

LIFEPOEMS IN MOTION
A First Hand Theatrical Production



From an idea conceived by Amy & Kevin Olson

Script created by Kevin Olson, *Co-Director*
using poems written by:

Allen Dale Olson, Amy Silverberg Olson, Kerry Olson, Shira Olson,
Wayne C. Olson, Lisa Silverberg Starr, Harold Silverberg,
Robert Silverberg, Circe Olson Woessner & Iain M. Woessner

Lilly Cataldi, *Choreographer & Co-Director*

Michael Goldberg, *Original Percussion & Sound*

Featuring a collaborative ensemble of
5 dancers, 3 readers and 1 musician

FringePVD 2016 is presented by the Wilbury Theatre Group

LIFEPOEMS IN MOTION

Readers: Lisa Silverberg Starr (Wednesday & Thursday performances)
Lilly Cataldi (Saturday performance)
Larry Krips, Amy Silverberg Olson, Kevin Olson

Percussion and Sound: Michael Goldberg

Dance Ensemble: Ophelia Fernandes, Diego Guevara,
Jenna Harrington, Carol Pegg, Taylor Santoro

PROGRAM ORDER

Please hold your applause until the end of the performance

Stanza One

Haiku #1 written by Kevin Olson

Waitress Poem written by Lisa Silverberg Starr
Jenna Harrington

My Daughter Is Playing written by Wayne C. Olson
Ensemble

Shoes written by Shira Olson
Ensemble

Curtain Up In Grandma's Kitchen written by Harold Silverberg
Carol Pegg, Taylor Santoro

Goteborg Sweden and the Grandmother I Never Knew by Allen Dale Olson
Ensemble

Stanza Two

Haiku #2 written by Kevin Olson

When You Are Gone written by Lisa Silverberg Starr
Ophelia Fernandes, Diego Guevara

To My Angel of the Storm written by Iain M. Woessner
Ophelia Fernandes, Jenna Harrington, Taylor Santoro

A Greater Love written by Kerry Olson
Ophelia Fernandes, Diego Guevara, Jenna Harrington, Carol Pegg

Bonds written by Lisa Silverberg Starr
Ensemble

PCS NO.? (Permanent Change of Station) written by Circe Olson Woessner
Jenna Harrington, Carol Pegg, Taylor Santoro

Naked in the Sun written by Wayne C. Olson
Ensemble

Paying the Bills and Eating Chocolate While Most At The Inn Are Sleeping
written by Lisa Silverberg Starr
Ensemble

TAYLOR SANTORO (Ensemble) is currently earning his B.A.'s in musical theatre and dance at Rhode Island College (R.I.C.) . Taylor started singing, dancing and acting at a young age and would have first been found performing cabarets for his family and friends in living rooms and backyards; now he enjoys performing for them in full, on-stage productions. Taylor attended Deering Middle School and West Warwick High School where music and theatre played a huge role in his life and where he was seen in six cabarets and seven musicals including: *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Aida* (Radames) and *In the Heights* (Benny), as well as many other productions and concerts. Taylor was a member of the RIMEA All State Choir five years in a row and is currently taking voice lessons with Fredric Scheff. Taylor is nominated for 2016 Motif Theater Award.

He is also currently a member of the R.I.C. Dance Company, Musical Theatre Company and Theatre Organization. He has worked with choreographers and artists such as: Bill Evans, A'Keitha Carey and Brandon Courney, and has also worked with acting and voice coach Beckie Menzie. In addition, Taylor has gotten to work under the direction of William Wilson, Angelica Vessella, Jamie Taylor and Lynda Sutherland in both straight plays and musicals including *Godspell* (which was presented at the Kennedy Centre American College Theatre Festival.) He has also appeared in a few original/workshop productions including *It's All Your Parents' Fault: A Movement Experience* at R.I.C. and *Saints: The Musical* with Payton Productions.

Taylor looks forward to his future years at and after R.I.C. and cannot wait to see what challenges will be thrown his way. Lastly, Taylor would like to give a huge thank you to anyone who has ever helped him or shown him some support. He would like to give a special thank you to his family and teachers because without them he would neither be where he is nor the person that he has become without their guidance, perpetual love and constant push to follow his dreams.

LISA SILVERBERG STARR (Reader) Lisa Starr has been a bartender, camp counselor, waitress, copywriter, paralegal, basketball coach, Sunday School teacher and college instructor. She is the founder of the Block Island Poetry Project, she is a two-time recipient of the Rhode Island Fellowship in Poetry, and was Rhode Island's Poet Laureate from 2007-2012. Starr has published 3 books of poetry, including *Mad With Yellow*, her most recent. She also produced and edited the anthology *Where Beach Meets Ocean*. Temporarily retired after 16 years running an inn on Block Island, Starr has happily relocated to Westerly, where she is hard at work completing a memoir (*Writer Inn-terrupted*) and her next collection of poems.

LILLY CATALDI (Co-Director and Choreographer) has spent the past 40 years as a professional performer, writer, director, choreographer, and educator. Although Lilly is known locally for her talents as a vocal and acting instructor at her Cranston studio, she has also directed and choreographed many non-musical and musical theatre productions throughout the years, and created many original cabarets and musical reviews such as *A Whole Lotta Cole*, *The Girls in Room 206*, and *God-ess Sings the Blues*.

As an educator, Lilly has developed youth theatre programs in various schools and theatres in New England, with an emphasis on self-actualization and identity development. She has staged many fun and poignant original works for young people including, *Ali's World*, *The Sherwood Diaries*, *Rudolph: A Winter's Tail*, and the critically acclaimed, *Ready, Set...Grow!*, for The Young Actors' Guild in Portsmouth, N.H.

An accomplished singer for many years, Lilly has performed in numerous nightclubs and cabarets, up and down the east coast, most notably with pianist Bobby Peaco. As a member of Actor's Equity, Lilly has performed a wide variety of roles that run the gamut from the Peggy Clown in the National Company #1 of *Godspell*, to Lucky in a non-traditional production of *Waiting for Godot* with the New England Theatre Project of Portsmouth, N.H.

Lilly studied theatre and communications at the University of New Hampshire, holds a degree in Human Development/Psychology from Lesley University, and holds a certificate as a facilitator of Expressive Arts Education from Salve Regina's Healing Arts Institute. Her eclectic experiences in education and performing and healing arts have given Lilly a unique perspective towards creative expression, meaning-making, and the human experience.

OPHELIA FERNANDES (Ensemble) comes from a family of artists, and has been dancing for 15 years performing various dance styles. She is not only a dancer, but a writer, singer, and actress as well. Ophelia has been classically trained under some of the most renowned dancers/performers from The Bolshoi Ballet, The Paris Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and many more. As a new high school graduate from Bay View Academy, Ophelia hopes to continue dancing as her career. To continue following her dream, she will be attending the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, as a dance major this fall.

MICHAEL GOLDBERG (Percussion & Production Mensch) was born in Brooklyn, raised on Long Island and began studying drums when 8 years old. In his youth he studied vibraphone with Ray Alexander (of the George Shearing Quintet) and performed in concert with pianist Marian McPartland and vocalist Maxine Sullivan. Today he performs in Klezmer bands, sings in a choir and holds a B.A. in Music from U.R.I.

DIEGO GUEVARA (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of this magnificent group of artists as we bring you *Lifepoems in Motion*. Diego graduated from the University of Rhode Island this past May where he earned his degree in theatre with a concentration in Acting. There, he was fortunate enough to work with various directors such as Joe Short, Vince Petronio, Paula McGlasson and Bryna Wortman. His credits at U.R.I. include *Columbinus* (Freak/Eric Harris), *All My Sons* (Chris Keller), *Avenue Q* (Princeton), *In the Next Room: The Vibrator Play* (Leonard Irving), *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Sundeep/Carlos), among others. Diego is nominated for 2016 Motif Theater Award.

Diego was also fortunate enough to take classes at Rhode Island College during his final year of college. He took Ballet with the artistic director of the Providence Ballet, Eva Marie Barney and he took Jazz with Angelica Vessella, who has studied with Jazz legends in New York City. Diego is now working around Rhode Island and Massachusetts in theatre and could not be more excited for the road ahead. Diego would like to thank everyone in his life who has continued to support him in his journey through life. Thank you to my professors at the University of Rhode Island, LaSalle Academy (where he attended high school) and at the San Miguel School (Middle school) in Providence. Thank you to my friends for tolerating my schedule and for being there for me, no matter the situation. And thank you to my family, who, without them I would not be standing where I am today. Gracias por siempre apoyarme. Los amo infinitamente. Instagram: @diego.guev

JENNA HARRINGTON (Ensemble) just graduated from Dean College with her B.A. in Dance, and in the Fall she will be moving to upstate New York to receive her M.F.A. from The University of Brockport. Jenna has most recently performed in Dean College's Dance Company annual performance and at the New England Patriots 2015 home opener. Jenna is not only a performer but also a great teacher who is patient, organized, and well educated. She is currently teaching ballet at Broadway Bound Dance center in Natick Mass. and tap at Aspire Dance Academy in Medway Mass. Jenna has participated in a Ballet Pedagogy internship at Dean College under Jill Silverman. Jenna has also had the opportunity to study in New York City at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Summer intensive. Jenna is an inspired and motivated artist, teacher, performer and choreographer, who is excited to see where the world of dance takes her.

LARRY KRIPS (Reader) has been through several careers ranging from photography to fund-raising. He is now working as a poet, an empowerment coach and a workshop leader. Some occasional stints as a performance artist in his poetry/music group, Mouthpeace. and his public readings have helped prepare Larry for his role in tonight's play. His book, *A Soul's Way . . . Soulspeak* (available now on CD) will be published within the coming months. This newest offspring joins his original poems, *Valentina and Monica*, the former of whom is currently working on her lovingly awaited interpretation of the next generation. You may contact Larry at illuminationcoaching@aol.com

AMY SILVERBERG OLSON (Reader) earned her B.A. in Theater from Washington University and her M.F.A. in Theater Directing from the University of Minnesota. Amy was the vocalist with the Twin Cities based klezmer band “The Prairie Heym Klezmerim” from 1989-2005. Upon moving back to her home state of Rhode Island 11 years ago, Amy performed with “The Klezphonics” and now performs in a trio with percussionist, Michael Goldberg and accordionist, Christina Crowder.

A specialist in Broadway, Yiddish and Hebrew songs, Amy has been a featured guest artist with the International Association of Yiddish Clubs and made her NYC Cabaret debut at the Cornelia Street Café in Greenwich Village in 2013. Amy is the Director of Hillel (the Jewish Student Center) at the University of Rhode Island where she also serves as the chairperson of the Chaplains Association and is a member of the Equity Council.

KEVIN OLSON & FIRST HAND THEATRICAL (Co-Director & Playwright) Kevin Olson established First Hand Theatrical in 2013 and has created two original scripts for the company – *Interrupting The Sermon* (presented at AS220 and at the Indianapolis Fringe Festival in 2015) and *This Is My Story: Mayses, 1938-1948* (presented at URI Feinstein Campus Arts and Culture in 2016). First Hand Theatrical creates original theater productions using primary source material drawn mainly from diverse personal, cultural and social histories.

Kevin holds a M.F.A. in Theatre Directing from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and a B.S. in Speech and Theatre from SUNY Oneonta. He has directed productions with Actors' Theatre of St. Paul, Park Square Theater, University of Minnesota Theatre, Hope College Theatre, The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, The Lark Theatre and Artists Exchange in Cranston, R.I. He received a Twin Cities Drama Critics Circle KUDOS Award for his production of Brian Friel’s *Translations* at University of Minnesota Theatre.

Kevin has served on the Theater Department faculty at Hope College in Holland, Michigan and at the University of Michigan, Flint. Currently, he serves as Adjunct Faculty at the University of Rhode Island (U.R.I.), Community College of Rhode Island (C.C.R.I.) and New England Institute of Technology (N.E.I.T.) teaching courses in Theater, Film and Communication.

CAROL PEGG (Ensemble) is delighted to be making her debut with First Hand Theatrical and the Providence Fringe Festival. As an actor/performer for over 25 years experience in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts, favorite credits include the role of Kate in The Players’ production of *Good People*, Tammy Duckworth (now a current US Representative) in the Traveling Theatre Company’s production of *In Conflict* as well as many diverse roles at 2nd Story Theatre. Always seeking new creative experiences, performing in *Lifepoems in Motion* fulfills this mission while also allowing her to return to her movement/dance roots.

Stanza Three

Haiku #3 written by Kevin Olson

Ten Years Later written by Amy Olson and Kerry Olson

Ensemble

Poem for My Parents written by Lisa Silverberg Starr

Ophelia Fernandes, Carol Pegg, Taylor Santoro

The Final Concert written by Kerry Olson

Ensemble

Inside and Outside written by Robert Silverberg

Ensemble

Epilogue

Haiku #4 by Kevin Olson

Orrin, Millie, Brother and Me written by Lisa Silverberg Starr

Ensemble

Thanks to our Donors:

Dauida Alperin

Robert Bertsche

Duffy Epstein

in honor of “Translations” ensemble at University of Minnesota

Amy and Kevin Olson

Daniel Olson

Bert Silverberg

Circe Olson Woessner

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The Wilbury Theatre Group

Moses Brown School

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Marc Boucai

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Branigan Duguay

Amy Olson

Peabo

Michael Goldberg

Bert Silverberg