

THE MEN FROM MARS

Written by **RYAN MANNING**

Directed & Designed by

MICHAEL GONZALES & DANI MILLER

Costumes also by **ANNIE POPE**

Fight Choreography by **ASHLEY MONICAL**

Live Music by **BRANDON COPELAND &**

MICHAEL GONZALES

Board Operator – **MAT BENCOMO**

The Company

Patric Doyle (*Unnamed Soldier/Council Elder #1/Soldier "Seymore"*)
Recently moved to Austin from Anchorage, Ak where he owned "A" Street Audio/Video Production. He is a "singer/songwriter" and musician playing bass and lead guitar in bands in Austin. Patric is an audio engineer and a video editor. He has acted in plays of all sorts and kinds since High School.

Michelle Gatica (*Nameless Soldier #1, Council Member #3, Martian*)
Hi guys! My name is Michelle Gatica I'm from Austin, born and raised and I play a council member, soldier and a Martian. This is my first play and I'm having so much fun with it. I look forward to getting into more plays so maybe you'll see me pop up again. Feel free to send me flowers. LOL!!!!

Michael Gonzalez has been living Austin since his move from Dallas in 2007. He makes his directing debut with *The Men from Mars*. He is currently attending ACC. michael.gonzalez@g.austincc.edu

Rhiann Janak (*Nameless Soldier #3, Council Elder #3, Martian*)
Rhiann Janak is a theatre major at St. Edwards University. She is going into her sophomore year as a performance/make up major. This is her first performance on the ACC stage and she is thrilled to be meeting new people and working with a great cast.

Nicholas Jimenez (*George and Council Member #2*)
Nicholas Jimenez is so grateful to be working with such a dedicated cast! Nick, one day, hopes to go to Mars and ride a rover over the dunes. Until then, Nick will be studying at UT and enjoying +100 degree weather.

Carlos Lujan (*Carlos*)
This is the Warhammer's second play here at Austin Community College. He won wide acclaim as "Soldier #2" in last fall's *The Bacchae*. He likes yellow cabs and big dinosaurs. This play is likely to have him in it.

Josh McGlasson is excited to be working with such a talented group of individuals during this festival. Along with tech experience such as Assistant Technical Director for last year's *Carnival Ah!*, Stage Manager for *Proof* and both the Fall and Spring Dance Showcases, Josh also appeared in Euripides' *Bacchae* as Pentheus this past November. Josh is excited to continue working on productions here at ACC and feels extremely lucky to be a part of the ESPL. Josh would like to thank his theatre mentor Meg Belanger for building the foundation of his theatrical career.

The Company continued

This is not Dani Miller's first rodeo as an actor or designer but he is excited about hoping on his first directing bull ride. WOW! That was a wild directing bull ride. He could not have been more excited to have worked with such a great and wonderful cast. Dani is currently studying Theatre here at ACC, plans to graduate with his Associates Degree this Spring. Dani would like to thank his co-director Michael Gonzalez for sharing in an amazing experience, Ashley Monical for helping with all the choreography, Brandon Copeland for helping out with the music design, Annie Pope for all her late night work with costumes, and Josh McGlasson & Matt Bencomo for their help with the lighting. Lastly, Dani is excited to be a part of the ESPL Summer Play Festival and looks forward to being a part of many more ESPL productions in the coming year.

Ashley Nicole Monical (*Princess Alicia*) has been doing theatre at ACC for 2 years and is the President of ACC's Experimental Student Performance Lab. She would like to thank everyone involved in the production of the Play Festival for putting their sweat, blood and tears into making this the most successful it could be! Also, her families undying support in following her dream to be on stage!

Annie Pope (*General Carpenter, Council Elder #2, Guard*)
Annie Pope has been doing theatre for seven years; mostly in a high school program called Shakespeare Under the Stars where she has won two best supporting actress awards. She will be attending ACC in the Fall and wants to study a multitude of foreign languages. She plans to travel the world when she graduates college and settle in the French side and become self-sufficient. Working on this play has been loads of fun for her and has renewed her faith in theatre.

Heather Ross (*Killer Marshin/ Council Member # 1/ Walter*)
Conquers the world with her killer smile as she loses herself in the various aspects of theatre. Her in surmounting passion for theatre can only be matched by the erupting Mt. Vesuvius. Like the aforementioned Mt. thousands will be dead in her wake, be weary.

careful as mice

written by
Ryan Manning

directed by
Sally Ziegler

starring

Ryan Manning

Job

Hallie Chaney

Alice

Jessica Salinas

Mrs. Rosewater

Sally Ziegler

Narrator

Nathan Kinsey

Sam

Jayne Ramsey

Joy

Kendall Myers

Mr. Rosewater

production team

set/sound design

technical director

production manager

advisor

designers

Heather Ross

Joshua Mcglasson

Lana Marks

Arthur Adair

Anna Mcconnell

Hillary Randell

a note from our author

"This is an Author's note. No! This is an author's **WARNING** to all producers, directors, actors, and theatrical people in general. Do not try to produce this play! It will drive you crazy and you'll end up curled in a ball in a corner masturbating like an uptight gorilla. If you do try to produce this play and this is the result, don't worry, it's not your fault. It's mine. I have written an unproducable play. Why you may ask. Well, because I wanted to. It's been a yearlong exercise in self indulgence to grotesque proportions. If you think this Author's note is self indulgent, you ain't seen nothin yet! I'll walk you through the history of all this shit and once we're through it hopefully I will have convinced you that your time would be better spent on something, no, **ANYTHING ELSE.**

The Play's origin lies in a play by Harold Pinter. Don't ask me the name of the play. I don't know it. I lost the book about ten pages in and never bothered to find it again. Suffice to say, it began with two men in a room late at night. There's my opening. I simply took the head and put a new body beneath it.

For a while I was worried it might turn into some piece of literary tripe, a Waiting for Godot knockoff or something equally horrible. I decided it needed something different. Luckily, a teacher of mine gave me a copy of Tennessee Williams' autobiography. I never read that either (I'm really pretty horrible about reading things people recommend to me) but it gave me a spark of inspiration. Why not make it a southern tragicomedy? But what was the plot? Plot? Do you need to know that? I don't know! Hm...oh wait, that's right, I'd also been watching French new wave films at the time I started writing this thing. Band of Outsiders. Three young people rob and elderly couple with a tragic outcome. There we go. Plot found. Like Brecht said, originality is easy. Its stealing from someone and doing it well that is truly challenging.

So having confessed my thefts, at least a few of them, I will move on. I began writing this play over a year ago and as I changed and, dare I say, grew, so did the play. Because of this the play is utterly and unforgivably sloppy. I killed off characters when I didn't need them anymore, and brought them back as ghosts. I wrote scenes out of order with no idea of who was speaking or why they would say such things. Their motivations were my motivations. To say that I see myself in the characters of this play is close to the truth, but not quite. The people in this play are not me, or even fully realized characters. They are my caricature of modern Americans chasing after a dream. The modern Job is not faced with trials that destroy his life. LIFE is the trial. He goes through the motions of everyday life and accomplishes nothing. He seems neither happy nor sad, fulfilled or unfulfilled, he (like the other people in this world) just IS, until finally there is a spark of possibility, a chance for escape, and the bloody repercussions that follow.

So now that I have laid it all out and you will see that this play is not only sloppy and unproducable, but also hopelessly depressing, I hope you will save yourselves the trouble and just go ahead do something safe like put on the Crucible for the millionth time, or maybe a nice Harold Pinter play. I read part of one once and it certainly changed my life. Take care now."

-Ryan Manning

director's note

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

- Langston Hughes

In this production we ask the question what makes people chase after a failed American Dream like it's their only chance for survival, not caring how many have to be taken down along the way or where the bodies fall? This element of desperate madness is at the core of our story. Not seeing consequences looming or possessing any objective sense of morality, the characters stagger about blindly, trying only to clutch the unattainable dream.

-Sally Ziegler

the cast

Hallie Chaney (*Alice*) Hallie is a currently a junior at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a B.A. in Theatre & Dance. She is also enrolled in ACC for the summer. This is her first experience with the ACC theatre department and it has been a blast. Congrats to all the talented individuals at ESPL for your great work! Thanks to friends and family for all of the support.

Nathan Kinsey (*Sam*) This is Nathan's third production with ACC. He is a Theater and American Sign Language Major at ACC. He is very enthusiastic to be working with such a talented cast. He enjoys long walks on the beach, videotaping squirrel fights, and Mexican stand offs.

Ryan Manning (*Job*) Ryan Manning was born in the woods and lives there to this day. Life is simple in the woods.

Kendall Myers (*Mr. Rosewater*) Kendall always had a desire to try acting since joining the military. He is excited to finally see this desire come true. It has been a lot of fun for him to work with everyone involved.

Jayne Ramsay (*Joy*) Jayne is originally from Atlanta Georgia and has been a resident of Austin

for five years. She is currently a Theater Major at Austin Community College where she has performed in productions of the 2006, 2007, and 2009 productions of "In 2 The West", and also the short film "You Say" directed by Sidney Brammer. Jayme enjoys icecream, cartoons, snowball fights, and random hijinx. She is delighted to be a performing for you this evening. Please sit back and enjoy the show.

Jessica Salinas (*Mrs. Rosewater*) Having turned fifty, Jessica Salinas is enjoying the middle-age-spread sensation: learning new skills, seeking new experiences, and aspiring to new goals. Fifty is so delightful that her birthday migrated six months into the future to have another one.

the production team

Sally Ziegler (*Director*) Sally lives with her mother and Ryan in a nice little house with an old dog. She likes playing dress up and being goofy. She heard once that they sometimes pay people to do that. Sally would appreciate that very much. So would Mother, Ryan, and the dog. SallyZiegler@gmail.com

Ryan Manning (*Writer*) There is a theory that if you put a thousand monkeys in a room together with a thousand type writers they'll eventually write Hamlet. So do we really need writers?

Heather Ross (*Set/Sound Design*) This is my first time as a set designer and sound designer and I want to thank everyone for this unique opportunity. I am currently attending Texas State for theatre and english and am currently acting in "Men from Mars."

Enjoy the show and have a great July! P.S. My favorite word in english is antidisestablishmentarianism.

sally's very special thanks

Mercy Ziegler

Thank you for providing more than half the furniture and props for this production, love, support, room and board, and a sympathetic ear.

Dani Miller

Fellow director, neighbor, friend, you have been a help and an inspiration. And a ride. Thanks man.

Arthur Adair

Without your voice in the administration none of this would be possible. Without your voice in our meetings none of this would seem bearable.



all photographs by Esther Garcia