

A Z Space & Word for Word Production

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS



ANNIVERSARY!

AUGUST 8 TO SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

STORIES BY

TOBIAS WOLFF

"DEEP KISS"

directed by Joel Mullennix

AND **GEORGE SAUNDERS**

"VICTORY LAP"

directed by Delia MacDougall



COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM



DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

Tobias Wolff is one of the great masters of the short story. He has a remarkable ability to express deep truths of the human condition and to do so with great warmth, humor, and compassion. This particular story, "Deep Kiss," not only explores the beauty and power of a young love and of a kiss (when it's the right kiss) but of the solace that touch and connection with another person provides, perhaps particularly in times of anguish. Furthermore, it is a story about how we sometimes carry those we love with us all our lives. Their physical presence may leave us, but our feelings for them remain. It is an acknowledgment of an essential loneliness of our inner lives, of conflicting and contradictory desires and impulses within us, of secrets and longing of which others may know nothing.

—Joel Mullennix, Director, "Deep Kiss"



Joel Mullennix has directed a number of Word For Word's most successful productions, including *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout, *More Stories* by Tobias Wolff, *Stories* by Alice Munro, and "Which Is More Than I Can Say About Some People" by Lorrie Moore. Additionally, he directed *Acid Test* by Lynne Kaufman, the long running one man show starring Warren David Keith; and *Family Alchemy*, featuring the works of Bernard Malamud and Grace Paley, for A Traveling Jewish Theatre. Joel has also directed *A View From the Bridge*; *The Cherry Orchard*; *Our Lady of 121st Street*, by Stephen Adly Giurgis; *Sons of the Prophet* by Steven Karam; and just directed *Romeo and Juliet* at Chabot College for the second time. He is thrilled to be working with these truly great writers and with the wonderful Delia MacDougall. He would like to express his gratitude to Sue Harloe and JoAnne Winter for including him in so many fine projects and his love to all of the women of Word for Word. It's been a remarkable 25 years!



Can goodness win?

For George Saunders' character in his short story, "Victory Lap," 15-year-old Allison Pope, the answer is simple, "To do good, you just have to decide to do good. You have to be brave." That answer, Saunders recalls, was the beginning of the story. "As soon as she said that, I started to get the plot. As an author, you say, 'hmm really? Let's find out if that's true.'"

Like Virginia Woolf's stream of consciousness, Saunders inhabits the "mind state" of his characters—that never ending negotiation each of us has with ourselves. Here too is found the presence of those who have helped form those thoughts and the theories adopted as a way to channel our thoughts to meet a desired end—a multitude of causal effects that inform that decision "to do good." Saunders approaches this investigation with humor and empathy; the kindness he shows towards our human failings seems to me an act of grace.

Today, when it seems that a darkening divide has spread across our nation, it can often seem an act of bravery to do good. And that decision, more urgent now than ever.

—Delia MacDougall, Director, "Victory Lap"



Delia MacDougall is an actor, director, and Charter Member of Word for Word. Delia has directed a number of productions for the company including: *Winesburg, Ohio* and *In Friendship* (Critics Circle Award winners for best production), *Oil! The Ride* (Critics Circle Nomination for best production), *Immortal Heart*, *Mrs. Dalloway's Party*, *The Confessions of Madame Psyche*, and *The Falling Girl*. She has also directed for A.C.T., Shotgun Players, Marin Shakespeare Company, The Harbor Theater, and SFSU. Delia is happy to be celebrating Word for Word's 25 years with the amazing women of the Charter Group, and with Joel Mullennix with whom she created Industrial Strength Productions years before the birth of Word for Word. To lifelong friends and the creation of art; I am so very thankful.



ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

We have a saying around here:
25 years in theatre
equals 100 human years.

We are stunned and proud to be celebrating our 25th Anniversary.

As fanatical language devotees, we find ourselves uncharacteristically without the right words. Because, really, how can we accurately express the gratitude for each and every person—and there are many, many, *many* of you—who has made this company what it is, and allowed us not only to survive, but thrive these 25 years. Authors, actors, designers, directors, technicians, staff, our loyal audiences, and our wonderful Charter Group. It's been said and said, but we really couldn't do this without all of you. So let us quote one of the ultimate wordsmiths:

"I can no other answer make but thanks,
And thanks; and ever oft good turns,
Are shuffled off with such uncurrent pay..."
—William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

Forever grateful,

Sue and JoAnne

A special thank you

to Tobias Wolff and George Saunders for their many
generosities. Without them, we would not
have the show you are
about to see.



JoAnne Winter (Artistic Director, Word for Word) has been a theatre artist in the Bay Area for over thirty years. Before founding Word for Word with Susan Harloe in 1993, she was a

freelance actor, working at many local theaters including Marin Theatre Company, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Magic Theatre, and California Shakespeare Theater. In addition to acting and directing with Word for Word, she oversees the Youth Arts Program, which takes the Word for Word process into schools all over Northern California. She is eternally grateful to her family for supporting this crazy, beautiful endeavor and to Susan and all her sisters in Word for Word for so many years of creative adventures.



Susan Harloe (Artistic Director, Word for Word) is a cast member of *Anniversary!*, see her bio on page 7 of this program.

PRESENTED BY **Z SPACE & WORD FOR WORD**

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS



ANNIVERSARY!

STORIES BY TOBIAS WOLFF AND GEORGE SAUNDERS
AUGUST 8 TO SEPTEMBER 2, 2018



COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM



WORD FOR WORD



Producers/Associate Producers:
Anonymous, Constance Bernstein,
Eileen & Andrew Fisher, Arlene Getz, and Gail Sinuefield

BY TOBIAS WOLFF

BY GEORGE SAUNDERS

"DEEP KISS"

"VICTORY LAP"

Directed by Joel Mullennix

Directed by Delia MacDougall

Stage Manager: Karen Runk*

CAST LIST

Molly Benson* *Ensemble*
Adam Elder *Joe Reed*
Paul Finocchiaro *Joe's Father, Mr. Moore*
Blythe de Oliveira Foster* *Mary Claude Moore*
Susan Harloe* *Joe's Mother*
Isabel Langen *Ensemble*
Alexander Pannullo* *Ensemble*
Mohammad Shehata* *Ensemble*

CAST LIST

Molly Benson* *Alison's Mom/Ensemble*
Adam Elder *Alison's Dad/Ensemble*
Paul Finocchiaro *Kyle's Dad/Ensemble*
Blythe de Oliveira Foster* *Ensemble*
Susan Harloe* *Kyle's Mom /Ensemble*
Isabel Langen *Alison Pope*
Alexander Pannullo* *Kyle Boot*
Mohammad Shehata* *The Guy*



There will be a 15-minute intermission.



*Actors Equity Association +Word for Word Associate Artist Group

DESIGNERS

Scenic Design: Jacquelyn Scott
Lighting Design: Jim Cave
Costume Design: Callie Floor**
Props Design: Mia Baxter
Vocal Consultant: Stephanie Hunt
Choreography: Andrea Weber

** United Scenic Artists

Graphic Design: Randall Ann Homan
Press Agent: David Hyry & Assoc.

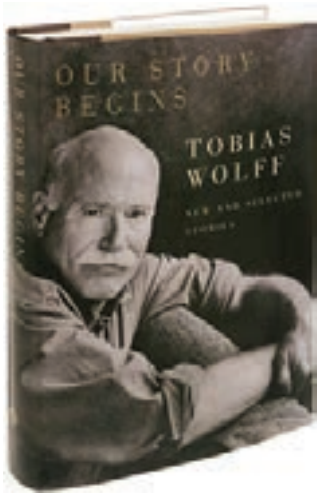
PRODUCTION

Production Manager: Jim Cave
Assistant Production Manager: Annette Koehn
Technical Director: Colm McNally
Production Assistant: Jenna Stein-Corman
Rehearsal Assistant: Francisco Rodriguez
Master Electrician: Brittany Mellerson
Light Board Programmers:
Brittany Mellerson, Miles Young
Light Board Op / House Technician: Miles Young
Electricians: Miles Young, David Lynch, Apollonia Blink
Master Carpenter: Dave Gardner
Carpenters: Loid Loid, Sean Kramer, James Washburn
Costume Assistant: Victoria Mortimer
Scenic Painter: Vola Ruben

Word for Word Artistic Directors JoAnne Winter and Susan Harloe

Word for Word is a Program of Z Space | Executive Artistic Director, Lisa Steindler

ANNIVERSARY! AUTHORS

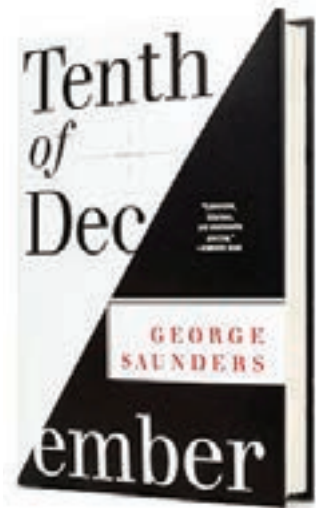


Tobias Wolff (author, "Deep Kiss") is an American writer best known for his short stories and memoirs, particularly *This Boy's Life: A Memoir* (1989, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Award) and *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War* (1994). Other works include *The Barracks Thief* (PEN/Faulkner Award), *Back in the World*, *In the Garden of the North American Martyrs*, *The Night In Question*, *Our Story Begins: New and Selected Stories* (The Story Prize), and *Old School*. His work has been anthologized in many, many collections, and published in *The New Yorker*, among other magazines. Other awards include the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, the Stone Award for Lifetime Literary Achievement, The Whiting Award for Fiction and Nonfiction, and the Rea Award for Excellence in the Short Story. In 2015, Tobias Wolff received a National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama.

Word for Word previously performed "Bullet in the Brain," "Lady's Dream," "In the Garden of the North American Martyrs," "Sanity," "Down to Bone," and "Firelight."

George Saunders (author, "Victory Lap") is a 2006 MacArthur Fellow and the author of *Tenth of December*, a finalist for the National Book Award, and the winner of the inaugural Folio Prize (for the best work of fiction in English) and the Story Prize (best short story collection). His recent novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*, a #1 New York Times Bestseller, won the 2018 Man-Booker Prize. He teaches at Syracuse University.

Word for Word participated in readings of *Lincoln in the Bardo* at Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and at Shakespeare and Company in Paris.



AUG 15 AN EVENING WITH TOBIAS WOLFF AND GEORGE SAUNDERS, POST-SHOW CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHORS!

Moderated by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Z Space Playwright-in-Residence. Tickets at zspace.org or 415-626-0453.



Tobias Wolff
Photo: Elena Seibert



George Saunders
Photo: Claire Aftel



Peter Sinn Nachtrieb
Photo: Billy Winters

Permission for "Deep Kiss" and "Victory Lap" generously given by Tobias Wolff and George Saunders



ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Molly Benson, a Bay Area actor, director, and voiceover actor, is thrilled to be working with Word for Word once again. Molly graduated with a BA in theater and received the NASH Drama Award from Oberlin College in 2001. She became an Associate Artist with Word for Word after acting in their full production of *Food Stories* and has since done numerous staged readings with their Off the Page series. Other theater companies she has worked with include Theaterworks (*Snow Falling on Cedars*), Cutting Ball (*Ondine*), Re:ACT (*Things Reveal Themselves Passing Away*), as well as Custom Made, Dark Porch, Atmosphere, CalShakes, Shotgun Players, No Nude Men, PianoFight, and Killing My Lobster. Molly is a company member with PianoFight Productions and a founding member of The Bowstring Collective. Much love and gratitude to her family for all their support and help, which allows her to be a mom and theater artist all at once. mollyrbenson.com

Adam Elder is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York, where he studied under master teacher Bill Esper. His Bay Area credits include San Francisco Playhouse's *On Clover Road*, Shotgun Players' *Nora*, and Roustabout Theater Company's *Betrayal* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. Adam has performed several times in Word for Word's Off the Page staged reading series and is excited to be working for the first time in one of their main stage productions.

Paul Finocchiaro has performed at A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, The Magic Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, and Eureka Theatre. He has received four Bay Area Critics Awards for his acting. With Word For Word he has appeared in *A Child's Christmas In Wales*, *The Loudest Voice*, *The Bunchgrass Edge Of The World*, *More Than Human*, *Communist*, *Stories By Tobias Wolff*, *Strangers We Know*, *Angel Face*, *More Stories By Tobias Wolff*, *Olive Kitteridge*, *The Islanders*, *In Friendship*, *Stories By Alice Munro*, and *Holiday High Jinx*. He has taught acting at Studio A.C.T for 30 years.

Blythe de Oliveira Foster has worked with American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Rep, Aurora Theatre, Shotgun Players, Marin Theatre Company, San Jose Rep, TheatreWorks, and foolsFURY. New York acting credits: Classic Stage Company, The Lion Theatre at Theatre Row, and The Bushwick Starr and Repertorio Español with Caborca. Blythe holds an MFA in Acting from Columbia University. In 2015, she co-devised, dramaturged and performed the award-winning Hollywood Fringe Festival piece *La La La Strada*. Blythe has taught acting, voice, and new play development at University of California Santa Barbara and will be designated as a Linklater Voice Teacher in January. She is thrilled to be part of the Word for Word team on this anniversary production!

Susan Harloe is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Word for Word. She has originated roles in many of the company's productions (*The Standard of Living*, *Rose-Johnny*, *In the Garden of the North American Martyrs*, *Dolly*, *The Falling Girl*, etc.), and is also the creator and manager of Word for Word's France tour. She has an MFA from U.C. Davis, an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh, and a BA from San Francisco State University. Thanks to all for 25 action-packed years! (This show is dedicated to her brother John, who was a bibliophile of the first degree).

Isabel Langen is making her Word for Word debut. Her recent credits include #2 in *The Wolves* (Marin Theatre Company), and Pearl in *Bull in a China Shop* (Mendocino Theatre Company). She received her BFA in 2017 from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she studied Commedia dell'Arte in Florence, Irish Theatre in Dublin, Shakespeare at RADA in London, and Brecht in Berlin. isabellangen.com

Alexander Pannullo is excited to be making his Bay Area theatre debut. He is a recent graduate from UC San Diego with a degree in Political Science. His regional theatre credits include *Mud Blue Sky* (Jonathan) and *Junie B Jones Is Not a Crook* (Handsome Warren) at B Street Theatre. Some of his favorite roles include George (*Our Town*), Peter (*Diary of Anne Frank*) and Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*). He recently was seen in A&E's *Mary Kay Letourneau's Biography* and will be featured in Pauly Shore's upcoming movie documentary. He has done more than one movie/modeling job as a Harry Potter look-alike. alexanderpannullo.com

Mohammad Shehata began acting professionally in the Bay Area in May of 2015. His work, since then includes *Disgraced* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *In Braunau* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Guards at the Taj* (Capital Stage), *Waiting for Godot* [Bay Area Critics Circle Award], *Death of a Salesman*, *Rashomon* (Ubuntu Theater Project), and *Romeo and Juliet* (We Players). Other favorite productions include *Three Sisters*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, *Julius Caesar*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Ladies of the Camellias*, *Mauritius*, *The Sign in Sydney Brustein's Window*, and *Lear* by Young Jean Lee. He has understudied with the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and SF Shakespeare Festival, and has workshopped new works by Dipika Guha and Han Ong at the Magic Theatre. mohammadshehataactor.com

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Mia Baxter (Props Design) Mia is a Production Manager, visual artist, and props artisan who has been working in Bay Area theatre for over a decade. She's proud to have started her professional career with Word For Word's *Angel Face*. She's had the pleasure of collaborating with: Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Cal Shakes, Virago Theatre, Banana Bag & Bodice, Music Circus, and Shotgun Theatre among many others. She's most recently worked with Susannah Martin at SF Playhouse and D'Arcy Drollinger at SF Oasis.

Jim Cave (Production Manager, Lighting Design) Jim has designed lights for numerous Word for Word productions, most recently *Lucia Berlin: Stories*, *All Aunt Hagar's Children* and *Holiday High Jinx*. He directed Colm Toibin's *Silence* for Word for Word and Erling Wold's opera *UKSUS*, based on the life and work of Russian absurdist Daniil Kharms. He is a resident artist with Golden Thread Productions, a member of The Obelisk Club (up-coming in December at Woody Woodman's Finger Palace in Berkeley), and a card carrying Communist.

Callie Floor (Costume Design) Since coming to the Bay Area in 1987, Callie Floor has designed for many theaters, including A.C.T., Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, California Shakespeare Theatre, Zaccho Dance Theatre, and Theatre of Yugen. Recent projects include *Seeing Red* for The San Francisco Mime Troupe. She is happy to return to Word for Word having last designed *Smut* and *Stories by Emma Donoghue and Colm Toibin*. Ms. Floor earned her BFA from the University of Utah and her Higher Diploma in Theatre Design from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College, London. She is the Costume Rentals Supervisor for A.C.T. and resident designer for California Revels.

Sara Huddleston (Sound Design) Sara is thrilled to return to Word for Word where she previously designed sound for *Three on a Party*. Recent Bay Area sound design credits include: *The Gangster of Love*, *Reel to Reel*, *Grandeur*, *Fool for Love*, *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre); *Straight White Men*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and *Gem of the Ocean* (Marin Theatre Company); *I Call My Brothers* (Crowded Fire), and *Autobiography of a Terrorist* (Golden Thread Productions). Next up: *Kiss* (Shotgun Players) and *Oslo* (MTC).

Stephanie Hunt (Vocal Consultant) is a Charter Member of Word for Word. She was the dialect and vocal coach for Word for Word's production of *Olive Kitteridge* and the California Shakespeare/Word for Word production of John Steinbeck's *Pastures of Heaven* by playwright Octavio Solis. She is a certified Instructor of Fitzmaurice Voicework and teaches acting, voice, and text at Stanford University, University of San Francisco, and the Summer Training Congress at A.C.T. Stephanie is also an actor and director and has performed many roles with Word for Word.

Annette Koehn (Assistant Production Manager) is a Bay Area based artist currently focusing on producing and arts management. Annette is a member of Word for Word's Associate Artist Group and producer/production manager for Word for Word's Off the Page Reading Series. Favorite credits include: *Love Is A Dirty Word* (Z Space; Associate Producer), *Legend of the Little Mermaid* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Associate Producer/Director), *Crave*

(Winnetonka Theater, Kansas City; Director), *How A Mountain Was Made* (Word for Word; Production Manager) *White*, (Shotgun; Stage Manager), *Promiscuous Cities* (A.C.T. Conservatory; Stage Manager), *black odyssey* (Cal Shakes; Assistant Stage Manager), *The Prince of Egypt* (TheatreWorks; Production Assistant), *Then She Fell* (Third Rail Projects, NYC; Production Assistant).

Karen Runk (Stage Manager) moved to SF with the intention of only staying for a few months... Two decades later she's still here! This is largely due to the talented folks at the SF Mime Troupe, where Runk is the resident Production Stage Manager, and thanks to Golden Thread Productions where she is a Resident Artist as of 2018, but mostly due to rent control! Runk has also stage managed with the Magic Theatre, SFShakes, Intersection for the Arts, and African American Shakespeare Company. Runk's excited to be part of the *Anniversary!* production, even though she is a relative newcomer!

Jacquelyn Scott (Scenic Design) is thrilled to return to Word for Word after having designed *Lucia Berlin: Stories*, *How A Mountain Was Made*, *Night Vision and Silence*, *Stories by Alice Munro*, and *You Know When The Men Are Gone*. Jackie works as a scenic designer and props designer for theaters and film companies across the Bay Area. Previous credits include *Born Yesterday*, *A Christmas Story*, *La Cage Aux Folles* at SF Playhouse, *John* at A.C.T. *Grandeur*, *The Eva Trilogy*, *Fool for Love*, and *Buried Child* at Magic Theatre.

Jenna Stein-Corman (Production Assistant) is from the Bay Area and is a rising junior at Sarah Lawrence College. She has studied theatre for most of her life. Locally, Jenna has worked as a teacher at Bay Area Children's Theatre and as an assistant stage manager with the San Francisco Mime Troupe. In college she has stage-managed *Love and Information* and *She Kills Monsters*. Jenna is also a writer and performer in Feral Christine, Sarah Lawrence's premier improv and sketch comedy team. This is Jenna's first time working with Word For Word, and she is excited to be a part of the team!

Andrea Weber (Choreography) specializes in staging and fight direction for theater. Recent projects with Word for Word include *How a Mountain Was Made* and *All Aunt Hagar's Children*. Ms. Weber's recent fight direction includes projects for Z Space Playwright-in-Residence Peter Nachtrieb (*The Totalitarians*) and Theater Lunatic (*MacBeth*). She has been a choreographer and movement coach for numerous Word for Word theater company productions since 2001 and is a former company member of the Shotgun Players. Ms. Weber has a MFA in theater and dance from University of Arizona.

Special Thanks: San Francisco Mime Troupe, Luise Custer, Nancy Shelby, Sophie Cate, Madison Looby, Dan Peterson, Karen Benson and Steve Totheroh, Dan Benson, Ken and Diane Peterson, Emily Serdahl, Elina Zimmerman, Laura Burrows, Eric Hart, Cassie Powell and Eddie Kurtz, Isadora Orpheus Flax, IDEA (International Dialects of English), Amy Hosa, and the actors in the first readings: Rosie Hallett, Søren Oliver, Ryan Tasker, JoAnne Winter, Dodds Delzell, Robert Ernst, Gendell Hing-Hernandez, David Moore, and Abigail Pañares.



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*Happy 25th Anniversary
to Word for Word!*

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MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 7 PM

ON Z SPACE'S MAIN STAGE

What a Long, Great Road It's Been...

A RETROSPECTIVE AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join Word for Word for a special retrospective evening celebrating our 25th Anniversary. The entire Charter Group will present milestones from our 25-year history, including a retrospective slide show and performance snippets from some of our favorite stories over the years.

Mix and Mingle with us afterwards,
we're throwing a reception to celebrate!



Tickets at zspace.com

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

CHARTER MEMBER PROFILES

The two stories we've chosen to represent our 25th anniversary feature teens just starting out on life's journey. As we look back on our 25 years—and our own “coming of age”—we remember why we love theater so, and who we were when that spark was ignited. Here we are: this is who we are, who we were, and what we've created. 25 years is a long great road (come see our retrospective on August 27!), and while we weren't teenagers 25 years ago, we remember that fresh, optimistic view of the future. This is how we feel each time we create a new show.



CHARTER MEMBER **SHEILA BALTER**

When I asked my grandmother about her cousin in the Yiddish theater, she replied, "Oh, it was awful." Clearly not respectable.

Theater has been in my blood from an early age and my own road to it circuitous.

If we had not finally found each other, theater and me,

I'm not sure where I'd be today.

The same goes for Word for Word.

Actor

"The Loudest Voice"

by **GRACE PALEY**



L-R: Jeri Lynn Cohen, Andy Murray, Jim Friedman, Sheila Balter. Photo: Jaime Kibben

Actor

**"Which Is More Than I Can Say
About Some People"**

by **LORRIE MOORE**



Photo: Clayton Lord

Actor

"The Islanders"

by **ANDREW SEAN GREER**



Andrew Sean Greer
Photo: Kaleil Roberts



CHARTER MEMBER **JERI LYNN COHEN**

How I came to theater:
Because my mother told me not to.
How I came to Word for Word:
I saw a premiere in 1993 of Dorothy Parker's
"The Standard of Living" with Sue and JoAnne
and said, "How can I get involved?"

Actor

"Lucia Berlin: Stories"

by **LUCIA BERLIN**



Photo: Julie Schuchard

Actor

"The Confessions of Madame Psyche"

by **DOROTHY BRYANT**



Photo: Jaime Kibben

Actor

"Friend of My Youth"

by **ALICE MUNRO**



L-R: Jeri Lynn Cohen, JoAnne Winter.
Photo: Jaime Kibben



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **SUSAN HARLOE**

Some things just sweep you away.

Theater was that thing for me.
I have always loved reading, too,
and I am stunned by my good luck
in marrying these two passions.

Actor

"The Standard of Living"

by **DOROTHY PARKER**



L-R: Susan Harloe, JoAnne Winter
Photo: Benjamin Winter

Actor

**"In the Garden of the North
American Martyrs"**

by **TOBIAS WOLFF**



L-R: Susan Harloe, Nancy Shelby
Photo: Jaime Kibben

Producer

"Sonny's Blues"

by **JAMES BALDWIN**



Da'Mon Vann in Lorraine Hansberry Theater
co-production. Photo: Mark Leialoha



CHARTER MEMBER **STEPHANIE HUNT**

Before being invited to join the Charter Group, I acted in the School and Library Tour, playing the Bi-Coloured Python Rock Snake and the Giraffe in Rudyard Kipling's *The Elephant's Child*, touring public libraries and elementary schools in performances that were free for children. I wore a scaly green polyester blouse. (My characterization of the Snake was an excitable version of Anthony Hopkins' character in *Remains of the Day*). The Elephant Child's nose was a slinky that grew when pulled on by the Crocodile. We were rock stars in the libraries. Performing for children is great training because you must be truthful and keep their attention. You directly witness the power of theater when you perform for them.

Actor in

"Oil! Chapter One: The Ride"

by **UPTON SINCLAIR**



L-R Gendell Hing-Hernandez, Max Napier, Robert Parsons, Stephanie Hunt. Photo: Mark Leialoha

Director

"All Aunt Hagar's Children"

by **EDWARD P. JONES**



L-R Belva Davis, Edward P. Jones, Nadine Mozon, Stephanie Hunt. Photo: Julie Schuchard

Actor

"Silence"

by **COLM TOIBIN**



Photo: Julie Schuchard



CHARTER MEMBER **AMY KOSSOW**

The night before the Bar exam, my father says, "Don't study anymore, I'm taking you to the theater." Angel Moment #1: Ian McKellen randomly chooses me to come on stage. I suddenly know: "I can do this, not as he does it, but what he does." I take the Bar in a bit of daze. Angel #2: The next day, I walk into the nearest drama department. and tell the head of the MFA program that I need to study with him. He tells me a student just dropped out and there is an opening... Angel #3: I move to San Francisco with my new MFA, meet David Dower and help him invent the Z Space Studio. WFW Angels: the magical night of the very first Word for Word story, and I meet Sue and JoAnne. The rest is history.

Actor

"Pastures of Heaven"

by **JOHN STEINBECK**



Co-production with Cal Shakes

Actor

"The Bunchgrass Edge of the World"

by **ANNIE PROULX**



Photo: John O'Hara

Director

"36 Stories by Sam Shepard"

by **SAM SHEPARD**



Photo: Mark Leialoha



CHARTER MEMBER **DELIA MACDOUGALL**

When I was a child my mother would make dinners to feed the actors at our local community theater during their long days of tech. She enlisted the help of her six children. If we prepared the meal in time, we were allowed to sit in the back seat of the theater and watch the rehearsal, and after the actors were fed and we finished the dishes, we could sneak back again to see the very first dress rehearsal. Sitting in the dark witnessing the workings of the actors and designers was like being allowed to watch a magician create a magic trick, the crafting of which seemed to me even more spectacular for having revealed the mechanics behind it. That is where I have discovered a driving passion, in that act of creation. 25 years ago, I found a home in Word for Word, alongside the dearest of friends to live a life in pursuit of passion. It has never ceased to be magical.

Actor

"The Necklace"

by **GUY DE MAUPASSANT**



Photo: Mark Leialoha

Director

"Immortal Heart"

by **AMY TAN**



Dennis Yen, Julia Cho, Tina Huang
Photo: Delia MacDougall

Director

"Winesburg, Ohio: Tales of the Grotesques"

by **SHERWOOD ANDERSON**



Adrian Elfenbaum
Photo: lovejoy (creative)



CHARTER MEMBER **WENDY RADFORD**

I wrote a play in elementary school about a mouse-loving cat. In eighth grade I worked backstage on *The Imaginary Invalid*; ninth grade was Ruth in *Blithe Spirit*. Did theater all through high school, then I majored in "Drama" at Cal Poly Pomona (50 people, everyone did everything). Three years at A.C.T. and then off to New York to become a founding member of The 29th Street Project. Another member, Jane Jones, had the idea for Book-It – performing literature, but keeping as much of narrative as possible. Jane met Sue through Book-It and later connected me with Sue in San Francisco. Sue generously included me in the mix for the creation of Word for Word. I came full circle with the form. The work I have done with the company, both as actor and director, is the most rewarding of my career.

Actor
"Rose-Johny"

by **BARBARA KINGSOLVER**



L-R Delia MacDougall, Wendy Radford
Photo: Jaime Kibben

Director
"Love Nest"

RING LARDNER



Ring Lardner

Director
"Floor Show"

by **JULIA ALVAREZ**



L-R Dina Martinez, Luis Saguar, Maria Candelaria,
Andrea Thome. Photo: Jaime Kibben



CHARTER MEMBER **NANCY SHELBY**

I was the child who came home from watching *The Ten Commandments* and moved the furniture around to create a throne room for my own portrayal of the Egyptian Queen. And sadly, I was the UCLA Freshman who let my father talk me out of declaring Theater as my major! But 20 years later, I was the woman whose girlhood creative spirit rose again, and this time my father no longer held sway. I took classes at A.C.T., got cast in a SOMA show with Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, studied with Richard Seyd, created a wildly successful but short lived theater company with Delia MacDougall and Joel Mullennix, performed in some cool plays, became a Z Space Studio Artist, and for 25 years, have had the great good fortune to be a Charter Member of Word for Word.

Actor

"Mrs. Dalloway's Party"

by **VIRGINIA WOOLF**



L-R Nancy Shelby, Jeri Lynn Cohen, JoAnne Winter, Joel Mullennix, Stephanie Hunt. Photo: Jaime Kibben

Actor

"The Falling Girl"

by **DINO BUZZATI**



Photo: Jaime Kibben

Actor

"Smut: The Greening of Mrs. Donaldson"

by **ALAN BENNETT**



L-R Søren Oliver, Nancy Shelby
Photo: Mel Solomon



CHARTER MEMBER **PATRICIA SILVER**

How I came to love theatre and acting:
 When I was 6 I was sent to ballet lessons; I did not enjoy them.
 In a small children's theatre in a made-over one car garage
 I got the part of the evil witch.
 For the first time in my life, people—even adults—
 paid attention and listened to me.

Actor
"Olive Kitteridge"
 by **ELIZABETH STROUT**



Photo: Mark Leialoha

Actor
"Xingu"
 by **EDITH WHARTON**



Cast of Xingu
 Photo: Jaime Kibben

Actor
"The Half-Way Diner"
 by **JOHN SAYLES**



John Sayles



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JOANNE WINTER**

Whether lip-syncing with my cousin to the cast album of *The Music Man*, watching my older sister perform in high school plays and musicals, or acting out "Harriet the Spy" riding my bike through the neighborhood, I was always drawn to creating imaginary worlds—and performing them. SF State Theatre Department brought me into the Bay Area theatre scene where I found "my people," and eventually, Word for Word. All my dearest friends and my husband are in my life because of theatre. And Word for Word has become my second family.

Actor

"Two on a Party"

by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**



L-R: JoAnne Winter and Ryan Tasker
Photo: Kent Taylor

Producer

"Sorry Fugu"

by **T. C. BOYLE**

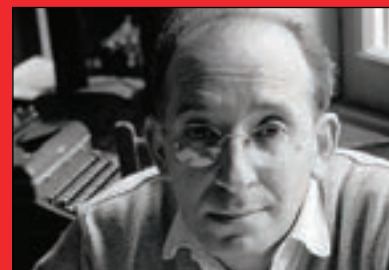


Cast of Food Stories
Photo: Mark Leialoha

Director

"Spring Rain"

by **BERNARD MALAMUD**



Bernard Malamud
Photo: David Lees/Corbis



CHARTER MEMBER EMERITUS **JOAN WALTON**

My interest in theater started as a teenager when my aunt took me to musicals before attending plays in Boston. It became a lifelong habit which has brought me great joy. Having been involved with Word for Word from its inception has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my retirement. Thanks to all the very talented and very intelligent actors of WFW—it has been a privilege and a pleasure.

Joan managed volunteers, and often, front of house for these stories:

"Communist"

by **RICHARD FORD**



L-R: Paul Finocchiaro, Zac Jaffee
Photo: Mark Leialoha

"The Blues I'm Playing"

by **LANGSTON HUGHES**



L-R: Patricia Silver, Velina Brown, Peter Macon
Photo: Jaime Kibben

"The Kitchen Side of the Door"

by **EDNA FERBER**



Edna Ferber
Photo: Nickolas Muray

THANK YOU! FROM Z SPACE

We are indebted to all Z Space and Word for Word donors who have made gifts of any size over the years. Thanks to your generosity, Z Space continues to work towards our mission of empowering artistic risk, collaboration, and camaraderie amongst artists, audience, and staff in the service of creating, developing, and presenting new work. We are honored to list the donors below who have contributed \$100 or more from **January 31, 2018 through July 15, 2018**. For a full list of donors, see the donor wall in the lobby.

A SPECIAL THANKS to those who have directly supported *Anniversary! Stories by Tobias Wolff and George Saunders* whose generosity brought this show to life. **Look for their names in bold.**

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Andrea Jacoby

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Abbe Kalos

Marty Krasney

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William Leblond

Emily & Bill Leider

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Shafer Mazow

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Wendy Radford

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Leslie Stone & Shirl Buss

Bill Tiedeman & Patricia Harding

April Underwood

Peggy Wallace

Richard Warren

Dennis Yen

*indicates Z Insiders, who commit to giving \$1000+ per year for three years.

SUPPORT

Z Space &

Word for Word's

dynamic programming and
community engagement efforts!

Contact Vanessa Flores,
Individual Giving Associate,
at vflores@zspace.org
or 415.659.8134

ESTATE & LEGACY GIFTS

Z Space is grateful to the following individuals for generously remembering Z Space / Word for Word in their estate plans:

Constance Bernstein
Gail Sinquefield

Z Space is grateful to have been the beneficiary of a legacy gift from the estates of:

Lauren Alexander
Cherylene Lee

MATCHING GIFTS, IN-KIND DONORS, & SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Ampersand

Debra Dout and David Burns

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ABOUT Z SPACE,

Z Space, based in the Mission District of San Francisco, is one of the nation's leading laboratories for the development of new works. Led by Executive Artistic Director Lisa Steindler since 2007 and founded by David Dower in 1993, Z Space celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2018, continuing its mission to empower artistic risk, collaboration, and camaraderie amongst artists and audience in the service of commissioning, developing, and producing new work.

Keystone initiatives include: New Work, a development, production, and presentation program that supports artists and ensembles from conception to realization of unique works; Word for Word, a resident theatre company that transforms works of literature verbatim to the stage; Youth Arts, an arts education program promoting literacy and creativity; and the curated rental and residency programs which open our venues for use by a variety of other art groups. Learn more at zspace.com

Z LEADERSHIP

LISA STEINDLER Executive Artistic Director, Z Space

SHAFFER MAZOW Managing Director

JOANNE WINTER Artistic Director, Word for Word
& Director, Youth Arts

SUSAN HARLOE Artistic Director, Word for Word

TEAM A-Z

ABIGAIL PAÑARES General Manager

AMY PROSSER Youth Arts Program Coordinator

ANDREW BURMESTER Marketing Director

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"Z Space
Best Performance Space"
—Best of 2017
San Francisco Magazine



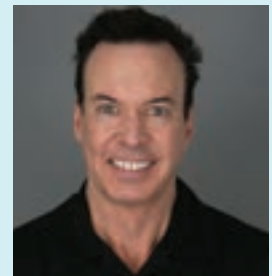
ABOUT YOUTH ARTS

Word for Word's Youth Arts Program is at the heart of Word for Word. Our first performances were in schools and libraries, bringing the excitement and joy of literature, language, and live performance to all. In 1998 we formalized our arts education programming with our School & Library Tour, which brought children's literature from around the world to Bay Area student audiences, as well as student performance workshops and residencies in schools. The touring component of our arts education programming ended in 2008, but we continue to take students through the rigorous and imaginative process of transforming fiction into performance, showing them how language can come alive and bring people together. One of the highlights of our work with the Youth Arts program has been the expansion of our relationship with Greg Sarris, an amazing writer as well as the Tribal Chairman of the

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR)—the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo people of Sonoma County. Greg's story "Slaughterhouse," from his book *Grand Avenue* was one of the first stories Word for Word ever produced as a run in a theater, as opposed to a one-off performance in a school or a library. That show sparked a 20 plus year friendship and mutual admiration society between Word for Word and Greg. We've since produced more of his stories and, in 2008, we commissioned him to write two stories for the S&L Tour, one for elementary schools and one for high schools. Greg had never written for young children before and was excited when he was able to share a Miwok legend about his great-great grandfather, Tom Smith, a powerful medicine man. That story—"How Tom Smith Caused the 1906 Earthquake"—was a great success with elementary school audiences and sparked Greg to write a whole cycle of stories inspired by Miwok and Pomo legends called *How a Mountain Was Made*. That collection,

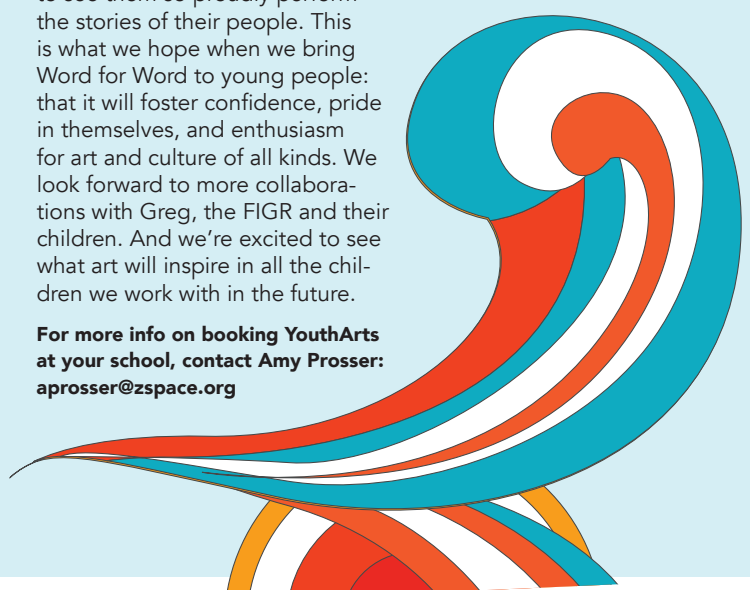
in turn, sparked us to create a performance for children and their families from those stories, which we've performed twice at Z Space, as well as several other locations in Northern California. This past June we performed Greg's stories for several hundred tribe members and their children as an introduction to our theatre program for the FIGR summer camp. We were honored to be invited by the tribe to create an arts program for their children and so proud of those kids when they performed Greg's stories this past July. It was a thrill to see them so proudly perform the stories of their people. This is what we hope when we bring Word for Word to young people: that it will foster confidence, pride in themselves, and enthusiasm for art and culture of all kinds. We look forward to more collaborations with Greg, the FIGR and their children. And we're excited to see what art will inspire in all the children we work with in the future.

For more info on booking YouthArts at your school, contact Amy Prosser:
aprosser@zspace.org



GREG SARRIS

Author of *Grand Avenue*, *Watermelon Nights*, and *How a Mountain Was Made*.



Best Literary Remix: "Word for Word is all about the story"

—Best of 2017
San Francisco Magazine

ABOUT WORD FOR WORD

Word for Word Performing Arts Company is an ensemble whose mission is to tell great stories with elegant theatricality, staging performances of classic and contemporary fiction. Founded in 1993 by Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, Word for Word believes in the power of the short story to provide solace, compassion, and insight into our daily lives.

Word for Word is a program of Z Space.

WORD FOR WORD CHARTER MEMBERS

Susan Harloe, Artistic Director
JoAnne Winter, Artistic Director
Sheila Balter
Jeri Lynn Cohen
Stephanie Hunt

Amy Kossow
Delia MacDougall
Wendy Radford
Nancy Shelby
Patricia Silver
Joan Walton, Emeritus

WORD FOR WORD AUTHORS' COUNCIL

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WORD FOR WORD'S ASSOCIATE ARTISTS GROUP

is a coterie of talented young theater professionals who are bringing Word for Word to a new generation of audiences.

Molly Benson	Annette Koehn
Andrea Day	Jill MacLean
Rosie Hallett	Andrew Packard
Gendell Hing-Hernández	Ryan Tasker
Lisa Hori-Garcia	Becca Wolff

FRIENDS OF WORD FOR WORD

Barbara Anderson, Constance Bernstein, Luise Custer, Debra Dout, Amy Hosa, and Carol Fleming. Friends of Word for Word play a vital role in our productions!

BE A FRIEND!

The Friends of Word for Word are a motley crew of volunteers who believe in the power of literature and theater to tap into the raw nerve of our times.

We support the brilliant work of Word for Word by rustling food for rehearsals and openings, marketing to new audiences, and filling in with unforeseen needs. We invite you to throw your lot in with our efforts to sustain this remarkable arts endeavor.

Contact Vanessa Flores
vflores@zspace.org

WORD FOR WORD IS TOURING FRANCE IN APRIL

Check zspace.com in the Spring for further details, and join us there!

WORD FOR WORD

OFF THE PAGE

Off the Page is the first look at Word for Word's forthcoming productions. With a public staged reading of a short story under consideration as a future show, we invite audiences to see the very first steps of our process of bringing a work from the page to the stage in the Word for Word style. After the reading, we engage in a conversation with our audience, which gives us lots to think about as we decide on the next steps in bringing the short story to the stage.

9/17 ZBELOW, 7 PM

"Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Directed by Delia MacDougall

10/18, ELBO ROOM, 7 PM

"Retablos" by Octavio Solis
Directed by Sheila Balter with appearance by the author
Co-production with LITQUAKE

11/5, Z SPACE, 7 PM

"The Glass Essay" by Anne Carson
Directed by Stephanie Hunt

12/3 Z SPACE, 7 PM

"The Swimmer" by John Cheever
Directed by Joel Mullennix

12/17 Z SPACE, 7 PM

"Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm" by Stella Gibbons
Directed by Amy Kossow



THE SISTERHOOD OF THE
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A Seriously Radical Feminist Comedy

by Anne Galjour

directed by Nancy Carlin

featuring

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Howard Swain* & Miranda Swain

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presented at Z Below

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FOR TICKETS AND INFO

www.zspace.org/getgandhi

*Actors appear with special permission of Actors' Equity Association. This is an Equity-approved project.



THE POWER OF WORD FOR WORD PERFORMANCES

"Word for Word is a marvel. While respecting the author's every word, the company also manages to create something completely new, going well beyond the page into an art that has not words. I was completely bowled over by the acting, the stage, the costumes, the choreography—the sheer power of the experience of watching words come to life."

—Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, *Saving Fish from Drowning* and other works.

"It's hard to describe the feeling of watching a whole troupe of grownups act out a story you simply made up out of thin air. It was an incredible experience for me. Not only were they absolutely true to the words—they were true to the spirit. Every ounce of love and honor the whole cast put into 'Rose-Johnny' went straight to my heart."

—Barbara Kingsolver, author of novels including *The Lacuna*, *Flight Behavior* and *The Poisonwood Bible*, as well as non-fiction such as *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*

"This has been transformative for my students and amazing for my development as a teacher. The students have really blossomed. They move with more confidence and grace - all the teachers notice it! I LOVE WORD FOR WORD! I want to do it every year. Every teacher deserves this opportunity."

—Lisa Kelly, Life Academy

"Turning the book into a script helped me understand it more."

—6th grader at Life Academy

"At my old school we used the who, what, when, where, why method, but I never really understood it. Word for Word helped me understand it better. The 5 Ws really helped me break down and understand the poem."

—8th grader at Mill Valley Middle School



WORD

FOR
WORD

SUPPORTS THE POWER OF READING

"We read to know we are not alone."

—C. S. Lewis

"To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark."

—Victor Hugo

"Reading makes immigrants of us all. It takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere."

—Jean Rhys

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive."

—James Baldwin

"If I read a book and it makes
my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me,
I know that is poetry."

—Emily Dickinson

"And for God's sake, don't let me ever hear you say,
'I can't read fiction. I only have time for the truth.'
Fiction is the truth, fool!"

—John Waters