

NEO ENSEMBLE THEATRE
presents

A Night of S.M.

A collection of short plays by Scott Mullen

MY SCALE IS LYING TO ME

directed by Richard Tatum

WANDA: Beth Nintzel SHELLY: Connie Monroe

CINDY: Sereen El-Ghossaini

A LITTLE MAGIC

directed by Richard Tatum

ELAINE: Tracy Elliott WOMAN: Marina Palmier MAN: Spencer Kramber

NEXT

directed by Joe Ochman

MATT: Steve Oreste CLERK: Debra Kay Lee PENNY: Jessica Dowdeswell

GOAT

directed by Richard Pierce

GIL: Spencer Kramber MORGAN: Jerry Weil

-10 minute intermission-

THE BLUE ALBUM

directed by Valerie Gould

BOB: David St. James MARY: Marina Palmier FINNYARD: Steve Oreste

WAITING FOR THE HOGWARTS EXPRESS

directed by Richard Pierce

HARRIET: Starina Johnson MEG: Julie Lippert ALICE: Connie Monroe

SANDBOX

directed by Joe Ochman

RITA: Beth Nintzel GABE: Jerry Weil BETSY: Tracy Elliott

CLAIRE: Jessica Dowdeswell

Production Staff

Lead Producer:	Richard Pierce
Producers:	Valerie Gould, Starina Johnson, David St. James
Lighting/Sound:	Giselle Fernandez
Props:	David St. James, Jerry Weil
Production Stage Manager:	Tommy Dunn
Graphic Designer:	Naomi Gibson
Press:	Jim Martyka

Administrative Staff

Executive Director:	Arilyn Carpenter
Creative Director:	Richard Pierce
Business Manager:	Tracy Elliott
Company Manager:	Starina Johnson
Marketing Director:	Jessica Dowdeswell
Event Producer:	Marcy Goldman
Associate Event Producer:	Emily Behr
Webmaster:	Jerry Weil
External Communications:	Michael Kerr
BSAC Coordinator:	Debra Kay Lee, Connie Monroe

Please silence all phones & other beeping devices for the duration of the performance.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.



*These Actors and Stage Manager(s) are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association. This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.

Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

**This Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Scott Mullen is a longtime Hollywood screenplay analyst and screenwriter, a two-time winner of Amazon Studios' screenwriting contest, whose thriller **THE SUMMONING** aired on TV One; another thriller, **IN BROAD DAYLIGHT**, is scheduled to air next summer. In the three years since he started writing short plays, his work has won numerous awards and has been produced over 200 times (for over 700 performances) in theatres around the world. His longest play, the 45-minute one-act **PINATA**, was performed in 2017 as part of **LA Fringe**. Six of his short high school plays have been published by **YouthPLAYS**. Scott is a member of writing groups **Scriptwrights** and **PlayGround-LA**, and is grateful for the help they have given him along the way. Scott would especially like to thank **Neo Ensemble Theatre** for including his work in a number of their past shows and for helping workshop these pieces, as well as for all the encouragement they have given him overall. And thanks to all the actors and directors for their involvement in his work - your talent is humbling.

CAST/CREW



JESSICA DOWDESWELL (*Next-Penny*, *Sandbox-Claire*) Jessica is an Australian born actress, comedian, chatterbox and collector of beautiful things (mostly shoes). She is a member of **Neo Ensemble Theatre** and an improv team at **The Loft**. You can find Jessica's face in the feature film **Los Angeles Overnight**, which had its theatrical release earlier this year and has now made its way to the comfort of your home through Amazon Video. Jessica is ecstatic about being a part of this fun production. She hopes you enjoy your night of playful SM and says thank you for coming out. www.jessicadowdeswell.com

TOMMY DUNN (Production Stage Manager) Los Angeles Theatre design credits: **NOTHING SPECIAL**, **AIRPORT ENCOUNTERS**, **STREET CORNER NAMED DESIRE**. Los Angeles Theatrical Producer credits: **LOVE IS A DIRTY WORD** (Best Play Ovation Nominee; Best Solo Perf. LADCC Nominee), **NO WAKE**, **GUS'S FASHION & SHOES** (Original Playwriting & Scenic Design Ovation Nominee, Best Fight Choreography & Lead Male Performance, Stage Raw Nominee), **COMPLETENESS** (Scenic Design Ovation Winner, Lighting Design Ovation Nominee), and **FAIRY TALE THEATER: 18 & OVER**. Notable Stage Manager credits: **BRIGHT COLORS AND BOLD PATTERNS**, **COPS AND FRIENDS OF COPS**, **THE MERCY SEAT**, **SANTASIA**, **BLACKBIRD**, **VINCENT**. General Manger of **VS. Theatre Company**; Resident Stage Manager for **The Story Pirates** and **The Solo Collective**; Co-founder of **Inkwell Theater** Playwright Development LAB. Assoc. Producer of upcoming feature film **RADIOFLASH** starring Dominic Monaghan. Producer of upcoming series on INSP Network called **GOLD COUNTRY VET**.



SEREEEN EL-GHOSSAINI (*My Scale is Lying to Me*-Cindy) is a new member of **Neo Ensemble Theater**. Recent productions include *Guys and Dolls*, *Antigone*, as well as staged readings with **Neo Ensemble Theatre**. Sereen has a Bachelors in Music and Performance and is the conductor of a non-profit brass ensemble that gives back to the arts community. Sereen is actively involved in the world of theater and is happy to perform with such amazing

actors.



TRACY ELIOTT* (*A Little Magic*-Elaine, *Sandbox*-Betsy) is always happy to be on stage with **Neo Ensemble**. You might have seen her in *Family Secrets*, *Airport Encounters* or *A Street Corner Named Desire*. Or you might have seen her in *Piñata* with **Absolute Theatre** at the **Hollywood Fringe** (also written by Scott Mullen). Or online in the web series *Becky & Kate: Works in Progress*. www.tracyeliott.com

GISELLE FERNANDEZ (lights/sound) is a voiceover actor and theatre techie from Atlanta. Her theatre work includes the **Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival** and **Hollywood Fringe Festival**. She has worked shows at several theatres in Los Angeles such as The Complex, The Lounge, The Acme, The Actor's Company, and many more! For more information visit her website at gzfern.com.



VALERIE GOULD (Director-*The Blue Album*/Producer) is a well-known acting teacher and coach for young actors working in the entertainment industry. Her directing/choreography credits include *Once on This Island*, *Anything Goes*, *Annie*, *Gorey Stories*, *Seven Jewish Children*, *The Odd Couple* (Female Version), and *Romeo and Juliet*.



STARINA JOHNSON (Producer/*Waiting for the Hogwarts Express*-Harriet) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist (performer/playwright/producer/director) whose recent projects include *Piñata*, directed by Stan Zimmerman, *complex[ion] woman*, and *In Response: Year of the Woman*. She also AD/Co-Produced the revival of Justin Tanner's Heartbreak Help. Starina's play *Border Towns* won SLAM Boston's Diverse Voices in Theatre competition. Starina can

be seen in award-winning films such as "*West Hollywood Motel*", "*More Scenes from a Gay Marriage*", "*A Measure of the Sin*", "*Stuck!*", "*Casserole Club*", "*Watch Out*", and "*Roundball*". www.StarinaJohnson.com.



SPENCER KRAMBER (*A Little Magic*-Man, *Goat*-Gil) acting credits include *Criminal Minds*, *The Young and the Restless*, the award winning short film *Pop Music*, over thirty-five television commercials, and fifty+ stage performances including performing in *Neo's Family Secrets*; the Samuel Beckett Theater in Dublin, Ireland; playing Ray Bradbury in *The October Country* (written

and produced by Mr. Bradbury himself); receiving an Ovation "Best Ensemble" nomination for his contribution in L.A.T.E.'s *The War Cycle: Gospel According to First Squad*; and his one-person-show *The Interview*. Spencer is a graduate of Minnesota State University-Mankato and has a M.F.A. in Acting from U.C.L.A. www.SpencerKramber.com



DEBRA KAY LEE (*Next-Clerk*) TV and film credits include "*Days of Our Lives*," "*Capitol*," the indie film "*Lost*" and the popular web series "*Nora Breaks Free*." Her favorite theatre roles include Enid in "*A Chorus of Disapproval*," and Ruth "*Later Life*". She is delighted to be performing in **Neo Theatre Ensemble's** production of *An Evening of S.M.*



JULIE LIPPERT* (*Waiting for the Hogwarts Express-Meg*) is excited to be making her debut with Neo Ensemble Theatre. She originally hails from Maryland where she has been performing since she was a child. Julie is a classically trained vocalist and moved to LA to pursue her love of performing. Since moving to LA, she has been fortunate to have worked on stage, in television, and in film. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *An Evening of S.M.*, Scott Mullen, her parents for their constant support while following her heart, and her husband (First time writing that. We just got married!), Peter for his endless love and support.



CONNIE MONROE* (*My Scale is Lying to Me-Shelly, Waiting for the Hogwarts Express-Alice*) a relative newcomer to **NEO Ensemble**, Connie has been performing on stage since a kid in New York, Florida and now Los Angeles. A trained classical singer and Cantor, she performs locally as well as produces and stars in her own "*Damons Tiki Bar*" web series. (YouTube). She is an accomplished Casting Producer, with her latest project being nominated for a 2018 Emmy. She is thrilled to be with **NEO Ensemble!**



BETH NINTZEL (*Sandbox* –Rita, *My Scale is Lying to Me*-Wanda) is a SAG-AFTRA actor; she's been on ABC's "*Castle*" and CBS's "*Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders*". She's also been in several films and web series and has even performed for legends Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner. She's currently developing a brand new, dark comedy television series-- she's also a writer. Beth is grateful to be playing alongside her fellow **Neo** members and hopes you enjoy the show!



JOE OCHMAN (Director-*Next, Sandbox*) Action! Recent Director Joe: co-directed *Airport Encounters* for **Neo**, *The Rental & A Little Fresh Air* (for Neo's Surprises), *Who Lives?* (Pico Playhouse - 5 Ovation nominations), *Live Nude Girl* (Lounge Theatre - World Premiere), *One West Wacker*, *Emma From Sandusky*, *Merciful*

Stalagmites (all Neo), **8 Items Or Less** (Theatre 40), **The Tempest** (Knightsbridge Theatre), **The Foreigner** (Two Roads Theatre). Bunches more. Recent Actor Joe: guest starred on **Bones**, **Best Friends Whenever**, **House of Lies**, voiced in **Doc McStuffins** and **Life Is Strange**, performance captured in **Red Dead Redemption**. Bunches more. Cut!



STEVE ORESTE (*The Blue Album*-Finnyard, *Next*-Matt) Steve is thrilled to be working in Scott Mullen's world again which is far from Steve's home town of Eskridge, Kansas; where his intended profession was to take over the family's petting zoo business, "Big O's Little Ranch". Steve thanks Katie and Jackson for letting him play. www.lacasting.com/steveoreste



MARINA PALMIER (*A Little Magic*-Woman, *The Blue Album*-Mary) Long time Neo Ensemble member Marina Palmier is delighted to be performing in Scott Mullen's works. TV & film include: **Harry's Law**, **Desperate Housewives**, **CSI Miami**, **West Wing**, **General Hospital**, **ER**, **Beverly Hills 90210**. As playwright her one act plays have had several productions in LA. As writer/director her short AFI film **White Like the Moon** garnered countless awards culminating in an airing on HBO and can be viewed at www.whitelikethemoon.com and www.marinapalmier.com



RICHARD PIERCE (Director-*Waiting for the Hogwarts Express*, *Goat*/Producer) has directed numerous productions including Neo's sold out run of **Airport Encounters**. He is a multi-award winning television producer. Executive posts: Director Series Development Disney, VP Comedy Weintraub Entertainment, Sr. VP Creative Affairs Imagine Television, Executive VP/Partner Frederick S. Pierce Company and Sr. Director Content Acquisitions Sony

Connect.



DAVID ST. JAMES (Producer/*The Blue Album*-Bob) has performed in more than 100 films and television shows, his favorites being a villain on "*The West Wing*," a villain on "*iCarly*" and a doctor on "*This Is Us*". Films include "*Transformers 3*," "*SWAT*," "*Donnie Darko*," "*Alien Resurrection*," "*Contact*" and "*L.A. Confidential*". Stage: *The Illusion* at The El Portal, at Theatre Neo in *Why Marry?* and *White House Murder Case*, as God in *Beat For Sparrows* at Ivy Substation, and as Howard Hughes in *Howard Hughes In Hell at Theatre 40*.



RICHARD TATUM** (Director-*A Little Magic*, *My Scale is Lying to Me*) began directing while at the National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Center, but since arriving in Los Angeles, he has directed a wide variety of award-nominated works for companies such as Second City Hollywood, The LA Theatre Ensemble, the Blank Theatre, The Neo Ensemble, Absolute Theatre, Ark Theatre

(where he was Associate Artistic Director for 8 years), Theater West, and Slamdance Onstage, to name a few. In other media, he has directed several festival-selected short films including *Dark Specter II*, *Sock Puppet*, *Health & Disorder*, *The Other Side of the Desk*, episodes of the series *Nothing Personal*, *Becky and Kate: Works In Progress*, and *The Stalker Chronicles*, as well as radio commercials, plays for radio and the comedy CD *Bushwa!*. Richard is also a multi-award nominated actor, whose 30-year career spans stage, film, TV, commercials, cartoons and videogames. He is a proud graduate of Oberlin College, Directors Lab West, The Second City's Directing, Conservatory and Musical Improv programs, and is a member of the SDC.



JERRY WEIL (*Sandbox*-Gabe, *Goat*- Morgan) was last seen in **Neo Ensemble Theatre's "Inappropriate."** Jerry has performed in most Neo productions since joining seven years ago. Television: *"Elemental," "Without A Trace," "CSI," "Babylon V."* Film: *"Behind the Red Motel Door," "The Last Gamble."* Jerry stars in the web series *"Bill The Therapist"* (www.surrealtherapy.com). His gluten-free/vegan cookbook "Not Just Desserts" is available on Amazon.

Next up at Neo Ensemble!

Neo Makes a Scene

Wednesday, December 12

8:00 pm at the Odyssey Theatre

Come see powerhouse acting pairs show off their chops

Catered reception to follow!

Airport Encounters: Brace for Impact

Opens February 8, 2019 at the Lounge Theatre

You won't believe the crazy things that happen in an airport!

(Special earlybird pricing: use code `encounter20`)



Tickets available NOW on www.neoensembletheatre.org

Ways to support Neo!

- Do you shop at Amazon? Just point your browser to smile.amazon.com instead and set Neo Ensemble Theatre as your designated charity. Nothing changes for you, but we get a little bit of money!
- Do you shop at Ralphs? Just register your Ralphs card on their website and choose Neo Ensemble Theatre as your designated charity. (tip: this can be a little complicated, so visit www.neoensembletheatre.org/support-us for a step by step guide. We make it easy for you!)



This year Neo will be participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, this year's #GivingTuesday will take place on November 27th and will kick off the giving season by inspiring people to collaborate and give back. Be sure to sign up for our mailing list at www.neoensembletheatre.org to hear more about it!

Do you want to get involved with Neo? Actors and writers should go to www.neoensembletheatre.org/get-involved and read up on more details and how to submit/audition. Interested in other aspects of Neo? Email contact@neoensembletheatre.org and we'll make sure it's forwarded to the right place.

THE COMPANY

Michael Caldwell	Charles Howerton	Mark Packer
Arllyn Carpenter*	Starina Johnson	Marina Palmier
Leah Clark	Laura Julian**	Richard Pierce*
Agnes Cotti	Abby Kammeraad-Campbell	Beth Polsky
Jessica Dowdeswell	Michael Kerr	Tracey Rooney
Sereen El-Ghossaini	Spencer Kramber*	David St. James**
Tracy Elliott*	Shelly Kurtz	Damon Standifer
Jason Evans	Paul Lasz	Lynn Stevenson
Sarah Fairfax	Debra Kay Lee	Rom Watson
Laura Foti	Jessica Mathews*	Jerry Weil*
Dee Freeman	Lisa McFadden	Rachel Winfree
Joan Giammarco	Brandon Meyer	Wendy Worthington**
Naomi Gibson	Cameron Meyer	
Marcy Goldman*	Connie Monroe	*denotes board member
Valerie Gould*	Scott Mullen*	**denotes Emeritus
Kelly Hawthorne	Beth Nintzel	
Carol Herman	Joe Ochman	
Janet Hoskins	Steve Oreste*	