

THE MUSE COLLECTIVE

presents

NOTHING CRACKS NEATLY...

SALEM: POST-MORTEM

A NEW PLAY BY PETER GRAY

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ALVAREZ

OCTOBER 29TH 2020

WWW.THE-MUSE-COLLECTIVE.COM

a contemporary theatre company of dreamers

The Muse Collective – Our Story

I always dreamt of starting a theatre company, but just never really got around to doing it. What I did do, however, was build lasting collaborations with several brilliant artists. These artists became like family. While I never formalized a company, it was pointed out to me that I had built a tribe of like-minded artistic dreamers and innovators. This is an attempt to create a sort of umbrella for our collaborations, a recognized space of dreaming and thriving.

Michael Alvarez
Artistic Director

Our Mission

- * Challenging formal boundaries of performance and visual storytelling by fusing theatre with contemporary visual art, fashion, pop culture, music and dance.
- * Creating work that deeply engages our cultural and political zeitgeist by building mythic worlds and fantastical universes, vital expressions of our society's desires, fears, ambitions and dreams.
- * Celebrating the world around us--spinning stories that touch us beyond the conscious level, digging deep into an expansive and inclusive collective mythology.
- * Diversifying stories, storytellers, forms and approaches to performance.
- * Championing new work and forms, radical re-envisioning of classic work, emerging BIPOC artists and those who dare to dream...

We dream of a future of equality, acceptance, love, tolerance, and celebration.

Our Philosophy

Dream, a noun | Meridian-Webster Dictionary

- 1 : a series of thoughts, images, or emotions occurring during sleep
- 2: an experience of waking life having the characteristics of a dream
 - a: a visionary creation of the imagination
 - b: a state of mind marked by abstraction or release from reality
 - c: an object seen in a dreamlike state
 - d: something notable for its beauty, excellence, or enjoyable
 - e: a strongly desired goal or purpose
 - f: something that fully satisfies a wish

To create art is an attempt to see beyond the veil of waking life, excavating the invisible worlds of our mind, heart, soul and shared humanity. As artists, we are tasked with dreaming of a better tomorrow. Through art, we explore what that tomorrow could be, chart paths forward, and dismantle the broken systems which deplete us. We are called to question, experiment, challenge, transform, and rebuild. We are dedicated to a life-long process of listening, learning and growing.

"If we stay on a realistic level we remain ignorant of the eternal world and therefore of the true meaning of existence and destiny, of life and death." -Maurice Maeterlinck

Cast (in character order)

Witch A	Alicia Crowder
Witch B	Katie Mack
Witch C	Deb Hiatt
Witch D	Sam Morales
Witch E	Anthony Michael Martinez
Witch F	Matthew Russell
Witch G	Carolina Vargas
Witch H	Felicia Santiago
Witch I	Leigha Sinnott
Witch J	Roger Q. Mason
Witch K	Yetta Gottesman
Witch L	Pooya Mohseni
Witch M	Charlie Thurston
Witch N	Lisa Dring
Chorus of Witches	LaurenSage Browning
Chorus of Witches	Lizzie Kehoe

Creative Team

Writer	Peter Gray
Director	Michael Alvarez
Art Director	Salmah Beydoun
Costume Designer	Phuong Nguyen
Sound Designer	John Millerd
Movement Director	Mara Driscoll
Line Producer	Jared Pixler
Illustrations	Dorothy Zhu & Beauty is Ugly

Author's Note

Why is everybody so fascinated by the Salem Witch Trials?

When discussing this project, I've observed how people's eyes invariably light up at the subject. Is it the "once upon a time" aspect that excites them? The witches? The trial? Or perhaps it's the combination: the legal system in all its order and pragmatism entwined with everything chaotic and ethereal and informed by the passions. We say our current nation is built on the strict separation of these two realms, but in the last few weeks, as a new Supreme Court Justice is sworn in on the eve of a presidential election, it's hard not to question that assertion. It's hard to believe the Salem witches don't haunt us still.

Upon reflection, I think the story of the Salem Witch Trials is one of redefined community. A community that built itself turned on itself, forcing each member to question what it meant to be a neighbor, what it meant to trust and believe in those who live beside us. We live with those cracks to this day, and I hope, if anything, *Salem: Post-Mortem* can bring people together. Its creation certainly brought us together. We filmed across time zones and countries, each actor recording their part individually, throwing a part of themselves out into a void, trusting that, somehow, magically, everything would come together. I'm so proud of what we've created, together, however impossible it seemed at first, and hope it is only the beginning of new communities coming together.

CAST



Lauren Sage Browning (Chorus of Witches) graduated from California Institute of the Arts this last Spring. Previous work includes Sofia in *Nap the Play* (National Tour), Clarice in *Servant of Two Masters* (CalArts), Nina in *The Seagull* (CalArts), and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare in the Courtyard). She is grateful to be working with this powerhouse team.



Alicia Crowder (Witch A) is originally from Dallas, Texas. She moved to NYC in 2014 to attend The Juilliard School of Drama where she received her BFA. Alicia has guest starred on *INSTINCT* (CBS), and was a recurring cast member in *THE SOCIETY* (Netflix)

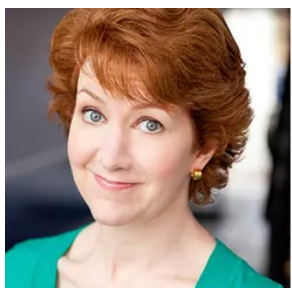
<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10190723/>



Lisa Dring (Witch N) has worked with Asolo Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, East West Players, Hero Theatre, Circle X, Rogue Artists Ensemble, One Year Lease and Bread & Puppet. She can be seen on *Shameless*, *Grown-ish*, *NCIS*, *Good Girls* and *Shut Eye*, and as Danielle on two seasons of *How to get Away with Murder*. Lisa's in a VR piece at this year's Venice International Film Festival. She's the Associate Artistic Director of Circle X Theatre Co.



Yetta Gottesman (Witch K) NY: Recent Alien Abductions (PlayCo written and directed by Jorge Ignacio Coritiñas), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (World Premiere, The Public Theater written by Stephen Adly Guirgis / dir. Philip Seymour Hoffman) *Where's My Money?* (World Premiere, Labyrinth Theater Co. and Manhattan Theater Club, written & directed by John Patrick Shanley). REGIONAL: *Don't Eat the Mangos* (written by Ricardo Pérez González/dir. David Mendizábal Sundance Theater Lab 2019 and Magic Theater), Geffen Playhouse, The Denver Center Theater, Seattle Rep, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theater, Arena Stage. FILM / TV: www.imdb.com/name/nm0331898/
Member Labyrinth Theater Company and The Actors Studio.



Deb Hiatt (Witch C) has appeared in many TV shows and movies such as *"The Good Place," "Barry," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Veep," "Bombshell," "Booksmart," "Baskets," "Documentary Now," "Arrested Development,"* and *"The Office."* She's a regular panelist on the NPR comedy/quiz show *"Says You!"* As a writer, her original plays have been produced on both coasts, and her short films have won awards around the world. More at DebHiatt.com.



Lizzie Kehoe (she/her) (Chorus of Witches) is an NY based actor and recent graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She has performed at the New Ohio, the Hangar Theater, Danspace Project as a MUSE Residency Recipient, as well as projects created for the New York City Department of Correction. During the pandemic, she began an online theater community for new plays and records podcasts such as Rogue Waves and As Seen On produced by Tessa Faye.



Katie Mack (she/her) (Witch B) is overjoyed to be under the wing of Michael Alvarez again and joining a new group of great humans. Mack is lover of new work and originator of over thirty roles in new play/musicals. Wear a mask. BLM. Vote. Thanks for watching. Actor, writer, producer, high-five giver. Love to JWM. www.mackstage.com & www.fckingsoberpodcast.com



Roger Q. Mason (Witch J) is a writer who gives voice to the silenced through the ritual of performance. His works have been seen at such venues as New York Theatre Workshop, New Group Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA, Son of Semele Theatre, Steep Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, and the Kraine Theatre. Mason has held residencies at Lambda Literary, Fresh Ground Pepper, and Skylight Theatre. Recent commissions include work with Company of Angels, Serene Playhouse, Steep Theatre and the Fire This Time Festival. He is 20 receipt of the 2020 Chuck Roland Award.
<https://www.rogerqmason.com/>



Anthony Michael Martinez (Witch E) is a NYC actor. MFA Classical Acting, Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting. BA Theatre, FSU. Recent: Comedy of Errors (Antipholus) Alabama Shakespeare, It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Clarence) Triad Stage, Native Gardens (Pablo) Florida Rep, Shakespeare In Love (Will Shakespeare), Illinois Shakespeare. OFF-BROADWAY: Red Bull Theater, Classic Stage Company, Vineyard Theatre, Flea Theater, New Ohio, TheatreRow. REGIONAL: Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre NJ, Shakespeare Theatre DC, Miami New Drama, Theatreworks, CO. FILM: After Forever The Series (Amazon Prime)
<https://www.anthonymichaelmartinez.net/>



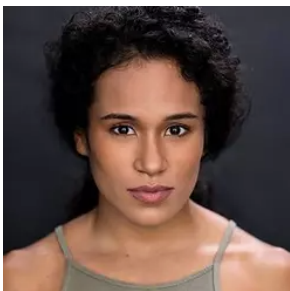
Pooya Mohseni (Witch L) is an Iranian-American actor, writer, filmmaker & Transgender activist. She's co- producer/star/writer of "Transit ", a short film about love between a trans woman and a cis man. Her stage performances include "She, He, Me" for National Queer Theater, "Our Town" in Pride Plays, "Hamlet" in Play On Shakespeare festival, an award winning one woman show "One Woman", in United Solo at The Theatre Row, and more. She has guest starred on "Law & Order: SVU ", "Big Dogs" on Amazon, "Falling Water" on USA and "Madam Secretary". Represented by Headline Talent Agency



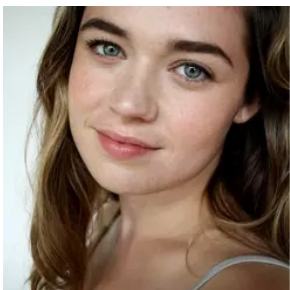
Sam Morales (Witch D) is a NYC based Actress. Off-Broadway: The Tempest (The Public); Pericles (dir. Trevor Nunn), The Skin of Our Teeth, Measure for Measure (TFANA). Regional: The House on the Hill (World Premiere, CATF); Woman in Mind (Delaware REP); Teach, Last Night in Inwood (Gulfshore Playhouse). TV: "Law & Order: SVU"; "FBI". She would like to give special thanks to Lizzie Kehoe for suggesting her to Michael & Peter and she would also like to thank THEM, for trusting her to be a part of this incredible piece <https://www.officialsammorales.com/>



Matthew Russell (Witch F) is a New York City based film and theatre artist. Recent work includes The Inheritance (Broadway), Hand to God (Studio Theatre), and the films Working Man and Twist. This is Matthew's third collaboration with Michael and second with Peter, having worked on Medea and Salomé at NYTW. Matthew is the co-creator of the webseries Love in NY, featuring 300+ artists in 100+ episodes to date. He is currently working as a video editor on Vineyard Theatre's Lessons in Survival and Whitney White's R&J. <http://www.matterussell.com/>



Felicia Santiago (Witch H) is a proud thesbian, actress, group kickboxing instructor, mental wellness coach and teaching artist. This is her second time working with Michael Alvarez (director of the stars) and is grateful for every ounce of love, intelligence, and intentionality he puts into his work. You can find Felicia in Alvarez's prior quarantine project "Hi Bi", as well as on "Knowledge iZ King", and Law and Order: SVU. You'll find her as a theater gal in the stages of Atlantic Theater, Provincetown Playhouse and The August Wilson Center. "Theater is the methodology of change as filmed media is a tool of mass engagement. Both are necessary for these times". A toast to the future.



Leigha Sinnott (Witch I) is a New York based actor. Recent theatre credits include: The Glass Menagerie (Venture Theatre Ensemble), Twelfth Night (DUMB Theatre), The Trojan Women directed by Ellen Lauren, Everybody directed by Danya Taymor. Film credits include Martin Eden (Jenny) directed by Jay Craven and The Glass (Olivia) by Tom Van Scoyoc. Leigha is a founding member of the Venture Theatre Ensemble in Bermuda. Training: Juilliard. Managed by Troy Nankin at Wishlab Management.



Charlie Thurston (Witch M) is an actor and playwright who splits his time between NYC and Providence, RI, where he's a member of the resident acting company at Trinity Rep. There he recently appeared in The Prince of Providence by George Brant directed by Obie winner Taibi Magar. Other Credits: Goodspeed Musicals, The Williams Project, Fault Line Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Arden Theatre Company, Baltimore Centerstage, and more. TV/Film: Life Itself, Money Monster, SVU, Shrine (2021), Julia (2021).



Carolina Vargas (Witch G) is a Chilean Actress and Fulbright Scholar graduated from CalArts MFA in Acting program and trained in her home country Chile as a BFA. Carolina has performed across formats and genres, starting on Television (Amango, Corazón Rebelde) when she was 14 years old, then Theater (The Seagull, Durango 66), Film (La Plegaria del Inocente, Dream of Aces), Voiceover (Siqueiros Walls of Passion), Performance (The Urgency of Quiet) and video-games (Ingress by Niantic). Member of the experimental LA based collective Dead Practice directed by Scarlett Kim, with whom she has performed in shows such as Night Market, Medea, Cobblefuck Stonetown, The End The End The End (Edinburgh's Fringe Festival 2017) and Ready! Set! (Prague Quadrennial 2019).

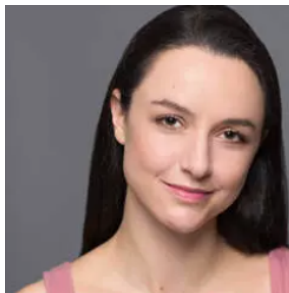
CREATIVE TEAM



Michael Alvarez (Director) is an international, and interdisciplinary, Latinx theatre director. He has been a Directing Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, a Drama League Directing Fellow, and a Director with the Civilians R&D Group. He has directed in New York, London, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Eastern Europe, and at such institutions as Her Majesty's Theatre in the West End, Arcola Theatre, Institute of Contemporary Arts, and made performance art pieces at the British Museum. Member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. He is Artistic Director of The Muse Collective. Education: Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and California Institute of the Arts. www.Michael-Alvarez.com



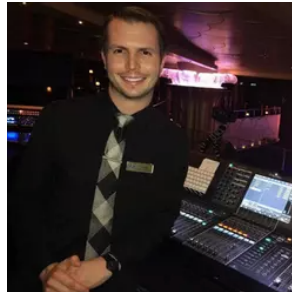
Salmah Beydoun (Art Director) is a set designer, architect and deviser of collective work based in LA and Mexico City. Salmah is the recipient of the 2019 Princess Grace Award, Fabergé Theater Honor. Cofounder of Colectivo Berenjena and BadBoySadBoy Group; both collectives created by young artists devising new work for theater and film. Salmah holds an Architecture degree from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and a MFA in Scenic Design from the California Institute of the Arts. www.salmahbeydoun.com



Mara Driscoll (Movement Director) Training at North Carolina Schools of the Arts, Tisch School of the Arts and Springboard Danse Montreal. Performance credits include Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Armitage Gone! Dance, Richmond Ballet and FJK Dance. Additional appearances at Jacob's Pillow, City Center, the Hollywood Bowl and the Sydney Conservatory of Music. Choreographic credits include commissions for the New Chamber Ballet, for Warp Trio with the Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra, for Dance at Socrates, for the Higher Ground Residency and for the United Palace of Cultural Arts. She choreographed Love, Medea at Center at West Park and most recently produced a socially distanced drive-in performance group in Boulder Colorado.



Peter Gray (Writer, Salem: Post Mortem) has studied Buddhism on a North Carolina goat farm, philosophy in the ruins of Socrates' jail cell, and fairy tales in Copenhagen. He was a 2019 MacDowell Fellow, developing a series of modern-day closet dramas designed to be read aloud at home and a 2020 Monson Arts Fellow. With director Michael Alvarez, he has developed a theatrical exploration of the Medea myth called Love, Medea, which received a reading at the New York Theatre Workshop and was performed in the historic West Park Presbyterian Church. He is an upcoming Fellow at Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany.



John Millerd (Sound Designer) is a NYC-based freelance sound designer and engineer. NYC credits include Alice By Heart (MCC) and Avenue Q (New World Stages). Regional (and abroad) credits include: Theatre Aspen, White Plains PAC, Bay Street Theatre, Hangar Theatre, and Oceania Cruises. Most recently he was Associate Sound Designer with Jon Weston for Paradise Square (Berkeley Repertory Theatre) and was Sound Designer for Love, Medea with Michael Alvarez. Thanks to family and friends for their endless love and support.



Phuong Nguyen (Costume Designer) is a Vietnamese costume designer with a background in East Asian studies. Her work explores different aspects of her and other marginalized groups' heritage and identities, and tells stories absent from the "victors" history books. She is also working on letting go of the pressure to be perfect in order to enjoy work and life more. She is currently a Costume Design MFA Candidate at Yale School of Drama '22.
www.phuongtnguyen.com



Jared Tyrel Pixler (Line Producer) is a creative producer, director and writer. For the last five years he has been the co-head creative producer of MB Stage Productions where he helped to create the award winning shows THE VIDEO GAMES (convention tour, West and East cost premieres, Off-Broadway), Winter is Coming: A Musical Parody and THE STUDY. He is the project leader for MB Stage theatre camps and workshops series for young performers. He has directed internationally in residence at Cagayan College in the Philippines and is the co-creator of the nationwide improvisation competition Improvathon! at Christian Youth Theater. He holds a BFA in Musical Theater from AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing arts and is a current MFA Creative Producing candidate at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).