

PRODUCED BY COMPANY OF ANGELS (UNITED STATES) AND
ROB LECRONE (UNITED STATES), IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH
OS SATYROS (BRAZIL) AND DARLING DESPERADOS (SWEDEN)

THE ART OF FACING FEAR

WRITTEN BY IVAM CABRAL AND RODOLFO GARCÍA VÁZQUEZ
DIRECTED BY RODOLFO GARCÍA VÁZQUEZ

INTRODUCTION



The Art of Facing Fear, a one-hour virtual play, was designed specifically for the new digital theatre and is a wildly surreal and cathartic experience inspired by our current world situation. Our large and diverse U.S. cast joins the Brazilian version and the African/European version (which had an international cast from three different continents) as part of an expansive international family of artists working together. Each run of this production tailors the script and new devising work to the countries in which it is performed and pushes the boundaries of digital theatre. *The Art of Facing Fear* arrives in the United States with an all-new cast of actors performing from across the nation, including California, New York, Oregon, Nevada, Georgia, and Alaska.

In a possible not-too-distant dystopian future, a diverse ensemble of individuals deal with the stress and fear of being confined to home during this time of pandemic. Over 5,555 days of quarantine, isolated and afraid, they have created a group on the internet in which they connect with each other. The group doesn't understand how they still have electricity and web access when all the TV stations and newspapers have vanished. The main themes of the performance are the effects of the Corona virus on everyday lives, as well as an encroaching authoritarianism and intolerance which threatens our life, liberty, and identity as free people of the world.

SYNOPSIS

2020

2021

2022

2023

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Our theatre company, Os Satyros, had two hectic small venues in downtown São Paulo, Brazil when the pandemic started. Our life was theatre, day and night. Rehearsals, performances and everyday audiences came together at Praça Roosevelt, our off-Broadway area. Out of the blue, the pandemic arrived, we went into quarantine, and theatres became empty. After a few weeks of loneliness and despair, we decided to try something completely new. We were artists and needed to preserve our identities and keep art alive in order to maintain some mental sanity. After some weeks of rehearsals and many discussions, we created a digital play for Zoom talking about the most tragic global moment of this millennium. And 3 months after the Brazilian premiere, it has been seen by thousands of people on 3 different continents. We are living this tragedy together and the play shows how connected we are right now, a global community fighting against a virus. We also have an African European production, with artists from 9 different countries performing together. And now, for the USA production, we have a wonderful cast of artists. During the rehearsals, they shared their views on the complexities of American society nowadays. The new production wants to keep a dialogue with the worries brought up by the ensemble, which are, in some way, the worries of any American citizen nowadays. Covid-19, intolerance, and radicalism are the virus of the world we have to fight in these times. *The Art of Facing Fear* is the way we found to deal with the ghosts running around us.

Ivam Cabral and Rodolfo García Vázquez
(Playwright and Director)

PRODUCER'S NOTES

Several times in my life, I've heard the phrase, "we live in interesting times." While it's always been true, the phrase falls short of capturing our current situation. In LA, the reality of the pandemic hit home just before the second weekend of March. Suddenly shows all over the city and country were closing down. Fellow *Art of Facing Fear* cast member, Bryan Ha, and I were set, along with our cast at the time, for a two-week run of the world premiere of Nicholas Walker Herbert's *Bloodless*, a dystopian play set in a broken future America. We were lucky to have two performances, opening March 12 and closing March 13. I found it ironic that a dystopian American play was ended because of circumstances that looked like they could lead to a dystopian America. It had me considering where the line was. When is it too late to turn back? In the midst of this came the unnecessary deaths of more Black Americans at the hands of systemic racism. Brazil and the United States are similar in that they were both founded on slavery, and the mental gymnastics, justifications, and policies needed for that to happen have permeated our societies ever since. Protestors in America are not asking to change the past, but to change the present and the future. When *Bloodless* director, Stephen Rothman, who had experienced me as both actor and co-producer, introduced me to this project and to Rodolfo, there was no way that I could deny the call. And so I am honored to present to you another dystopian play. I am proud of our talented and diverse cast, some of whom I knew before and some who were new to me. One of my goals since moving to LA has been to create collaboration between the artists I know in Alaska and those I know in LA. This piece is a reflection of that on a grander scale, as we gathered people from across the nation while having the opportunity to meet and work with artists around the world. Our amazing group of collaborators and this project have fed my soul. I hope it feeds yours.

Rob Lecrone
(Lead Producer)

COPRODUCERS



Company of Angels - Los Angeles, California

Company of Angels was founded in 1959, making it the oldest equity waiver repertory company in LA. Early company members included actors Richard Chamberlain, Vic Morrow, and Leonard Nimoy. The Company of diverse theater artists fosters mutual learning partnerships with the residents of Los Angeles through artistic development opportunities, community building enterprises, and life experiences. They produce theater that reflects and responds to the richness, diversity, and complexity that is LA. Company of Angels develops emerging artists, creates new work, and re-envision theater to entertain new audiences.



<https://www.companyofangels.org>

COPRODUCERS

Os Satyros - Brazil

Os Satyros is a Brazilian theatre company founded in 1989 by Ivam Cabral and Rodolfo García Vázquez. The company has produced over 100 plays which have been performed in more than 20 countries. They have also produced 2 fiction films. For over 10 years, Os Satyros has been researching the relationship between technology and theatre, with several of the company's productions embracing the use of the internet, robots, apps and cell phones on stage. When the pandemic started, they decided to go into research on new possibilities for digital theatre using the Zoom app.

 <http://satyros.com.br>





Darling Desperados - Sweden

Darling Desperados is a multidisciplinary company operating outside the industry. Founded in 1987, their award-winning performances and important groundbreaking artwork have made their name a symbol for a way of avant-garde art that always looks for collaborations with new technology. They are known for powerful stories, breakneck staging, and cutting edge artists, and they offer a space for residency and artistic research in relationship to the audience. Darling Desperados has produced more than 50 different original works for the stage, not just in Sweden, but also touring internationally.



<http://www.darlingdesperados.com>

Rob Lecrone - Los Angeles, California

Rob Lecrone is an actor, educator, independent producer and the Lead Producer on the U.S. version of *The Art of Facing Fear*. He is from Anchorage, Alaska and lives in Los Angeles, California. He highly recommends the following books: *Casting A Movement: The Welcome Table Initiative*, *Black Acting Methods: Critical Approaches*, and *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*.

 <http://www.roblecrone.com>



DIRECTOR AND PLAYWRIGHT



Rodolfo García Vázquez

Director and Playwright - Brazil

Born in São Paulo, Rodolfo founded Os Satyros in 1989 with Ivam Cabral. Throughout his career, he directed theatre productions such as *Libertine Trilogy*, based on *Marquis de Sade (Philosophy in the Boudoir, 120 Days of Sodom and Justine)* and the *People Trilogy (Perfect People, Sublime People and Mean People)*. He's been researching on technology and theatre since 2009, with a Master about telepresence. He was one of the founders of SP Escola de Teatro, the largest drama school in Latin America.

Ivam Cabral - Playwright - Brazil

Ivam is a psychoanalysis student, an actor and a playwright who has dedicated his career to the stage. A Doctor in Drama by São Paulo University, he is the co-founder of Os Satyros Theater Company. As an actor and playwright he has won the most important Brazilian theater prizes and performed in more than 20 countries, in four continents: America, Europe, Africa and Asia. He is also the Executive Director in SP Escola de Teatro - Theater Formation Center.



CAST

Ariella Amar

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Current City: Los Angeles, California

Ariella Amar is a Muslim Convert. Latinx. Queer Identifying. Teacher. Actor. Her faith and identity are important in her journey through the arts. Credits include Rogue Ensembles' Cowboy Elektra as Elektra performed at the Getty Villa, SF Bigger than a Breadbox Medea as Medea, LA Town Street Theatre's Milkcrate Monologues as a part of the Rap Ensemble/ LIONESS, CryptTv/Blumhouse as Kat in MORDEO Podcast, Main Nurse in Crashed based on K.Bromberg's novel.

Much love and much kindness



Bryan Ha

Hometown: Monterey Park, California

Current City: Monterey Park, California

Bryan Ha is an actor who loves to convey artistic expression through various performing arts along with acting. A recent CalState LA graduate with a BA in Theatre Arts, he starred in theatrical productions such as *Bloodless* (world premiere at CalState LA), *Tabletop the Musical* (Hollywood Fringe), and *Peter Pan* (Scotland Fringe). He is grateful for this opportunity to work with director Rodolfo García Vázquez and the talented cast, and to perform in front of a digital audience. @taintedbird



Megan Skye Hale

Hometown: Valdez, Alaska

Current City: Portland, Oregon

Megan Skye Hale is a classically trained actor (LAMDA), movement director, and teacher from Portland, Oregon. She runs an immersive theatre company Speculative Drama, and underground venue The Steep and Thorny Way to Heaven, and is known for unconventional storytelling in performance of all sorts including her recent “play in movement” *Beastly*. Megan is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and crew from around the world on this extremely timely and relevant work. She has been spending the COVID isolation reading stories aloud, creating short videos, and petting cats. @skyesidhe



Mia Hjelte

Hometown: Stockholm, Sweden

Current City: Los Angeles, California

Mia Hjelte is a Swedish dancer and actress. After a decade with the Royal Swedish Ballet where she performed as a soloist, Mia set her sights on acting by studying at the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. During this time Mia maintained her connection to dance as Artistic Director for the touring dance company Stockholm 59° North, producing contemporary dance performances tailored for site-specific venues, films, and fashion shows. In 2017 Mia moved to Los Angeles where she has acted and choreographed in various theatre and film productions, while also teaching dance to a new generation of performers. @miahjelte



Jessenia Ingram

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

Current City: Atlanta, Georgia

Jessenia Ingram is beyond thankful for the opportunity to be involved in *The Art of Facing Fear* and to connect with people across the country and world. Jessenia is a graduate of Spelman College with a degree in Theatre and Performance and a minor in Management and Organization. Currently, she is working at the Alliance Theatre as a Spelman Leadership Fellow. She has a passion for activism and using her art as a means to spread love and make change. Jessenia gives many thanks to her parents, brother, sisters, and friends for their endless support and love. @jesseniaingram.





Zed E. Jones

Hometown: None

Current City: Portland, Oregon

Zed E. Jones (They/Them) arrives with a penchant for performance and interpersonal outreach, including sex-positivity, human advocacy, energetic gender-affirming education, and of course, Theater. Zed works as a company member for Sir Cupcake's Queer Circus; other appearances include Speculative Drama, Prismagic, and

Booklover's Burlesque. In their (once fabled, now luxurious) spare time, Zed likes to hang upside down in parks, cook good food, and snuggle cats. @z.e.jones

Rob Lecrone

Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Current City: Alhambra, California

Los Angeles-based Rob Lecrone has been an actor for 23 years. He maintains his ties to Alaska through the Valdez Last Frontier Theatre Conference (VLFTC) as a featured artist, monologue workshop coach, and co-producer/co-host of the Last Frontier Fringe. A lover of new works development, Lecrone co-produced and acted in Julia Lederer's *With Love and a Major Organ* for the 2017 VLFTC. Pre-lockdown, he co-produced and starred as Saul in the world-premiere of Nicholas Walker Herbert's *Bloodless* for his MFA thesis project in Television, Film, and Theatre (Cal State LA). Lecrone is a member of LA's Sacred Fools Theatre Company. @rlecrone



Zaide Manzano

Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Current city: Anchorage, Alaska

Born and raised in Anchorage AK, Zaide graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a degree in music, an emphasis on Vocal studies. They have performed in town at the local drag show, as well as having been an actor in the local live production of the Rocky Horror Show for the past two years. Born from two Mexican im-

migrants, they are a very avid activist in their community for civil rights issues. They are a nonbinary individual who's pronouns are they/them. @official.dela.rosa

Andre Engracia Mello

Hometown: Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

Current City: Los Angeles, California

Born in Brazil, Andre Engracia Mello started acting 25 years ago at the most renowned theater company in the country performing nationally and internationally. He worked in several soap operas at the biggest Brazilian TV networks before he moved to New York to work with theater director Robert Wilson. After being invited to perform at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, Mello won "Best of Fringe" and moved to Los Angeles where, as a voice over actor, he dubbed more than 40 projects including soap operas, movies and Netflix shows both in Portuguese and English. @andreengracia



Mia Mountain

Hometown: Stockholm, Sweden

Current City: New York City, New York

Mia Mountain studied acting at the National Academy of Mime and Acting, Sweden's most prestigious performing arts conservatory. Besides performing at The Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm she has also performed in numerous Punchdrunk productions such as "Sleep No More" in New York City and "The

Drowned Man" in London plus other immersive productions. Mia had the lead in Levan Akin's feature film "Certain People" for which she received a rising star nomination at The Stockholm Film Festival. She has also been seen as Nahara in NBC's "Emerald City", directed by Tarsem Singh. Besides acting Mia also works as a writer. @miamountain

Nakasha Norwood

Hometown: Des Moines, Iowa

Current City: Los Angeles, California

Nakasha is excited to be part of Os Satyros' U.S. Production of *The Art of Facing Fear*. She's currently a member of the theater group Company of Angels, where she was part of the company's LA Views X: *Sanctuary*, *Short Play Festival: TomorrowLand* and their *Online Short Play Festival: What's Going On*. She's previously performed in the following off-off Broadway productions: *Solidarity Is A Four Letter Word/CoA*, *We Breathe/Willie Agee Playhouse*, *Dracula/New Hollywood Theater Company*, *Convention/Atlantic Theater Company*, *The C Word/Manhattan Repertory Theatre*, *Acceptance/Sundog Theatre*, *Criminal Hearts/Stella Adler Studios* and *The Women/Stella Adler Studios*. @kashigolean88



Michael James Nuells

Hometown: Victoria, Texas

Current City: Las Vegas, Nevada / Toluca Lake, California

Michael James Nuells was born November 2 in Victoria, Texas.

Growing up, he became a standout in a few off-Broadway productions, sparking his long-term entertainment aspirations.

From the stage to the screen, Michael has only just begun to use his charisma, wit, and undeniable adaptability to continue on his professional journey as an entertainer.

The future may be unknown, but one thing is sure; this small-town gentleman is prepared to make it his own!

He was recently featured in international news stories for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Yahoo! Lifestyle. Check him out as "Tim" in his newest feature "Scare Me" out now, via Amazon Prime.

@michaeljamesnuells



Danielle Rabinovitch

Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Current city: Anchorage, Alaska

Danielle Rabinovitch is an Alaska born artist recently seen as Mrs. Mumler in Arlitia Jones' SUMMERLAND (CTC). Other credits include: Emilia in OHELLO, Past in A CHRISTMAS CAROL, (Perseverance Theatre), Maureen in RENT, the Baker's Wife in INTO THE WOODS (TAU), and Prushka in A GULAG MOUSE

(TossPot Productions). She performed with the NY Int'l Play Festival, AO, ASO, and Overnights. Film/TV: BOTCH, SHATTERED, NIGHT SHIFT, HAUNTING ALASKA, LOST.

She trained with instructors from Lincoln Center Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, and New York Film Academy. She is thrilled to be working with this fantastic team.

@danirenee211

Amable Junior Rosa

Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Current City: Anchorage, Alaska

Amable J. Rosa is an active artist in his community. His passion for performative art has landed him honorable roles such as: choreographer for the Mad Myrna's production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, the title role in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and several more. He is also well known for his gender-fluid/androgynous expressive drag performances as Glenn Coco. With the help of other BIPOC leaders, he recently organized one of Anchorage's Black Lives Matter protests in early June. He has worked diligently to be productive with his activism, continuing to speak out on the injustice against BIPOC lives to amplify marginalized voices. @not_so_amable



Vel Stacy

Hometown: Franklin, Virginia

Current City: Los Angeles, California

Actor, vocalist, military veteran. Vel has also danced on stages such as The Kennedy Center with Diavolo Dance Group and has taught English through drama in Italy earning him a Teaching English as a Foreign Language certification. He joins the ranks of alum from both The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and Musicians Institute's Independent Artist Program.

Vel Stacy is currently using his experiences and talents to curate his debut single "TEARS", due to release this holiday season. To connect please feel welcome to visit his IG @whoisvelstacy



MUSIC COMPOSER

Marcelo Nassi - Brazil

Marcelo Nassi, aka N.A.S.S.I., is a DJ and music producer with 22 years of experience in the industry. He specialises in electronic music and has performed in the most important clubs and parties in Brazil. In 2017 he started working with "Os Satyros" and has already developed many of the company's soundtracks. Music for theatre became his new passion, but he also signed several tracks with international artists and his productions have been released on many major labels.



VISUAL DESIGN



Adriana Vaz - Brazil

Adriana Vaz has 37 years of experience working as an appearance, costume, makeup and stage designer. She already worked for different forms of art such as dance, opera, cinema, videos and photography. She is also a researcher in Semiotics. Her academic background is impressive: Postdoctoral by The School of Communication and Arts (ECA) of University of São Paulo; Doctor and Master in Communication and Semiotics by Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo and more.

Rogério Romualdo - Brazil

Working with Brazilian theatre and cinema productions since 2007, Rogério Romualdo is a costume designer, graduated in product design and clothing production at UEMG/Brazil, besides having studied scenography at SP Escola de Teatro. Nowadays his main focus is to research the use of alternative materials on the construction of costumes and the appearance of actors. He has been working with the most important figures from the Brazilian scene and distinguished theatre groups.



SOUND OPERATOR

Léo Pegozzi - Brazil

Léo Pegozzi is a 20 years old Brazilian actor and sound operator. He has already acted in more than 15 plays since 2016. With Satyros company, joined in 2018, he has acted in 4 plays including the Satyros' version of *The 120 Days of Sodom* by Marquis de Sade. Nowadays he continues rehearsing for online plays and is getting his bachelor college degree in film and audiovisual at Anhembi Morumbi College. He also works in a graduation band called "Chroma" as a sound and light technician.



Lead Producer:

Rob Lecrone (Los Angeles, California)

Producers:

Armando Molina - Company of Angels (Los Angeles, California)

Janna Julian - Os Satyros (Brazil)

Ulrika Malmgren and Katta Pålson - Darling Desperados (Sweden)

Stephen Rothman - Third Base Coach (Los Angeles, California)

Photographer:

Andre Stefano (Brazil)

Multimedia Designer:

Henrique Mello (Brazil)

Lighting: Rodolfo

García Vázquez (Brazil)

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