

Athena Theatre

Presents

How I Learned To Drive

By Paula Vogel

How I Learned to Drive was first produced by Vineyard Theatre in New York City in February 1997.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Li'l Bit Véronique Ory
Uncle Peck..... Jon Emm
Male Greek Chorus.....Kurt Anderson*
Female Greek Chorus..... Pamela Clay*
Teenage Greek Chorus..... Laura Beckner*
Driving Instructor (V.O.).....Jerome Front

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

The Raven Playhouse operates under agreements with Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

Production

Production Stage Manager Kevin Jordan
Costume DesignJulie Smailys
Sound/Light Board/Slide Operator Kevin Jordan
Slide Images Design Vasily Shumov
Properties Master.....Jeremy Asher

Administration

Producer..... Véronique Ory
Director..... Scott Tiler
Assistant Director..... Damien Midkiff
Graphic Designer Kevin Jordan
Web Designer..... Kevin Jordan
Box Office/Refreshments.....Tessa Munro, Heidi Caldwell
Meditation Instructor in Residence.....Jerome Front, MFT

Note from Producer

The purpose of Athena Theatre is to provide a supportive and creative environment for artists. We take risks, try new concepts, and carry out new approaches. Our goal is to have a theatre we are proud of and passionate about, representing the strength, intelligence, beauty and unique perspective of women in society. Please visit AthenaTheatre.com for more information.

Véronique Ory and Elizabeth Welsh co-founded Athena Theatre in November 2002. Our most recent productions were WAITING FOR GODOT by Samuel Beckett at The Raven Playhouse; BEIRUT by Alan Bowne at The Elephant Lab Theatre in Hollywood; and CRIMES OF THE HEART by Beth Henley at The Actor's Workout Studio in NoHo. Athena Theatre's debut production was TWO ENCOUNTERS, "BIRDBATH" and "FERRYBOAT" by Leonard Melfi at the Tamarind Theatre, Hollywood.

Director's Notes

This is a memory play of a woman affectionately nicknamed 'Li'l Bit, who is looking back at her troubled childhood with the intention of putting it into perspective and moving forward with her life. This is a story about the challenges we all face in confronting the secrets of our past. Li'l Bit finds it healing to be able to expose these secrets. It is important to note that we are dealing with several different time periods. When we first see Li'l Bit we see her in the present day, 1982, as a confident, bold mature woman soon to be 30. She introduces us to the world of Suburban Maryland in the year 1969. She then transports us backward in time to that warm summer night when she was 17 years old and sitting in a parked car with a married man. Sometimes Li'l Bit tells us about her life and sometimes she shows it to us. We actually get to see her at different stages of childhood. Other family members appear throughout the tale, but only as Li'l Bit sees them in her memory. These three actors make up a kind of Greek Chorus. Sometimes they will appear to comment on the action or serve to emphasize a certain point about the action. They are like angels here to escort Li'l Bit on her journey. Through the sharing of her life and exposing of her secrets, Li'l Bit can boldly drive into the future and experience the "flight of the body" that comes with freedom.

Meet the Creative Team

Paula Vogel (Playwright)

Pulitzer Prize winning play, *HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE* was made possible by the generous support of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trust Senior Residency Award. Additional acknowledgements include, *THE BALTIMORE WALTZ*, which won the Obie Award for Best Play in 1992, and her anthology, *THE BALTIMORE WALTZ AND OTHER PLAYS*, went on to be published by TCG. Other accolades include the AT&T New Plays Award, the Fund for New American Plays, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center Fellowship, several National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, and the McKnight Fellowship. The author wishes to thank Molly Smith and Perseverance Theatre for their help in the development of this work.

Scott Tiler (Director)

Scott Tiler has been acting since he was 8 years old. His film work includes *ONCE UPON A TIME IN AMERICA*, *THREE O' CLOCK HIGH* and John Sayles' *CITY OF HOPE*. He has worked extensively in off-broadway as well as regional theater. TV work includes a guest appearance on *NEW YORK UNDERCOVER* as well as numerous commercials. For the past five years he has been an acting teacher on the full time staff at the Scott Sedita Studio in Los Angeles. He is grateful for the opportunity to be directing this play, which marks his directorial debut. Special thanks to his stellar cast, brilliant assistant and most of all his patient and loving wife.

Kevin Jordan (Stage Manager)

Kevin's most recent stage managing credit is *WAITING FOR GODOT*. In addition to being the technical mastermind for Athena Theatre, he is also the owner of NetKruzer Technologies, an independent web design company. He is an innovative programmer, who has done web design and programming since 1997, with a B.S. in Computer Science from Cal Poly Pomona. He would like to thank Véronique and Ginger for always being there.

Julie Smailys (Costume Design)

Julie Smailys is a 22-year old from St. Louis, Missouri; she began her costuming career at her wonderful high school. She's now stitched and shopped her way through more than fifteen shows. She recently moved to Los Angeles to work professionally as a costume designer and stitcher.

Meet the Cast (in order of appearance)

Véronique Ory (Li'l Bit)



As Co-Founder and Producer of Athena Theatre, Véronique most recently played the role of “Estragon” in *WAITING FOR GODOT*, “Blue” in *BEIRUT* and “Babe” in *CRIMES OF THE HEART*, for which she was named a Top Ten Best Actress in LA by reviewplays.com. Some of her favorite roles include: “Velma” in *TWO ENCOUNTERS*, “BIRDBATH,” “Agnes,” *AGNES OF GOD* and “Higgins’ Parlour Maid,” *PYGMALION* with Tony-Award Nominee, Lorraine Serabian (New York State Theatre Institute). Véronique received her BA in Theatre from Russell Sage College, NY. She is also a new member of West Coast Ensemble. “Thanks to my family for your love and respect!”

Jon Emm (Uncle Peck)



Last seen as a self-absorbed TV producer in *YOGI A GO-GO* at the Santa Monica Playhouse, Jon has made the trek up and over into NoHo. Hat's off to everyone involved in this production especially Paula Vogel for her courage and humor. He would very much like to thank his family, friends and as always, those that keep it lit.

Kurt David Anderson (Male Greek Chorus)



Kurt David Anderson is originally from Minnesota where he studied music and theater at St. Olaf College. Some credits include *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* (multiple roles) at the Guthrie Theater, *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN* (Linus) at the Ordway Center, as well as Matt in *THE FANTASTIKS*, Seymour in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and Greg in *SPINNING INTO BUTTER*. Since moving to LA Kurt has shot numerous commercials, short films and other projects.

Pamela Clay (Female Greek Chorus)



Last starred in *TAKEN IN MARRIAGE*, (ITA Prods), in *CANTALOUPE & COSMOS* (Tamarind Theatre) & original musical *SECOND WIND 2001* (Here's to Life Prods). Fluent in French, Pamela co-starred opposite Tommy Lee Jones as ‘The Nightclub Singer’ in *YURI NOSENKO, KGB* (HBO/BBC, Dir: Mick Jackson), performed one-woman show *PASSIONS ET TENDRESSES* at the J.F.K. Ctr, fronts rock band, *CATAHOULA* (www.hgd.com/catahoula), co-stars currently in Thomas Ian Nicolas’s LA DJ (ladjthemovie.com). Trained under Sanford Meisner, (currently Gene Bua), stars as ‘Lady Duncan/Lady Macbett’ in Ionesco’s *MACBETT* at the Globe in Nov ‘04. “Merci, Veronique!”

Laura Beckner (Teenage Greek Chorus)



Originally from Washington DC, Laura is a recent graduate of the USC school of theater. Some of her past productions include: *THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND BOO*, *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*, *BIG LOVE*, *I LOVE YOU YOU'RE PERFECT NOW CHANGE*, and *THE SEAGULL*. She thanks everyone involved with the show for calling her "Beckner"...now that's love!

How I Learned To Drive

By Paula Vogel

Production Stage Manager
Kevin Jordan

Producer
Véronique Ory

Directed by
Scott Tiler

The Raven Playhouse
5233 Lankershim Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
Previews: Thursday, October 7
Runs: October 8, 9, 15, 16
8PM: Friday and Saturday

In Loving Memory of
Stephen Ory
You have inspired this leap of faith

The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theatre, without the permission of the management, is prohibited by law.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the management.
Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Publishing, Inc.

Acknowledgments

We are appreciative of our volunteers for their skilled assistance with the show. A special thanks to our friends, family and anyone who gave a lending hand to make this production everything it is. Also, to everyone who contributed to our fundraiser, (Athena Theatre and 2AFC Productions “Summer Season at The Raven Playhouse”) Residual’s Cocktail Bar, 11042 Ventura Blvd in Studio City, the one’s who came, and the one’s who played for us. Merci beaucoup!

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- Line Ory
- Susan Ory
- The Raven Playhouse
Owner: Peter Strauss
- Vasily Shumov
- Julie Smailys
- Starbuck’s Coffee
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- Scott Tiler
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Presents

Paula Vogel's
Pulitzer Prize Winning Play,

How I Learned to Drive

In association with

The Raven Playhouse
5233 Lankershim Blvd.
NoHo Arts District, 91601

Previews: Thursday, October 7 @ 8PM

Performances: October 8-9, 15-16, 2004

Friday and Saturday @ 8PM

www.AthenaTheatre.com



Athena Theatre's Fundraiser

Coming January 2005

We're Announcing:

- Athena Theatre's 2005 Season

- Radio Play: *The Royal Flush*

by Michael Raye and Tom Porterhouse

(A very exciting new project; A play reading series for the radio. The purpose of this play reading series is to expose new playwrights and the talent involved. You may listen to the pilot for *The Royal Flush* at www.AthenaTheatre.com)

- Short Film Screening:
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