

PROGRAM

Theater for the New City
Crystal Field, Executive Director

presents a new play written by
Coni Koepfinger & Dan Carter

directed by **Dan Carter**
music by **Joe Izen**

Auditioning for **ETERNITY**



featuring

MARY TIERNEY* & CARLA SUSAN LEWIS*

with **BETH GRIFFITH* & KEVIN G. SHINNICK***

*all artists appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association

September 23 - October 9 (Thursdays - Sundays)

Tickets: 212-254-1109 / theaterforthenewcity.net

155 1st Avenue, New York City

**Sometimes the best lessons about life ...
come from the afterlife**

THEATER FOR THE NEW CITY

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Presents

Auditioning For Eternity

written by

Coni Koepfinger & Dan Carter

directed by

Dan Carter

featuring

Carla Susan Lewis

Beth Griffith

Mary Tierney

Kevin G. Shinnick

music by Joe Izen

scenic design by Alan Smithée

costume design by Everett Clark

lighting & sound design by Ken Coughlin

Emma Thompson, stage manager

Geoffrey Kinsey-Christopher, property master

Jay Michaels, director of promotion and public relations

John David West, director of social media

Padmini Sukumaran, assistant costume designer

Dan Kelley, house manager

Carrie Wesolowski, AEA covid officer

Setting

Grace Hospital, Brooklyn; an Off-Off-Broadway performance space in the East Village; and various places in the Players Club, Gramercy Park, all as filtered through Mary's altered state of consciousness brought on by her imminent death. The play is presented without intermission.

Cast of Characters (in speaking order):

Doctor/Edwin Booth	Kevin G. Shinnick
Mary	Mary Tierney
Nurse/Julia/Helen Hayes.....	Beth Griffith
Roz	Carla Susan Lewis



All actors appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association.

The authors are members of The Dramatists Guild.

The director is a member of SDC, the Society of Directors & Choreographers.

Auditioning For Eternity is produced with approval of Actors Equity Association under its NYC Showcase Code.

From the Playwrights

The art and science of death and dying have plagued humanity for centuries. Sometimes we get so caught up with fearing it, we forget how to live joyfully moment to moment. Time is always an issue, isn't it? In this absurdist comedy, death looms over Mary and Roz, two aging actresses longing for the role of a lifetime. Having known each other forever as friends, colleagues, and rivals, but estranged for decades, they are suddenly and mysteriously re-united over the shared brainchild of creating art from their lives. Revisiting their separate and disparate memories and giving vent to individual fantasies, they weave a tale worthy of their upcoming appearance in *The Bardo*, which for them is the Great Hall of the Players Club on Gramercy Park. Here, the spirits of legendary actors Edwin Booth and Helen Hayes, emerge to encourage, inspire, and challenge Roz as she—often unskillfully—guides Mary through various phases of transitional consciousness into a new stage of existence. Ultimately, the lives of the two begin to imitate the art they struggle to create for this world and the next. And vice versa.

Visit us at: LivefromtheBardo.com



CARLA SUSAN LEWIS



MARY TIERNEY



KEVIN G. SHINNICK



BETH GRIFFITH



CONI KOEPFINGER



DAN CARTER



JOE IZEN



EVERETT CLARK



GEOFFREY KINSEY-CHRISTOPHER



PADMINI SUKUMARAN



CARRIE WESOLOWSKI

Coni Koepfinger (playwright)
Olwen Wymark Theatre Award recipient, Coni is the host of *Airplay/Determined Women*, a weekly theatre program in its 12th season. In addition to teaching theatre, playwriting, English composition and literature at various universities like Carnegie Mellon, her alma mater, Coni is internationally published and a media advisor for the Lifeboat Foundation; a contributor for the Center of Conscious Creativity; a member of The Dramatists Guild; a board member of the International Centre for Women Playwrights; and committee chair for League of Professional Women in Theatre. Coni is a resident playwright at Manhattan Rep and produced all over by the Acting Company; the Secret Theatre; Unfringed Fest NYC; Pan Asian Rep; Me Too / Harlem; Untold Stories of Jewish Women; TNC's New Blood Series; PLAYBILL'S Virtual Theatre Festival in 2020; Manhattan Rep's STORIES film competition; The Rogue Theatre Festival 2022 and *My Dinner with Mary* published by Next Stage Press. What's Next? *Eve of Beltane*, with Joe Izen, directed by Victoria Rae Padgett; and *Kingdom Come*, a bold new musical with Joe Izen directed by Sia Koskina, premiering 2023 in Athens, Greece; and *Stories* with Cynthia Peters-Arnold, Matt Matthews, director; produced by Lois Saperstein's Arts-house. In development: *JAK, Beyond the Beanstalk*, a family musical with James Scheider; *Josie in the Bardo*, directed by Maria Olon Tsaroucha, Blue Skye Productions; and two more projects with Joe Izen: *Schoolhouse*, directed by Joe Mancuso; and *Magdala*, a musical work on the life of Mary Magdalene.

Dan Carter (playwright, director)
studied acting at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theatre, apprenticed with Houston's Alley Theatre, made his professional debut in Theatre Company of Boston's *Richard III* starring Al Pacino, and has appeared onstage throughout the country and in numerous films. He was Artistic Director of Pennsylvania Centre Stage, Producing Director of Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Founding Artistic Director of Appalachian Theatre Ensemble. For 22 years, he was Director of the Penn State School of Theatre, prior to which he was Associate Dean at Florida State and Chair at Illinois State. He was Dean of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre and President of both the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Theatre Conference. With Brant Pope, he co-authored the book *Using Open Scenes to Act Successfully on Stage and Screen*. He is a recipient of the Society of American Fight Directors' Patrick Crean Award.

Carla Susan Lewis (Roz) is an award-winning character actress who has worked in Shakespeare rep (*Richard II, Julius Caesar, Taming of the Shrew*), regional theatre, Film, and network TV. She is repped by Dream-Maker Talent Management and is a proud member of Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA. Returning to the business after completing her PhD at the Graduate Center, Carla is thrilled to embody Roz Diamond in *Auditioning for Eternity*, a heavenly love letter to theatre and life.

Mary Tierney (Mary) AEA and SAG-AFTRA started her acting career in Dublin in the early '70s for five years. Coming back to NYC to start The Billy Munk Theater and Quaigh's Lunchtime Series. The next ten years were working for Mayor Ed Koch. In 1989 she became a Board Member of Theater for the New City.
(She never looked back!)

Beth Griffith (Nurse/Julia/Helen Hayes) Beth has sung, acted and danced across Europe and on multiple stages, large and small, in New York. Happy to join this great team for *Auditioning for Eternity!* New York credits include: New Stage Theater, Theater of a Two-Headed Calf, Here Art Center, La MaMa, NYTW, New Ohio Theatre, New York City Opera, The Kitchen, International WOW, The Flea, Playwrights Horizon Soundstage, Clubbed Thumb, Rady&Bloom, New Georges. International credits: Pocket Opera Nuremberg, Johannes Wieland Dance Company, Sequentia Ensemble for Medieval Music, Collegium Vocale Köln. Ensemble Musikfabrik. Commercial Recordings with: Tzadik, New World Music, Sargasso, Largo, Winter & Winter, MFB Records, Unseen Worlds.

Kevin G Shinnick (Doctor/Edwin Booth) AEA, SAG-AFTRA, IATSE, cofounder/director, TETCNY. Stage: Salieri (*Amadeus*); Dracula (*Dracula*); Malvolio (*Twelfth Night*) Film: Dr Moran (*The Death of Poe*). Streaming: (Mr Diggler in five part mini-series *How to Make it Big*). Next: Henry in *The Lion in Winter*. www.TETCNY.org Thanks Baboo.

Joe Izen Dramatist, Singer, Songwriter, Musical Arranger and Radio host of *Airplay*, Joe Izen is a graduate of the King's College and is a longstanding member of both the Screen Actors Guild and AFTRA. He is the featured writer and singer on the A.V.I. Album titled "Finalmente," by Renzo Fraiese, as well as the co-author and vocalist on the album "Breeze" released on the Barclay International label. He is also a published songwriter with Warner Brothers Publishing since 1986 and is currently affiliated with B.M. I. Music. In the world of Television and Radio, Joe can be heard as the solo vocalist on many popular National and International commercials, including "Coke," "Coors Light," "Chrysler," "Dole Fruit," "Folgers Coffee" "Come to Israel" "Long John Silvers" and "Budweiser." As a Dramatist, Joe has stepped in as director for several regional musicals, including *Annie*, *Grease*, *Sound of Music* and the more serious plays, *Antigone* and *Love Letters*. He is also the author, composer and lyricist of the musical *Verush*, the story of a young Woman sold into captivity on the silk road and her struggle to survive. In his latest endeavors, Joe has teamed up with a creative writing partner, the Internationally Published Playwright Coni Koepfinger from Carnegie Mellon, and together they have written three full length plays; *Schoolhouse Kingdom Come* and *Eve of Beltane*. They hope to bring a new and elevated consciousness to their work in theatrical entertainment and are already beginning to attract the attention of several well-known producers.

Alan Smithee

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Smithee

Everett Clark was born in Costa Rica and raised in New York. He attended the Fashion Institute on Technology, where he did multi-discipline course work. He has been a guest lecturer on costume design and fiber arts at FIT. His work has been featured on film and stage throughout New York City. Some of his recent credits include: *Where Do All the Ghosts Go?*, *Women Behind Bars*, *Awake*, *Nuclear Follies*, *Dress of Fire*, *Verzet Amsterdam*, *City Girls and Desperadoes*, *Appendage*, *Your Name on My Lips*, *Ghost Light*, *Emancipation*, *MAA-FA*, *Resurrection*, *Street Theater 16*, *Three Miles*, *Street Theater 15*, *Women of the Wind*, and *Mula, Jr.* Film credits: *Desi Shakespeare* (filming), *The Garden Left Behind* (2016), *Tango Shalom* (filming), *Fists of Love* (2014), *36 Saints* (2013), and *Hip Hop High, The Musical* (video, 2010). Email: clark460@gmail.com

Emma Thompson is a recent graduate of Texas State University and is thrilled to have gotten the opportunity to stage manage *Auditioning for Eternity*. She would like to thank Coni for giving her this opportunity and the cast and creative team for supporting her. She would also like to thank her family for supporting her move to New York. Emma has had a lot of fun working on this show and hopes that you enjoy it!

Geoffrey Kinsey-Christopher is a thespian, a writer, and producer from Vancouver, Canada, but is now based in the New York City area. The focus of his works has been informed by the

belief that the things society makes reflect its values, and the people in a society who perform those values deserve recognition and to be brought to the forefront. From such mediums as video art, music, theatre, and documentary works, (*Reenactor*/documentary film/ *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* (2017), Light & Sound OP at American Theatre of Actors, Set Designer/Off Off Broadway *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (2016) producer comedy shorts & music videos/Navarro Productions, Stage manager/Hudson Guild Theater/NY Summer & Winter festivals and more), he looks forward with the perspective of an Iconoclast. Through opportunities and positions as an actor, a producer, and a set & production designer, he has had the opportunity to see the filmmaking, theatre, and various multi-media arts process from multiple angles, up close & personal and with insights which have added layer upon layer to his understanding of contemporary filmography. The passion of building collaborations and working on projects a film was unbridled, but one of the most valuable aspects of these experiences has been being the medium between the cast, the crew, and production teams as they become a community that exists to generate a distinct vision. Through the course of his varied projects, the connections among all these fields, including the different worldviews and theorems is that filmmaking, music, theatre, and various multimedia art must have a truth at the core of them.

Padmini Sukumaran has Expertise in Dramatic Performance and Costumes. She has Performed Off-Off-Broadway in Michael Weller's *Moonchildren* and Harold Pinter's *Night School*; and has worked in the Costume Department in an Off-Off-Broadway Production of Marsha Norman's *Getting Out*. As Padmini is very passionate about Emblematizing the Various Dimensions of the Inner-Self through Fashion, she is very excited to work as a Costume Assistant in this Production!

Carrie Wesolowski Before moving into the position of Covid Compliance Officer, Carrie Wesolowski was an Associate Director on *Auditioning for Eternity*. A lifelong New Yorker, Carrie is an actor/director/host and singer. After receiving a BA in Drama/Theatre, she completed a 2-year Acting Training Program with Phil Gushee and Joe Anania, dedicated to the teachings of The Neighborhood Playhouse. Recent acting/directing credits include directing and playing Destiny in *Simon Says*, a finalist in the 1st Playbill Virtual Theater Festival (VTF Live), *Mandy in Dermalogic* at Theater for the New City, directing and playing the title character in *The Unusual Chauncey Faust* which was a finalist in the Rogue Theater Festival, and directing the opera *The Bird Lady* at The National Opera Center. Carrie is a co-host of the virtual weekly theatre program *AirPlay* since 2020 and a regular contributor to *AirPlay* as Actor/Director. She is currently at work, developing her own projects.

Jay Michaels Communications/ Channel i – creating visibility for independent theater, film, music, and literature has been the battle-cry of this boutique promotion and production firm for more than 20 years. Through a diverse internal multi-media platform, this communications organization is able to supply guaranteed coverage to hundreds of emerging artists and their productions while growing its external network of promotional sites and groups. jaymichaelsarts.com

BARDO THÉATRE ANGELS

Marina Rebecca Chan

Cyndy Marion

Renee Edelman

Loretta Hunt Marion

Robb Pruitt

Mary Tierney

Annie Ward

Joe Koepfinger

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