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37th Anniversary Season

8 Tony Award nominations



**A Doll's
House, Part 2**

Directed by
Trevor Bishop-Gillespie

By Obie Award-Winning Playwright
Lucas Hnath

2022 SEASON SEASON SPONSORS:

The Ackerman Family/Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation

Beverly O'Neill Theater
330 E. Seaside Way
Info: 562-436-4610
Website: InternationalCityTheatre.org

Previews: April 13 & 14
Opening Night: April 15
Performances through May 1
Thurs-Sat and Previews at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 2 p.m.

*A Note from the
Artistic Director/Producer, caryn desai*



Welcome to A Doll's House, Part 2 by Lucas Hnath

I would like to take a moment to remind you about or familiarize you with the original A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen. The information below was put together by my Executive Assistant, Jordan Gohara, for a Study Guide she created for our Students to Stage education program. I thought it was worth sharing with you today.

Who is Henrik Ibsen?

March 20, 1828 - May 23, 1906

A Norwegian playwright and theatre director, he is one of the founders of modernism in theatre. Often referred to as "the father of realism" and one of the most influential playwrights of all time, Ibsen is the most frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare. He is the inspiration of many famous playwrights and novelists such as George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, Arthur Miller, and Eugene O'Neill.

Many of Henrik Ibsen's dramas were considered scandalous at the time, but heavily influenced contemporary culture. He was named one of the Four Greats, a group of the 19th century's most influential Norwegian writers. Ibsen's work often challenged societal norms and gender relations. One of the most notable pieces to do so was A Doll's House. On the 100th anniversary of his death in 2006, it became the world's most performed play. Ibsen was nominated for a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1902, 1903, and 1904.

A Controversy

At the time, women in Norway had very few rights, and societal expectations placed heavy restrictions. Women were meant to stay at home to care for their husbands and children. They were not allowed a divorce unless their husband requested one, and they were not allowed to acquire loans.

Ibsen's leading lady, Nora, went against the grain. She forged her father's signature, illegally obtaining a loan from the bank in order to save her husband's life. Her husband's reaction helps her come to the realization that she is unhappy with the role society has given her as it has left her with no choices or thoughts of her own. Nora then decides her only path to becoming her own person and forming her own opinions is to leave her husband and children. When the play premiered at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 21, 1879, it became so controversial that it made its way into the newspapers throughout the world. When Nora walked out the door, the door slam was heard around the world.

And interestingly enough, Lucas Hnath took Ibsen's story and imagined what might occur when Nora returns 15 years later. Sit back and enjoy!

Caryn Desai

A Tribute to Steve Dodge

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International City Theatre sadly learned of the passing of longtime board member and supporter, Steve Dodge. Steve and his wife, Jackie, who passed away years before were dedicated, generous board members since the time ICT was located on the Long Beach City College campus. Steve and Jackie would answer the call for help no matter what was needed from stuffing envelopes to fundraising — whatever it took. Both retired from the Long Beach Unified School District and shared our passion for arts education. Steve remained active prior to his health challenges. His service and his humanity were always appreciated and will be deeply missed.

THEATRE STAFF

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International City Theatre presents
A Doll's House, Part 2
 by Lucas Hnath

PRODUCTION

Artistic Director/Producer: Caryn Desai

Director: Trevor Biship-Gillespie

Scenic Designer: Yuri Okahana-Benson

Lighting Designer: Donny Jackson

Resident Costume Designer:

Kimberly DeShazo

Sound Designer: Jeff Polunas

Resident Property Designers: Patty and Gordon Briles

Resident Hair and Wig Designer:

Anthony Gagliardi

Set Builder: Eric Crider

Production Stage Manager:

Donna R. Parsons *

Assistant Stage Manager: Glennis Leigh

Assistant Director: Abel Rock

Assistant Director: Jasmine Vigil

Resident Casting Directors:

Michael Donovan, CSA

Richie Ferris, CSA

Wardrobe Crew: Becca Roth

Sound Crew: Joanna Reyes

Master Electrician: Mike Colleary

Photographer: Kayte Deioma

House Manager: Linda Miller

CAST

Emmy: Nicolette Ellis

Torvald: Scott Roberts *

Nora: Jennifer Shelton *

Anne Marie: Eileen T'Kaye *

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Place: Norway. Inside the Helmer house.

Time: 15 years since Nora left Torvald.

Running Time: Approx. 90 minutes

A DOLL'S HOUSE

is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

As a courtesy to the actors onstage and your fellow audience members, please turn off your cell phone, beeper or any electronic device that might make noise during the performance. Also, if you use your cell phone during intermission, please ensure that your phone is turned off before you re-enter the auditorium. Thank you for your cooperation!

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Lucas Hnath (Playwright) plays include *The Christians* (2014 Humana Festival), *Red Speedo* (Studio Theatre, DC), *A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney* (Soho Rep), *Nightnight* (2013 Humana Festival), *Isaac's Eye* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Death Tax* (2012 Humana Festival, Royal Court Theatre), and *The Courtship of Anna Nicole Smith* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). His plays are published by Dramatists Play Service. Lucas has been a resident playwright at New Dramatists since 2011, and is a proud member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Lucas is a winner of the 2012 Whitfield Cook Award for *Isaac's Eye* and received a 2013 Steinberg/ATCA New Play

Award Citation for *Death Tax*. He has also received commissions from the EST/Sloan Project, Actors Theatre of Louisville, South Coast Repertory, Playwrights Horizons, New York University's Graduate Acting Program, and the Royal Court Theatre. Lucas holds a BFA and an MFA from New York University's Department of Dramatic Writing.

Trevor Bishop-Gillespie (Director) is excited to make his ICT debut with Lucas Hnath's beautiful, resonant play. Trevor has worked on contemporary plays, musicals and staged readings at theatres across the Southland, including California Repertory Company, the Chance Theater, Circle X Theatre, Cornerstone Theatre, Performance Riverside, South Coast Repertory, Theatre of NOTE. Favorites he's helmed include *Film*, *The Kentucky Cycle*, *Next to Normal*, *Passion Play*, *Venus*, and *Jerry Springer: the Opera*. Trevor's directing has been recognized by the Los Angeles Ovation Awards, LA Drama Critics Circle Awards, and the Backstage Garland Awards, among others. His productions have also been on end-of-year best lists in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Orange County, St. Louis, Missouri, and Ashland, Oregon. A faculty member in directing and theatre studies at California State University, Long Beach, he also directs at numerous colleges and universities. Much love to Shawn, Prior and Peanut. #loveislove



Nicolette Ellis (Emmy) is an actress hailing from Maryland. *The Newark Film Festival Best Performance* nominated actress has demonstrated her performance in a few web series that include BET Digital's *Brooklyn. Blue. Sky.*, *Situationships*, and *Makeup and Breakup*. She also created a web series called *Mistake* that is now streaming on KweliTV. She's appeared in a few commercials, off-broadway productions, and a few independent films. She's starred in *Absolute Power*, *A Balcony in Brooklyn*, *The Composer*, *Disillusion*, and more. She is looking forward to continuing her journey as a storyteller and pushing the narrative in every way possible.



Scott Roberts (Torvald) Los Angeles theater credits include *The Lehman Trilogy* (Ahmanson Theater), *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (Rubicon Theater), *Creation* (Boston Court), *Cyrano* (The Fountain Theatre), *My Antonia* (Pacific Resident Theater), *How the Other Half Loves* (Odyssey Theatre), *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial* (Odyssey Theatre), *The Taming of the Shrew* (LA Shakespeare), *Hamlet* and *The Rainmaker* (A Noise Within). Off-Broadway: *Hurlyburly* (Maddox Theatre), *Beyond Therapy* (Bank St. Theater), *Now You Ask Me* (Provincetown Playhouse), *Pride's Crossing* (Bleecker St. Theatre). Recent film work includes the Hulu feature, *Grimcutty*. Scott is a graduate of Harvard College and the Actors Studio MFA program. He is also a member of the Actors Studio and The Open Fist Theatre Company.



Jennifer Shelton (Nora) toured with the 1st National Co. of *Ragtime* and has performed with such companies as the Hollywood Bowl Orch, Long Beach Symphony, McCoy Rigby, and Sacramento's Music Circus. For ICT: *Let's Misbehave* (Alice), *Master Class* (Sharon), *Ain't Misbehavin* (Nell), *Songs for a New World*, *Five Course Love*, and *The Story* (Yvonne). Favorite credits: *Seven* (Hafsat) for LA Theatre Works; *Clybourne Park* (Francine) for Laguna Playhouse; *All Night Strut* and *Jacques Brel* for Colony; *Fanny* (Fanny), *One Touch of Venus* (Venus), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Spider Woman), and *It's a Bird ... Superman!* (Lois Lane) for MTG; *Proof* (Claire), *The Baby Dance* (Rachel), *Miss Reardon Drinks a Little* (Ceil), and *Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth) for CCAP; *Man of La Mancha* (Aldonza) for Rubicon; *Into the Woods* (Cinderella) for Lamb's; *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) and *Ragtime* (Sarah) for Moonlight; *Hot Mikado* (Yum-Yum) and *World Goes 'Round* for MTW; and Rosemary in *How to Succeed* for Starlight. TV/Film credits include: *Seal Team*, *Physical*, *Criminal Minds*, *Shameless*, *B&B*, *Y&R*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Girlfriends*, and *Prom*.



Eileen T'Kaye (Anne Marie) After two years of Zoom Readings and a shining moment of a Live Reading of Gary Cearlock's new musical *Bitter Street*, Eileen is thrilled to return to the stage - particularly to ICT for her 9th show! Prior to her computer performances, she had the distinct honor to play Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the world premiere production of *Sisters in Law* at The Phoenix Theatre Co. Other select theatre credits: *Doubt* and *Other Desert Cities* (ICT), *Coney Island Christmas* and *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Geffen Playhouse), *Collected Stories* (CV Rep), *Wing on Wing* and *The Rehearsal* (L.A. Philharmonic @ Disney Hall), *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (La Mirada Theatre), *The Fantasticks* (Reprise!), *The Government Inspector* (Boston Court), and *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (Greenway Court-LADCC & LA Weekly Awards). Eileen is also an award-winning theatre producer and was the Project Manager for the creation of Boston Court Pasadena and its Founding Producing Director. Grateful to Mom, Marjorie and especially her husband David for his loving support, which now includes taping auditions for his wife.

Yuri Okahana-Benson (Scenic Designer) is a scenographer based in Los Angeles, CA. Originally from Tokyo, Japan, she has been working both nationally and internationally. Recent design credits include; *CARRIE - THE MUSICAL* and *The Pajama Game* at Viterbo University, *The Miser* at Westmont Festival Theater, *The Private Lives of Imaginary Friends* at The Garage Theater, *#UnderTheInfluence* at Santa Fe Playhouse, *DELILAH* (zoom production), *The Marriage Contract* at New Vic, and more. She also has been teaching and mentoring both undergraduate and graduate level design students at various

colleges around the greater L.A. area. MFA in Scenic Design from CSULB. More info available at www.yuriokahana.com IG: @11uri30

Donny Jackson (Lighting Designer) is an award-winning freelance Lighting Designer based in Los Angeles. Work highlights include: the New York premiere of *Four Clowns* (La Mama Experimental Theatre), *When God Looked Away*, starring Al Pacino and Judith Light (Macha Theatre), the West Coast premiere of *In the Heights* (Casa 0101 Theatre), *Phenomenal*, written and directed by Macy Gray (Ramon Cortines Performing Arts), the KJAZZ Benefit Concert, 2017 (Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts) and *Transition-NAACP Award* (Lounge Theatre). He has also had his design work for *Into the Woods* featured on TV during ABC's "Encore!" Recent projects include, *The Christians* (Actors Co-op), *Life Could Be a Dream* (ICT Long Beach) and *Angels in America* (Long Beach Playhouse). He is currently a member of Design Action, and serves as the Head of Technical Theatre & Design at Cypress College. He holds an MFA in Lighting Design from the UCLA School of Theatre, where he trained under Tony-winning lighting designer, Neil Jampolis.
www.DonnyJackson.com

Kimberly DeShazo (Resident Costume Designer) is Costume Instructor for the Theatre and Dance at El Camino College as well as resident costume designer for International City Theatre. Other theatres that have showcased her skills include Pasadena Dance Theatre, L.A. Opera, Long Beach Opera, Shakespeare Festival/LA, the Gary Marshall Theatre, the Odyssey Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, PCPA and Ebony Rep. College collaborations include designing for the Theatre as well as the Dance Department at Chapman University, and at Cal State Dominguez Hills, College of the Canyons, LB City College, and Mt. San Antonio College. Her work has been seen at industrial shows for Nike, Adidas, Skechers, Cherokee and Diesel clothing. Commercials include AFLAC, Target, Disney, McDonald's, and Mattel. Television credits range from *The Real*, *The Price is Right*, and an Ozzy Osbourne's Variety show, to work for the Academy Awards, Nickelodeon, and the Disney Channel.

Jeff Polunas (Sound Designer) is excited to be at ICT again after designing several productions years ago (*Silent Sky*, *Fences*, *Uncanny Valley* and *Abigail/1702*). Jeff received his M.F.A. in Sound Design at UC-Irvine and is currently the Production Sound Supervisor at UC-Irvine. Jeff has designed over 150 productions in theatre and dance during his career. Selected credits include: *She Loves Me*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *Venus in Fur* (South Coast Repertory), *Seminar*, *Bright New Boise*, *Passion Play* (The Chance), *The Full Monty*, *Peter Pan*, *The Wedding Singer*, *The Producers*, (Summer Repertory Theatre), *Company*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (PCPA Theaterfest). He received the 2017 & 2015 Scenic for Sound

Design and was nominated for the 2016 Stage Raw award for Sound Design. Jeff could not do what he loves without the support of his wife, Valerie, and his son, Gavin.

Patty and Gordon Briles (Resident Property Designers) have joined their artistic skills as Property Designers for ICT. Gordon's three-dimensional work in ceramics and fine arts and Patty's work in theatre, design and illustration have enabled them to collaborate on both property and set dressing. With the assistance of their son, Christopher, it has been an ongoing family production. Their work has included award-winning designs and Ovation nominations as producers as well as designers for theatre and Emmy nominations for television. Their theatre work has been seen at (Inside) The Ford Theatre, John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, the Odyssey, the Edgemar and The Matrix. Both work with young artists at Loyola and El Camino College.

caryn desai (Artistic Director/Producer) is an award-winning director with awards and nominations from LA Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly, Drama-Logue, Robby, Ovation and NAACP for her productions. Recent directing: *Art, Daisy, Beast on the Moon, Cardboard Piano, Uncanny Valley, and Doubt*, Selected credits: *Other Desert Cities, Red, God of Carnage, Backwards in High Heels, Dinah Was* (most L.A. Ovation award nominations) "*Master Harold*" ... *and the boys, A Shayna Maidel, Shakuntala* (also adapted by her), *Rashomon, Our Town, The Importance of Being Earnest, Contradictions* (her original work), *Antigone, and Oedipus*. Selected musicals: *Raisin* (LADCC "Best Production"), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Once on This Island, and Tapestry*. caryn is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. She has an MFA in directing from UC Irvine, a BA from CSU, Long Beach in acting and directing, and a certificate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London. She has certificates in Arts Administration, Marketing and Fundraising. With a full Fellowship, she completed an Executive Program at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business as one of 50 arts leaders in the nation selected for the initial program. Additionally, she completed an Executive Coaching Program through the Hudson Institute, Santa Barbara. She has served on grant panels for the county and city and as a speaker/panelist for the SRO Theatre Conference at USC on Best Practices, the Technical Theatre Conference about the role of a director, and more. She represented ICT as a National Participant for the Listening Post Project with Johns Hopkins University and was named "Enterprising Woman in the Arts" in Long Beach. caryn was honored with the "We Can Do It" Award from the Long Beach Rosie the Riveter Foundation and nominated as an Amazing Woman in the Arts. She taught college for more than 25 years and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Long Beach City College. She served as a Dramaturgical Responder for the graduate playwriting students at USC and served as Vice Chair for the LA Producers League for Large Theatres. In 2016 she was the

keynote speaker at the Disneyland Hotel for INTIX. That same year she accepted the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Season and was recognized as a 2016 Community Hero by the African American History & Culture Foundation. In 2018 caryn was named Distinguished Alumna from the College of the Arts at California State University, Long Beach. Prior to the pandemic, she returned to teaching a class in Non-Profit Arts Management at California State University, Fullerton. Most recently she was honored to be included on the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame.

Donna R. Parsons (Production Stage Manager) is delighted to be back with ICT for live theatre! Previous productions with ICT are *Slow Food*, *ART*, *The Andrews Brothers*, *The 39 Steps* and *Uncanny Valley*. For 3DT - *Once*, *42nd Street*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Joseph...*, *Hello Dolly*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Seussical*, *Damn Yankees*, *Shrek the Musical*, *9 to 5*, *I Love A Piano*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Other productions include *American Idiot*, *Floyd Collins* in La Mirada and the McCoy/Rigby production of *RENT* and *Miss Saigon*. She was resident PSM for FCLO Music Theatre for many years and Stage manager for the Dance department concerts at CSU Long Beach. She holds a BA in Theatre from CSUF and is a member of Actor's Equity (AEA) and USITT. She is grateful to her family for all their support.

Lucy Pollak (Publicist) has been providing publicity services to the Los Angeles performing arts community for the past 28 years – and her very first client was International City Theatre, with which she has proudly continued to work to this day! Prior to that, she was production manager/staff producer at the Odyssey Theatre, where she co-produced over 100 productions with artistic director Ron Sossi. She is the recipient of a Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award (*Master Class*), an L.A. Weekly Award (*Mary Barnes*), four Drama-Logue Awards (*Mary Barnes*, *Idioglossia*, *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, *It's A Girl!*), and a Women in Theatre Recognition Award. She has served on the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Theatre Alliance (L.A. Stage Alliance), Women in Theatre.

Michael Donovan Casting (Casting Directors) has cast over 100 shows here at ICT. Michael Donovan is the recipient of 9 Artios awards, presented by the Casting Society of America for Outstanding Achievement in casting. Richie Ferris has 3 Artios awards. They are currently nominated for another Artios award, for ICT's virtual production of *ART*. The company's credits include shows produced at the Ahmanson Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, the Hollywood Bowl, the Wallis Annenberg, Pasadena Playhouse, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Geffen Playhouse, the Getty Villa, the Soraya, Laguna Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, the Garry Marshall Theatre, Ebony Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Symphony, Arizona Theatre Company, Arkansas Rep, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Rep, the Totem Pole Playhouse, and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Other credits

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include numerous films, TV shows and commercials. Michael is President of the Board for the Foundation for New American Musicals, and serves on the Board for Camp Bravo.

Shashin Desai (Founding Artistic Director/Producer) led ICT throughout its first 25 seasons, guiding over 120 productions to its stage and winning over 200 awards for himself and the theatre while running the company in the black for 22 out of 25 years. After ICT's Silver Jubilee Season, in March 2011, Shashin stepped down passing the baton to the new generation of leadership. Since 2011, the same skills he used to visualize stories on stage with trained actors, physical compositions, and use of color and light are the same skills he is now applying to his singular focus - Photography, devoting his time to an art book project, ASIA CONNECTIONS: COMPELLING FACES AND IMAGES IN SEARCH FOR STORIES. To that end, the past years have involved extensive travel to India, Thailand, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Turkey, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Japan, Sri Lanka, Morocco, and South Africa. According to him, "Many more countries to travel, many more moments to capture." The journey continues. To see his captivating work please go to his website below and share your thoughts on his work: www.shashindesaiconnections.com Also, see him on Instagram: @shashindesai



International City Theatre's Summer Youth Conservatory 2022

Looking for something fun to do this summer?

Our Summer Youth Conservatory is a great way for kids from 7 to 15 to learn more about theatre! This 4-week-long conservatory features instruction in acting, music, dance and playwriting taught by industry professionals, culminating in a special presentation on ICT's stage for parents and friends.

Classes: July 5 through July 28, 2022, Mon - Thurs, 9 am - 1 pm

FREE Performance on Thursday, July 28, 6:30 pm at ICT

For registration and information call Jordan at 562-495-4595 ext. 100
or via e-mail: jordan@ictlongbeach.org

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