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**BY JEN SILVERMAN DIRECTED BY ELENI PAPALEONARDOS** 

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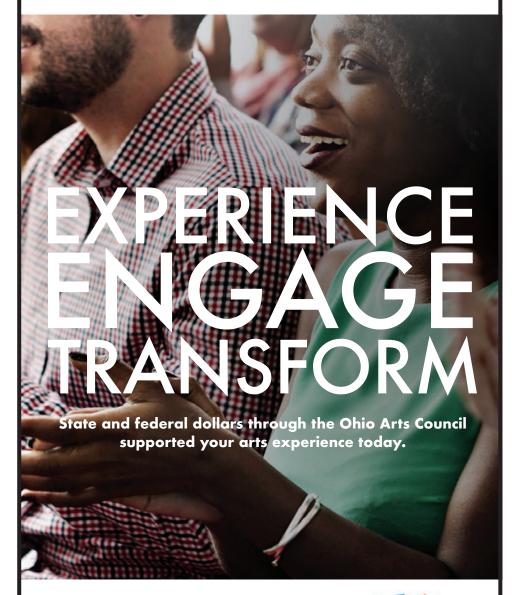
We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.



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## THE ROOMMATE

#### BY JEN SILVERMAN

Eleni Papaleonardos DIRECTOR

Carrie Cox LIGHTING DESIGNER

Dave Wallingford **SOUND DESIGNER** 

Jessica Morgan
Intimacy Director

Kaitlyn Pfeifer\*
STAGE MANAGER

Dan Gray
SCENIC DESIGNER

Mary Yaw McMullen
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Lonelle Yoder
PROPS DESIGNER

Tyla Daniel
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THE ROOMMATE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

THE ROOMMATE was produced by Williamstown Theatre Festival in July 2017
Mandy Greenfield, Artistic Director

World premiere in the 2015 Humana Festival of New American Plays at ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE THE ROOMMATE was developed in part with assistance from SPACE on Ryder Farm (www.spaceonryderfarm.com)

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



#### SHARON

JEANINE THOMPSON\* she/her



#### **ROBYN**

MICHELLE SCHROEDER-LOWREY she/her



\*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

#### **CAST BIOS**

JEANINE THOMPSON★ [SHE/HER] (Sharon) is honored to be making her acting debut with The Contemporary. She has been involved with previous CATCO/ Contemporary productions as co-director with Geoff Nelson of *The Mysteries of Irma Vep*; as a dance-theatre performer in the collaborations with choreographer, John Giffin, in *East Market Gardens* and *Fall River Follies*, and as the Intimacy and Violence Director of *Fat Ham, Good Grief* and *Almost Maine*. Other acting Jeanine has done includes Mom (*Wild Strawberries*) and Callen (*You Will Get Sick*) with Available Light Theatre; Charlene (*Hot 'n Throbbing*) and Mother (*Blood Wedding*). Jeanine is an Emeritus Professor of Ohio State University Department of Theatre where, from 1994 − 2023, as the Movement Specialist, she taught Viewpoints, Suzuki, Mime, Theatrical Intimacy, Laban for Actors, and Creation of New Works. Her artistry has been greatly influenced by her work with Anne Bogart and the SITI Company, choreographer, John Giffin, and French mime artist, Marcel Marceau.

MICHELLE SCHROEDER-LOWREY ISHE/HERI (Robyn) is thrilled to return to The Contemporary's stage having last been seen in Almost, Maine many moons ago. Michelle is a founding member of Available Light Theatre. Roles include Then/After/Water (Ana), Tomorrow is the Question, Time and a few Words, God's Ear (Mel), Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom (Deborah), Pride and Prejudice (Jane Bennet et al), Jane Eyre: a memory, a fever, a dream (Jane), The Christians (Elizabeth), The Grown Up (Annabelle), Paradise Park Zoo (Red Panda), Witch (Elizabeth), Tiny Beautiful Things (Sugar), What the Constitution Means to Me (Heidi), and Lunchbunch (Nicole). Michelle has a BA in theatre from The Ohio State University and teaches music/movement/drama at Columbus Academy. She also holds a CAPP certification from The Flourishing Center in NYC. Michelle thanks her favorite and best ever roommates — Jon and Eleanor — for all their love, encouragement and closet space. I love you so much.

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS**

**ELENI PAPALEONARDOS** [SHE/HER] (Director) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Denison University, where she teaches courses in acting, devising, and theatre-making. She was a member of the first M.F.A. company in Theatre and Contemporary Performance at Naropa University and studied with many prominent American theatre innovators. Eleni joined Columbus-based Available Light Theatre (AVLT) in 2008 and has served as Artistic Director since 2015. Most recently she directed *You Will Get Sick* and *Lunch Bunch* at AVLT. Eleni's work would not be possible without the love and support from her husband and son. She is grateful to the Contemporary Theatre of Ohio and the entire team of *The Roommate* for their enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work. Eleni went to college at the Ohio State University and is overjoyed to be reunited with so many of her friends and professors in this production.

**DAN GRAY** [HE/HIM] (Scenic Designer) is thrilled to be part of another season at The Contemporary and this production of *The Roommate*. Other recent designs at The Contemporary include *Big Fish, POTUS, Indecent, Head Over Heels, Life Sucks, Educating Rita, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, The Seafarer, The Secret Garden,* and *The Pillowman*. Dan's other regional theatre credits include numerous designs for The George Street Playhouse, Capital Rep, Players Theatre Columbus, the Delaware Theatre Company, and The Human Race Theatre Company (Dayton, OH). He also designs for many Central Ohio companies, including BalletMet, Opera Columbus, The Dayton Ballet, and The Columbus Symphony. Dan recently retired from the OSU Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts where he was an Associate Professor and the Resident Scenic Designer.

**CARRIE COX** [SHE/HER] (Lighting Designer) Carrie Cox's childhood aspiration to become a Disney villainess was nothing special. She desired a resumé of international espionage, a convertible sports car, the standard head scarf and cigarette holder, and two obligatory Siamese cats, Pinky and Jetson. Instead, she claimed the vocation of a production manager and lighting designer for The Ohio State University's Department of Dance, The Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Dance and Choreography, and Maine's Bates Dance Festival. (She threatens that if you stay in shadow, no one will observe you dancing.) Currently, Carrie provides infrequent lighting design for Available Light Theatre and dreams of international travel with exotic felines from the safety of Central Kentucky.

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)**

MARY YAW MCMULLEN [SHE/HER] (Costume Designer) is delighted to be working with The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio as the Costume Designer for *The Roommate*. She works as a freelance Costume Designer, Director, and Educator. Mary is currently teaching as Adjunct Faculty at The Ohio State University's Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts for Fall '25. Some of her more recent costume designs locally and out of state are *School of Rock* and *The Sleepwalker of Holstenwall* with Columbus Children's Theatre, *Luchadora, Indecent, Skeleton Crew, Big Fish,* and *Alice by Heart* with The Contemporary, *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Otterbein University, and *The Old Man and The Old Moon, As You Like It, Twelfth Night* and *Great Expectations* with Door Shakespeare in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin. Mary holds a B.A. in Theatre and M.F.A in Theatrical Design and Production from The Ohio State University. She is a founding troupe member of GhostBox Productions in Coshocton, Ohio. Mary thanks family for their support and excitement for all things theatre.

DAVE WALLINGFORD [HE/HIM] (Sound Designer) is a freelance sound designer, audio engineer, and founding company member of Available Light Theatre. When not in a theatre, he can be found either running sound in a TV production truck at a professional sports arena for the likes of Fox Sports, CBS, NBC, Bally Sports, FanDuel Sports, Red Bull, ESPN, and Apple TV; or in a race car. Some shows he has designed at The Contemporary include *The Last Five Years, Ride the Cyclone, 9 to 5, Head Over Heels, Five Guys Named Moe, Avenue Q, Story of My Life, Evil Dead: The Musical,* and The Last Smoker in America.

**LONELLE YODER** [SHE/HER] (Props Designer) has been part of Columbus's theatre scene in various capacities for 25 years, starting with the Phoenix Theatre for Children and BlueForms Theatre Group and, more recently, with Available Light Theatre, CATCO/The Contemporary, Opera Columbus, and Columbus Children's Theatre. These days, she spends her time making props, doing wildlife rehab, gardening, making jams out of fruit she's grown or foraged, and fishing things that \*aren't trash\* out of dumpsters.

JESSICA MORGAN [SHE/HER] (Intimacy Director) is thrilled to be in her fifth season with The Contemporary having previously worked on Indecent, Head Over Heels, 9 to 5: The Musical, POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive, Ride the Cyclone, Big Fish, Wife of a Salesman and most recently, Alice By Heart. She is a central Ohio native and has a BA in Theatre from Kent State and an MFA in Acting from Ohio State. Jessica is now based in Morgantown, West Virginia where she is the Head of

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)**

Graduate Acting and Associate Professor of Stage Movement for the BFA/MFA Acting programs at West Virginia University. Additional professional work includes The Contemporary American Theatre Festival (CATF), Cumberland Theatre Company, Vintage Theatre Company, and Greenbrier Valley Theatre. In addition to her production work, she teaches workshops on consent and intimacy practices for theatre training programs and companies. Jessica has trained with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), is a Certified Intimacy Director with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC), and is a member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA).

TYLA DANIEL [SHE/HER] (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be back at The Contemporary Theater of Ohio as Assistant Director for *The Roommate*, after previously serving as Assistant Director for *Alice by Heart* and performing as Opal in *Fat Ham*. This play's deliciously dangerous premise—what would you do with a clean slate?—is exactly the kind of socially relevant, character-driven work she seeks out. Her other favorite credits include *Bonnets* and *The Country Wife* with The Ohio State University. Tyla believes the best theater, like this dark comedy, reminds us that reinvention is always an option, no matter how settled we seem.

KAITLYN PFEIFER\* [SHE/HER] (Stage Manager) is happy to be returning to The Contemporary, where some of her previous productions include Wife of Salesman, The Worries of Wesley, Good Grief, The Wolves, Prima Donna, and Luchadora. Other credits include: You Will Get Sick, Lunch Bunch, and Cry it Out at Available Light Theatre; Carmen at Opera Columbus; and The Last Match and Charlotte's Web at B Street Theater in Sacramento, CA.

**ELLIE PRICE** [THEY/SHE] (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to work with The Contemporary once again! They are a recent graduate from the Ohio State University with a BA in Theater. Some favorite recent credits include The Contemporary's production of *Ride The Cyclone*, as well as Noah Bennett's *The Phil Mitchell Radio Hour* at the Atlanta Fringe Festival.

\*ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (Equity) founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

#### THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS

LEDA HOFFMANN [SHE/HER] (Director and Artistic Director) is in her sixth season as The Contemporary's Artistic Director. The Contemporary directing credits include Alice By Heart, Wife of a Salesman, Big Fish, Ride the Cyclone, POTUS, 9 to 5, Indecent, Head Over Heels, Mr Burns: a post-electric play, and An Iliad. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Provincetown Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, Riverside Theater Iowa City, Case Western, Ohio State, and University of Miami. Before moving to Columbus, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago and Leda served on Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the Education and Literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's Community Engagement Department. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, Hartford Stage apprentice, SDCF Observer and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. Upcoming; The Jack of Hearts Club (Provincetown Theater), A Christmas Carol (American Shakespeare Center, The Contemporary), and Primary Trust (The Contemporary). www.ledahoffmann.com

CHRISTY FARNBAUCH [SHE/HER] (Executive Director) became The Contemporary's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

#### THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS (CONTD)

STEVE HILLER [HE/HIM] (Education Director) became The Contemporary's education director in April 2023. He has over 15 years experience working in non-profit with a focus on youth and family programming and development, training and leadership and fostering community partnerships. Steve has chaired and served on different advisory boards and currently serves as a board member for a Columbus non-profit organization. He also has over 10 years of experience working in secondary and post-secondary education. Steve was born in Seoul, Korea and has lived most of his life in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State and is a buckeye for life. In his free time, Steve enjoys playing piano and acoustic guitar, various outdoor activities, trying new foods and spending time with family and friends.

MAUREEN PENKO ISHE/HER] (Production Manager) is a production manager and theatre administrator with a focus on safe, inclusive, and engaging art. She brings experience from various organizations throughout Ohio, New York, and Vermont. Maureen was born and raised in Northeast Ohio, always enjoying the ability to engage with the arts community she has called home. She holds a bachelor's degree in theatre production from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. In her free time, Maureen enjoys exploring various libraries, walking, cooking, and spending time with her cat, family, and friends.

ALEXA BAKER [SHE/HER] (Marketing Manager) is a Columbus-based multi-hyphenate artist. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Gettysburg College and a Masters in Classical Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She is currently on faculty at Ohio Dominican University, teaching theatre and acting, and is an active teaching artist. As a performer, she has been seen on stage throughout Columbus with companies such as The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Available Light Theatre, CCT, and Actors' Theatre of Columbus. Prior to moving to Columbus, Alexa was the Associate Director of Youth Programs at Steps on Broadway dance studio in New York, NY. In addition to her arts background, she was the Events Coordinator for two-Michelin Starred restaurant Aquavit and managed social media for brands that include Zaftig Brewing Company and The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.





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