



ROGUE MACHINE PRESENTS

# MONSTERS

OF THE AMERICAN  
CINEMA

HUMANS  
ARE THE WORST  
MONSTERS

WRITTEN BY  
CHRISTIAN  
ST. CROIX



PRESENTS THE LOS ANGELES PREMIERE OF

# *Monsters of the American Cinema*

by **Christian St. Croix**

*featuring*

**KEVIN DANIELS\*** AND **LOGAN LEONARDO ARDITTY**

SCENIC DESIGN  
**STEPHANIE KERLEY SCHWARTZ**

LIGHTING DESIGN  
**RIC ZIMMERMAN**

SOUND DESIGN  
**CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO\*\***

GRAPHIC & PROJECTION DESIGN  
**MICHELLE HANZELOVA-BIERBAUER**

COSTUME DESIGN  
**CHRISTINE COVER FERRO**

VIOLENCE DESIGN  
**NED MOCHEL**

PROPERTIES COORDINATOR/ASM  
**ATHENA SAXON**

STAGE MANAGER  
**RACHEL ANN MANHEIMER**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
**BRETT AUNE**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
**RYAN WILSON**

CARPENTER  
**CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN**

ELECTRICIANS  
**FIONA JESSUP**  
**CHLOE VERBESTEL**  
**ANDY NEVAREZ**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  
**RAMÓN VALDEZ**

PHOTOGRAPHY  
**JEFF LORCH**

VIDEOGRAPHY  
**KEITH STEVENSON**

PRODUCED BY  
**LEXI SLOAN**

DIRECTED BY  
**JOHN PERRIN FLYNN**

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

\*\*Member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 IATSE

## CAST AND CHARACTERS

*In order of appearance*

Remy Washington.....Kevin Daniels  
Peter “Pup” Miller.....Logan Leonardo Arditty

## TIME AND PLACE

Good Time Drive-In, Santee California

The Present

High School Homecoming Season

*This performance will run for 95 minutes with no intermission*

Please note: This production contains flashing lights and mature language.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Founding Artistic Director.....John Perrin Flynn  
Artistic Director.....Guillermo Cienfuegos  
Co-Artistic Director.....Elina de Santos  
Executive Director.....Justin Okin  
Publicity.....Judith Borne  
General Manager.....Ramón Valdez  
Production Manager.....Rachel Ann Manheimer  
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## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE



My best friend asked if his son could stay with me for a while.

Wait, let me start at the beginning.

My best friend is a super funny, cooler-than-thou, biracial-Black trans man. He has the most magnificent Afro and, like, this amazing almond brown skin. My best friend's son is also funny and cool, but his skin is as white as his other parent's.

Over the years, my best friend has struggled with addiction. It got especially bad for him when his son turned fifteen, and he asked if I could take in the kid while he dealt with his problems. The proposal was for me to become his guardian and see him through high school. The problem was, at that time, I wore mismatched socks unintentionally and thought Pop-Tarts were healthy breakfasts. It'd been years since I'd had a homework assignment. Would I be able to make sure this kid kept a clean room if he stayed with me? What was a proper bedtime for a fifteen-year-old? How much was too much time on the phone? Would I have to scold him? Oh god, would I have to discipline him? How would I do that? Do kids still get grounded nowadays? I couldn't ground him, he was taller than me! Would I have to make dinner every night? I don't even eat dinner every night!

What if he had a question about girls? What if he had a question about war? Could I be a guardian to a teenage boy? I felt like a teenager myself.

This was the inspiration behind *Monsters of the American Cinema* -- the idea of being responsible for a teenager I didn't share blood or skin with and worrying if I would mess it up.

It never happened. The kid never came to live with me. To keep him close, my best friend asked his mother to take him in instead. It was probably for the best. I was still disappointed. Could I have been a guardian to a teenage boy? I'll never know. Maybe I would've been great. Maybe we would've been great. I'd like to think so.

Thank you so much for coming.  
I hope you love my boys as much as I do.

- Christian St. Croix, *Playwright*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I read perhaps 100 plays a year.

Of those 100 only a very few, usually only 2 or 3, are worth considering for Rogue Machine. We want to produce plays that we hope help us all explore and experience what it means to be human in the times in which we live. Who are we now? How did we become so? Why? How should we live? Where are we going? And, if that isn't difficult enough, the plays we seek are character-based and entertaining. There can be significant drama, but we want to make sure there is laughter too.

Every couple of years I read a play that I immediately want us to do – it doesn't happen often. The first play I read by John Pollono - the first play I read by Sam Hunter. When I read Christian St. Croix's *Monsters of the American Cinema*, I knew I had found another must do. He doesn't just break the rules, he reinvents them. This marvelous writer tells a familiar story in a remarkable new way that has us falling in love with his characters and hoping they will find a better world for themselves and all of us.

This is very much a Heartland American journey and I can't wait to share it with our audience.

- John Perrin Flynn  
*Director & Founding Artistic Director*

I'm a sucker for plays about grief.

Maybe because I've had such a long and impactful relationship with it. Probably not unlike most of you. After all, the experience of grief is something that is utterly personal while simultaneously being completely universal.

Christian St Croix's play uniquely and entertainingly explores grief's many facets; Grief over a loss, as well as grief over something that has been done to us. Or something we've done and can't undo. And how that grief can manifest itself within us like a monster. He also invites us into this unique family, to experience the sometimes funny and sometimes messy way in which they process what they're going through.

Come to think of it, maybe it's not about grief. It's about love.

We love Christian's play and we love that we can share it with you.

Thank you for coming,  
- Guillermo Cienfuegos  
*Artistic Director*

# Welcome To Rogue Machine at the storied Matrix Theatre on Melrose

If this is your first time with us, you're in for a treat. I always recommend taking a few moments and look at the photos on the walls because they tell a story. But don't just concentrate on the storied actors in those pictures. Look at what plays were being produced then, so many in the vanguard of the time. And while you're at it, see who directed those plays, a panoply of some of the famous and soon-to-be famous among them. No matter how many times you look, you'll always find something new.

Tonight we are proud to present the Los Angeles premiere of *Monsters of the American Cinema* by Christian St. Croix, directed by our Founding Artistic Director John Flynn. It is a play that asks many questions; the answers are up to you. What is family? How is it defined and who gets to define it? It's about coming of age, making responsible choices; it's community, both the good and the bad; and forgiveness, both of ourselves and of others. That's a lot to cover in a 90-minute play, but St. Croix does it well and always thoughtfully.

So, thank you for coming tonight. We still need your help to continue bringing new and important works to Rogue Machine, where we are unafraid to ask questions that may not have clear answers. Tonight's play is no exception. The arts are not a luxury. They are a necessity and ticket prices cover only a portion of what it costs to bring you exciting theatre. Please, log on to our website at [roguemachinetheatre.org](http://roguemachinetheatre.org) and donate. A lot or a little, it all helps.

Best regards,

- Neely Swanson

*Chair, Rogue Machine Theatre Board of Directors*

### **Special Thanks:**

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# WHO'S WHO: CAST



## LOGAN LEONARDO ARDITTY

(*"Pup" AKA Peter Miller*)

Logan is making his play debut in the Heart of Los Angeles, Melrose, CA. Logan has recently had a number of roles in film/ television. Growing up, he had always wanted the chance to become an actor but was told it was impossible. His love for the craft drove him at the age of 18 to make his dream a reality for himself. Logan has grown exponentially within the year he has been acting. He's an all around performer

with also being a musician/songwriter but his true passion is to bring stories to life, to go to all lengths to provide entertainment. Likewise, help others through his work even if it's just one person. He is grateful to his loved ones who support him and those who made the *Monsters of the American Cinema* possible.



## KEVIN DANIELS (*Remy*)

Kevin Daniels is an American actor who can be seen in various television series and movies of all genres. Daniels made his Broadway debut in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. In 2012, Daniels played the lead role of Magic Johnson in Broadway's *Magic/Bird*.

Currently, Daniels can be seen on the CBS reboot of the comedy *Fraiser* playing opposite Kelsey Grammer. Kevin also recurs on ABC's hit show *Will*

*Trent* alongside Ramón Rodríguez and Erika Christensen. In 2021, he starred opposite Scott Foley and Piper Perabo on Fox's *The Big Leap*.

Other TV credits include *Station 19*, *Call Me Kat*, *Sirens*, *Modern Family*, *Atypical*, *Why Women Kill*, and *Council of Dads*. Some of his film credits include *The Island*, *Raze*, *Ladder 49*, *The Watcher*, and *A Typical Wednesday*. Kevin also stars in the soon to be released parody comedy *Not Another Church Movie* alongside Jamie Foxx and Mickey Rourke. Daniels is a graduate of the Juilliard Drama Division (Group 27) and he currently resides in Los Angeles.

# WHO'S WHO: CREATIVE TEAM

## CHRISTIAN ST. CROIX (*Playwright*)

Christian St. Croix is a playwright living and working in San Diego, CA. The San Diego Union-Tribune has called him "one of the nation's fastest-rising playwrights, thanks to his ability to write multidimensional characters with wry humor and truth, as well as unique stories told from his perspective as a queer Black writer." His plays include *Monsters of the American Cinema*, winner of the 2021 Carlo Annoni International Drama Award, *We Are the Forgotten Beasts*, a 2022 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Finalist, and *ZACH*, winner of the 2021 Young-Howze Theatre Award for Best Comedic Writing.

[www.saintscrossing.com](http://www.saintscrossing.com) | [@saintscrossing](https://www.instagram.com/saintscrossing)

## JOHN PERRIN FLYNN (*Director, Founding Artistic Director*)

John is Rogue Machine's founding Artistic Director. For RMT, he has directed World Premieres of John Pollono's *Lost Girls* and Henry Murray's *Treefall*; Enda Walsh's *The New Electric Ballroom* and *Penelope*; Samuel D. Hunter's *Pocatello*, *A Permanent Image* and *A Bright New Boise*; *The Sunset Limited*; *Oppenheimer*; and our inaugural production, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*. John was the Executive Producer and Director of Lifetime's long-running series *Strong Medicine* and has produced two other series and 14 television movies or miniseries including the Emmy-nominated *Burden of Proof*. In 2012, he received the Career Achievement Award for Theatre from the LA Weekly. John is a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation.

## GUILLERMO CIENFUEGOS (*Artistic Director*)

Guillermo Cienfuegos serves as Artistic Director at Rogue Machine, along with Founding Artistic Director John Perrin Flynn. He directed the Rogue Machine productions of *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *The Beautiful People*, *Disposable Necessities*, *Ready Steady Yeti Go* and *Dutch Masters*, as well as the RMT video productions of *Insulted: Belarus(sia)* and *Voices of the New Belarus*. Cienfuegos won both the Ovation and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Director for his production of Shakespeare's *Henry V* at Pacific Resident Theatre. He has directed numerous productions at PRT, including Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, Pinter's *The Homecoming* and *Safe at Home: An Evening with Orson Bean*. Other theatre directing credits include *Julia*, both at PRT and at New York's 59E59 theatre, Off-Broadway, the World Premiere of *Middle of the World* at Boise Contemporary Theatre, *Christmas Contigo* at Oregon Cabaret Theatre, the Los Angeles Premiere of Stephen Adly Guirgis' Pulitzer Prize winner *Between Riverside and Crazy* at the Fountain Theatre and most recently Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at A Noise Within. Guillermo Cienfuegos is the directing pseudonym of actor Alex Fernandez, who has appeared at numerous regional theatres, including the American Conservatory Theatre, Alaska Rep and the Old Globe, as well as in dozens of local productions most notably *Henry V*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Rhinoceros* at PRT, *Exiles* at the Hayworth and *Luka's Room* at Rogue Machine. Fernandez has over 170 film and television credits, most recently recurring on the series *American Gigolo*, *Mayans MC* and *Good Trouble*. Cienfuegos was featured in the 'People to Watch' issue of American Theatre magazine and is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theatre.



### **LEXI SLOAN** (*Producer*)

Lexi is honored that her producorial debut with RMT is *Monsters of the American Cinema*. Diving into complex and meaningful storytelling is what drew her to the company. Currently a Creative Producer at Apple, she also pursues film and theatre acting. When not in LA, she indulges her passion for travel and ice cream. Her credits range from professional theatre to films and TV shows. Notable performances include *Camille* (LED Virtual Production Short Film), *Celestial Events* (IAMA), *The Honeycomb Theory* (Ammo); Vocal Performance: *Piano Bar Concert* (The Gardenia); Improv: The Groundlings Theatre and Impro Theatre; Vocal Training and Performance: Pat Whiteman; Scene Study Intensive: Brad Fleischer; On-Camera: Joshua Close. Lexi's producing highlights include *Still Scattered*, *Pilgrimage*, and *Boys Don't Wear Dresses* (Award Winning Short Films), *Found: A New Musical* and *A Kid Like Jake* (IAMA productions), and *Fairy Tale Theatre 18 & Over: The Musical* (Ammo). Additionally, she has contributed her talents to Key Art Posters (Geffen Playhouse) and the A-ha Photo Art Series (J. Michael Lorch Photography).

### **STEPHANIE KERLEY SCHWARTZ** (*Set Design*)

Stephanie is resident designer for Rogue Machine Theatre, where her designs include the world premieres of *Come Get Maggie*, and *One Night in Miami* by Kemp Powers, among many, many others. For Center Theatre Group/ The Mark Taper Forum she designed costumes for *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and Randy Newman's *Harps and Angels*, and the set for *Good Grief* at The Kirk Douglas. At Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C. she designed scenery for *Twelve Angry Men* directed by Sheldon Epps. For A Noise Within: *Seven Guitars*, *Gem of the The Ocean*, and *A Raisin in the Sun* all directed by Gregg Daniel. Other theatres include Pasadena Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Artist's Repertory Theatre in Portland Oregon, The Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, East West Players, Boston Court Pasadena, The Fountain, The Skylight, the Matrix Theatre and many others. Recipient of multiple awards and nominations, including the 2017 LADCC/Kinetic Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theatrical Design. [www.kerleydesign.com](http://www.kerleydesign.com)

### **RIC ZIMMERMAN** (*Lights Design*)

Previously at RMT: *Come Get Maggie*, *Dutch Masters*, *Pocattello* and *Penelope*. Theatrical designs include new work for: The Fountain Theatre, Circle X, Theatre of Note, Theatre Forty and others. Dance collaborators: Invertigo Dance Theatre, LA Contemporary Dance Company, Bodies in Play, Lula Washington Dance Theatre (China, Russia and Brazil), Keshet Chaim, Helios Dance Theatre, Dyspraxia Dance, Viver Brasil, Terri Best, Doriana Sanchez and many others. Television lighting credits: *Dragula* (Seasons 5 and 6), the *Howard Stern Show* (musical guests), and direction for *The Chase*, *Press Your Luck*, *ESPN*, *Al Jazeera*. Corporate design: Microsoft, Google, Intel, Warner Bros, Lionsgate, Samsung, Starbucks and others. [www.litegeist.com](http://www.litegeist.com)

### **CHRISTOPHER MOSCATELLO** (*Sound Design & Original Music*)

Christopher is a sound designer, composer and music director with LADCC and Stage Raw awards and multiple Ovation nominations. He is currently the resident sound designer for Rogue Machine. Theater highlights: The Kennedy Center, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, A Noise Within, Antaeus, Odyssey Theatre, Rogue Machine, Fountain Theatre, Skylight Theatre, assistant conductor for the national tour of *Phantom of the Opera*. TV highlights: *The Walking Dead*, *Psych*, *Eureka*, *Human Target*, *The Cape*, *Caprica*, *Trauma*. He has scored series, specials and promos for NBC, HBO, BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and others, and he wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

### **CHRISTINE COVER FERRO** (*Costume Design*)

This is Christine's first show as the official resident costume designer at Rogue Machine. Previous shows here are *Dutch Masters*, *Ready, Steady, Yeti, Go!*, *Disposable Necessities*, last year's runaway hit *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, and *Middle of the World* (as well as its world premiere at Boise Contemporary Theatre). She has also worked with Guillermo at Pacific Resident Theatre on *The Rhinoceros*, *My Girlfriend Is An Alien* and *The Homecoming*, *Beyond Riverside* and *Crazy* at the Fountain Theatre, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at A Noise Within. Other local credits include Unbound Production's Wicked Lit series, for which she won an Ovation in 2017, and the world premiere of John Ross Bowie's *Brushstroke*. Recent television credits include assistant costume design on *Cosmos: Possible Worlds* for NatGeo and *Promised Land* for ABC.

### **MICHELLE HANZELOVA-BIERBAUER** (*Graphic Design/Projections Design*)

Michelle is a graphics and video projection designer. Most recently she designed projections for Tim Venable's *The Beautiful People* and Mike Bartlett's *Earthquakes in London* at Rogue Machine (Ovation Nomination). She's designed poster graphics for Rogue Machine, PRT, Theatre of Note, Lobby Theatre, Sacred Fools, International City Theatre and others. In the music video industry her favorite projects include Lizzo's *About Damn Time*, *2BeLoved* and *Special*, SZA's *Kill Bill*, and working for artists such as Olivia Rodrigo, Doja Cat, Imagine Dragons and others. She likes dark, dusty theatres, her wife Amanda (yes, *that* Amanda!), their boyfriend, their seven cats, two dogs and laughing at existential crises. [www.MichelleHanzelova.com](http://www.MichelleHanzelova.com)

### **RACHEL ANN MANHEIMER** (*Production Manager*)

Having managed everything from original musicals to avant garde happenings, some of Rachel's favorite credits include Tim Crouch's *An Oak Tree*, The American Opera Project's *HAGOROMO*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the talented seniors at The Professional Performing Arts High School. You may have seen Rachel running around during the Hollywood Fringe Festival at The Broadwater, where they also ran the acclaimed original production of *The Art Couple*, by Emmy winner Brendan Hunt. As a Los Angeles native, Rachel is doubly proud to be eight shows in with Rogue Machine in the historic Matrix Theatre. Ask them about the ephemeral power of the sense of wonder!

### **JUSTIN OKIN** (*Executive Director*)

Justin is a producer, actor and audience development coordinator. With Rogue Machine, he has produced *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *On The Other Hand*, *We're Happy*, associate produced *Cock* and performed in *Pocatello*, *Stop Kiss*, and *MilkMilkLemonade*. He has served on the Board of Theatre of NOTE as well as performed in NOTE's productions of *Entropy*, *Eat the Runt*, and *Hot Cat*. With The Road Theatre Company, he co-produced four seasons of the Summer Playwrights Festival and performed in *At the Table*. He recently served as associate producer for Theatre Movement Bazaar's *Tiny Little Town*. Other acting credits include *The Elephant Room* (Center Theatre Group) *Khmer Amerika* (Lincoln Center's Directors Lab) and Suzan-Lori Parks' *365Plays/365Days* (The Public). He is the founder of Rouge Machine's Playwrights' Round Table.

### **RAMÓN VALDEZ** (*General Manager, Assistant Stage Manager*)

Ramón is a graduate of USC where he received a BA in Theatre and an MS in Project Management. At Rogue Machine, Ramón has stage managed nearly 30 productions

including *Three Views of the Same Object*, *The New Electric Ballroom*, *A Bright New Boise*, *Lost Girls*, *Monkey Adored*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Penelope*, *A Permanent Image*, *Dutch Masters*, *Les Blancs*, *The Beautiful People* and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*. Ramón is also on the board of the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company.

**ATHENA SAXON** (*Properties Coordinator/Assistant Stage Manager*)

Athena is an actor and independent producer from the SF Bay Area. After graduating from Chapman University with an emphasis in Television Writing and Production, she worked as a freelance production assistant and coordinator on several network TV shows. While auditioning full-time, she continues to dive deeper into the LA theater community and started her own company, Season 10 Stage Productions! *Monsters of the American Cinema* is her first production with Rogue Machine and she couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of it!

**RYAN WILSON** (*Carpenter*)

Ryan is a founding member of the Ruskin Group Theater in Santa Monica and has been an actor, director, set designer, and production manager for many film and stage productions over the past 20 years. He is currently working in production of large live events like EDC and the LA County Fair. He would like to thank Stephanie and the entire RM Team for finally creating an opportunity for us to work together.

**VICTORIA HOFFMAN** (*Casting*)

Resident Casting Director at Rogue Machine. Recent credits include *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (LADCC Nominated Best Production) & *Come Get Maggie*; *For the Love of a Glove* at The Carl Sagan & Ann Druyan Theater (LADCC Nominated Best Production); *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at A Noise Within; *No Place Like Gandersheim* & *Hungry Ghost* at The Skylight; *Curious Incident* & *Herland* for Greenway Court; *Judas Kiss* & *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Boston Court. Film projects include the AFI Thesis films *Zenaida* (LAAPFF Official Selection) and *The Fishmonger* (2024 Student Emmy Award Nominee); *Dog Lover* at the DTLA Film Festival (among many) and three vertical short form episodic series for Kalos TV. Currently Manager of Casting at the AFI Conservatory. Acting credits include *Julius Weezer* for the Troubies, *Sonneteer* at the LA LGBT Ctr, and TV pop ups in *Abbot Elementary* and *The Shrink Next Door*.  
[www.victoriahoffman.com](http://www.victoriahoffman.com) @VicHoffmanLA



# Mission Statement

Rogue Machine produces world premieres of new plays, primarily by Los Angeles-based playwrights, and plays new to Los Angeles, including American, West Coast, and Regional premieres of significant contemporary theatrical works. Rogue Machine seeks to be a **theatre of ideas and imagination**, a theatre which mirrors and examines contemporary culture, a theatre which **nurtures contemporary playwrights**, and a theatre whose work continually engages the community and **creates a dialogue** which resonates after the curtain closes. Rogue Machine considers building an audience for the future to be an important part of its mission and seeks to attract and serve a more diverse Los Angeles audience to discover these essential stories of our times.

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by tira palmquist

directed by jessica kubzansky

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# HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

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Make a tax-deductible monetary donation by going to our website or scanning the QR code.



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## BECOME A PRODUCER! BE A PART OF L.A.'S HOTTEST THEATER!

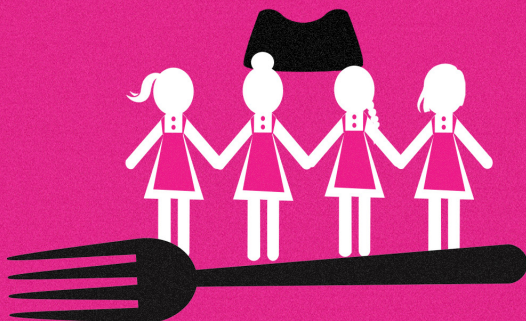
The Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle has announced the nominations and Special Award Honorees for theatrical excellence in 2023 and once again, Rogue Machine is receiving significant recognition. For the third time, Rogue Machine has won the Polly Warfield Award for **Best Season** by a Small to Midsized Theater. We are the first and only company to win this considerable honor three times (2011, 2016, 2023)! Our production of Will Arbery's *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* has also received the StageRaw award for Distinguished Production and been nominated by the LADCC for Outstanding Production. Rogue Machine has previously won Outstanding Production four times for *Four Places* (2010), *Small Engine Repair* (2011), *One Night in Miami* (2013), and *On the Other Hand, We're Happy* (2023). Our world premiere musical from last year, *Come Get Maggie*, also received 2 nominations. Our recent production of *Blue* is now performing in London. *On the Other Hand, We're Happy* will soon be moving to the Boise Contemporary Theater. Our current production of *The Birthday Party: A Theatrical Catastrophe*, which we just opened in our Henry Murray Space, just received a rave review in the LA Times.

Want to get in on the action? Now is your chance to get involved with the award-winning theatre company that BroadwayWorld says "can't seem to stop making fierce, groundbreaking, original theatre hits" with our new Rogue Machine Producers Circle. This is a chance to not only support the great work that we do but to be a part of Rogue Machine's future.

Email our Executive Director Justin Okin at [JustinOkin@roguemachinetheatre.org](mailto:JustinOkin@roguemachinetheatre.org) to get involved.



# Hitler's tasters



**TIMES CHANGE. TYRANTS AND TEENAGERS DON'T.**

BY MICHELLE KHOLOS BROOKS DIRECTED BY SARAH NORRIS

COMING UP AT ROGUE MACHINE ON OUR HENRY MURRAY STAGE

*Hitler's Tasters* is a fictional retelling of a largely unknown story of the German young women conscripted to taste Adolf Hitler's food for poison. This dark comedy explores the way girls navigate sexuality, friendship, and patriotism during the Third Reich. Using an anachronistic retelling of a historical footnote, *Hitler's Tasters* considers what girls discuss as they wait to see if they will survive another meal.

*Hitler's Tasters* was inspired by a 2014 interview with 94-year-old Margot Wölk who, for the first time, revealed her harrowing past as one of Adolf Hitler's food tasters. Margot, a German secretary at the time, was among fifteen young women selected for this "honor" at Hitler's Wolf's Lair.