

World Premiere

# *Hat Box*

Written and Directed  
by Lola Binks



Welcome to

# **THE GARAGE**

theatre

## **Our Mission**

The Garage Theatre was founded in the belief that independent non-commercial theatre is vital to the future of the art form. The Garage Theatre is a collaborative ensemble that strives to create a diverse body of work, take artistic risks, and uncover social and human truths. We are committed to reaching a new theatre audience by producing affordable works in a unique voice.

## **Our Vision**

The Garage Theatre strives to be an innovative leader in the performing arts. Our goal is to be a professional theatre that employs an artistic and administrative staff, utilizes the best equipment available, and maintains an intimate and fluid theatre space that is accessible and welcoming to the community.



**Associate Producer**

**Tony Guarino**

**Stephanie Stomp**

**Craig Johnson**

**Producers**

**Dawn Radue**

## A note from the director...

During the pandemic I rented an apartment in a historic polygamist “back house” in Salt Lake City. On summer evenings, I would sit in the courtyard of my small century-old home with Richard, the best neighbor (and cat) in the world. Together we would enjoy the sunsets while I looked up at the windows of the “main” house and wondered about the former residents.

I had so many questions for all these women and children who had lived in “my” home, connected in marriage to one man.

How much of it was faith, and how much was coercion? How much was survival and how much was choice? Did these wives hate each other? Did they love each other?

Hat Box is my attempt to explore the possibilities of many wives feeling many ways about their shared home.

Many thanks to Richard for his moral support.<3





# Cast

Helen.....Craig Johnson

Esther.....Amanda Webb

Melvina.....Skylar Alexis

Dorothea.....Jess Neptune

Boy Child/Marco.....Bobby Zelsdorf

Husband/Henry.....Rob Young

Iris/Girl Child.....Rory Gill-Smith

# Production & Management

Director.....	Lola Binks
Asst. Director.....	Diana Kaufmann
Stage Manager.....	Rebecca Rea
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Tori McAfee
Costume Designer.....	Cat Elrod
Scenic Designer.....	Rob Young
Prop Designer.....	Alizon Morea
Lighting Designer.....	Luke Moyer
Sound Designer.....	Matari 2600
Production Manager.....	Alexi McGinness
Graphic Designer.....	Kevin Stivers
Technical Director/Master Carpenter.....	Thomas Amerman

## Company Members

Rob Young, Matt Vincent Julian, Joe Howells,  
Craig Johnson, Alexi McGinness, Lola Binks  
Emily Formentini, Diana Kaufmann, Alyssa Felix Garcia

## Board Members

Eric Hamme (Co-Founder), Matt Anderson (Co-Founder),  
Thomas Amerman, Cat Elrod, Sherry Diamond, Victoria Bryan

# Who's Who



## **Lola Binks (*Director*)**

This is Lola's directorial debut at Garage Theatre, but she's no stranger to the space. In addition to writing and directing *Hat Box*, Lola is a member of the Garage Company Marketing team. Her past Garage appearances include roles in *Almost an Evening*, *Revenge of the Space Pandas*, and *Wet Hot American Summer: The Play?* She is also the author of *The River God and Other Stories*, a horror-fantasy anthology.

## **Diana Kaufmann (*Assistant Director*)**

A former "gifted" child, since researching adulthood Diana Kaufmann has done little with her life beyond looking for the next "good time". She has worked steadily in theatre as an actor, dancer, director, stage manager for the last 30 years. Her previous Garage credits include stage managing *Mercury Fur*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Misery*, and performing in *Terror at the Pike*.



## **Rebecca Rea (*Stage Manager*)**

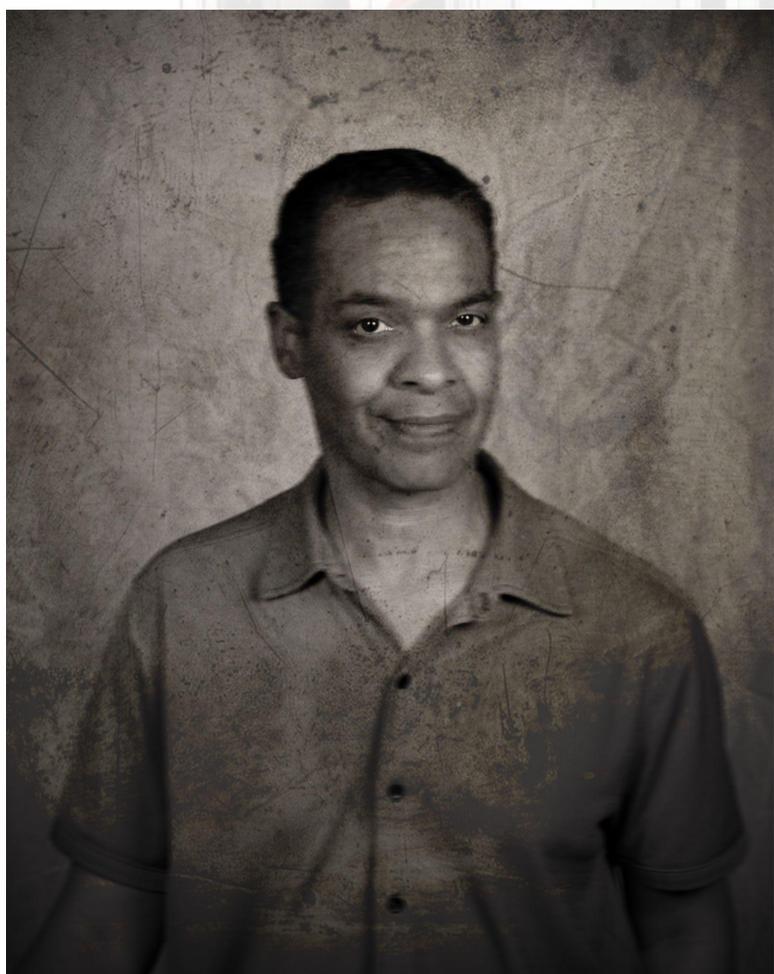
Rebecca Rea is so happy to come back to stage managing after a too-long hiatus of *Doing Other Things*, and is thrilled to be a part of the Garage family. She has had the privilege of teaching English and Theatre in public schools in the greater Los Angeles area, and she stage-managed several plays on Theatre Row in Hollywood, including *The Adding Machine* for Circus Theatricals, and *Hurricane Season* for The Eclectic Theatre Company. Rebecca has also worked in the commercial division of an Oscar-winning VFX house, and worked in post-production for both "Weeds" and "Orange is the New Black." She is currently in her last year of a doctoral program in rhetoric out of Clemson University, and has excellent rants on cults and Calvinism.



## **Tori McAfee (*Assistant Stage Manager*)**

Tori McAfee has been a part of the Garage Theatre for over 3 years in the roles of Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. She's worked on *Venus in Fur*, *Loves Labors Lost*, *Terror at the Pike*, and many more. She's excited to be a part of the killer *Hat Box* production team. She wants to thank the entire Garage family for always welcoming her with open arms.





### ***Craig Johnson (Helen):***

Craig is a company member at the Garage and he's happy to return to their stage, in this unique and fun production. He's also very happy to be working with so many new, talented actors in this cast. Craig has performed in many Garage productions, including *The Chairs*, *Darkside*, *Pink Milk* and *The Baron's Revenge*, among others. He is very excited to be directing *In the Blood* later this year, it will be his first time directing at the Garage Theatre.

### ***Amanda Webb (Esther)***

Amanda Webb is thrilled to join this fabulous cast and production team for her second Garage Theatre show! A New York native, ex-Mormon & NYU grad, past shows include *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* (Marie Curie), *Follies* (Phyllis), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Fun Home* (Alison), *Clue* (Mrs. White), *Urinetown* (Pennywise), *The 39 Steps* (Annabella/Pamela/Margaret), *Psycho Beach Party* (Bettina), *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee* (Rona), *Hairspray* (Velma), *The Women of Lockerbie* (Olive), and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Germaine). Besides theatre, she enjoys reading, board games, hiking, karaoke, and nerdy t-shirts. Much love to her incredible family & friends, and her partner-in-crime.





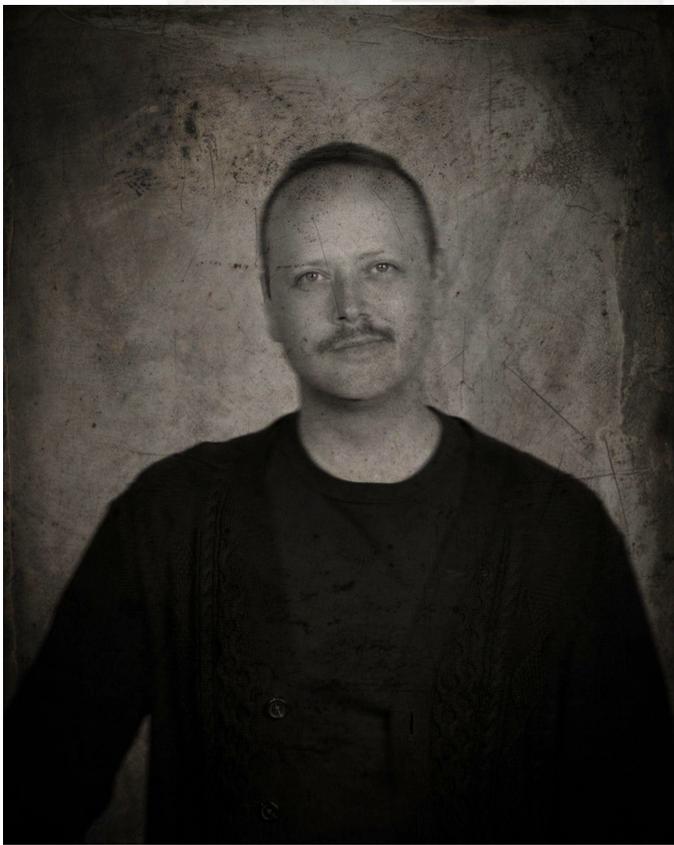
### ***Jess Neptune (Dorothea)***

Jess Neptune trained in method acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute during which she performed in multiple plays, most notably as Nina in Chekhov's *The Seagull*. She received her bachelor's degree in theater from Occidental College where she was cast in several shows, including *Saint Joan*, *Stage Door*, *Eleemosynary*, and *Disgrace*. She currently works full-time as a behavior analyst contracted by the Long Beach school district and is happy to return to the theater as Dorothea in *Hat Box*.

### ***Skylar Alexis (Melvina)***

Skylar Alexis feels so lucky to be involved in her second production at The Garage Theater. To be in a space as creative and accepting as The Garage is truly a gift and she wants to bring to the stage all the excitement and positive energy her cast and crew sends to her every day. She thanks her beautiful friends and family for their love and dedicates this performance to her partner Brandon, who encourages her inner Melvina to come out everyday.





**Bobby Zelsdorf (*Boy Child/Captain Marco*)**

Bobby Zelsdorf is a Los Angeles based performer. He has studied at The American Conservatory Theatre and UCB Comedy. Terror at the Pike is his first production at The Garage Theatre. He has appeared on stage in productions of The Gayest Christmas Pageant Ever & Dark of The Moon among others. He loves spending time with his family. He is represented commercially by Julia Irzyk at The Library Agency.



**Rory Gill-Smith (*Girl Child/Iris*)**

Rory Gill-Smith (she/they) is an actor, singer, and clown based on the unceded lands of the Tongva and Chumash people, also known as Los Angeles. After getting her BFA in Acting from California State University, Long Beach, where she also obtained a minor in Gender Studies, Rory was off to Hollywood to pursue a professional career in performance. When not performing, Rory loves running with their dog, going to the movies, hiking, picnics, cooking new recipes, and spending quality time with her partner and friends. Rory is commercially and theatrically represented by Sweetheart Elite Talent Agency.



**Robert Young (*Husband/Henry*)**

Rob Young graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2009, after completing the 3rd year Company Program. He is currently a technical director at the Garage Theatre. Most recent credits include Director of Love's Labours Lost: A Puppet Play with People. He enjoys live music and burrito shaped foods.

# Donors

These are the sterling individuals who have contributed to our dream in ways we can't thank them enough for. But we'll try anyway. Thank You!

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Anthony Guarino

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Greg & Stephanie Hall

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Jade Yanosky

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Katherine Shanks

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If you would like to add your name to this list, please see the House Manager at intermission or go to our website [www.thegaragetheatre.org](http://www.thegaragetheatre.org) for information on how to support the theatre!

# Special Thanks

The Salton Sun Players, for making the first draft a reality.  
Natalie Hamilton and Sam Garfield for providing the sounds of  
Liberty's Crossing.

Fashion by Tibbet

Ryan Young

Joe Howells & LA Opera

Sunita Townsend & Disneyland

Cliff Gerstman & The Magic Castle

Musical Theatre West

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Diana Kaufmann Photography

Crystal Dawn Rios Astrology

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Jocelyn Fee & Sacred Roots & Panacea Holistic Institute

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Teresa Baxter & Fair Trade LB

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Margaret Cho & Sarah Martin

Madison Mooney & The LB Playhouse

Richard Martinez & The Playful Stage

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The Wine Crush on Broadway

Kings Fish House

Thai District

Cafe Sevilla

George's Greek on Pine Ave

Extra special thanks to Jeremy Cross, The 4th Horseman,

& The Dark Art Emporium

**Everyone at the Garage (Past/Present/and Future)**

**And YOU**

**for supporting us and live, local theater!**

If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or just getting to  
know the theatre and the people that make the magic happen,  
please send us an email at:

[contact@thegaragetheatre.org](mailto:contact@thegaragetheatre.org)

All of us here at The Garage Theatre have always known and felt that our little black box, storefront oasis is an amazing catapult and launching pad for young artists. We've always worked to create an environment where up-and-coming designers could experiment, express themselves, and develop their imagination and skill sets as they move into the bigger and broader professional arena. Over the years we have put a lot of love and care into how our shows feel, and into the physical space that we all share, but honestly, we have straight up neglected our lighting and sound equipment. It's kind of sad, really. And here we are in 2024, working with the same technology that was handed down to us way back in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. To give you an idea, if you look up and see a light that says Kliegl Bros. on it, those lights were made in the 1970's.

If we want to continue our mission to attract and develop the next generation of theatre artists, then we need to be able to provide them the equipment that they are familiar with, and will be working with for the next 20 years.

It's as easy as that, and so with that in mind, we have assembled this Ultimate Upgrade Wishlist for you, to see exactly what we are in need of and looking for. Maybe you can help, or maybe you know someone who knows someone who could help us acquire these items through a personal connection or even through cash contributions. We would be eternally grateful. Just talk to the house manager at intermission, or after the show. The Garage Theatre is a 501(c)3 organization so all contributions are 100% tax-deductable, and we'll probably even name the new equipment after you. Thank you for taking the time to read all of this, and for your understanding and consideration to help make our world and your theatre, a little bit better for everyone. Think it all over, but most importantly, enjoy the show! And then think about how much cooler it would be with better sound and lights. Just kidding. Or are we? You know the answer. It's all for your delight.





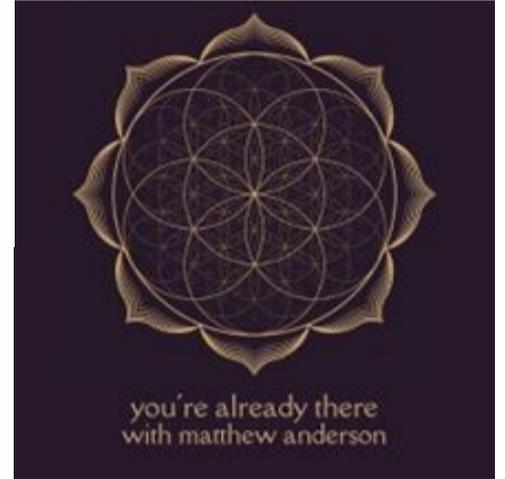


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