SHOTGUN PLAYERS

MAY 16 - JUNE 16 - 2019

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CAST

Sam Jackson
Sarah Mitchell
Elissa Beth Stebbins
Don Wood

PRODUCTION TEAM

Lenny Adler
James Ard
Miyuki Bierlein
Rebecca Castelli
Erin Gilley
Heather Kelly-Laws
Devon LaBelle
Chris Lundahl
Joanie McBrien
Angrette McCloskey
Erin Weins

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Ann Gabor Arancio & Remo Arancio Les & Sue Polgar Sydney Millsap Lauren Kate John McDowell

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Sound Designer
Costume Designer
Dialect Coach
Projection Designer
Stage Manager
Props Designer
Lighting Designer
Director
Set Designer
Costume Assistant

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Peet's Coffee & Tea

KINGS was originally developed and produced by The Public Theatre. Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director. Patrick Willingham, Executive Director. KINGS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Kings features four very nuanced characters that represent different perspectives on politics. Sydney Millsap is the new congresswoman trying to challenge the system. Senator McDowell is a long-time, popular incumbent who excels at working the system to his advantage. Lauren is a lobbyist at the top of her game who knows how to influence and manipulate both politicians and donors. Kate is a rising lobbyist who wants more power.

With the mid-term elections, over 100 women were elected to Congress. There are women who defeated long-time incumbents, women like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who are willing to take a stand against inequities in the political system even if members of her party advise against

it. That's why Sydney Millsap is a character that will be very familiar—and inspirational—to audiences in 2019. As a newly elected member of Congress, she is appalled at the toxic relationship between money and politics. Rather than accept the unrelenting fundraising as a necessary part of her job, she exposes the backroom deals and the compromises that benefit those with wealth. *Kings* addresses a central question in our society: should we accept the current system or dismantle it? What are the consequences?

As the story unfolds, Sydney Millsap encourages the lobbyists and the voters to create the world they want to see. How can we all do that? There are many ways we "vote" every day. Where we buy groceries, where we gather with friends, are all ways of voting with our resources. Today you are choosing to support our theatre. Thank you! In the spirit of grassroots support, I'm inviting each and every audience member to take one extra step by making a donation of \$28. Just \$1 for every year Shotgun has been creating theatre! Help us pay our artists while keeping ticket prices affordable. Stop by our concessions counter. Visit us online. Can't donate? No problem. We are just glad to have you here this evening. But how about contacting California State Senator Nancy Skinner or Assembly Member Buffy Wicks and request more funding for the arts? California is the fifth largest economy on the planet, but ranks 40th in our country for arts support. Here's another system we should change. Let's do this.

CAST

SAM JACKSON (Sydney Millsap) Sam is an SF-based actor, vocalist, and teaching artist. Her most recent acting credits include: Shotgun Players' KILL THE DEBBIE DOWNERS!, SF Playhouse's Graveyard Shift and In Braunau, and TheatreFirst's Between Us: Just One Day. Sam is also a proud company member of Nice Tan Comedy. Sam would like to send love and gratitude to her family and friends for their love, support, and moments of sanity in these trying times.





SARAH MITCHELL (Lauren) Kings marks Sarah's eighth show with Shotgun Players, the first of which was The Farm and the most recent of which was The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence. She has also recently appeared on stage with Aurora Theatre, TheatreFirst, Town Hall, and Berkeley Playhouse. Love and thanks to Jordan Carp.

ELISSA BETH STEBBINS

(Kate) Elissa is delighted to return to Shotgun, having performed previously in Kiss, The Village Bike, Caught, and The Rover. She was also seen last year in In Braunau at SF Playhouse and Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again. with Crowded Fire. She has worked with companies around the Bay Area, including Marin Theatre Company, Cutting Ball, New Conservatory, Custom Made, and Livermore Shakespeare Festival, among others.



DON WOOD (John McDowell) Don's last two Shotgun roles were the janitor in *Dry Land* and Mr. Webb in *Our Town*. He has also most recently worked with Mugwumpin, Anton's Well, and Central Works. He thanks his partner, Michelle Talgarow, for her love and encouragement.



PLAYWRIGHT BIO

SARAH **BURGESS** is playwright and writer for The Tenant (Woodshed Collective) and Naked Angels podcast series, Naked Radio. She has been a writer-in-residence at SPACE on Ryder Farm and the Cape Cod Theatre Project. Burgess is a member of the WP Lab and is an Ars Nova Play Group alum. Her play Dry Powder was a recipient of the 2016 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award and a finalist for the Blackburn prize. Other plays include Camdenside and FAIL: Failures. She lives in Brooklyn.





CARRIED INTEREST FAIRNESS ACT AND LITTLE PIECES OF SALMON

In Kings there are several references to the Carried Interest Fairness Act. This is an actual bill that was originally introduced in 2015, and is just what Sarah Burgess describes in her play—a bill to close loopholes in the tax code for investment services. Not only would this act close the loopholes, it would also assess penalties for underpaying taxes. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D, WI) finally managed to have the act read on the Senate floor in 2017, and it was then referred to the finance committee. Then... nothing. So what happened? Lobbyists. From a December 2017 New York Times article:

A June letter from 22 members of Congress to Representative Kevin Brady of Texas, the Republican chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and Representative Richard D. Neal of Massachusetts, its top Democrat, argued that carried interest was not a loophole and that curbing it would be bad for the economy and harmful to business.

Throughout the year, financial contributions from the securities and investment industries flowed to Mr. Brady, Speaker Paul D. Ryan, Senator Orrin G. Hatch, the Republican chairman of the finance committee, and Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader... Mike Sommers, the head of the American



Investment Council and top lobbyist on the carried interest issue, said this year was the most proactive his group has been on it since 2012 when Mitt Romney, a former private equity executive, ran for president.

Sarah Burgess also includes references to rules stipulating that lobbyists and donors are not allowed to purchase meals for politicians. However, appetizers are totally fine. Sydney Millsap describes how she's been living on 'little pieces of salmon' by attending so many fundraisers. In an interview with Town & Country playwright Sarah Burgess comments:

I am from the suburbs of D.C., and my parents were in the military and also worked at different points in the public relations sector, and at one point, my dad briefly worked for a congressman. So, I always felt a connection to D.C. and the people there, and I always had wanted to write about the people there. I tried to write about the Pentagon for a while, but it proved a little difficult. And then, about two years ago, I read something about these fundraising retreats that lawmakers do, there are a lot of firms that take lawmakers out of D.C. to Napa or golf courses in South Carolina, and that just seemed, to be honest, very funny to me. Something about these prominent and successful people having to gather together to do these activities under the pretense of fundraising—that was something that stayed with me, and I think that's what put me on to writing about Washington.

PRODUCTION TEAM

LENNY ADLER (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Lenny is a production assistant and crew member based in the Bay Area. She has been involved with several San Francisco State productions and three seasons at Shotgun Players. Some of her past credits include A Little Night Music, Iron Shoes, and Dry Land.

JAMES ARD (SOUND DESIGNER)

Ard is a San Francisco-based designer, noisemaker, mechanic, broadcast artist, and theatre vagrant, who composes soundscapes and music for humans, dogs, parrots, and bicycles. Ard's design has been heard in collaborations with Cutting Ball Theater, Aurora Theatre Company, and A.C.T.'s MFA program. Ard is a resident artist with both Golden Thread Productions and Crowded Fire Theater

MIYUKI BIERLEIN (COSTUME DESIGNER)

Miyuki has been a theatrical collaborator in the Bay Area since 2008. *Kings* is her third costume design for Shotgun Players; she previously designed for *Kiss* and *Blasted*. Additional credits include works with UC Berkeley, Golden Thread, TheatreFirst, and Crowded Fire.

REBECCA CASTELLI (DIALECT COACH)

Rebecca is a voice teacher and dialect coach, as well as a performer. Besides teaching out of her private studio, she currently teaches theatre classes at Berkeley Repertory School of Theatre. Rebecca has dialect coached with local theaters, including SF Playhouse, Shotgun Players, Theatre Rhinoceros, Custom Made Theatre, and Town Hall Theatre. She is a member of The Incidentalists, a theatre group that improvises full-length plays.

ERIN GILLEY (PROJECTION DESIGNER)

Erin 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). Erin studied theatre as an undergraduate at Princeton University and received her MFA from Birkbeck, University of London. eringilley.com

HEATHER KELLY-LAWS (STAGE MANAGER)

Heather is a stage manager, San Francisco native, and award-winning mixtape-maker. A company member since 2017, she has worked on over a dozen Shotgun productions, big and small, over the past four years. Favorites include

Eurydice, The Black Rider, and Dry Land. She used to be with it, but then they changed what it was.

DEVON LABELLE (PROPS DESIGNER)

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.

CHRIS LUNDAHL (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

Chris is a lighting designer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Recent credits include: Gentleman Caller (NCTC), Transfers (Crowded Fire Theatre); La Serva Padrona, Savitri, The Bear (Merola Opera), All Aboard, The Musical (Off-Broadway); Rock of Ages, The Little Mermaid, Titanic, the Musical (Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater). Chris was also the projection designer for Vietgone (A.C.T.). **lundahldesigns.com**

JOANIE MCBRIEN (DIRECTOR)

Joanie has been an artistic company member/dramaturg since 2001 and the director of development since 2004. Previous directing credits include *The Vampires, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Three Musketeers,* and *Grand Concourse*. She also co-directed *Troilus & Cressida* and *King Lear* with Patrick Dooley. She has worked as a dramaturg on several productions over the years including *The Coast of Utopia* trilogy. Much love & gratitude to Dave. Feklar.

ANGRETTE MCCLOSKEY (SET DESIGNER)

Angrette is a San Francisco-based scenic designer working in theatre, live events, and public spaces. Recent Bay Area credits include Weightless (Z Space & A.C.T.), Creditors (Aurora), You Mean to Do Me Harm (SF Playhouse), For You (YBCA), and Rocky Horror Picture Show (Ray Of Light). Previous Shotgun designs include Dry Land and The Events. Angrette holds a PhD in theatre & performance studies from Stanford, and is a lecturer at San Jose State. angrette.com

CAITLIN STEINMANN (MASTER ELECTRICIAN)

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.



We give our actors just enough staging and tech to get started, and then we let adrenaline do the rest!

BEFORE & OVER

CO-PRESENTED WITH **CAMPO SANTO**WRITTEN BY **STAR FINCH**DIRECTED BY **SEAN SAN JOSE**

June 10 & 11, 7pm

Remember the old Bernal Heights? Not the one full of joggers and little dogs. Who gets to flourish and who has to "get by" comes under the microscope in this new play by local luminary, Star Finch.

PRODUCTION SPONSORS

ANN GABOR ARANCIO & REMO ARANCIO

Ann and Remo first discovered Shotgun Players in the basement of LaVal's pizzeria. From the beginning they admired Shotgun's innovative, daring style of theatre; they are always willing to experiment. Ann joined the board of directors and worked closely with Patrick Dooley for several seasons. Shotgun Players is theatre with great heart. You can meet Ann and Remo at any opening night for a Shotgun Players production. We never miss it.

LES & SUE POLGAR

Les and Sue Polgar have been enthusiastic supporters of Shotgun since 1996 (in the basement of La Val's Pizza). As residents of Lafayette, their goal is to keep bringing more friends from "beyond the tunnel" to this exciting theatre group.

SEASON SPONSORS

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 ... Antigonick ... 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.

GUY TIPHANE

Ghee is clarified butter and so not meta; one message: subscribe; the rest is churned at guy.tiphane.orgtimes... He writes at **guytiphane.wordpress.com**

PEET'S COFFEE & TEA



Shotgun's Make a Difference (M.A.D.) program supports the next generation of artists and audience members.



M.A.D. TIX

Because high ticket prices can be a barrier to young folks, Shotgun offers \$7 M.A.D. tickets (less than a movie!) to anyone 25 and younger. Last year we sold nearly 1,500 M.A.D. tickets—almost 10% of our whole audience.



M.A.D. FELLOWS

Lasting 3–9 months, M.A.D. fellowships give many young people their first paycheck in theatre while they collaborate with professionals from our artistic, administrative, and production teams.



M.A.D. START-UPS

Whether it's work trade for rehearsal space or advice on how to write a press release, Shotgun is eager to support fledgling companies because we appreciate how important they are to a healthy art ecosystem.

JOIN THE EFFORT!

You can help us support the next generation of theatre! \$20 subsidizes a single ticket for a young person. \$100 gives them access to the whole season. Donate online at shotgunplayers.org—or at our concenssions counter. The more you give the more we can pay it forward.

M.A.D DONORS

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

\$5,000+

Donna Ano • Mrs. Mary L. Bianco at the Moca Foundation

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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:

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

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Patrick Dooley Founding Artistic Director Liz Hitchcock Lisle Managing Director Joanie McBrien **Development Director** Hanah Zahner-Isenberg **Production Manager** Shokai Sinclair Marketing & Communications Director Amy Langer

Box Office & Patron Services

Brady Brophy-Hilton **Development & Artistic Associate** Chris Swartzell Technical Director Leigh Rondon-Davis M.A.D. Program Coordinator / C.S.R.S. Coordinator Daniel Alley **Box Office Associate** Jacinta Sutphin **Accounting Associate** Trish Mulholland **Casting Director**

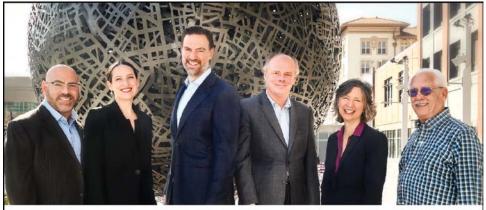
BOARD

Marc Chun Tony Drummond Jo Golub Mohit Gourisaria Lyndsey Heaton

Manager

Naomi Janowitz Carolyn Jones Richard Nelson Pepi Ross Maggie Salop

Scott Sanders Ragesh Tangri BiBi Tiphane Tamara White Miki Yamamoto



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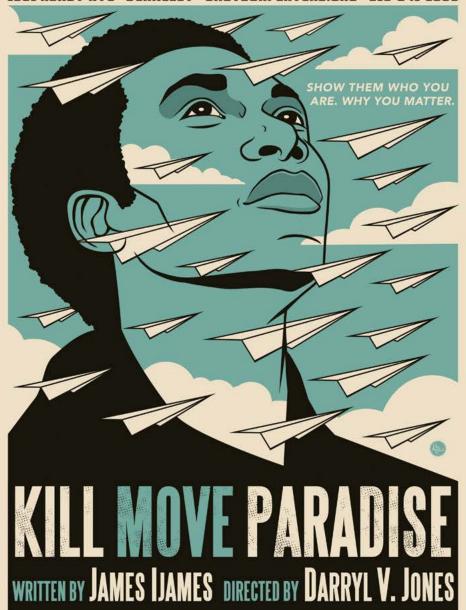
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