

SHOTGUN PLAYERS

OCT 17 • NOV 17 • 2019

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"YOU ARE A FORCE
OF NATURE."



WRITTEN BY SHEILA CALLAGHAN DIRECTED BY SUSANNAH MARTIN

CAST

Wes Gabrillo
Karen Offereins
Soren Santos
Sango Tajima

Khalil
June
Owen
Ramona

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jonas Aquino & Xiaomin Jiang
Cassie Barnes
Brady Brophy-Hilton
Aurora Ciafardone
Ashley Corso
Erin Gilley
Natalie Greene
Devon LaBelle
Sarah Rose Leonard
Susannah Martin
Elizabeth Newton
Bri Owens
Alice Ruiz
Caitlin Steinmann
Matt Stines
Mikiko Uesugi*

Tango Consultants
Lighting Designer
Assistant Director
Pole Dance Consultant
Costume Design Asst. / Wardrobe Supervisor
Projection Designer
Choreographer / Intimacy Choreographer
Props Designer
Dramaturg
Director
Production Assistant
Stage Manager
Costume Designer
Master Electrician
Sound Designer
Set Designer

DANCE ENSEMBLE

Ebony Araman
Andy Collins
Jason Torres Hancock
Paul Melish
Jessica Uher

Jonas Aquino
Maggie Kelley Connard
Xiaomin Jiang
Mimu Tsujimura
Quinci Waller

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*Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829

Special thanks to the Fruitvale Starbucks and Evren Odcikin.

ELEVADA was commissioned by Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut, (James Bundy, Artistic Director, Victoria Nolan, Managing Director), and received its first public performance on April 24, 2015.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

5 Reasons (and more) for presenting Sheila Callaghan's *Elevada* (or: why direct a romantic comedy in these perilous times?)

1. Rom-coms are awesome!

I love rom-coms. They give me joy when I'm struggling — personally, professionally, globally — I turn to them as a reminder of the power and importance of love.

2. Sheila Callaghan is a rockstar theatre-maker.

I had the honor of directing Shotgun's production of the incendiary, profane, hysterical, and fiercely feminist *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*. Callaghan's plays are simultaneously meta-theatrical, intimate, structure-bending, genre-straddling, hysterically funny, and deeply human.

3. Sheila Callaghan captures the beauty — and terror — of falling in love.

As I launched into pre-production, I was reminded that when we fall in love, we are plunged into a liminal space. We never know if taking the proverbial leap into intimacy is going to work... We don't know if we're going to fall flat on our faces or how it's going to end... We don't know anything other than what we feel... And sometimes, we don't even know that.

4. She captures how our trauma shapes us and transforms how we love.

Leave it to Callaghan to create a rom-com with magical moments, identity branding,

avatars, addiction, and... cancer treatment. I know from my own experience that cancer treatment is also about existing in a liminal space. You don't know if the treatment is going to work or if you're going to live or die. I felt so altered, so not in my body during treatment. Throughout the grueling process, I often felt like I was floating and falling simultaneously.

5. She does this all in a magical way.

All this ruminating on liminal space and rom-coms led me to the play's title — *Elevada* — a tango move where a partner's feet are elevated off the floor. The images of being elevated, swept off your feet; tripping, stumbling into love; running, floating, and falling away from your trauma; or floating out of your body... these images and themes resound throughout.

So, why direct a rom-com in these perilous times?

At any time — let alone in times like these — it's a risk to love, to fall in love, to reach out despite, or in the midst of, your own personal traumas. To love is an act of activism and hope. And thus, making theatre about love — about falling in love despite the wounds we face in ourselves, our loved ones, and our world — is my direct action for these times.

—*Elevada* Director Susannah Martin

CAST

WES GABRILLO *he/him* (Khalil)

Wes is a theatre actor, artist, and collaborator. Previous works include roles at TheatreFirst, Central Works, Crowded Fire, Los Altos Stage, Palo Alto Players, Hillbarn Theatre, and Bindlestiff Studio. His theatre practice has included delivering health education to diverse communities (Kaiser) and also collaborating in devised works (Urban x Indigenous). Love and gratitude for his family, Charmaine and Zachary, for their patience and support.



KAREN OFFEREINS *she/her*

(June) Karen is returning to Shotgun for her fourth show, after performing in *The Mousetrap*, *Top Girls*, and *Our Town*. She was last seen in Ferocious Lotus' *Two Mile Hollow* and can **next** be seen in Custom Made Theatre Company's *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage* in January, 2020.

SOREN SANTOS *he/him* (Owen)

Soren is an actor and dancer. Recent credits include *REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN* (Crowded Fire); *Charles Francis Chan [...]* (Shotgun Players CSRS); *super:anti:reluctant*, *Luster*, *In Event of Moon Disaster* (Mugwumpin); *Orlando* (Theatre-FIRST); *A Lord of a Ring* (Idiot String). Soren is a Mugwumpin company member. Love to Marlene, and many thanks to Bratwurst for starting his Shotgun journey all those years ago.



SANGO TAJIMA *she/her*

(Ramona) Sango is an Oakland-based artist returning to Shotgun after playing Tori in *Women Laughing Alone with Salad*. Recent credits include *House of Joy* (Cal Shakes); *Metamorphoses* (Berkeley Rep & Guthrie Theater); *In Braunau* (SF Playhouse Sandbox Series); *The Wolves, Shakespeare in Love* (Marin Theatre Company). This is her third Susannah Martin show. TRAINING: BFA, University of Michigan.



PLAYWRIGHT BIO



SHEILA CALLAGHAN *she/her*

is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award, a Jerome Fellowship from the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, a MacDowell Residency, a Cherry Lane Mentorship Fellowship, the

Susan Smith Blackburn Award, and the prestigious Whiting Award. She has taught playwriting at Columbia University, the University of Rochester, the College of New Jersey, Florida State University, and Spalding University. Sheila is an affiliated artist with Clubbed Thumb and a member of the Obie-winning playwright's organization 13P. In 2010, Callaghan was profiled by *Marie Claire* as one of "18 Successful Women Who Are Changing the World." She was also named one of *Variety's* "10 Screenwriters to Watch" of 2010. Sheila was a longtime writer/producer on the hit Showtime comedy *Shameless* and a founder of the feminist activist group The Kilroys.

PRODUCTION TEAM

CASSIE BARNES (LIGHTING DESIGNER) she/her

Cassie is a Bay Area lighting designer working in both theatre and dance. She is a resident designer for Golden Thread Productions and Bay Pointe Ballet. Other companies she frequently designs for include Bayer Ballet, Applegate Dance Company, and Bay Area Children's Theatre. She also works as a lighting technician at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

BRADY BROPHY-HILTON (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) she/her

Brady has been on staff at Shotgun since 2014 as the development and artistic Associate. In addition to her administrative work, she is a freelance director and producer. She has worked with American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, CapStage, Crowded Fire, FaultLine Theater, PCSF, PianoFight, Playwrights Foundation, Theatre Rhino, and Wily West Productions. At Shotgun, she has directed for the Champagne Staged Reading Series: *Collective Rage*, *The Secretaries*, and the upcoming *Sensitive Guys*. This is the second time she has assisted Susannah, previously working together on *The Events*.

ERIN GILLEY (PROJECTION DESIGNER) she/her

Erin Gilley is a director and video projection designer who recently designed the projections for Shotgun Players' *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*. Other notable credits include directing San Francisco's immersive theatre production *The Speakeasy* (Boxcar Theatre), the international digital theatre production *Longitude* (LIFT/elastic future), and *The Technology Cave* in *The Lily's Revenge* (Magic Theatre). Upcoming: directing *At the Periphery* with Crowded Fire/Golden Thread. Erin studied theatre as an undergraduate at Princeton University and received her MFA from Birkbeck, University of London. eringilley.com

NATALIE GREENE (CHOREOGRAPHER / INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHER) she/her

Natalie Greene is a multidisciplinary performing artist who has been working in the Bay Area since 2003. Recent choreography credits include *The Good Person of Szechwan* (Cal Shakes), *Passion* (Custom Made), *The Looking Glass Self 1.0* (CounterPulse), *Cabaret* (Stanford), and *Woman Laughing Alone With Salad* (Shotgun). Natalie teaches dance and theater at the University of San Francisco and is the artistic director of the award-winning devised theater ensemble, Mugwumpin. mugwumpin.org

DEVON LABELLE (PROPS DESIGNER) she/her

Devon is a multidisciplinary artist who focuses on vivid visual and special effects components. In nine short seasons, she has fueled over 100 Bay Area productions with the physical artifacts that make them work. Devon is a resident artist with Crowded Fire Theater and a TBA award-winning props designer. She is the props shop coordinator at San Francisco State University. Check out her blog to see what she makes: giveherprops.wordpress.com. Love to Sam, Jo, and Roscoe.

SARAH ROSE LEONARD (DRAMATURG) she/her

Sarah is so happy to return to Shotgun Players, where she previously dramaturged *Iron Shoes*. She is currently the literary manager at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Before returning to the Bay Area, where she grew up, she was the literary associate at Signature Theatre in New York City. Favorite dramaturgy credits include *The Great Wave* (Berkeley Rep), *Angels in America* (Berkeley Rep), *A Good Neighbor* (Z Space), *In Braunau* (SF Playhouse), *A Tale of Autumn* (Crowded Fire), *You For Me For You* (Crowded Fire), *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre), *Big Love* (Signature Theatre), and *The Hotel Colors* (The Bushwick Starr). She is the dramaturg for the Just Theatre New Play Lab.

SUSANNAH MARTIN (DIRECTOR) she/her

An award-winning director, teacher, and theatre-maker, Susannah's relationship with Shotgun began in 2004 when she conceived and directed an original multi-disciplinary theatre piece on faith in America called *The Faith Project*. Her work has been seen at A.C.T., Boxcar Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Crowded Fire, Cutting Ball, Golden Thread Productions, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Mugwumpin, the Playwright's Foundation, Porchlight Theatre Company, San Francisco Playhouse, TheatreFirst, and Ubuntu Theater Project. Susannah is also a proud company member of Mugwumpin. She is honored to call Shotgun her artistic home. Huge gratitude to Sheila for delving so completely and generously back into her script. susannahmartin.net

ELIZABETH NEWTON (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT) she/her

Elizabeth is originally from Chico, CA, and recently graduated from St. Mary's College with degrees in accounting and technical theatre. She stage managed many shows while attending St. Mary's, but her favorites include *Twelfth Night* and *Cabaret*. *Elevada* is her first professional show post-grad, and she is super excited that it is with Shotgun Players! When not in rehearsal she works as a bookkeeper and grant coordinator at SF Playhouse.

BRI OWENS (STAGE MANAGER) she/her

An Oregonian at heart, Bri was brought to the Bay Area two years ago after accepting a stage management fellowship with American Conservatory Theater. Since completing her fellowship, she has stage managed all around the Bay, with highlights including Chelsea Clinton's *She Persisted The Musical* (Bay Area Children's Theater), *Spaceship* (American Conservatory Theater), *Two Acts of Light and Wonder* (ODC Dance Company), and of course *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* last season at Shotgun Players. Infinite thanks to her Dad, Brennan, and Jordan for their constant unconditional support.

CAITLIN STEINMANN (MASTER ELECTRICIAN) they/them

Caitlin is pleased to be serving as Shotgun's master electrician for a spectacular second season. Caitlin works all over the Bay facilitating theatre, dance, opera, circus, and performances of all kinds in various technical capacities, as well as being a writer and dramaturg. They would be totally lost without the dedication and good humor of their crew and coworkers. They would like to thank Shotgun and you, its supporters, for having guts.

MATT STINES (SOUND DESIGNER) declines to state pronouns

Matt is a San Francisco-based soundman, musician, and self-storage

facilitator. He has taught sound at SF State and presently teaches at Sonoma State and St. Mary's College. He is a stoked Shotgun Company member.

mattstines.wordpress.com

MIKIKO UESUGI (SET DESIGNER) *she/her*

Mikiko designed *KILL THE DEBBIE DOWNERS! KILL THEM! KILL THEM! KILL THEM OFF!*, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*, and *Kiss* for Shotgun Players. She has also designed for Aurora Theater Company, Golden Thread Productions, Word for Word, Crowded Fire, Magic Theatre, Theater Works, ACT M.F.A Program, Berkeley Repertory Theater, and Chanticleer, among others. She is a resident artist at Golden Thread Productions, a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Designers, and the Isadora Duncan Dance Award.

ASHLEY CORSO (COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT / WARDROBE SUPERVISOR) *she/her*

Ashley is a Bay Area-born costumer, wardrobe supervisor, and slow fiber artist. She has a textiles BFA, which has led her to combine her love for performance and costumes with her research surrounding natural dyes and sustainable materials. She is happiest when creating for the stage. This Ashley's first production with Shotgun. She would like to thank family, friends, and mentors for their support.

ashleyreneec.com

DANCE ENSEMBLE

EBONY ARAMAN *she/her*

Originally from Milwaukee, WI, Ebony began training in the performing arts primarily as a violinist and visual artist at the age of four. She has a foundation in a variety of dance techniques and has had the opportunity to train with Milwaukee Ballet, Atlanta Dance Connection, Beijing Dance LDTX, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, and SOULSKIN Dance Company. This is her first theatre production in the Bay Area.

JONAS AQUINO *he/him*

Jonas has been dancing Argentine tango for over 12 years. He was a cast member in *Sex, Women, & Tango*, a dance production in the 2017 San Francisco International Arts Festival at Fort Mason. He and his partner Xiaomin teach tango regularly at the YWCA Berkeley/Oakland. They are organizers of the All-Nighter Milonga at the Beat, one of the longest-running all-night tango social dance events in North America.

ANDY COLLINS *he/him*

Andy started performing as a kid with San Diego Junior Theatre and has been at it ever since. Some of his credits include *Assassins* (Proprietor), *Gypsy* (Herbie), *The Full Monty* (Harold), and *She-Rantulas from Outer Space in 3D* (Harry/Harriet). Special thanks to Billy for all his love and support.

MAGGIE KELLEY CONNARD *she/her*

Maggie graduated with a BA in dance from Point Park University. She teaches rhythm and motion and barre fitness at ODC in San Francisco. Maggie has

performed with dance companies EmSpace Dance, Deborah Slater Dance Theatre, Printz Dance Project, and in local productions of *A Chorus Line*, *Singing in the Rain*, *Chicago*, *Cabaret* (with Shotgun Players!), and *White Christmas*. She is excited to be back on the Ashby Stage!

JASON TORRES HANCOCK *he/him*

Jason is a performing artist with a background as an actor both in the U.S. and in England, and he has performed as a dancer in ballet and modern dance in SF, Denver, Chicago, and NYC. Since 2002, he has created dance/theatre works as a solo artist and for collaborative ensembles in residencies and festivals. He holds a MFA in theatre from Naropa University. He offers body awareness life and movement coaching. jasontorreshancock.com

XIAOMIN JIANG *she/her*

Xiaomin began her Argentine tango journey in 2013 while training to compete in the Argentine Tango USA Championship. She was a semi-finalist in the ensemble tango category as a first-time contestant in 2014. She has been teaching and performing regularly since 2016. She and her partner, Jonas, teach at the YWCA Berkeley/Oakland. They are organizers of the All-Nighter Milonga at the Beat, one of the longest-running all-night tango social dance events in North America.

PAUL MELISH *he/him*

Paul began dancing tango socially 12 years ago in San Francisco. This is his first theatre production. Paul Melish owns Paul Melish Builder and is a general contractor specializing in new homes, modular homes, and major home remodels. paulmelishbuilder.com

MIMU TSUJIMURA *she/her*

Mimu Tsujimura is a performing artist with a passion for music, movement-based storytelling, and collaborative works with visual artists. She has performed with local opera and theatre companies such as West Edge Opera, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Crowded Fire Theater, and Cutting Ball Theater. Mimu has been dancing Argentine tango for six years and is especially grateful to her teachers, Erin Malley and Doruk Golce, for their constant support and affirmation. nakedthespian.com

JESSICA UHER *she/her*

Jessica is a Bay Area native and life-long actor/dancer. Her training includes a BFA in acting from Boston University, physical acting studies at the Academia Dell'Arte in Arezzo, and a foundation of ballet, modern, and jazz. Recent credits include Utopia Theatre's *Everyday Alice* (Isabel), and a three year stint in Boxcar Theatre's immersive spectacle, *The Speakeasy* (Violet, Vivian, Dance Captain).

QUINCI WALLER *she/her*

Quinci has been dancing for over 15 years in all genres, predominately hip-hop, contemporary, and modern jazz. She has two state titles from ADA in hip-hop from 2011 to 2012 and earned a 7th national ranking from ADA in 2012. She joined the Queen Mary University dance team in London, England, in 2016 and has continued to dance in a competitive team setting ever sense returning to the Bay. She has been apart of Shotgun from her artistic directing fellowship onward. She would like to thank Peter for all of his continued support, as well as the Shotgun Players staff and company. She dedicates her performance to her niece, Ellie. Please consider donating to the Ivy Wild Foundation in her memory.

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CAROL AMYX & DONALD KAUFMAN

Carol was a Berkeley resident, a Cal graduate, and a graduate of Boalt Hall, and she practiced law in the Bay Area for over 40 years. She was a confirmed theatergoer, and she enjoyed ballet, opera, music, and cinema. Don was trained as a mathematician, but worked in audio and radio, then for Zoetrope Studios automating film sound production equipment, and then computing. His theatre interests match Carol's. Traveling the world together, hiking its countryside and seeing the art and theatre of its cities filled their remaining recent time. But Shotgun retains its place as their favorite theater.

DEYOE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

DeYoe Wealth Management is a Berkeley-based Registered Investment Advisor that provides seamless, proactive financial planning and investment services to clients throughout the Bay Area. Established by Jonathan K. DeYoe in 2001, DeYoe Wealth Management's mission is to inspire clients to pursue their passions and make meaningful financial decisions that are firmly rooted in their values. Jonathan and his associates work with individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations like the Shotgun Players.

CRAIG & KATHY MOODY

Kathy and Craig are passionate theatergoers and supporters, regularly attending Bay Area theatre. Craig has served and is serving on the boards of several theatre companies in honor of his parents, both professional thespians, who took him to plays from the age of two. By osmosis, Kathy has thoroughly absorbed, over their forty-three-year marriage, the theater bug instilled in Craig by his parents. They both believe live theatre can be a mind-altering, life-changing experience which should be available to all. They are chagrined by the paltry governmental support available to theatre in America and encourage all who read this to donate. They love Shotgun and consider its artistic director a force of nature and its company to be one of the best.

RAGESH TANGRI & DARALYN DURIE

Daralyn, Ragesh, and their daughter Iona have been privileged to experience some amazing theatre here: *Beowulf ... Vera Wilde ... In the Wound ... Of the Earth ... Woyzeck ... The Norman Conquests ... Strangers, Babies ... God's Plot ... Antigone ... Eurydice ... The Coast of Utopia ... The Village Bike ... Iron Shoes ... Arcadia* and (of course) *Hamlet* (Hamlet, Hamlet, Hamlet...). It's a privilege and a pleasure to be a small part of the extended Shotgun Players family, and to both witness and support the brave, challenging, important, and necessary work that the company, staff, actors, and crew are doing to advance and broaden theatre.

BIBI TIPHANE

Bibi hopes you enjoy the beauty and the transformative power of theatre in this and all the plays you see at Shotgun Players. Subscribe, and donate! Follow guytiphane.wordpress.com

PEET'S COFFEE & TEA



Sensitive Guys

WRITTEN BY MJ KAUFMAN

DIRECTED BY BRADY BROPHY-HILTON

January 20 & 21, 7pm

Welcome to the Watson College "Men's Peer Education Group!" In this subversive new comedy, women and gender non-conforming actors play men trying to understand the intricacies of toxic masculinity and privilege. More than preconceptions are flipped when gender gets swapped!

M.A.D DONORS

Thank you to the following people for generously donating to the Make a Difference Program from September 1, 2018, through September 1, 2019.

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THE SHOTGUN PLAYERS MANIFESTO

Shotgun Players is a company of artists determined to create bold, relevant, affordable theatre. We believe in theatre that inspires and challenges audience and artist alike to re-examine our lives, our community, and the ever-changing world around us. We are:

COMPANY

Andy Alabran
Nina Ball

Caleb Cabrera

Kevin Clarke

Valera Coble

Patrick Dooley

Mark Jackson

Nikita Kadam

Heather Kelly-Laws

Devon LaBelle

Liz Hitchcock Lisle

Dave Maier

Susannah Martin

Joanie McBrien

Trish Mulholland

Ray Oppenheimer

Judy Phillips

Richard Reinholdt

Cathleen Riddley

Katja Rivera

Leigh Rondon-Davis

Matt Stines

Michelle Talgarow

Jon Tracy

Megan Trout

Beth Wilmurt

Hanah Zahner-Isenberg

STAFF

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Founding Artistic Director

Liz Hitchcock Lisle

Managing Director

Joanie McBrien

Development Director

Hanah Zahner-Isenberg

Production Manager

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**Box Office & Patron Services
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Chris Swartzell

Technical Director

Leigh Rondon-Davis

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Box Office Associate

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Jo Golub

Mohit Gourisaria

Lyndsey Heaton

Naomi Janowitz

Carolyn Jones

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Scott Sanders

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PLAYING IT FORWARD

Shotgun Players' Legacy Program

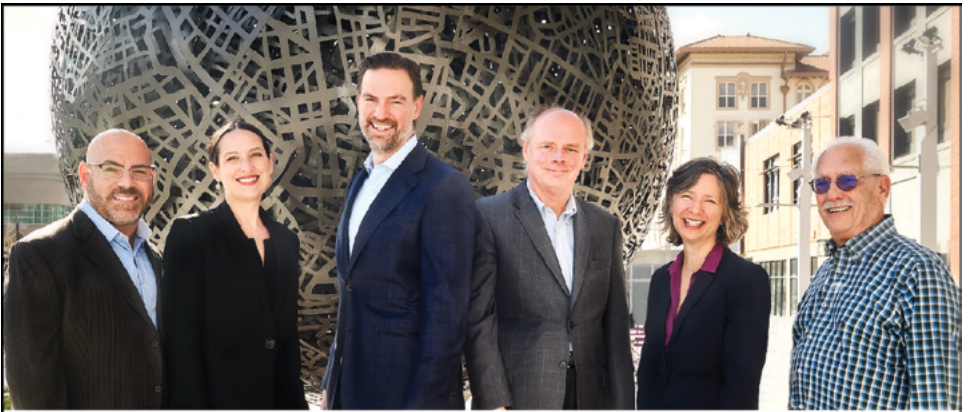
By including Shotgun Players in your estate planning, you ensure that future generations will be part of our artistic community. We have ambitious goals to keep our innovative brand of theatre affordable and accessible for years to come. Your bequest makes it all possible. For more information please contact Joanie McBrien, director of development, at joanie@shotgunplayers.org or 510-841-6500 ext 301.

A legacy gift may reduce estate taxes for your family members.

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to bring
change
for yourself...
for those
around you.”**

—Kimber Lee, *brownsville song*
(b-side for tray)





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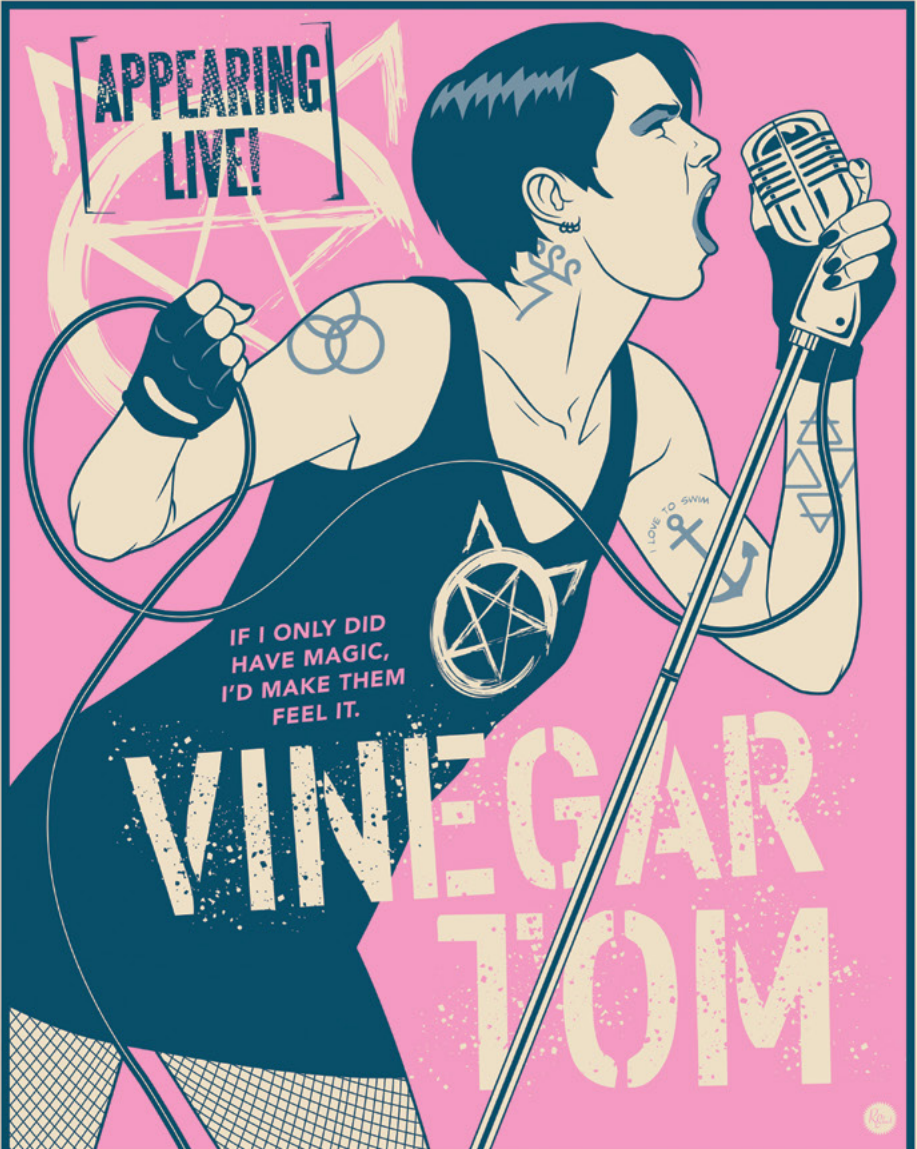
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