

## Note from Producer

*The specific purpose of Athena Theatre is to provide a supportive and creative environment for artists (actors and the technical crew team), where we take risks, try new things and consider new approaches; where we provide theatre we are proud of and passionate about, representing the strength, intelligence, beauty and unique perspective of women in society. Please visit [AthenaTheatre.com](http://AthenaTheatre.com) for more information.*

Véronique Ory and Elizabeth Welsh co-founded Athena Theatre in November 2002. Our most recent production was *CRIMES OF THE HEART* by Beth Henley. We presented it at The Actor's Workout Studio in the NoHo Arts District. Athena Theatre's debut production was *TWO ENCOUNTERS*, "Birdbath" and "Ferryboat" by Leonard Melfi. The plays ran for six weeks at the Tamarind Theatre in Hollywood.

## Director's Notes

When I first read *Beirut*, I noticed many things that intrigued me. It is at heart a love story. A love that is compromised by being set at a time when TO LOVE, is almost impossible. An apocalyptic vision of a totalitarian future where, "you can go to prison for being "provocative" and where "sex is a capital crime!" Where people are quarantined for carrying a disease that sounds a lot like AIDS. It has many basic elements that color our lives. While it is clearly about AIDS. I feel it's message could be applied to SARS or whatever the next big social disease is or will be. It is about the society we live in presently, if we don't stand up for ourselves and for each other. How IT has touched our lives, individually and as a society. IT, is complacency. IT is lack of compassion. IT is people's reactions and actions to a disease. IT is the reaction of a public that would go along with a government that makes us a dehumanized object and strips away our humanity and our individual freedoms. WE, as a group, follow like sheep, not bothering to "shake the boat" or stand up for our rights, or even bother to be truthful with ourselves about how we feel. It is our youth and innocence that stand to lose the most, where most of the risk is placed. And yet, it is exactly the same youth that would willingly and knowingly give up its existence to live a life worth living or give up a life to allow another to live. I hope you walk away with compassion for all of humanity and a glimpse of another life and appreciate the life we all have now. I hope we have colored your world. What are YOU willing to risk for love?

## Meet the Creative Team

### **Alan Bowne (Playwright)**

Alan Bowne was the author of several plays that have been produced in New York and regional theatres, including *BEIRUT* (Off-off-Broadway, Manhattan Class Company, Off-Broadway, Westside Arts Theater), *SHARON AND BILLY* (Magic Theatre, San Francisco, 1986, 1987), *A SNAKE IN THE VEIN* (Off-off Broadway, The Limbo Theatre, 1985), and *FORTY-DEUCE* (Off-Broadway, Perry St Theatre, 1981). Mr. Bowne authored two screenplays for filmmaker Paul Morrissey: *MIXED BLOOD* (1984) and *THROWBACK* (1988). He received the Arthur Foundation Prize in 1986, and was a member of New Dramatists. Sadly, Mr Bowne died in 1989.

### **Ty Donaldson (Director)**

Ty Donaldson directed *SUITEHEARTS* by William Van Zandt & Jane Milmore (Manor Playhouse, NY), *LONESTAR* (Brookdale Players, NJ), *HEAVEN'S DEN* (Complex Theatre, LA), *BESTMAN* and *BELTWAY ROULETTE* by Mark Scharf. Before turning his attention to directing, Mr. Donaldson was the Choreography Coordinator for the feature film *DANCE WITH ME*, directed by Randa Haines and starring Vanessa Williams. Beginning his career as an actor, Ty Donaldson has appeared on stage in roles as various as "Puck" in *A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTS DREAM*, "Eugene" in *BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS*, "The Fool" in *KING LEAR*, "Jacques Roux" in *MARAT/SADE*, the "Sgt of Police" in *PIRATES OF PENZANCE*, and "Mike" in *A CHORUS LINE*, to name a few. Television work has included numerous appearances on *MADTV*. Ty Donaldson owns and runs Buddha-Cowboy Productions (BCP), an independent multi-media company that creates print work, web sites, theatre productions and films. BCP has created postcards, brochures, ad campaigns, corporate logos and business cards for Companies and theatres such as West Coast Ensemble, The Colony Theatre, The Celebration Theatre, and Athena Theatre. Among independent productions, Buddha-Cowboy has produced artwork for varied projects. Websites include *MADTV* ([www.madtv.com](http://www.madtv.com)) and Lalati Resort ([www.lalati-resort.com](http://www.lalati-resort.com)). BCP's Short Film, *LITTLE BART NEEDS A JOB!*, was accepted to the San Antonio Underground Film Festival and is now touring with The International Festival of Cinema and Technology. Buddha-Cowboy Productions is currently producing the television pilot, *FBI GUYS*, along with Two Wolves Productions and the feature film, *SOLDIER OF GOD*, with Anabasis Films, of which Mr. Donaldson is also the Unit Production Manager. Mr. Donaldson received his Baccalaureate from Bard College.

### **Kevin Jordan (Stage Manager)**

Kevin has successfully stage-managed Véronique to a spot on the Top Ten Actress list in the LA area and is on his way to getting her an Oscar. His last play was *CRIMES OF THE HEART*. 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.

### **Shannon Kaposy (Costume Designer)**

Shannon will be graduating this Spring from California State University, Long Beach, with a degree in Technical Theater emphasizing in Costume.

She's happy to have worked with Athena Theatre on their productions of *TWO ENCOUNTERS* and *CRIMES OF THE HEART*. Her next shows include CSULB's *BURN THIS* and *THE BACCHAE*. She wishes the best of the best to Athena Theatre, and to YOU too!

## **Meet the Cast (in order of appearance)**

### **Damien Midkiff (Torch)**

This is Damien's second time working on an Alan Bowne play. He previously played "Billy" in Syzygy Theatre Group and Open Fist Theatre's co-production of *SHARON AND BILLY*, for which he received a Garland Award Honorable Mention for performance. Other favorite LA stage credits include: "Dalton" in *THE TRESTLE AT POPE LICK CREEK* with Syzygy Theatre Group, "Georgie" in *KING O' THE MOON* with McCoy Rigby Entertainment, "Iggy" in *HOUSE ON LAKE DESOLATION* with Vox Humana, "Alex" in the ADA Award nominated *COST OF LIVING* at Actor's Workout, and "Stew" in *LOVE CREATES WORLDS* with the Group at Strasberg, to name a few. Damien also originated many roles in New York, favorites including: "Kenny" in *VAMPIRE DREAMS* with Mefisto Theatre Group, "Shep Allen" "Even" in *SEX-ED* at TAI Stages, directed by Trish Minskoff, and "Tom" in a workshop reading of *CORRECT USAGE AND COMMON ERRORS*, directed by Michael Grief. TV credits include guest roles on *JOAN OF ARCADIA*, *THE GILMORE GIRLS*, and *THE GUARDIAN*. Damien is a graduate of The Actor's Institute, NY, and also studied at HB studios while in New York. He is currently studying with Allan Miller, and voice with Maria Weber. "Thanks to my wonderful family, John Lyons (who has really stuck by me), the LA theatre community, and to all of my friends who tirelessly support me."

### **Véronique Ory (Blue)**

As Co-Founder and Producer of Athena Theatre, Véronique most recently played the role of "Babe" in *CRIMES OF THE HEART* (Actor's Workout), 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." (The Tamarind Theatre); "Agnes," *AGNES OF GOD* (Meador Theatre, NY); "Christmas Past," *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* (Meador Theatre, NY); "Olive Madison," *ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION)* (Meador Theatre, NY); 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. Along with her stage credits, she has also been in numerous independent films including: *HOW SOON IS NOW* (Denver Underground Film Festival, Claremont-Ferrand Film Festival and Market in France), *SURE THING*, and *SHOOTS AND LADDERS*. A special thanks goes to G&N for their amazing support and to Elizabeth, the greatest friend ever!

### **Paul Darrigo (Guard)**

Paul Darrigo grew up in the suburbs of New Jersey. His first love for the arts was when he and his friends would stage fake fight scenes on the school playground, then get chased by the teachers aides. Paul has studied martial arts for 12 years before retiring with the rank of 3rd degree black. He has studied acting in NJ, NY and CA focusing on the Michael Chekhov Method. Paul's latest project is something he wrote and produced, *THE FBI GUYS*, currently in Post, which he will pitch as a TV Series. The Ultimate goal: "A regular on a TV series where I can carry gun and badge! ...And say cool lines!"

### **Kyle Moore (Guard u/s)**

Kyle Moore won a Dramalogue Award for his performance as "Ligurio" in West Coast Ensemble's 1995 production of Machiavelli's *The Mandrake*. Since then, he has appeared in numerous productions around Los Angeles including *Move Over*, *Mrs. Markham* at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, *The Grapes of Wrath* (L.A. Weekly Award for Best Revival), *Once In A Lifetime*, and the world premiere of *Crazy and a Half* at WCE, *West Side Story* at Musical Theatre West, and *Funny Money* at International City Theatre. His goal is to become "that guy" that you see in all those movies.