



The Last Act Theatre Company

PRESENTS

Upon a Midnight Dreary

The Tell-Tale Heart & The Cask of Amontillado

July 14-23 Thursday-Saturday 8 pm

Manos de Cristo 4911 Harmon Avenue

Admission: \$15

For tickets and info, please visit:

<http://www.lastacttheater.com/>, www.manosdecristo.org, www.austix.com

Directors' Notes

Edgar Allen Poe is considered the father of the modern detective story, but artists of all kinds owe him a great debt. What we've come to think of as "black comedy" was largely influenced by Poe's grotesque (and underappreciated) comedy, whether in the form of a humorous essay or infused as pithy relief in his Gothic horror stories. Poe's importance can be felt far and wide across the artistic spectrum, from Batman to *Lost*, Stanley Kubrick to Tim Burton, *The Maltese Falcon* to Dean Koontz. Suffused with stories within stories, *The Barrel of Beauregard Vintage '72* is a zany tribute to the varied and spectacular influence Poe has had on modern storytellers.

-Ben McLemore, *The Barrel of Beauregard Vintage '72*

"If you only knew what it was like: the sounds of the world echoing in my every thought. Does that make me crazy?"

The Tell Tale Heart, like many other of Poe's masterpieces, envelopes the audience with the agitated mind of a protagonist on the precipice of madness. When a traumatic encounter with a desperate criminal leaves Mary with an overly developed sense of hearing the boundaries between beauty and horror, pain and pleasure, sanity and perception all start to blur. Add a concerned and helpless spouse and an overbearing physician into the equation and we start to wonder where Mary's condition leaves off and her reality begins. For me this piece has raised some interesting questions about what traumas may have formed my own senses and perceptions. I hope it speaks to you.

"You're not crazy...just wounded."

-Micah Goodding, *The Tell Tale Heart*

Upon a Midnight Dreary An Evening with Poe

Cast

The Conquerer Worm
Performed by Mateo Barrera and Ben McLemore

The Barrel of Beauregard Vintage '72

Bartender.....Sara Billeaux
Jack.....Andrew Brett
Bernie.....Sam Mercer
Bar Patron 1.....Emily Kennedy
Bar Patron 2.....Joshua Baker
Bar Patron 3.....Clay Avery

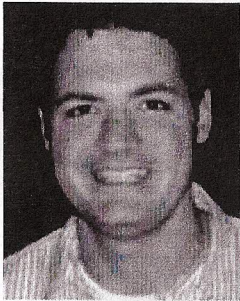
The Tell Tale Heart

Mary.....Karen Alvarado
John.....Andrew Rodgers
Dr. Callahan.....Travis Bedard
Officer Whitfield.....Clay Avery
Officer Jenkins.....Joshua Baker

Production Team

Director, *The Barrel of Beauregard Vintage '72*.....Ben McLemore
Writer, *The Barrel of Beauregard Vintage '72*....Bretton B. Holmes
Director, *The Tell Tale Heart*.....Micah Goodding
Writer, *The Conquerer Worm/The Tell Tale Heart*.....Greg Klein
Lighting Designer.....Geoffrey Douglas
Sound Designer.....Alexis Arredondo
Set Designer.....Joshua Baker
Costume Designer.....Emily Madden
Props Master.....Mindy Griffin
Poster Design.....Angel Laveaux
Set Construction.....Christina Barboza, Karen Alvarado, Joshua Baker, Greg Klein, Micah Goodding, Ben McLemore
Backstage Crew.....Clay Avery, Joshua Baker, Sam Mercer, Andrew Brett, Travis Bedard

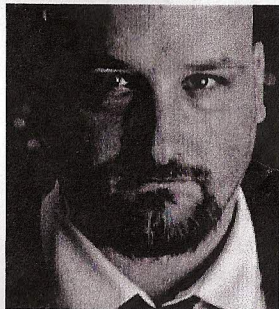
Cast



Clay Avery is thrilled for the opportunity to work with the amazing Last Act crew for the first time. Recently, Clay has been seen on the Frontera Fest stage in Jason Rainey's *Schadenfreude* and at City Theatre in *The Crucible* and *Into the Woods*. Clay would like to thank his parents, friends and family for their continued love and support. He would also like to send a special thanks to Micah, Ben, and this wonderfully talented cast and crew for making this project such a great experience to be a part of.



Joshua Baker is a native of Denton, TX who has gone Native in ATX. This being his fifth show in a row here since coming down for New Years, he is happy and excited to be working on such great and original re-tellings of classic literature. Josh is grateful to the LATCo team for bringing him on board this project as both an Officer in Tell Tale Heart as well as Scenic Designer for the two plays.



Travis Bedard is a long time theatre blogger and proud advocate for new work and Austin theatre, a participant in Arena Stage's #Newplay initiative and livestreaming channel, a facilitator for World Theatre Day, and a contributing writer to 2amTheatre.com. As Artistic Director of Cambiare Productions, he has produced, designed, and performed in B Iden Payne nominated productions such as *Orestes*, *Nina Variations* (with Gobotrick Theatre Company), and *Intermission* (with Will Hollis Snyder).

Cast



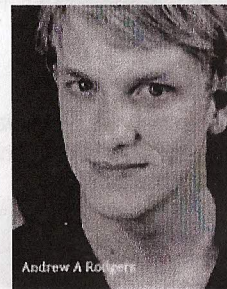
Andrew Brett's passion for the stage was sparked at the age of eight, when he played a sheep in a Christmas parade. He has since performed the Nutcracker, joined the Crichton Kids acting troupe, attended AMDA, modeled for such labels as Ed Hardy and Barney's New York, and appeared on the Oxygen Network and in *Reefer Madness*. Andrew is now blessed to be a part of this burgeoning company of artists. None of this could have been done without the support of his parents, Karen and Charles Brett and his best friend Laura. After years away from the stage, he would like to say: "It's good to be home."



Emily Kennedy is overjoyed to be working with Last Act Theatre for their first production! Recent credits include *Town Hall Town Crier*, *One Hundred Black Women*, *The Story Seekers* and *The Tempest Project*. Emily has a BA in Biological Sciences and Visual and Dramatic Arts from Rice University, and is working on a Masters of Public Health at UT. Emily would like to thank those that love her, you know who you are, for doing just that.



Sam Mercer is, was, but won't always be. Enjoy him while you can.



Andrew Rodgers holds a BFA in Theatre Arts and Acting from the Brind School of Theatre Arts at the University of the Arts, and is a card-carrying Advanced Actor-combatant with the SAFD. Stage credits include *MORT* and *All My Sons*. Film credits include *Elephant Ears*, Free Energy's "Bang Pop" (music video), and the House Of Torment's 2010 commercial. He also served as assistant manager and professional frightener. He wishes to thank all of LATco. for their time and dedication, and his friends and family for their unending support.

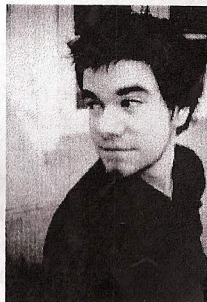
Production Team

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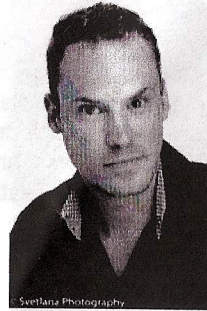
Alexis Arredondo has been involved in independent theatre for over nine years. He has been working as a director and designer for such theatre companies as Teatro Vivo of Austin, Texas and the Harbor Playhouse theatre of Corpus Christi, Texas. To contact him or to see more samples of his work, go to www.alternatheatre.org



Geoffrey Douglas recently graduated with a Masters in Theatre History and Dramatic Criticism from Texas State University. He recently was lighting designer for Poison Apple Initiative's production of "Crumble: Lay Me Down Justin Timberlake," as well as designing for the Samford University Theatre and Scenic Design for The Birmingham Festival Theater's production of "The Underpants." He is excited to design his first production with Last Act Theatre Company and looks forward to further projects in Austin.



Micah Gooding has been active in the professional and educational arts for nearly ten years. He holds a BA in both Theatre & Art from SFASU and is a lead teacher and director for Austin Children's Theatre. He has acted with the Texas Shakespeare Festival and in national television commercials. His documentary *Indifferent Worlds* will be appearing on the independent film festival circuit this fall. Micah will be attending the East 15 Acting Conservatoire in London this fall. He is proud to make this his "farewell Austin" production, and dedicates it to the Staggers, the Kitchens, and Jenn. "Because of you, I'm starting to value myself again."



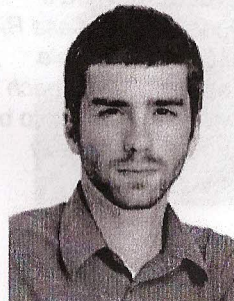
Bretton B. Holmes holds an MFA from USC in Playwriting. His debut production, *Water Water Everywhere* received multiple Valley Theatre League Award nominations in 2000. His short stories and poems have appeared in various publications around the country. Bretton is also a former United States Marine. He is currently at work on a new full length play, titled *Que Son*. He is exceptionally pleased that his full length play *Conscience Hesitatus* has been chosen to be included in the Last Act Theatre Company's 2012 season.



Greg Klein is a writer, editor, and noted eccentric. He has written three feature-length screenplays, winning awards for his second, *Nursery Crimes*. In his spare time, he writes short stories and sketch comedy, some of which he shares on [wordmetal](http://wordmetal.com) with two other writers. He also thinks his Doctor Who fanfic is absolute genius. "Tell Tale Heart" will mark the first time Greg has written for the stage, and he is excited to be working with a group that recognizes his deep and humble talent.



Angel Laveaux is a self-taught artist who draws from music, emotion and horror as a form of therapy. Her paintings have been described as "haunting", "mesmerizing" and "empowering". Angel plans to complete a full-color comic book this year. She sells her artwork at Etsy.com and at the Gargoyle Statuary in Seattle. She has participated in several local art shows and is looking forward to having a gallery exhibit in New York City this summer.



Ben McLemore is a director, actor, and dramaturg. He recently appeared in *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* and *The Night of the Iguana*. Ben played Iago in the Abilene Shakespeare Festival's production of *Othello*, which was featured in *The Horizon Report* and *iPhone Life Magazine*. Ben holds a BFA in Theatre from Abilene Christian University, where he appeared in *The Crucible* and *Star-Spangled Girl*, served as dramaturg for numerous shows and directed their production of *Mauritius*. Later this year, Ben will be directing LATco's production of *Titus Andronicus*.

Board of Directors



Mateo Barrera received his BA with an emphasis in acting/directing & a minor in public relations from Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Favorite past productions include *Shakespeare's R&J*, *I <3 Walmart*, *Into The Woods*, and *Psycho Beach Party*. Past collaborations include Teatro Vivo, Capital T Theatre, and HBMG Foundation. He aims to invoke the spirit of Austin by highlighting local artists and playwrights by bringing them to life on the stage. Carpe Diem....



Karen Alvarado received a BA in theatre from Texas A&M Corpus Christi and is currently represented by Boulevard Talent Agency. Recent credits include roles in *Spirits to Enforce*, *Story Seekers*, *Crumble*, *Early Girl*, *Keeping Track*, and *Kuka*. Starting this company has been like realizing a long awaited dream and none of it would be possible without the support of family and friends. It is Karen's goal to present quality, pathos-driven theatre to this spirited town of art advocates.



Sara Billeaux received a BA in Theatre and Communications from Texas A&M Corpus Christi. She is currently working toward an MLA at St. Edward's University. Past acting credits include roles in *Casa Rio*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She is thrilled to be a part of this company and to contribute high quality theatre to Austin's thriving artistic community.



Christina Barboza graduated from Texas A&M Corpus Christi with a BA, emphasis in Technical Theatre. She is currently the production manager for RAW: natural born artists. She has worked at Del Mar College, Harbor Playhouse, L&R Production, and Midnight Lighting. Past productions include *Cirque de Soleil*, *Willie Nelson's 4th of July Pic Nic*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and *Blood Wedding*.



Mindy Griffin graduated from Southwestern University in 2007 with a BA in theatre. Since graduation, she has worked with The Know Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Fringe Festival, and Bristol Valley Theatre. Favorite productions included *Reefer Madness The Musical*, *Topdog/Underdog*, and *The Pillowman*. Mindy is very excited about being a part of the adventure that is Last Act Theatre, and working with a group of amazing artists and friends.



Emily Madden is a graduate from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi with a BA in theatre. A native to the Texas Hill Country, she grew up in Wimberley and moved to Austin in 2009. Her favorite past productions include *Anton in Show Business*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Anima Mundi*.

About Last Act Theatre Company

Last Act got its start in 2008 when a group of friends dedicated themselves to producing high quality alternative theatre that would inspire audiences to think about the truth of the human condition.

With this mission in mind, the group that would become Last Act Theatre Company produced *Theatre du Grand Guignol* under the name @ Theatre Project. *Grand Guignol* ran on Halloween weekend 2010 at the Hideout Cafe. The show was a success, inspiring the company to keep working. Following this production, Last Act organized, settled on its permanent name, and set its sights on its next production.

To learn more about Last Act, please visit www.lastacttheater.com.

We are thrilled that you have chosen to spend your evening with us, and proud to present our first production as the Last Act Theatre Company, *Upon a Midnight Dreary*.

Board of Directors

Executive Director.....Mateo Barrera
Artistic Director.....Karen Alvarado
Business Director.....Sara Billeaux
Technical Director.....Christina Barboza
Stage Manager.....Mindy Griffin
Production Coordinator.....Emily Madden

The Last Act Theatre Company is a Sponsored Project of the Austin Creative Alliance.

Special Thanks

The Last Act Theatre Company would like to extend special thanks to Julie Ballestros and all the Manos de Cristo staff, Rupert and JoAnn Reyes at Teatro Vivo, Dustin Wills at Paper Chairs, Terra Quinn, Greg Klein, Svetlana Photography and Desi Roybal, John Ore, and Don Day at the Southwestern University Theatre Department for everything they have done in support of this production.

We are exceedingly grateful to the following individuals for their financial support.

Louis and Debbie Alvarado
Kay Anderson
Adriana Arechiga
Paula Bates
David and Ana Billeaux
Eric C. deBaca
Stella Garcia
Jessica Golden
Juan A. Guerrero, Jr.
Brandon Jackson
Lindsay Jones
Kate
Angel Laveaux
Omar Lopez
Mark Nau
Michael Prusaitis
Eloy H. Salazar

Last Act Theatre Company's 2011-2012 Season

Titus Andronicus

October 2011

A modern adaptation of Shakespeare's unforgettable first tragedy.

Cloven Pine

March 2012

A poignant story of love and loss written by Gary Jaffe.

Conscience Hesitatus

July 2012

A tale of a family broken by madness by Bretton B. Holmes.

Last Act Theatre Company is a sponsored project of the

