



Presents  
the World Premiere of

# LAST CALL

by **Anne Kenney**

Directed by **Lane Allison**

Featuring

**Bryan Bertone • Stephanie Crothers • Art Hall • Ben Martin\***  
**Lynn Milgrim\* • Laura Richardson • Bronte Scoggins**

Scenic/Production  
Design  
**Lane Allison**

Lighting Design  
**Ellen Monocroussos**

Sound Design  
**Peter Carlstedt**

Scenic Construction  
**Jan Munroe**

Graphic/Projection  
Design  
**Mark Harbeke**

Stage Manager  
**Jennifer Palumbo\***

Scenic Consultant  
**Jim Spencer**  
Scenic Floor Painter  
**Stephanie Crothers**

Publicist  
**Lucy Pollak**

Properties  
**Bruce Dickinson &  
Ina Shumaker /  
Dionna Veremis**

Produced by **Katie May Porter**

Artistic Director **Martha Demson**



\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.



LAST CALL is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Arts Commission



The Open Fist Theatre Company is a proud member of

## Cast of Characters

Jill	Laura Richardson
Walter	Ben Martin*
Frances	Lynn Milgrim*
Ricky	Art Hall
Jade	Bronte Scoggins
Annette	Stephanie Crothers
Detective Mottinger	Bryan Bertone

## Playwright's Note

*In the space of two months I left a job I had once loved and lost both of my parents. After offering their condolences and assuring me I would work again, my agents asked me to write a new piece of material. Having no ideas at the time for television pilots or movies, I decided to try writing a play. Not surprisingly, I suppose, the stew of my then-current circumstances became the creative basis for "Last Call."*

*Plays are a medium I have always loved and admired, but done very little work in. Consequently, unlike an episodic television script, of which I've written many, I went into writing a play with no preconceived ideas about who had to be in it, what they had to do or when they had to do it. With a very sketchy structure and a notion of where it might end, I sat down and just... wrote.*

*"Last Call" is a patchwork of lived experiences, family history, overheard stories, collected observations and complete fabrications that surfaced as I wrote the play. To my relief and surprise, they all seem to have come together in what I hope is an entertaining, provocative, moving and relatable whole.*

*And then I had the amazing good luck to have it read and then produced by the artists here at the Open Fist Theatre Company, who have elevated the play and made it their own in ways I could not have imagined.*

*When I ask myself, "How did this all happen?" The best answer that comes to me is a quote from Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman's "Shakespeare in Love": "I don't know. It's a mystery."*

-- Anne Kenney

## Director's Note

The ability to make choices is at the epicenter of what it means to be human. To stand by one's own choices, whether regret follows or not, is admirable. To honor the choices of others, whether you agree or not, is love.

-- Lane Allison

## THE ENSEMBLE



**Laura Richardson** (Jill) is an actor, writer and producer. As an actor, Laura's recent film credits include, *Low, Low*, *The Black String*, *Troubled Child*, *Decomposed*. Her latest television roles, *Monday Mornings*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Event*. One of her favorite stage credits is the Critic's Pick world premiere of Horton Foote's, *The Roads to Home*. Her latest venture was writing, producing, and starring in the original web series, *ineffable* which won best web series in Women's Only Entertainment. Her web series *Namaste Bitches* has garnered three first place wins. Her short screenplay, *Go in Pieces*, won Best Short Screenplay for Shallow Sea Screenplay Competition. As a playwright, Laura's play, *Do Do Love*, premiered at The Open Fist Theatre and received a Los Angeles Times Critic's Choice.



**Ben Martin** (Walter) has been a FIST member for about seven years. He has acted in and directed several of our "Pop Up" presentations, as well as readings of two original plays, Chris Longo's *I'm Outta Here*, and Laura Campbell's *Clog*. He was a

Los Angeles award nominee for his performance in Tom Jacobson's *Walking to Buchenwald*. In 2018 he directed Open Fist's highly acclaimed production of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*. A member of AEA, SAG and SDC, he is on the faculty of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

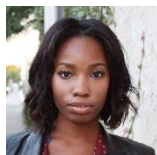


**Lynn Milgrim** (Frances) has appeared on Broadway in *Otherwise Engaged* with Tom Courtenay, directed by Sir Harold Pinter; *Bedroom Farce* with John Lithgow directed by Sir Peter Hall; *Charley's Aunt* and the international tour of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Off-Broadway plays include appearances at Manhattan Theatre Club, Second Stage, WPA and NY Shakespeare Festival, among others. Her extensive regional theatre credits include leading roles at South Coast Repertory, (most recently *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Rest, A Doll's House, Part 2*), Playhouse-in-the Park (Cincinnati), Charles Playhouse (Boston), Hartford Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Long Wharf Theatre (New Haven), Arena Stage (D.C.). Recent television appearances include *Chicago Med* and *The Fosters*.



**Art Hall** (Ricky) is thrilled to make his debut with the Open Fist in such an important piece of theatre. He earned his B.A. in Theater at the University of Maryland where he performed in many of the department's main stage productions including: *The Crucible*,

*SubUrbia*, *Our Town*, and *Scapin*. His L.A. stage credits include: *Dangerous Corner* and *Wait Until Dark* at the Gallery Theater, and *All My Sons* at NTAC. TV and film credits include: *Mob City*, *Chasing the Sun*, *Laps*, and *The Trouble*. He sends all his love to his wife, Ashley. Her support means more than he can express.



**BRONTE SCOGGINS** (Jade) is a Los Angeles based actress and writer, originally from Chesapeake, VA. She has a BFA in Acting from Elon University and is so excited to be making her debut LA theater experience with Open Fist Theatre Company.

You can see her most recently in the short film *Black Girls Don't Swim*, which was a top 5 finalist in the BET Project CRE8 competition. When she's not acting, she's working on her new pilot concept, *WET* with her writing partner, practicing her French, or slowly eating her way through all the great food spots LA has to offer. Want to know more? You can reach her at [bronte.scoggins@gmail.com](mailto:bronte.scoggins@gmail.com)



**STEPHANIE CROTHERS** (Annette) has been an Open Fist Company member for 2 years. Her favorite productions include playing Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and recently a variety of characters in last year's OFTC summer production of *Under Milk*

*Wood*. Stephanie studied theater and dance at USC and usually spends her free time painting.



**BRYAN BERTONE** (Detective Mottlinger) An OFTC member since 2011 (well, mostly) Bryan appeared in *Early and Often*, *Short Ends*, *Footnote Notes*, *Welcome to Your Alternative Reality*, *Under Milk Wood*, and most recently as the Polar Bear in *All Night Long*. Other Theatre: *Closer*, *Rosencrantz and*

*Guidenstern are Dead* (CPC); *Light Up the Sky* (Theatre 40); *A Flea In Her Ear*, *It's a Living* (Edgemar Center); *Rocky Horror Experience*, *Dreams in Variation* (2Cents); *The Lion in Winter* (Orange County); *History Boys*, *The Little Dog Laughed* (San Diego); Bryan attended the University of San Diego, and is super happy to have another opportunity to work with Stephanie Crothers (she's dreamy).

## THE CREATIVES

**ANNE KENNEY** (Playwright) has loved going to the theater since she was very young. Although she's a relative newcomer to playwriting, Anne has spent many years writing and producing quality dramatic series for television. Most recently she wrote and executive produced for the first three seasons of the highly-acclaimed historical/fantasy/romance series *Outlander* (including the much-beloved "Wedding Episode") for STARZ.

Prior to *Outlander*, she wrote and produced for the Peabody-award-winning *Switched at Birth* for ABC Family, and she co-created *Family Law* for CBS. Her other credits include *LA Law*, *Civil Wars*, *ER*, and *Greek*. She's currently writing a pilot for IDW (based on a supernatural YA graphic novel), and another based on the Stella Award winning non-fiction book *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* for Australian production company Ruby Entertainment, that can be best described as *Outlander* meets *Deadwood*.

**LANE ALLISON** (Director) is originally from Highland Park, IL on the Northshore of Chicago, but has made Los Angeles her home for almost a full decade. She is a proud member of The Open Fist Theatre Company and is also on staff as their Membership Manager. Most recently, Lane directed, co-wrote, and performed in the short play *I in 5*, covering the "Me too" movement within OFTC's 2018 Annual Political Pop-Up, as well as performing in *Sunset in Chappaqua*.

Lane assistant directed under David Youse on Ed Graczyk's *The Blue Moon Dancing* and directed the second stage production of Craig Lucas's *Blue Window*. Lane co-founded the Title3 theatre company in LA, where she portrayed TJ in the world premiere of Constance Condon's *Paradise Street*. Lane also recently wrote, directed, co-produced and starred in the web series pilot, *After Pluto* which can be viewed on YouTube and is currently in pre-production on the rest of season one.

Also with The Open Fist, Lane has played Anne Hathaway in Ron West and Phil Swann's musical *DeLEARious*, also directed by Ron West, along with a variety of roles in the sketch based comedy *Welcome to Your Alternative Reality* written and directed by Catherine Butterfield and Ron West. During the 2015 Hollywood Fringe Festival, Lane played *The Guide/The Others* in Dean Farrell Bruggeman's *Only the Moon Howls* at the Actors Company and *Beth/Nurse* in Christopher Carver's *No E'xp Required* at The Complex Theaters, East. As a previous member of a The Production Company in LA, she performed as Jennifer Sorenson in Jennifer Sorenson's *I Fart in My Sleep*. Also under the umbrella of The Production Company, she played Babe in the Studs Terkel musical *Working*, Blitzen in Jeff Goode's *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, both directed by August Viverrito.

Lane would like to thank Katie for her friendship, dedication, and incomparable organization. Martha for her support and trust. As well as the entire cast and crew for the expert skill and care they each took in creating their parts in order to bring the full scope of this script to life. Anne, there are not enough words to express the beautiful, indelible mark you will forever hold in my heart with your generosity of spirit and faith, your world is one I will happily dive into anytime, anywhere. Mom, Violet, and Grandma (the pill), you are always with me in all my endeavors and I am forever grateful. My ever-fixed, Mark, you are my reason, my joy, and my everything, thank you most of all.

**KATIE MAY PORTER** (Producer) - is an actor, producer, filmmaker, engineer, and a native New Yorker. She has a degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Theater Arts from MIT - and has long since been balancing both her left-brain engineering and right-brain creative worlds. She also collaborates with Developed Over Coffee (DoC) Productions (<http://www.developedovercoffee.com>) on several projects. Follow on Instagram and Twitter @ActressEngineer

**MARTHA DEMSON** (Artistic Director of the Open Fist Theatre) believes passionately in the voice and role of theatre in our communities. In addition to her work with OFTC, Demson serves on the Boards of the Hollywood Media District Business Improvement District (Arts Committee Chair) and Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles (Union Committee Chair). Highlights of Demson's award-winning career with the Open Fist Theatre include: As a producer: *The Gary Plays* (Mednick), *The Cosmonaut's Last Message To The Woman He Once Loved in The Former Soviet Union* (Greig) LA Weekly Production of the Year, *How to Explain the History of Communism to Mental Patients* (Wisniew) which was also presented in New York and Edinburgh, *Footnote Notes* (Footnote), *Travesties* (Stoppard), *The Devil With Boobs* (Fo). As a director: *Papa* (deGroot) which was also presented in San Francisco and Istanbul, *Casanova* (Congden), *Abingdon Square* (Fornes), *Escape From Happiness* (Walker), *Flight Of The Earls* (Humble), *Dear John Mayer* (Shoshana Bean / Eydie Faye). Education: Yale University and Sanford Meisner's 2-year master class.

**JAN MUNROE** (Scenic Construction) has been a member of OPEN FIST for the last 8 years. For the company, he most recently directed, designed and built John O'Keefe's *All Night Long* in the fall of 2018 and John O'Keefe's *Don't You Ever Call Me Anything But Mother* with Tina Preston in the winter of 2017. A long-time creator and performer of new work (since early studies with Marcel Marceau and Etienne Decroux), he is a recipient of two NEA theatre fellowships, a ROCKEFELLER playwrights fellowship, a CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL "new genre" fellowship, 13 L.A. WEEKLY and DRAMA-LOGUE awards and most recently an OVATION award for being a part of the ensemble of the production of *Waiting for Godot* at the Mark Taper Forum. He also works as an actor in TV and movies, most recently *LE MANS 66* directed by James Mangold.

**PETER CARLSTEDT** (Sound Design) A Santa Monica, CA native, Mr. Carlstedt also works as a supervising sound editor and re-recording mixer for film and television. Recent theatrical collaborations include Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* directed by Barbara Schofield; *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley directed by John Hindman; *The Rose Tree* by Angela Berlin, directed by Efrain Schunior; *Conor McPherson's The Good Thief* directed by Scott Paulin; Ken Ludwig's *The Three Musketeers* at the Cape Fear Regional Theater in Fayetteville, North Carolina, directed by Steve Rankin; *Dusk Rings a Bell* directed by John Hindman at The Lounge; *Walking to Buchenwald* by Tom Jacobson, directed by Rod Menzies at The Open Fist; and *The Speed of Darkness*, directed by Bill Alderson at the River Street Theater Company.

**BRUCE DICKINSON & INA SHUMAKER** (Properties) began designing props and set pieces for the Open Fist Theatre Company over 15 years ago. Specializing in creating realistic fake foods and period set dressings, some of their favorite past shows include: *James Joyce's The Dead*, *B. Franklin and King Hedley II*.

**ELLEN MONOCROUSSOS** (Lighting Design) - Ellen has designed the lighting for hundreds of shows nationwide and is returning to the Open Fist after lighting *All Night Long*, *Under Milk Wood*, *One Year Later*, *deLearious*, *Walking to Buchenwald*, *The Gary Plays, Part VII and VIII*, *Light Up the Sky*, and *Blue Night in the Heart of the West*. Other shows in the L.A. area include: *Whipping Man* with West Coast Jewish Theatre, *The Invisible Play* with Theatre of Note, *The Exonerated* with The Actors' Gang, *Hotel C'est L'Amour* with Blank Theatre Company, and *Mother Courage and Her Children* with Antaeus Company. She was Assistant Lighting Designer on Walt Disney Imagineering's Tokyo DisneySea theme park and Legoland theme park. She has won awards from LA Weekly and Stage Scene LA, and has been nominated for Ovation, Broadway World, NAACP, and Lester Horton Dance Awards.

**MARK HARBEKE** (Graphic/Projection Design) is excited to help tell this story -- even more so because he got to watch his talented wife Lane's journey from directing the staged reading of Anne Kenney's play last year to directing this mainstage production. Specializing in social media/digital marketing management as well as web design, Mark has produced artwork and video for A Right Forever Productions and AppliancePartsPros.com and for the nonprofit AbilityFirst, among other organizations. Mark is also a composer, having recently written the music for the web series pilot *After Pluto*. For more visit [behance.net/markharbeke](http://behance.net/markharbeke)

**STEPHANIE CROTHERS** (Scenic Floor Painter) -- is a self-taught painter and fell in love with the medium three years ago when she sought to learn a new form of expression while she pursued her career as a performer. She built a small business designing yoga mats (<http://Lucenthueyoga.Etsy.com>) and commissioning original watercolor and acrylic paintings. This is her first scenic painting credit with the Open Fist.

**LUCY POLLAK** (Publicist) has been providing publicity services to the Los Angeles arts community for the past 27 years including numerous independent theater and dance productions; and large events and festivals such as the annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration at The Music Center. From 1981 to 1990, she was production manager/staff producer at the Odyssey Theatre, where she co-produced over 100 productions with artistic director Ron Sossi. For the 1993 Los Angeles Festival, she line produced Reza Abdoh's controversial *Quotations From A Ruined City*. She is the recipient of a Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award (*Master Class*), an LA 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 (now L.A. Stage Alliance), Women in Theatre and P.A.T.H. (Performing Arts Theatre for the Handicapped).

**JENNIFER PALUMBO** (Production Stage Manager) Selected credits: *All Night Long*, *Under Milk Wood*, *DeLEARious!*, *The Gary Plays*, *Mad Forest* - Open Fist Theatre Company, *The Color Purple* - Greenway Arts Alliance, *El Niño*, *DAYTONA*, *Suppliant Women* (at Getty Villa) - Rogue Machine. *The Immigrant* - Sierra Madre Playhouse, *The Mountaintop* - Hatfield/Orpheum at Halloran Centre Memphis, TN for MLK50 (previously at Matrix Theatre.) *A Steady Rain* (also at Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA), *Anna Christie*, *Awake and Sing!*, *Broadway Bound*, *Day Drinkers*, *Margo Veil*, *Oedipus Machina* - Odyssey Theatre. *Land of the Tigers* - Sacred Fools.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Diana Gabaldon  
Fred Golan

Tim Wright  
Moving Arts  
Gregg Porter

...and the many volunteer company members of the *Open Fist Theatre Company!*

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION



@openfist





## **Mission**

The Open Fist Theatre Company is a community of actors, playwrights, designers and directors who believe that to realize the force and potential of a relevant, contemporary theatre it is necessary to establish a Company founded on the pursuit of artistic excellence. We seek through diverse styles and forms to illuminate the essential relationships that connect individuals and their societies, as we nurture empathy and forge identity through our work.

## **Board of Directors**

Jordana Berliner, Martha Demson, Christopher Lore, Malhar Pagay, Richard Polak, Charles Otte, Catie Saralegui, James Spencer

## **Company Staff**

Artistic Director.....**Martha Demson**  
Associate Artistic Director .....**Amanda Weier**  
Financial Director.....**Richard Michael Knolla**  
Literary Manager.....**Barbara Schofield**  
Membership Manager.....**Lane Allison**  
Box Office Manager .....**Katie May Porter**  
Education Director .....**Laura Richardson**  
Social Media Manager .....**Caroline Klidonas**  
Outreach Director .....**Dionna Veremis**

## **Our Members**

Richard Abraham, Jack Aldridge, Christine Avila, Tisha Terrasini Banker, Chloe Berlinger, Bryan Bertone, Phillip William Brock, Brittany Brown, John Bozeman, Sandra Kate Burke, George Pete Caleodis, Christopher Cappiello, Christopher Cedeño, Riley Chandler, Brooke Clendenen, Jacque Lynn Colton, Stephanie Crothers, John Patrick Daly, Cat Davis, Martha Demson, Bruce Dickinson, Tom Donaldson, Lori Gambero, Ramón Garcia, Katherine Griffith, Art Hall, Laura James, Jennifer Kenyon, Caroline Klidonas, Carol Kline, Richard Michael Knolla, Tim Labor, Elizabeth Lande, Sherry Larson, Dylan Maddalena, Derek Manson, Gina Manziello, Ben Martin, Rod Menzies, Lynn Milgrim, Amy Moorman, Scott Mosenson, Jan Munroe, Paul Myrvold, Neil Oktay, Jason Paige, Jennifer Palumbo, Vince Peagler III, Cesar Perez, Alina Phelan, Mary Linda Phillips, Katie May Porter, Tina Preston, Emilia Ray, Laura Richardson, Beth Robbins, Scott Roberts, Kenia Romero, Steven Royce, Judith Scarpone, Mandy Schneider, Barbara Schofield, David, Shofner, Ina Shumaker, Megumi Smisson, Michael Steinbach, Chase Studinski, Melissa Sullivan, Kim Swennen, Caitlin Thompson, Dionna Veremis, Amanda Weier, Ron West, Ann Marie Wilding



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## ***Opening in March 2019...***

We will once again convert the theatre to a speakeasy for our third annual "political pop-up" of short new plays written by playwrights from around the country, inspired by the theme:

### ***What Matters Now?/!***

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