

PLAYBILL®

Bethesda Repertory Theatre
Los Angeles, California

Under Candlelight

ANGELS IN AMERICA MILLENNIUM APPROACHES





Artistic Director
Andrew Rudy Galindo

Managing Director
Michael Gomez

PRESENTS

UNDER CANDLELIGHT:
ANGELS IN AMERICA
MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

by
Tony Kushner

Directed by
Andrew Rudy Galindo

with

Company Members

Nate Borowski

Michael Gomez

Zoë Papia

joined by

Guest Artists

Liam Callister
Cassandra Nwokah

Dolores Cruz

Nick Exum
Ajani Purnell

Casting Director

Shelby Mumford

Producers

Andrew Rudy Galindo
Michael Gomez
Abel Marquez

Associate Director

Jada Godwin

Production Stage Managers

Kalyn Gonzalez
Alexis Ramirez

Production Manager

CJ Lazatin

Technical Director

Alex Esparza

Lighting Designer

W. Alejandro Melendez

Associate Stage Manager

Yarden Edri

Costume Designer

Kelsey Mumford

Sound Designer

Fernando Pacheco

Directing Fellow

Michael Thór Kuzmack

Intimacy Coordinator

Annie Reznik



Cassandra Nwokah



Dolores Cruz



Nate Borowski



Liam Callister



Zoë Papis



Ajani Purnell



Nick Exum



Michael Gomez

CAST

(in speaking order)

The Angel / The Voice / Emily / Sister Ella Chapter / The Woman in the South Bronx	Cassandra Nwokah
Hannah Porter Pitt / Rabbi Isidor Chemelwitz / Henry / Ethel Rosenberg	Dolores Cruz
Roy M. Cohn / Prior 2	Nate Borowski
Joseph Porter Pitt / Prior I / The Eskimo	Liam Callister
Harper Amaty Pitt / Martin Heller	Zoë Papia
Belize / Mr. Lies	Ajani Purnell
Louis Ironson	Nick Exum
Prior Walter / The Man in the Park	Michael Gomez

PRODUCTION / CREATIVE

Director	Andrew Rudy Galindo
Associate Director	Jada Godwin
Producer & House Manager	Abel Marquez
Production Stage Managers	Kalyn Gonzalez Alexis Ramirez
Associate Stage Manager	Yarden Edri
Technical Director	Alex Esparza
Costume Designer	Kelsey Mumford
Lighting Designer	W. Alejandro Melendez
Sound Designer	Fernando Pacheco
Directing Fellow	Michael Thór Kuzmack
Intimacy Coordinator	Annie Reznik
Organist	Stuart Blackie
Production Assistants	Dorian Fernandez Anthony Tarwhine
Social Media & Marketing Interns	Hana Pechous Alaina Werge

ANGELS IN AMERICA WILL BE PERFORMED WITH TWO 10-MINUTE INTERMISSIONS.

ANGELS IN AMERICA, PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES is produced by special
arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC
www.broadwayplaypublishing.com

WHO'S WHO

NATE BOROWSKI (*Roy / Prior 2*) is proud to be one of the founding Company members of Bethesda Repertory Theatre. A Chicago native, Nate studied theatre at Columbia College Chicago and trained under Anthony Meindl in Los Angeles. With Bethesda Rep, he co-wrote and performed in *The Rhythm of Mourning*, the company's inaugural production. Other favorite credits include *La Cage aux Folles*, *God's Favorite*, *The Blue Room*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *Mother Courage and Her Children*. Nate is thrilled to be part of Bethesda's new series, *Under Candlelight*.

LIAM CALLISTER (*Joe / Prior 1 / The Eskimo*)
For Reid and Hannah.

DOLORES CRUZ (*Hannah / Rabbi Chemelwitz / Henry / Ethel Rosenberg*) is honored to be cast in Bethesda Repertory Theatre's *Under Candlelight: Angels in America*. Dolores received her BA in Theatre at USC with an emphasis in dance. She has since studied acting with June Chandler, Todd Babcock, and Sean Rose. Dolores is also a writer and has published two books – *Look Around: A Mother's Journey from Grief and Despair to Healing and Hope*, and *A Bird Called Wisdom: Poems on Grief, Transformation, and Renewal*. She has had two articles published by HuffPost which also center on the theme of grief. She is grateful to her family for their unending support.

NICK EXUM (*Louis*) is a writer, actor, and visual artist with an MFA in acting from the University of California, Irvine. He wrote and starred in *Restoration*, which premiered at the 2023 Hollywood Fringe Festival, and most recently starred in *Sentience* at last year's Hollywood Fringe. When he's not acting, he's working on writing and illustrating a fantasy comic or thinking about a sweet treat.

MICHAEL GOMEZ (*Prior / The Man in the Park*) is a New York native and a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He is a Cofounder, proud Company member, and currently serves as the Managing Director of Bethesda Repertory Theatre. His recent Bethesda appearances have been in *An Evening With Company* and *The Rhythm of Mourning*, which he also co-wrote. At South Coast Repertory, he appeared in *Our Town*, *I Get Restless*, and the NewSCRipts reading of *The Hombres*. Michael performed the solo play *I Died Today* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, created the original YouTube series *Rollups*, and leads FORGE, Bethesda's weekly writing workshop. An actor, writer, and director, Michael has a passion for telling LGBTQ+ driven stories, and advocating the push for more diversity, equity and inclusion in creative spaces. All my love to my Andrew, our family, and our incredible friends.

CASSANDRA NWOKAH (*The Angel / Emily / Sister Ella Chapter / The Woman in the South Bronx*) (she/her) is a Nigerian American actor, writer, and educator. She founded SmashTheBox, an artistic collective and incubator centering BIPOC women and their unique stories. As a teaching artist, she has worked with Theatre For a New Audience and Royal Shakespeare Company to shape curricula around the Shakespeare canon, focusing on a decolonized approach. She is a teacher trainee of the Linklater Vocal Technique. Select written work: *i come from A People*, *Oyinyo*, *My Hope Will Stand*. Select acting credits: *The Catastrophe Club* (Sea Dog Theater), *Sing, Goddess* (HERE Arts), *Romeo and Juliet* (Smith Street Stage). MFA, Columbia University.

ZOË PAPIA (*Harper / Martin Heller*) A proud Company member of Bethesda Repertory Theatre, Zoë Papias is honored to portray Harper in *Under Candlelight: Angels in America*. Zoë is endlessly inspired by theatre that embraces vulnerability, humanity, and transformation, and feels especially grateful to tell a story as timeless and urgent as this one. Zoë recently starred in and co-produced *I'm Different Now* and played Ava in the feature *Unfix*, which premiered at the Chinese Theatre. She previously appeared on stage as The Woman in Bethesda Rep's *The Rhythm of Mourning* and proudly leads the company's *Storytelling Through Movement* workshop. With deep gratitude, Zoë is thrilled to share this experience with such a brilliant cast, creative team, and all of you who continue to champion live theatre.

AJANI PURNELL (*Belize / Mr. Lies*) thrilled to be joining Bethesda in his first stage production. While training with Baron Brown Studio, Ajani moved to Los Angeles from Raleigh, North Carolina in 2021. Working with the incredible team at Bethesda has been transformative, and he cannot wait to breathe new life into this timeless story.

ANDREW RUDY GALINDO (Director) is a Los Angeles born and raised Latino. He is also the Cofounder and Artistic Director of Bethesda Repertory Theatre. Andrew is from Alhambra, California. He attended Loyola High School, in Los Angeles, and had his training in Theatre from Colburn School of Performing Arts, where he studied under Deborah Devine. He continued his study of Theatre & Cultural Anthropology at Saint Mary's College of California and The Sanford Meisner Center under Martin Barter and Ranjiv Perera. He is deeply grateful to his parents, Martin & Diane Galindo, and his pillars of strength, his siblings, Marty, Anthony, Alejandra, his family and friends, and always, his partner, Michael Gomez. Theatre: Third Culture, The Southland Company, Upright Citizens Brigade, LA Opera, Word for Word Theater, Berkeley Rep, A.C.T., LCF Shakes, Yale Repertory Theater, Boston Court Pasadena, & Pasadena Playhouse. Film: Award-Winning short *Sana, Sana* directed by Adam Holguin, *The Cuck* Directed by Sean Taylor. Television: *Love Victor*, *68 Whiskey*, *VEEP*, *NCIS*, *Seal Team*, and *Westworld*.

JADA GODWIN (Associate Director) (they/them) is a writer, filmmaker, and theatre artist who graduated from the University of Washington's Cinema and Media Studies program. *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* marks their fourth production with Bethesda Repertory Theatre, following *An Evening with Company '25*, *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties*, and *My Brother's Keeper*. In both film and theatre, Jada's work often highlights queer experiences and people, a community filled with vibrant, persevering folk who deserve to see their stories told. They would like to thank all of those who've lent an ear, shoulder, and critiquing eye to their work over these last few years—y'all each hold a cozy place in their heart!

ALEX ESPARZA (Technical Director) studies at Cal State LA, majoring in theater arts, focused on Design and Production. He is always eager to learn and to face any challenge that comes his way. His goal is to pursue a career in technical theater, becoming a respected propmaster working in theater and TV/film. Credits include *Heisenberg* (Skylight Theater), *My Brother's Keeper* (Bethesda Rep at Boston Court), *The SpongeBob Musical* (East Los Angeles College), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (East Los Angeles College). *Here Lies Love* (Mark Taper Forum). *Oklahoma* (El Portal Theater) *Eléctrico* (Casa 101). *Continuity* (Luckman Intimate Theater), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Cal State LA—ACTF 2026 Award Heart of the Art Award in Properties Design).

MICHAEL THÓR KUZMACK (Directing Fellow) is thrilled to serve as the Directing Fellow! He is a founding Company member and has performed in four productions with Bethesda. Selected credits: *King Lear* and *Talking to Terrorists* (Harold Clurman Lab). Michael can be seen on *The Book of Boba Fett*. His education spans his BA in Theatre from Saint Mary's College of California, the First Year Program at the Sanford Meisner Center, and the Professional Conservatory Program at the Stella Adler Art of Acting Studio. Dedicated to the BMU, my amazing wife, Moya, the entire Galindo family, Nick, Minnie, Alec, my parents, and Reid Davis.

ALEXIS RAMIREZ (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to continue as Production Stage Manager with Bethesda Repertory Theatre. After beginning her journey with the company as an intern over a year ago, she is proud to take on this role now, having previously served as Assistant Stage Manager for *The Rhythm of Mourning* and *My Brother's Keeper*. Alexis is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts in English at Pasadena City College, where she continues to strengthen her passion for storytelling and analysis. She is deeply grateful for this opportunity and excited to continue growing with such an inspiring, creative team. Alexis has gained valuable experience in supporting the technical artistry of live performance. Discover fragments of her prose and poetry at @scribed.by on Instagram.

KALYN GONZALEZ (Production Stage Manager, Intimacy Captain) (she/her/hers) is excited to return to Bethesda Repertory as a Production Stage Manager! Aside from Stage Management, Kalyn is also an actress with a BA in Theater Arts and Performance Studies from University of California, Berkeley and has just finished wrapping her first ever film which she starred in called *Laguna Healing*. Kalyn is very grateful for the work she has done with Bethesda thus far and she hopes you enjoy the show!

YARDEN EDRI (Associate Stage Manager) is a Junior B.F.A. Stage Management and B.S. in Theatre Administration Student at Ithaca College. Yarden's passion for stage management began in 5th grade. Since then Yarden has stage managed many shows including *Shakespeare In Love* with de Toledo High school, *Phantom of the Opera* with Youth Musical Theater, *Romeo and Juliet* with Fools on Thrones and *Spring Awakening* with Ithaca College. Using both his degree paths Yarden is also a Co-Founder for the local theatre company Two Sisters Productions where he serves as the Resident Stage Manager.

ANNIE REZNIK (Intimacy Coordinator) is an LA-based actor, singer, and intimacy coordinator working across film, television, and theatre. She is dedicated to fostering environments where actors can do their boldest work safely and to empowering artists through consent-driven, collaborative intimacy practices. Over the past two years, she has coordinated intimacy for more than 20 projects, including the viral ReelShort series *Waterboy*, winner of Best LGBTQIA+ and Vertical of the Year at the Vertical Drama Love Awards; the world premiere of *Punish Me* at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood; and the NSFW music video for "When I Wake Up" by Taylor Momsen and The Pretty Reckless. Annie holds a BFA in Acting from DePaul University's Theatre School. IG: @AnnieRezz

SHELBY MUMFORD (Casting Director) is honored to be Bethesda Repertory Theatre's resident Casting Director. She also facilitates the company's free monthly workshop, The Rehearsal. Shelby is passionate about storytelling and developing original material, especially quality content for communities of color. Casting has been a fulfilling way to contribute to bringing these incredible stories to life. She is grateful to her family, friends, and the Bethesda team for their support throughout this journey.

KELSEY MUMFORD (Costume Designer) is originally from Pasadena. Kelsey attended the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts, where she took on costume design for their productions of *Once On This Island* and *Hairspray*. She was also the first student in the school's history to introduce fashion design into the Visual Arts Academy's showcases & galleries. Kelsey graduated from the University of the Arts London: London College of Fashion in 2023. Since graduating, she's worked as creative director, costume designer, and wardrobe stylist for various brands, photoshoots & film projects. Kelsey made her theatre debut with Bethesda Repertory in 2024, and has since costumed two productions.

CJ LAZATIN (Production Manager) is a local theatre and entertainment professional with a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Design and Production with an emphasis in Stage Management. CJ previously worked on special and live events such as musicals, operas, plays, galas, concerts, and graduation ceremonies. CJ's experience in the field ranges from working on plays and musicals at the Hollywood Fringe Festival and South Coast Repertory, to coordinating and running the technical logistics for musical artists like Anderson Paak, Pat Benatar, Matthew Morrison, and Stephanie J. Block, and Third Eye Blind.

ABEL MARQUEZ (Producer, House Manager) (he/him) is an award-winning freelance latiné director, dramaturg, playwright, and arts administrator. He has collaborated with organizations like Center Theatre Group, Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Am, Theatre of NOTE, and more. Abel is the Project Manager at U/RTA (NY), a Teaching Artist at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, serves on the American College Theatre Festival Executive Committee, is a Company member of Bethesda Repertory Theatre, and a director/producer for Brown and Out Festival. Recently, Abel premiered his play, *My Brother's Keeper*, at Boston Court Pasadena and received the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion Award.

BETHESDA REPERTORY COMPANY

Company Members play an integral role in shaping and performing new works, working closely with the organization to nurture bold, original storytelling and contribute meaningfully to the evolution of contemporary theatre. Thank you to our distinguished ensemble of committed artists.

Michael Andrew Barker
Momo Bedier
Nate Borowski
Haley Bronzino
Andrew Rudy Galindo
Michael Gomez
Vivi Le

Meghan Mahowald
Abel Marquez
Mack Ogden
Zoë Papia
Sandy Rather-Guzzo
Kale Shepherd
Michael Thór Kuzmack

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2026

Bethesda Repertory Theatre is governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees comprised of leaders from the business, education, and entertainment communities who share a passion for theatre and a commitment to public service.

The Board works to strengthen the profile of Los Angeles theatre, support the development of new works and artists, and foster a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts among people of all ages.

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Michael Gomez, *Managing Director, Treasurer*
Andrew Rudy Galindo, *Artistic Director*
Diane Galindo

Interested in serving on the Board? We welcome inquiries from community-minded individuals who are passionate about the arts and nonprofit leadership. Please contact Board Chair Martin Galindo at martin@bethesdarep.com for more information.

DONORS

Bethesda Repertory Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit performing arts organization. We are so thankful for the immensely generous contributions we have received from these individuals over the past year:

GOLD CIRCLE \$1000+

Andrew Rudy Galindo
Martin & Diane Galindo
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Deidre & Malcolm Mumford
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Albert Emery
Alejandra Galindo
Eileen Galindo
Margaret Morrow
Willis Popenoe
Lisa Vega
Mario Vega
Paul & Nancy Vega

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bethesda Repertory Theatre acknowledges that we gather today on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Tongva people, the original stewards of the Los Angeles Basin, including present-day Glendale. We honor the Tongva community—past, present, and future—and recognize their enduring relationship to this land. We offer our gratitude and respect to the Indigenous peoples who have cared for, lived on, and continue to steward these lands.

Bethesda Repertory can only exist with
the support of our community. All
contributions are tax-deductible.

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