

THE COMPANY

Artistic Director

Anthony Barnao

Executive Directors

Christian Campbell and Russell Friedenberg

Producing Directors

Ann Partrich and Charles J. Volkens

Company Manager

Tricia Dong

Literary Managers

Gary Bullock and Mili Nicholson

Fundraising Managers

Kurt Caerres and Rich Embardo

Secretary/Historian

Missy Doty

Facility Managers

John Malone and Daisy Mullen

Company Members

Amanda-Lee Aday

Roberto Bacalski

Michele Begley

Jeana Blackman

Anna Bocci

Hans Bodenweiser

Joe Campana

Erica Clare

Kate Connor

Alyson Croft

Ben Crowley

Erin Daniels

Tony Forsythe

Vanessa Giorgio

Lara Grice

Barbara Gruen

Piper Henry

Andy Hirsch

Resident Lighting Designer

Kathi O'Donohue

Johanna Parker

Marisa Parker

Rick Pasqualone

Matthew Pernicelli

Ada Luz Pla

Devin Price

Adrian R'Mantie

Jodi Robinson

Crystal Robison

Robert Sampson

Paul Schackman

Steven Shaw

Julie Shimer

Sun St. Pierre

Karen Stone

Ronnie Walsh

Jason Waters

Joel West

Resident Sound Designer

Geoff Green

BLUE SPHERE ALLIANCE - East

Co-Artistic Director

Kim Tobin

Co-Artistic Director

Christian Campbell



at the **Lex Theatre**

6760 Lexington Avenue • Hollywood, California 90038 • 323.957.5782

Blue Sphere Alliance and L'Chaim Theater Ensemble of USC
presents
the WORLD PREMIERE of

The WETBACK



Blue Sphere Alliance
and
L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble of USC
present
the **WORLD PREMIERE** of

The Wetback

Written by
Myla Lichtman-Fields

Directed by
Anthony Barnao

CAST

(in order of appearance)

EDWARD TRYBEK.....	Classical Guitarist
BRIAN BURNETT.....	Ernesto Sanchez
ROSALIE SILER.....	Madreclita
JESSE McCULLUM.....	Jose Garcia
RACHEL KABER.....	Maria Lopez
JIOVANNA JURADO.....	Jiovanna Jurado
DENNIS KAMRANY.....	Ramone Ramirez
SARAH CHANG.....	Marianna Rodriguez
CYNTHIA FLOWERS.....	Thelma Flores
ERIN ANDERSON.....	Sally O'Keefe
BEN MESSMER.....	Judge Sy Taylor
HARRY CALBOM.....	Willie Sethcomb
JASON WATERS.....	John Judson
CYNTHIA MICHELLE.....	Reenie Judson
ROBERT HENERT.....	Barth Judson
LACEY ROUSE.....	Cora Judson

Produced for Blue Sphere Alliance and L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble by:
ANTHONY BARNAO, SARAH CHANG,
JIOVANNA JURADO and CYNTHIA MICHELLE

TIME

July 3, 1976

PLACE

A Courtroom in San Ysidro, California

The playwright wishes to dedicate this production of her work to the memory of her Aunt Mary Weiner.

Production Staff

Production Stage Manager	TRACY GOLDSTEIN
Lighting Designer	CHRIS CAPP
Set Designer	RONNIE WALSH
Set Decorator	JAZMINE JACKSON
Costumer	ROBERT HENERT
Sound Designer	GEOFF GREEN
Lighting Board Operator	LAURA BUTT
Production Assistant	KRISTINA SORENSON
Production Publicist	PHILLIP SOKOLOFF
USC Student Publisher	JOSH KOSSACK
Graphic Designer	RONNIE WALSH
Photographer	JOEL WEST

About the Play

"THE WETBACK" was first written in Norman Corwin's Graduate Writing Seminar at USC. The play was one of five finalists in the first Forest Roberts/Panowski Playwriting Contest as well as The Craig Contest, among others. The play was a finalist in the 1999 Mill Mountain Playwriting Contest. Most recently, Craig Noel facilitated a staged reading of the work directed by William Virelis in San Diego, which resulted in a rewriting of this play set against the backdrop of America's Bicentennial. An immigration lawyer, who participated in the post-reading discussion, felt that the play points up important existing problems of which the general public needs to be made aware. Hopefully, this play will do what playwright Lillian Hellman aimed for in her own works by shaking the audience out of their "magnolia trees."

L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble of USC - Mission Statement

L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble, under the guidance of USC Hillel, USC School of Theatre and the Office of Religious Life, is a diverse company of theatre, film and fine arts students of different cultural backgrounds who will collaborate with professional artists from the LA community to mount innovative, quality productions. L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble will give student artists the opportunity to hone their craft and find their expressive voice through hands-on experience and training under the guidance of established, caring professionals and to advocate cultural diversity and universal tolerance through its theatrical endeavors. L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble is affiliated with the Blue Sphere Alliance, an award-winning professional theatre company, currently in residence at the Lex Theatre in Hollywood. L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble and Blue Sphere Alliance are currently working to develop a unique university-accredited apprenticeship program with USC.

Blue Sphere Alliance - Statement of Purpose

Blue Sphere Alliance is a talented ensemble of professional artists committed to producing intelligent, provocative and socially relevant stage work. The Company is comprised of artists whose ethnic and cultural backgrounds are as diverse as the city of Los Angeles itself. Blue Sphere Alliance will reflect the community in which it creates and become part of the neighborhood in which it resides. It will present original work, West Coast premieres, classic plays and performed in non-traditional ways, including color-blind and gender blind casting. Blue Sphere Alliance will present main stage productions on the weekends and studio productions on weeknights. It is the goal of this Company to use our talents to Entertain, To Educate and To Enlighten.

THE CAST

Erin Anderson (Sally O'Keefe) Erin is just completing her first year at USC, where she is working toward a BFA degree in Acting. During the year she performed in four independent student productions with USC's Brand New Theatre company. Having just moved back to her native LA from Nashville for college, Erin is thrilled to be working with L'Chaim and Blue Sphere Alliance.

Brian Burnett (Ernesto) Like the rest of the cast, Brian is also a Trojan, but at the moment he is currently on hiatus. *The Wetback* is his debut performance on a professional stage. Brian will return to USC's theatre program in the fall wondering why he doesn't use his tuition to buy a new car.

Harry Calhoun (Willie Sethecomb) A freshman in USC's BA Theatre program, Harry has been seen in such shows as *All in the Timing*, *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, *And Men They Came for Me...*, *Rehearsal for Murder*, *Broadway's Fabulous Century*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and others. Directing credits include *Mere Mortals* and *Judgment Call*. Thanks to Anthony Barnao and the cast.

Sarah Chang (Mariana Rodriguez) Sarah is honored to be at the Blue Sphere Alliance at the Lex once again. She recently made her professional stage debut as the Angel Raver in Blue Sphere Alliance's world premiere production of *Fifth and Spring*. Sarah is continually amazed at the opportunities for creative expression. Thanks to BSA and Anthony's unwavering support of the three kids who had an idea.

Cynthia Flowers (Protestor Thelma Flores/Reporter) Cynthia gained much of her acting experience in her native Texas. She has attended workshops at the Children's Arts Theatre School in Dallas, received acting training at Stanford University and was a four-year member of the Tyler Civic Ballet. She has completed her first year of theatre training at the University of Southern California.

Robert Henert (Barth Judson) Robert is originally from DeForest, Wisconsin. He began his theatrical career by acting for his high school in such productions as *The Crucible*, *Harvey*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Twelfth Night*. He is a BA theatre major at USC and would like to thank his parents, friends and inspirations for allowing to keep on dreaming.

Jiovanna Jurado (Jiovanna Jurado) Jiovanna currently a theatre major at USC. Most recently, she was a part of the hit musical *Reef Madness* and part of the School of Theatre show, *Thin Air*. She has performed in community theatre productions such as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hello Dolly* and *Taming of the Shrew* in Mariposa and is a summer stock member of the Front Row Theatre company of Oakhurst, California. Also very involved in dance, was part of the Fall and Spring dance shows and USC and is a member of the USC Dance Ensemble.

Dennis Kamrany (Protest Leader Ramone Martinez) Dennis currently is a drama major at USC in his junior year. This is Dennis' first production with L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble as well as his first performance off of the USC campus. He is honored to be working with this cast and with Anthony Barnao.

Rachel Kaber (Protestor Maria Lopez) Rachel is a BA at USC School of Theatre, she has studied at San Diego State University and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Her credits include *The Good Doctor*, *Bury the Dead*, and "Miranda" in the film *Whatever It Takes*.

Jesse McCullum (Protestor Jose Garcia) Jesse is a aspiring artist from Seattle. This is his first appearance on a Los Angeles stage since his performance of the musical *Diva*. Always growing with the talented teaching and directing of Anthony Barnao and his class of unique actors. Jesse is aspiring to join Blue Sphere Alliance in order to challenge his creativity in the arts and is honored to work with the artists of USC. THANK YOU.

Ben Messmer (Judge Sy Taylor) Ben is a graduate of USC's BFA acting program and has been seen on stage throughout Chicago and Kansas City. In 1999 he appeared in the Scottish premiere of *Modigliani* along with seven other shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His favorite roles include "Gregor" in *Metamorphosis*, "Jerry" in *Zoo Story*, "Darth Vader" and "Chebaca" in *A Star Wars Trilogy* in 30 Minutes and "Frankie" in *A Lie of the Mind*. He has also been seen in TNT's *Running Mates* and recently wrapped production on the feature *Mockingbirds Don't Sing*. This is Ben's second production with BSA. Earlier this year he played Exeter in *Henry V*.

Cynthia Michelle (Reenie Judson/Co-Producer/Artistic Director) Since age three, Cindy has performed as an actress/singer in over forty regional, touring, and community theatre productions throughout California and Arizona, including leading roles in *Into the Woods* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Annie*, and *The Secret Garden*. She is also an aspiring poet (winner of several national creative writing contests) and an avid speech and debater (Arizona State Champion in Duo-Acting and Top Ten Finalist in Drama at the National Qualifying Tournament).

Lacey Rouse (Cora) Lacey is majoring in theatre at USC. Her favorite roles have been in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *A Shyness Maidel*, *The Crucible*, and *Anything Goes*. She's had a great time at the Blue Sphere Alliance at the Lex and would like to thank Anthony for his patience under stress.

Rosalie Siler (Madesita) Rosalie is currently finishing her third year as a theatre major at the University of Southern California. Rosalie began acting on stage in 1989 in Portland, Oregon and has recently begun auditioning for film and television roles in Los Angeles, while continuing her theatre career.

Edward Trybek (Classical Guitarist) Edward is currently studying classical guitar at USC. He is also an accomplished jazz guitarist and piano player. Edward is as passionate about guitar music as he is about composing music for the movies. He is a finalist in the Turner Classic Movies Young Film Composer Competition and recently won first prize in the ASTA/Aron Green Classical Guitar Competition.

Jason Waters (John Judson) L.A. Theatre: "Mulish" in *The Warriors* (36 Solutions), "Fluellen", "M. Le Fer" and "Ambassador" in *Henry V* (Blue Sphere Alliance), "Eddie" in *Fool For Love*, "Levi" in *Whiskey Rainbows* (Green Room Theatre, USC). Regional Theatre: "Sir Robert Audley" in *Lady Audley's Secret*, "Mortimer" in *Archie & Old Lace*, "Bill/Lucentio" in *Kiss Me Kate*, "Tupperoom" in *The Lady's Not For Burning* (PM&L Theatre, Antioch, IL). Overseas: "Kylan Polka" in *Tukkiolla* (Lohjan Kaupungin Teatteri, performed in Finnish). Film: *Get Out of Dodge*, *Perfect Game*, *Children of the Corn III*, *Inner City Blues*, *Indian Summer*. Television: *Days of Our Lives*, *Thanks, Seventh Heaven*, *Pacific Blue*, *Levin* in the USA (series regular) *Two, Malibu Shores*, *Nowhere Man*. Training: USC Alliance Improve Group, Lohjan Kaupungin Teatteri (Lohja, Finland), Playhouse West. You are welcome to visit his website: www.JasonWaters.com

PRODUCTION

Anthony Barnao (Director/Co-Producer/Artistic Director of Blue Sphere Alliance) Trained under Jose Quintero, New York directing credits include *Come Back Little Sheba*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Aria Da Capo*, *Lovers and Other Strangers*, *Dark at the Top of the Stairs* and *Jaques Brel*. Los Angeles credits include the world premieres of *Being of Sound Mind*, *The Last Chance Café*, *Clone*, *Peep Show*, *In the Bargain* with Catherine Keener and the revival of *Bullpen* starring Patrick Warburton. As the Artistic Director of Blue Sphere Alliance, Anthony directed their first studio production *Chamber Music*, their first main stage production of *Nogowski Dust*, *Indian Wants the Bronx* in their evening of One Acts, *New York to Nashville*, the thirtieth anniversary production of *Lovers and Other Strangers*, the world premieres of *The Great Experiment?*, *Children of Shame*, *Home Sweet Hell*, (*LA Weekly* Award Winner), *Souls In Flight*, the revival of *Being of Sound Mind*, the West Coast premiere of Tennessee Williams' *Something Cloudy, Something Clear*, *Past and Present* a solo piece in *By Myself In A Crowd*, *Solos in Harmony IV* and Louise Page's *Tissue*. Film directing credits include the feature *Annie's Garden*, starring Yancy Butler and Grace Zabriskie, and the comedy short *The Home Branch*. As a member of Immediate Theatre, Anthony produced *The Ghostman* and the critically acclaimed one-woman show *Spirit Awakening*. He has also worked extensively as a casting director for film, television and theatre. In addition, Anthony also teaches acting, cold reading and coaches privately.

Myia Lichtman-Fields (Playwright) Lichtman-Fields has a veritable "war chest" of new works for the stage and screen, which she has written while raising her two sons. Michael York and Samantha Eggar recently recorded her stage play *Felix and Fanny* (about the Mendelssohns) for Peggy Webber's California Radio Artists Theatre. Lichtman-Fields served as a staff writer at Universal Studios where her scripts were produced for television episodes, M.O.W.s, and for an NBC Special. She has worked on freelance projects in Canada and the U.S. Craig Noel sponsored a reading of *The Stone of Kilham* at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre featuring Jonathan McMurry and Katherine McGrath. Lichtman-Fields' background includes training at The Julliard School of Drama, and a Ph.D. in Communications/Drama with a minor in Film from U.S.C. Myia is a member of the W.G.A., and the Dramatists Guild.

Cynthia Michelle (Co-Producer/Artistic Director of L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble) The founder of L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble, Cindy is currently pursuing her academic and artistic goals as a freshman theatre major and comparative literature minor at USC. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support and Kimberly Senior for all her encouragement and inspiration in starting this innovative theatre ensemble.

Jiovanna Jurado (Co-Producer/Associate Artistic Director of L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble) Jo is proud to be a founding member and the Associate Artistic Director of the newly formed USC student theatre group, L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble.

Sarah Chang (Co-Producer/Producing Director of L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble) Sarah is a founding member of L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble. She is currently in her junior year at USC here and is studying for her BA in communications with a minor in theatre.

Tracy Goldstein (Stage Manager) Tracy is currently a sophomore at Loyola Marymount University, majoring in Film Production. She stage managed theatre for

CSUN, LMU, UCLA, and USC. Some of the shows that she's done include *History of the Devil*, *Cloveland*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cinderella*, and *Antigone*. She is thrilled to make her debut with a professional theatre company.

Cris Capp (Lighting Designer) Cris overcame his fear of heights at an early age by climbing mountains and high tension wires. This lack of fear combined with his natural immunity to high voltage shock, logically lead him to pursue a career in lighting design. He studied Lighting Design and Theory at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. In Los Angeles he has worked as an assistant to Kathy O'Donohue, a long-time designer for Blue Sphere Alliance. Favorite productions that Cris has worked on include *Sexual Perversity* in Chicago, *Working*, *Ubu Roi*, *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory*, Electric Lodge dance productions and various Tulane theatre and dance student productions. Cris says he's thrilled to work with BSA and to be paying his rent this month.

Ronnie Walsh (Set Designer) Ronnie is a member of Blue Sphere Alliance and just completed performing a lead role in its world premiere production of *Fifth and Spring*. In addition to being an actor, Ronnie is also an accomplished musician, designer and graphic artist.

Jazmine Jackson (Set Decorator) Jazmine just graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. This is her first job as a set decorator and she hopes there will be many more to follow.

Robert Henert (Costumer) Robert developed his interest in costume design while working as an actor in high school productions of *The Crucible*, *Harvey*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Twelfth Night*.

Special Thanks

USC Hillel, Hillel Roundtable, Matt Davidson, Rabbi Jonathan Klein, Fern Karp, USC School of Theatre, Dean Robert Seales, Jack Rowe, Paul Backer, Alicia Grosso, USC Center for Religious Life, Rabbi Susan Laemmle, Jan Lewis, Joel West, Elan Akin, Rachel Seiferth, Crystal Lauderdale, Garrett Gilchrist, Julie Marcus, Jessica Marek, Kaitlin Weichsel, Michelle Romo and all those who made this production possible.

Special Note

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L'Chaim Theatre Ensemble - Executive Board

Cynthia Michelle - Artistic Director
Jiovanna Jurado - Associate Artistic Director
Sarah Chang - Producing Director
Josh Kossack - Publicity Manager