



ENSEMBLE

Raghad Almakhlof, Irene Hamilton, Kate Kenworthy, Miss Kitty

PRODUCTION

Giorgos Tsappas*....Scenic Design

Colin K. Bills*....Lighting Design

Danielle Preston*....Costume Design

Imari Pyles....Assistant Costume Design

Aria Velz....Sound Design

Caroline Johnson....Production Stage Manager

Caroline Hunt....Associate Stage Manager

Samuel Morreale....Dramaturg

Barrett Doyle....Technical Director

Gillian Drake....Associate Producer

Jenn Pallas....Scenic Charge

*Member, USA829 and IATSE Local 2

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Approximate running time: 70 minutes with no intermission



Dear Spooky supporter,

Welcome to the first show of my first full season as Spooky Action's new artistic director. It's an honor to be the first immigrant woman to run this theater, and it's a responsibility I don't take lightly. As Newton Moreno's **Agreste (Drylands)** astutely observes, "sometimes it takes great courage to take the first step."

My life's journey has been irrevocably marked by border crossings. When I decided to title the season "Beyond Borders," I was stating a naive but impassioned aspiration for the future: a vision for a world made limitless through art. This season's plays inspired me to think about borders more broadly, to ask: what are the territories of the mind and heart that we guard the most fervently? This season explores the lines we draw, not just between countries or cultures, but between belief systems, aesthetics, identities. Our season celebrates the power of theater to dissolve artificial boundaries through empathy and imagination, and to build bridges instead.

I envision the new Spooky Action as an incubator for global visions, bold aesthetics, urgent conversations, and passion projects. So it meant the world when Danilo Gambini approached me with his translation of **Agreste** - a new Brazilian queer classic about love and intolerance. Upon its premiere in 2004, the play, which is based on real events, shocked the conscience of its audience as one of the first theater works to openly condemn bigotry in Brazil. I have followed Danilo's work with curiosity since our time at the Yale School of Drama because the scale of his theatrical ambition is only matched by the generosity, with which he invites collaborators and audiences into his process.

Under his confident direction, **Agreste** is a communal exorcism of our worst impulses, so that we may never repeat them. But it is also a celebration of love - the kind of love that leaps over fences, brings rain to the drylands, challenges the status quo, and leaves us forever changed.

With love,
Elizabeth Dinkova



PLAYWRIGHT



Newton Moreno was born in Recife, Brazil, and holds a Performing Arts bachelor's degree from Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), and both Master and Doctoral degrees from Universidade de São Paulo (USP). He taught at ELT (Escola Livre de Teatro de Santo André) and at São Paulo School of Drama (SP Escola de Teatro), chairing their Playwriting programs. He participated as an actor and director in several plays, and in 2001 he staged his first text, *Deus sabia de tudo e.../God knew all about it and....* Since then he has written many other plays, including *Agreste/Drylands*, which won several awards in 2004, including the APCA and the Shell Award, the two most important awards in Brazil. *Agreste* was also performed in London, Mexico City and Buenos Aires. His most recent play, *Sueño*, is currently playing in São Paulo, Brasil.

ENSEMBLE



Raghad Almakhlof (she/her) most recently was in the cast of *Selling Kabul* at Signature Theater; *Sonnets for an Old Century* and the *Syrena* Workshop with Spooky Action; and the *Hamlet/The Tempest* rep with Shakespeare in The Woods in Vermont. Other DC area credits include Folger Theater: *Hamlet* (Reading); Shakespeare Theater Company (STC): *Timon of Athens*; The Welders: *In This Hope*. In the STC's Academy: *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Tales from Ovid*, *Cymbeline*. International credits include, Syria: *Tactic*, *Wretched Dreams*, *AB Negative*, *The Poster*, *Right You Are If You Think You Are*, *The Bear*, *Romeo & Juliet*; Denmark: *Venus Labyrinth*. Education: Shakespeare Theater Company's Academy at George Washington University: MFA in classical acting. Upcoming: Shakespeare in The Woods: *Hamlet/The Tempest*. @raghadmakhlof



Irene Hamilton's (she/her) local credits include roles at Imagination Stage (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show/La Oruga Muy Hambrienta Espectáculo*), Rorschach Theatre (*Angel Number Nine*), the Kennedy Center Concert Reading Series (*Voir Dire*). She is also a performer and company member at both Arts on the Horizon (*Birds of a Feather*, and more) and Synetic Theater (*Treasure Island*, *Snow Queen*, *Cinderella*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Host & Guest*, *Dracula*, *Beauty & the Beast* and more, including self-produced works for the Body of Mind Laboratory). She is a graduate of James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance.



Kate Kenworthy (they/them) is thrilled to be making their debut at Spooky Action Theatre! They are a queer actor and writer most recently seen in the Royal Court and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Prior to that, they performed as Angel in Rorschach Theatre's *Angel Number Nine*, as well as Barbara McClintock in Washington Women in Theatre's staged reading of *In McClintock's Corn* and Freja in Rorschach's staged reading of *Even When the World Burns*. They graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in New York with a focus in creative writing and philosophy, and also completed studies at the British American Drama Academy in London. Their acting coach is Professor E. Vera J Katz, Howard University.



Miss Kitty (she/her) is an AMAB/non-binary/genderqueer/transfemme stage and film actor/actress, dancer, and chanteuse. Credits include Woman/Miss Foxhill in *Suddenly Last Summer*, Miss Fabian in *Illyria or What You Will*, Cleopatra/Queen Anne/Puck in *She Speaks!* (all with Avant Bard Theatre), Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks), Waitress in *Brunch with The Boys* (Capital Fringe), and understudying in *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* (Imagination Stage). On film. She can be seen as Danielle in *A Brighter Tomorrow: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging* (WILL Interactive), Specs in *S.P.I.E.S.* and *S.P.I.E.S. 2* (Imagination Stage/Leapfrog Productions), Ebony in the industrial *Shine* (ISA Group/Redmon Group Inc.), and the PSA "Open to All - Three Words" (76 Words/Movement Advancement Project). She has also made appearances

in the cabaret circuit with LA TI DO Productions, Capital Pride's Music In The Night, and her virtual cabaret *An Evening with Miss Kitty* (with Avant Bard Theatre). "Live in FIERCE ...not in fear." XoXoX #LiveInFIERCE

PRODUCTION



Danilo Gambini (he/him) (Translator/Director) is a director, writer, and producer, originally from São Paulo, Brazil. He is currently the Associate Artistic Director at Studio Theatre. Upcoming productions include the opera *The Rake's Progress*, by Igor Stravinsky, at Yale Opera in 2024. His recent directing credits include the world premieres of *Ni Mi Madre* (Rattlestick Theater/OBIE Award Winner, Drama Desk Nom., New York Times Critics Pick), and the musical *Sabina* (Portland Stage Maine, co-directed with Daniella Topol). Other credits include *Fun Home*, *The Tempest*, *Rock Egg Spoon* (Yale School of Drama), *Agreste (Drylands)*, *Bakkhai*, *The Swallow and the Tomcat*, *Truck* (Yale Cabaret). Opera credits include *Don Giovanni*, *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, *Eugene*

Onegin (Theatro São Pedro). Before Studio Theatre, he was the Associate Artistic Director at New York's Rattlestick Theater, Co-Artistic Director at Yale Summer Cabaret, and a member of Roundabout Director's Group. He has developed work at The Public Theater, Joe's Pub, The Old Globe, Ars Nova, Vineyard Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Chautauqua Opera, Yale Opera, Gulfshore Playhouse, amongst others. Danilo holds an MFA in Directing from the Yale School of Drama (David Geffen School of Drama at Yale), a BFA in Film and Television (Curso Superior do Audiovisual) and an artist diploma as an actor from the School of Dramatic Art (Escola de Arte Dramática – EAD) both from the University of São Paulo. danilogambini.com

Sam Morreale (they/them) (Dramaturg) is an Artistic Producer, Director, and Facilitator who approaches work with a dramaturgical lens rooted in anti-racism and anti-oppression. They are an avid supporter of art for social change and gravitate towards stories and people that uplift the lives of those who have been caught in the margins of society. Sam works to reckon with and readjust the theatrical cannon by re-centering QTBIPOC voices as a space-making advocate for these communities, particularly from within predominantly and historically white institutions. After receiving a BA from Wesleyan University in Theater and Science Studies, Sam moved on to work with New York Stage and Film at Vassar College, Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, and the Theatre Communications Group. Sam understands their career path as one which continues to push institutions to spaces of deep listening in order to ensure that their actions align with social justice and the movement for progressive change.

Giorgos Tsappas (he/him) (Scenic Designer) is happy to be returning to Spooky Action Theater under Elizabeth Dinkova's new leadership, where he previously designed *The Realistic Joneses*, *The Man Who, Rameau's Nephew*, *Collaborators*, *Jarry Inside Out* (2016 Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Set Design), *Candide*. Other design credits include *Our Town*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (The

National Theatre of Cyprus); *Guantanamo*, John Epperson in Rep (Studio Theatre); *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *POP*, *Passing Strange*, *Jerry Springer the Opera*, *Reefer Madness*, *Terrorism*, *Hair* (Studio Theatre Secondstage); *Photograph 51* (Theater J); *Mlima's Tale*, *The Brother's Size* (2020 Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Set Design), (1stStage); *A Trip to the Moon* (Synetic Theater); *The Events* (Theater Alliance); *The Letters* (MetroStage); *Don Juan Tenorio*, *Living Out*, *La señorita de Tacna*, *Ay Carmela!*, *Lúcido*, *Bodas de Sangre* (GALA Hispanic Theater); *Macbeth*, *Medea*, *The Maids* (WSC); Giorgos was part of the Cypriot stage designers to the PQ 2007. He is a member of United Scenic Artists-Local USA 829.

Colin K. Bills (he/him) (Lighting Designer) is a Washington, DC based theater artist. He is a Company Member and Board Member at Woolly Mammoth where he has designed over 50 productions including *Ain't No Mo'*, *Gloria*, *An Octoroon*, *Black Side of the Moon*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *The Convert*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *Oedipus el Rey*, *Clybourne Park*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. As a Conspirator with the devised theater company dog & pony dc, he co-wrote, directed and co-designed *Beertown* and *A Killing Game*. His designs have been seen at Arena Stage, Asolo Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, Berkshire Theater Festival, Chicago's Second City, Cleveland Playhouse, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Court Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Everyman Theatre, 59E59, Folger Theatre, Ford's Theatre, Forum Theatre, Imagination Stage, Intiman Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Marin Theatre Company, Metro Stage, Mosaic Theater, Olney Theatre, Opera Lafayette, Opéra Royal Versailles, Pasadena Playhouse, Peabody Institute, Portland Center Stage, Round House Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Smithsonian, Signature Theatre, St. Louis Rep, Studio Theatre, Synetic Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Theater J, Washington Revels, Wilma Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Wolf Trap Opera. He has won three Helen Hayes Awards and is a recipient of a Princess Grace Fellowship in Theater. He has taught design at Howard University and is a graduate of Dartmouth College.

Aria Velz (she/her) (Sound Designer) is happy to be here. She has recently sound designed at Adventure Theatre (*The Fisherman and His Wife*), Imagination Stage (*Sense & Sensibility*, *The Internet is Distract...*), Planet Word (*The New Kid*), American University (*Everybody*), and Pan Underground (*Red Bike*). She is also a director and dramaturg. Many thanks to my wonderful wife KJ for her support. @ariavelz

Danielle Preston (she/her) (Costume Designer) is a costume designer based in Washington DC. Previous Spooky Action Theater credits include *Man Covets Bird*. Recent regional credits include *Fat Ham*, *Clyde's* and *P.Y.G. or the Mis-Education of Dorian Belle* at Studio Theater, *Blues for An Alabama Sky* at Barrington Stage Company, *Passing Strange* at Signature Theatre, *A Good Indian Boy* at Olney Theatre Center, *Locomotion* at Children's Theater Company, *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* and *The REALNESS* at the Hangar Theatre, *Quamino's Map* at Chicago Opera Theater. Danielle received the 2022 OPERA America Tobin Director-Designer Prize, William R. Kenan Jr. Fellowship in Costume Design with the Kennedy Center, And the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute Fellowship in Costume Design. She holds an MFA in Costume Design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. daniellepreston.com On social media at @danielleprestondesign (Instagram).

Mars (Imari) Pyles (Assistant Costume Designer) is a DC/Baltimore based theatre and film costume designer. As a native of Washington D.C, she is very excited to be working with Spooky Action Theater for the first time to help share this important story with her community. Mars has always loved the language of clothing and its unique power to tell our stories without saying any words. Her credits include *The Seagull* (Salisbury University), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Fulton Town Theatre Company), *Push the Button* (Keegan Theatre), *Flyin' West* (Bowie State University), and upcoming, *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* (NextStop Theatre Company). She would like to thank Danielle Preston and the entire cast and crew of Agreste for their

hard work, creativity, and warm welcome. Last, but certainly not least, she would like to thank her friends and family for their support and love. @designsbyimari and designsbyimari.com.

Caroline Johnson (she/her) (Production Stage Manager) is an actress, director, model, and writer. She is relatively new to the DC area, after many years in London. She is a co-founding artistic director of digital theatre company Pomegranate Room. Recent credits include *Scorched* (ExPats Theatre), *The Pitchfork Disney* (Red Rat Theatre), *Bell Wringer* (Pinky Swear Productions), *En Las Sombras* (Keegan Theatre, Boiler Room Series), *The Histories Project* (Brave Spirits Theatre), *Motherhood and Other Fractured Fairy Tales* and *Abortion Road Trip* (Theatre Prometheus), *The Cake* (NextStop Theatre Company/Prologue Theatre), *Our Black Death* (Taffety Punk), and *Mojada* (1st Stage). She is delighted to be working on her first production with Spooky Action.

Caroline Hunt (she/her) (Associate Stage Manager) is so excited to be stage managing for the first time in Washington, DC after moving from Maine. Some favorite past credits include *Titus Andronicus* with Shakespeare in the Woods, *Hello, Dolly!* with Maine State Music Theatre, *Lady Windermere's Fan* with Cloud Theatrics and *Pippin* with Susquehanna University. Currently, when not stage managing, Caroline is a manager of sales at Arena Stage. A huge thank you to Beth and the whole Spooky Action Theatre team for the opportunity and for the team at Arena Stage for helping make these hours possible!

Barrett Doyle (he/him) (Technical Director) is a DC and Atlanta-based actor, artist, filmmaker, photographer and designer. He made his theatrical debut in DC at Spooky Action Theater as Cinematographer, Scenic Designer and Guide in *Sonnets for an Old Century*. He is currently working on a documentary in conjunction with the Emory Tibet Science Initiative and Northwestern University. Stay Tuned!

THEATRE LEADERSHIP



Elizabeth Dinkova (Artistic Director) is a Bulgarian director, adaptor, and collaborative creator who explores alternative realities at the intersection of theater, film, and music in pursuit of communal transformation. In Spring 2023 she was appointed Artistic Director of Spooky Action Theater where she recently directed *Sonnets for an Old Century* and the *Syrena* Workshop. In 2021-22, she was an Associate Artistic Director of 7 Stages Theatre, Atlanta's hub for boundary-pushing international theater. She is an alum of the Alliance Theatre's Artistic Leadership fellowship, the Studio Theatre's Artistic Apprenticeship, and a recent graduate from the MFA Directing program at the Yale School of Drama, where she served as a

Co-Artistic Director of the Yale Summer Cabaret and received the Julian Milton Kaufman Prize for Directing. Recent projects include the film *Cracking Zeus* by Christopher Hampton for the Alliance's Digital Theater Channel, the visual album TIT, inspired by *Titus Andronicus* and co-written with Jesse Rasmussen, at the NYC Indie Theatre Film Festival, *Rage*, a play with music adapted from Stephen King, at Quinnipiac University, *The Seagull* at Serenbe Playhouse, and the opera *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Bel Cantanti Opera Company. Elizabeth has taught acting, directing, devising, and musical theater at the Toronto Metropolitan University, University of California Riverside, Quinnipiac University, and Queens College CUNY.

SPECIAL THANKS

Arts Institute for Creative Advancement, Arena Stage, Neo Avila,
Shakespeare Theater Company, Studio Theatre,
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Your contribution allows Spooky Action to continue to produce unique, thought-provoking productions and develop new works for the stage.

You can make a tax-deductible donation online, via phone at (202) 248-0301, or by mailing your contribution to Spooky Action Theater, 1810 16th Street NW, Washington DC, 20009.
spookyaction.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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Artistic Director.....Elizabeth Dinkova
New Works in Action Program Director.....Gillian Drake
Production Manager.....Barrett Doyle
Marketing & Publicity Consultant.....Michael Kyrioglou
Company Manager.....Michael Kyrioglou
Finance Director.....Becky Reed

Additional Production Staff

Front of House.....Michael Kyrioglou
Master Electrician.....Alex Keen
Sound Engineer.....Garrett Parker

Build Crew:

Christopher Hudert, John Chenault, Michael Lanclos, Ellen Mitchell, Miranda Korieth, Michael Turner, Cassandra Medinets, Leona Williams, Khalil Potter, Ameer Barnes

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