performance. Club Fugazi Experiences is under the management of David Dower and Rishi Kapur, and operated as a satellite of The 7 Fingers' Montreal headquarters.

Club Fugazi itself has been a San Francisco cultural venue since 1914, when the building was given in trust to the Italian community of North Beach. The trust, administered by Italian Community Services, has protected this room from being developed as anything other than a live performance venue in perpetuity. Club Fugazi Experiences is proud to be part of keeping this historic room at the center of the neighborhood's vibrant cultural life.

# WHO'S WHO IN DEAR SAN FRANCISCO

A number of different names go by, in this production, that all lead to interesting back stories about San Francisco history. Some are more familiar than others, like Jack Kerouac (*On The Road*) and Allen Ginsberg (*Howl*) who were giants of the Beat Poetry movement and read their works from this stage. Others, though they each have an association with this neighborhood and city, are likely unfamiliar:

## **John Fugazi**

Cavaliere Ufficiale John F. Fugazi, for whom the Club is named, founded the Columbus Savings and Loan Society in 1893 as well as the Banca Popolare Operaia Italiana in 1906. Both banks eventually merged with the Bank of Italy, which was later renamed the Bank of America. He built this building as a gift to the Italian community of North Beach.

## **Brigid O'Shaughnessy**

The femme fatale protagonist created by Dashiell Hammett for his novel *The Maltese Falcon*, Brigid O'Shaughnessy is the only fictional character to have a plaque in her honor in the city of San Francisco. It is located at Burritt Alley, just blocks from this show.

## **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**

Poet, painter, activist, and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti was not only one of the seminal poets of the Beat generation, he also created The City Lights Bookstore (the first all-paperback bookstore in the country) and City Lights Publishers, both of which are still operating today. He passed in February of 2021, at 101 years of age. He's a prominent feature of The Beat Museum around the corner on Broadway.

## **Gary Snyder**

Pulitzer Prize winner Gary Snyder was at the center of the poetry readings that happened on the Club Fugazi stage for decades. An early member of the Beat generation of poets, Snyder is also known as the “poet laureate of Deep Ecology” for his writings and activism on behalf of the natural world.

## **Joanne Kyger**

A native of Vallejo, California, Joanne Kyger landed in North Beach in 1957 and was a central figure in both the Beats and the San Francisco Renaissance Poetry circles. She taught for many years at New College in San Francisco, and at Mills College in Oakland.

## **Diane di Prima**

A second-generation Italian American, Diane di Prima was a central figure in the beat poetry movement from the time she moved to San Francisco from her native Brooklyn. An activist and educator, she taught for a time just up the hill from Club Fugazi at the San Francisco Art Institute.

## **Bob Kaufman**

One of the very few African American “beats”, Bob Kaufman moved to the neighborhood from New Orleans and co-founded the literary journal *Beatitudes* with Ginsberg and others. He revered jazz and mostly kept to an oral tradition, proclaiming his poems in live gatherings rather than writing them down. City Lights Publishers did publish collections of Kaufman's.

## **Jack Hirschman**

Jack Hirschman was a revered figure in North Beach right up to the moment of his passing, in August of 2021, while we were in rehearsal for this show. A prolific poet and fierce activist, he was also a regular patron of the beloved neighborhood coffee house, Caffè Trieste.

## **Maya Angelou**

Among the many, many notable stories of her life, Maya Angelou was a calypso performer at the Purple Onion here in North Beach, and the first African American streetcar operator in San Francisco. She would of course go on to write towering poems and memoirs and recite at President Bill Clinton's inauguration.

## **Rafael Jesus Gonzalez**

Bay Area poet Rafael Jesus Gonzalez was born in El Paso, Texas, and became the first poet laureate of the city of Berkeley. He also founded the Mexican and Latin American Studies Department at Laney College in Oakland.

## **Tech Bro**

Though unnamed, the prototype for the character we affectionately call Tech Bro is derived from an actual 2014 incident in San Francisco that hit the national press, when employees of a local tech firm rented the Mission soccer field and kicked off the neighborhood teens involved in the pick-up game that was in progress there. They had legitimately rented the field from the City, but they set off a storm of controversy in trying to boot the kids off the pitch, which has for generations been the site of a popular pick-up game open to the public.

## **Master Lu Yi**

Master Lu Yi is, as the show says, a seminal figure in San Francisco's circus community and in The 7 Fingers style. He emigrated to San Francisco from China in the '90's and brought with him an expertise in Chinese Pole, Hoop Diving, and Diablo, among other skills not represented in Dear San Francisco. He is still a resident of San Francisco.



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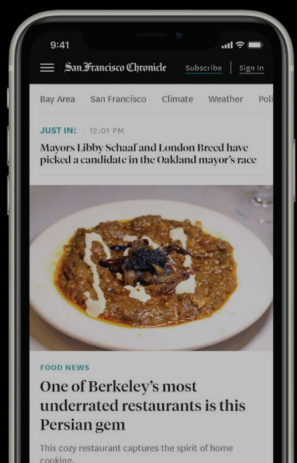


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# THANK YOU

We would not be here without the incredible support, partnership, and generous spirit of the folks at Italian Community Services, who are both our roommates and our landlords. From the moment they selected our proposal for reanimating this room, they have been true collaborators in making it possible. Special thanks to Board Chair Don Parachini, Board Vice President Steve Leveroni, former Executive Director Pietro J. Bonanno, and current Executive Director Vyria Paselk.

It is equally true that we wouldn't be sitting here, any of us, without the strong and consistent support of the City of San Francisco and the neighborhood of North Beach.

**Supervisor Aaron Peskin and Chief of Staff Sunny Angulo**

**Entertainment Commission: Maggie Weiland and Kaitlyn Azevedo**

**Office of Workforce and Economic Development: Ben Van Houten**

**San Francisco Fire Department, Department of Building Inspection, and Department of Public Health, Officer Steve Matthias and the whole Central Station of SFPD**

**North Beach Business Association, North Beach Neighbors, Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, Chinatown Development Corporation, and the residents and merchants of North Beach**

Thanks to our partners: The Fairmont San Francisco, BARTable, San Francisco Chronicle.

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A heartfelt note of gratitude to the dozens of people who have invested their personal resources and hopes in this effort and without whom this

could literally never have gotten off the ground, along with a promise from all of us to merit your confidence in us and this vision of renewal for this special place.

Particular thanks to the community of Club Fugazi Experiences, LLC, including our Producers and Co-producers, and our members Stewart Bonn, Elisa Bretón and Matt Nathanson, Robert Burkhardt, Ross M. Burkhardt, Martha Diepenbrock and Josh Newman, The Forest Family, David Gast, Bill Irwin and Martha Roth, Karen Lehner, Marcia Solleck Leonard, MD, Christine and David Letts, Tom Lightburn, Caitlin Pardo de Zela and Dan Lockwood, Wendy Parkman and John Rogers, Rusty and Patty Rueff, Roberta Sherman, Harold Silver, and Marc and Mari Snyder, and those who have chosen to remain anonymous.

A venture this complicated can only come together with hundreds of unsung heroes who have lent their time, support, and expertise along the way. We see you. We thank you. And we welcome you to the Club.



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