# ANTAEUS Theatre Company

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LIVE THEATER



### LETTER FROM the CHAIRMAN

The last few months have been difficult for all of us. It goes without saying that the 2019/20 season didn't go exactly as we planned. But even now, as we look towards an unpredictable future, there's still so much for Antaeus to celebrate.

Last fall, we achieved a major accomplishment by producing not one, but two incredible plays developed in the Antaeus Playwrights Lab. This is a milestone we had long hoped to achieve, and we couldn't be more pleased, or more proud, to have shared The Abuelas and Eight Nights with our community.

In February, Directors Armin Shimerman and Elizabeth Swain brought us an unforgettable production of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure, painfully and poignantly resonant in the #MeToo era. And although this production was forced to close just a few weeks into its run, it still made a profound impact on our community. We just wish we could have shared it with more of you.

When the pandemic hit, our staff got to work transitioning programs online, looking for ways to meet this strange and challenging moment, navigating both social distancing and the important national conversation about equity, diversity, and inclusion in the performing arts. And while it hasn't been an easy time, I believe that Antaeus will come through this year stronger and more resilient, with renewed creativity and a deeper commitment to our core values.

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary support of this community. At a time when so many arts organizations are struggling, we are profoundly grateful to you, our generous donors. Your support has allowed us to continue our work, serving the theater's mission and ensuring that, when all of this is over, we'll be ready to welcome you back.

Thank you. I look forward to seeing you at the theater in 2021.

Sincerely,

David Gindler Chairman of the Board of Directors **Antaeus Theatre Company** 

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## ABOUT ANTAEUS



### 30th ANNIVERSARY

Over three decades since our founding as a cooperative theater ensemble in 1991, Antaeus has developed a reputation as a highly-trained Company of professional artists with a rare capacity to create complex and timeless works of theater. In early 2017, Antaeus opened the doors to our new home in Downtown Glendale, the Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center. We now present an annual subscription season of four productions, and offer sold-out readings in our Black Box theater year-round. We train and mentor professional actors in our renowned Antaeus Academy, and invest in L.A.'s thriving pool of playwriting talent through our Playwrights Lab.

Although the pandemic has altered our timeline, we're still looking forward to celebrating our 30th Anniversary, now planned for the 2021/22 Season.

### **OUR VALUES**

**ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE** Some of the finest artists in the American theater call Antaeus their home. We believe in excellence and strive for greatness. We believe in taking creative risks and working above and beyond our comfort zones in order to create experiences that stimulate, inspire, and challenge our audiences.

**COMPANY** We are a community built by artists who have chosen to contribute their vast array of talents to Antaeus. Our dedication to the larger group is our strength, and makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** Theater is a profoundly social act. Antaeus is a gathering place where actors and audiences can come together for a shared experience. We recognize it is important to engage our audiences on and off the stage. Using theater as a catalyst, we stimulate important conversations to nurture understanding and create empathy.

**INCLUSIVITY** We are committed to creating a welcoming environment and deeper inclusion within our company. Antaeus strives for diversity through Company membership, Board membership, staff, inclusive casting, choice of artistic material, and through our community outreach. We are a space where all voices are heard.

**RESPECT** We are committed to actively communicating by both listening and hearing without prejudice; we value each other's opinions. We approach our conversations with empathy, generosity, and a collaborative spirit to build a lasting foundation that honors our commitments to each other and the company.

**ARTISTIC GROWTH** We have a thirst for knowledge and are committed to growing as artists. Grounded in classical text and training, we are an artistic home where professional actors can continue to work on their craft amongst their peers. We inspire the next generation of theater artists through performance, education, and outreach.

**ACCOUNTABILITY** Antaeus builds trust through mutual respect and integrity in all of our interactions. We keep our word and honor our commitments to the company, the community, our audiences, and each other.

**PROFESSIONALISM** Antaeus is a leader in the professional arts community, which is reflected in the quality and vision of our artists, staff, and board members.



When statewide closures went into effect last March, we had to cancel the final four weeks of *Measure for Measure*, and although we initially hoped to be back in time to open William Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life* in June, it became apparent within the first few weeks of the shutdown that returning by summer wasn't going to be possible. Now, as we're reaching the end of 2020, the theater has been closed for most of the year.

Our administrative team has been working from home throughout the shutdown, and even in this time of social distancing, Antaeus has been keeping busy, launching new initiatives and community activities. Last May, we premiered a low-cost online Masterclass series, taught by Company members Armin Shimerman and Dakin Matthews. Classes are open to the public and have attracted participants from around the world! We've continued our Playwrights Lab, Antaeus Academy classes, and Company projects online, and although it's beyond the scope of this 2019/20 Annual report, Fall 2020 has already brought exciting new digital theater and fun engagement events to our community.

We would be remiss not to mention that the global pandemic has not been the only event to change our world this year. Last summer, in recognition of the national demand for theaters to adopt proactive anti-racist programming and practices, we launched a series of ongoing EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) conversations among our Company, staff, and Board. This represents the continuation of ongoing work in this area, directly related to our Strategic Plan and our core values. Recognizing that EDI work at Antaeus is a continual process with many goals, we have hired a professional facilitator to guide these conversations, and we will continue these discussions in 2021 and beyond. We look forward to sharing the insights and artistic developments that come out of this important process with you.

We're extremely grateful to be able to share that, despite the struggles of the last few months, thanks to the incredible generosity of this community, we were able to meet our fundraising goal for the 2019/20 season. Although we face continued challenges in this time of uncertainty, Antaeus is staying strong, and we can promise that we'll be ready to open our doors when this unplanned intermission finally comes to an end.

WE MISS YOU, & we can't wait to WELCOME YOU BACK!

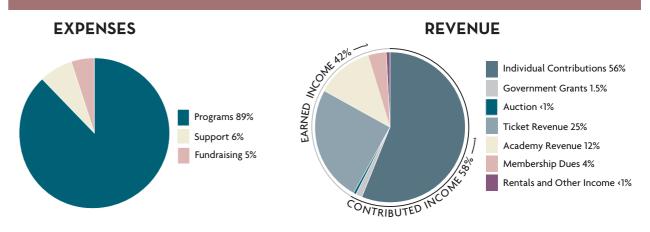
### Statement of Financial Position

Financial Data from 2018/19 Audit

ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash	\$20,099
Unconditional Promises to Give, current (net)	\$48,285
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,705
Total Current Assets	\$78,089
Property & Equipment, net	\$2,645,771
Other Assets:	
Unconditional Promises to Give, net	\$20,000
Library	\$15,000
Total Other Assets:	\$35,000
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$2,758,860

Total Net Assets TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$2,402,745 \$2,758,860
Temporarily Restricted	\$60,462
Unrestricted	\$2,342,283
Net Assets:	
Total Current Liabilities:	\$356,115
Line of Credit	\$344,142
Deferred Revenue	\$1,600
Accrued Expenses	\$5,027
Accounts Payable	\$5,346
Current Liabilities:	
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	

### 2018/19 Season - Audited Financials: Expenses & Revenue



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## 2019/20 SEASON CRITICAL ACCLAIM



### **WEST COAST PREMIERE**

### THE ABUELAS

Written by: **STEPHANIE ALISON WALKER**Directed by: **ANDI CHAPMAN** 

October 3 - November 25, 2019

"A MODERN TRAGEDY OF SHAKESPEAREAN PROPORTIONS...bolstered by nuanced performances by the entire cast."

- The Hollywood Times

"INTENSE, RIVETING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING and ultimately satisfying...eminently entertaining."

– LA Splash

Sponsored in part by:
THE MICHAEL J. CONNELL FOUNDATION



### **WORLD PREMIERE**

### **EIGHT NIGHTS**

Written by: **JENNIFER MAISEL**Directed by: **EMILY CHASE** 

October 31 - December 16, 2019

""CRITIC'S CHOICE...SHARPLY WRITTEN, EXPERTLY PERFORMED, and staged with breathtaking emotional impact."

- Los Angeles Times

"MASTERFULLY WRITTEN...SKILLFULLY DIRECTED...an emotional roller coaster beautifully depicted by an uber-talented cast."

- LA Splash

Sponsored in part by: THE MICHAEL J. CONNELL FOUNDATION



## MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Written by: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Directed by: ARMIN SHIMERMAN &
ELIZABETH SWAIN

February 13 - March 9, 2020

"STAGE RAW TOP 10...DEFIES BOTH CATEGORIZATION AND EXPECTATION... the language of the play - clearly and vividly delivered by the cast."

Stage Raw

"RECOMMENDED...CLEAR...leaves the audience with something to think about."

- Gia on the Move

Sponsored in part by:
AL LATHAM & ELAINE KRAMER

## **2020 AWARDS**



## THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

Written by: **BERTOLT BRECHT**Translated by: **ALISTAIR BEATON**Directed by: **STEPHANIE SHROYER** 

July 5 - August 26, 2019

### LA DRAMA CRITICS CIRCLE WINNER:

Lead Performance: STEVE HOFVENDAHL Direction: STEPHANIE SHROYER

and

The McCulloh Award for BEST REVIVAL

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### **READINGS & EVENTS 2019/20**

### **CLASSIC SUNDAYS**

This signature monthly reading series of the most beloved classics in the theater canon ran from September through February of the 2019/20 Season, before the theater closed due to the pandemic. Classic Sundays is generously sponsored in part by Debra Thompson & Lawrence Riff, and The Peter Glenville Foundation.

### LAB RESULTS

The Playwrights Lab supports a select group of writers as they develop the classic plays of the future. In January 2020, we presented our second annual *LAB RESULTS* Festival over two sold-out weekends.

### THE MADRES

It's 1978 in Buenos Aires; people are disappearing and no one is talking about it. On November 23, 2019 Antaeus hosted a special reading of *The Madres*, followed by a talkback with playwright Stephanie Alison Walker, joined by Nestor Fantini, Argentine activist and former political prisoner.

### **METAMORPHOSES**

As part of LA Opera's *Eurydice Found* Festival, on January 31, 2020, Antaeus presented a free public reading of *Metamorphoses*, followed by a talkback with Tony Award-winning director and playwright, Mary Zimmerman, led by Antaeus Artistic Director, Kitty Swink.

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## ARTS EDUCATION

The Antaeus Odyssey Artists' Workshop serves students at four partner sites, William Tell Aggeler Opportunity High School (in cooperation with Rancho San Antonio Boys Home), The New Village Girls Academy, Herbert Hoover High School, and Homeboy Industries. Participants often have a history of trauma, and for many this is the first time they have been given a platform and encouraged to pursue creative self-expression.

Using an adaptive curriculum pairing Shakespeare with hip-hop and contemporary poetry, the text is a jumping off point for students to analyze themes that resonate with their own lives. Writing, speaking, and improvisation exercises allow students to experience the power of working as an ensemble. Students learn greater empathy for one another, and are empowered to find their own voices and speak their truth.

Although our Arts Education activities had to be paused in spring 2020, our Teaching Artists have been developing strategies with partner sites, and making plans to resume their work in 2021.

"I didn't realize that I had the power to do Shakespeare. As an African-American girl, I used to think that kind of theatre and speech wasn't for me, that I wasn't included, but I am. And I can.
What's going on inside of me, going on in our world,
Shakespeare was writing about THAT, and that means I can really do it."

"I didn't realize that Shakespeare is poetry and that it has rhythm, that it's like hip-hop, that it's like dance, that it's like singing. I get to use all of me, and there's not many places or spaces in regular education that you get to do that anymore."

Program Participants at Herbert Hoover High School

## ANTAEUS ACADEMY

In our renowned Academy, skilled pedagogues and celebrated working actors provide high-level training for both aspiring theater artists honing essential skills and seasoned professionals fine-tuning their craft. Classes are offered in three sessions running year-round, and have continued online through the pandemic, with timely offerings including "Acting and Auditioning Online: During & After COVID" and "Dynamic Auditions in the Digital Age."

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As an artist-driven theater company, we believe in the power and importance of storytellers. They are architects of culture and windows to our history. Great theater demands a multiplicity of voices sharing vast and varying ideas and perspectives. The purpose of our New Classics Initiative is to nurture an inclusive generation of writers, both through our Playwrights Lab – a creative incubator for writers in the LA theater scene – and through a newly developed commissioning program we'll be announcing and launching in 2021. Through these programs, we support the creation of extraordinary new plays that will stand the test of time.

We've seen exceptional new work flourish in the supportive environment of our Playwrights Lab, and when we debuted productions of two new plays from the Lab last fall, it was a moment of great pride for our company. Through this process, we experienced firsthand the power of programming dynamic new voices alongside celebrated classics – a combination that contrasts and enhances the impact of both.

We are proud to consider "new classics" a central part of our artistic identity. By supporting the great storytellers of our own time, we are not only creating something of value for the Antaeus community; we are fostering the development of extraordinary art to enrich the wider world of theater for generations to come.

that theater changes lives and communities for the better.

Antaeus is more than the award-winning work seen on our stage. In addition to engaging students in the classroom, we seek to create educational opportunities for people of all ages, including talkbacks and post-show discussions. Antaeus welcomes a diverse audience from across the greater Los Angeles area, with typical annual attendance of approximately 10,000. As an anchor of Downtown Glendale's Art and Entertainment District, we have built strong relationships with the City of Glendale, Glendale Unified School District, and the Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance, to help us better engage and reflect our neighborhood.

We work to build community by increasing access through ticket subsidy programs, with an emphasis on serving our immediate local community and welcoming constituents of all backgrounds. We are deeply committed to the values of cultural equity and inclusion, and 35% of tickets are offered to community members for free, or at a reduced cost, in order to **break down barriers** normally associated with theater attendance.

Although our doors have been closed for much of 2020, we are continuing our commitment to community engagement by offering free and low-cost programs online.



## THANK YOU to our 2019/20 DONORS!

### **30th ANNIVERSARY PLEDGES**

Thank you to the following donors for making commitments in support of our 30th Anniversary Campaign:

Sonja Berggren & Patrick Seaver Karen Frederiksen Al Latham & Elaine Kramer Mary Lambert Kitty Swink & Armin Shimerman Jack & Belinda Walker

### **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

AJS Costumes Amazon Associates Chevron Humankind Cigna Foundation The Kroger Co. Foundation M.J.M. Maintenance Co.

Morgan Stanley
Pasadena International Film Festival
Paul Hastings
Sony Interactive Entertainment
The Walt Disney Company

### **FOUNDATIONS & GOVERNMENT**

The Ahmanson Foundation
The Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation
The Michael J. Connell Foundation
The David Lee Foundation
Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture
Max Factor Family Foundation
The Peter Glenville Foundation
The Green Foundation
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
The Shubert Foundation
John & Beverly Stauffer Foundation\*

\*Grant directly supports Arts Education programming at Antaeus

### Thank you to our generous donors for supporting us throughout this challenging year

Donations 9.1.19 through 8.31.20 (2019/20 Season)

Producer's & Director's Circle and Stage Crew Donors ensure that we are never limited in our artistic pursuits. This distinguished group of theater lovers provide us with vitally important support, and receive special recognition and exclusive benefits.

### PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

#### \$50,000+

The Ahmanson Foundation The David Lee Foundation Kiki & David Gindler Jerry & Terri Kohl

### \$25,000+

Sonja Berggren & Patrick Seaver Karen Frederiksen Al Latham & Elaine Kramer Mary & Mark Lambert LA County Department of Arts and Culture The Michael J. Connell Foundation The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Kitty Swink & Armin Shimerman Daniel Blinkoff & Tamlyn Tomita Jack & Belinda Walker

### \$15,000+

Amy Aguino & Drew McCoy Elizabeth & Rick Berman \* Rosemary A Hernandez Jon Joyce & Susan Boyd Joyce Max Factor Family Foundation Melinda Peterson & Phil Proctor The Shubert Foundation Jocelyn Towne & Simon Helberg

\*Gift directly supports Arts Education programming at Antaeus

### **DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE**

### \$5,000+

**Anonymous** Polly & Jamie Anderson The Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation Bill Brochtrup Evie & John DiCiaccio Ruth Eliel & Bill Cooney The Green Foundation Scott Fraser & Catherine Jurca Melinda & Robert LeMoine Molly Munger & Steve English Anthony J. Oncidi The Peter Glenville Foundation Dan Putman Jaye Scholl & Charlie Bohlen Laura Seigle Joan Pirkle Smith & Kurtwood Smith John & Beverly Stauffer Foundation\* Reba & Geoffrey Thomas Debra Thompson & Lawrence Riff Arlene Vidor The Walt Disney Company Foundation **April Webster** 

### \$2,500+

Laura & Ira Behr Dawn Didawick & Harry Groener Laurence K. Gould, Jr. & Luigi Vigna Nancy Hancock Griffith\* F. Michael Horn Family Trust The Millin Family Michael Morrell Richard Nathan Claudette Nevins & Benjamin L. Pick **Ronus Foundation** Larry Title

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE contd.

#### \$1,500+

Michael Oppenheim

Pasadena International Film Festival

Gwynne & Robert Pine

R Scott Thompson

Willow Cabin Productions

\*Gift directly supports

Arts Education programming

at Antaeus

The 6th Act Steven Robman & Kathy Baker Kahsaree & F. Kenneth Baldwin Gigi Bermingham Deborah & Andrew Bogen Erin Broadhurst & Patrick Wenk-Wolff Anne Gee Byrd Steven Warheit & Jean Christensen Debra Danner\* Loraine Despres & Carleton Eastlake Sharon & Rick Ellingsen Jeanie Fiskin Greg Grammer & Simon Wright Diane Glatt & David Holtz **I Robin Groves** Paul M Holmes Stephen O. Lesser Anna Mathias & Alan Shearman Don & Marsha McManus Kitty McNamee & Paul Lazarus Myron Meisel **Bruce & Valerie Merritt** Suzv Moser Michael & April Murphy Dan Oliverio

### STAGE CREW DONORS

#### \$1,000+

Anonymous **Christin Baker** Jenna Blaustein & Robert Leventer Caplin Foundation Susie Edberg & Allen Grogan Patricia & Richard Hughes Jack Needleman David & Deborah Trainer Wendy & Peter Van Norden Patty Woo & Steven Poretzky

### \$500 +

Joni & Miles Benickes Bill Butler Chancy Memorial Foundation Chevron Humankind Kim & Anthony Cookson Julie & Bob Craft Gordon Goldsmith Robert Gordon Margie & Paul Grossman Philip Baker Hall & Holly Hall Melanie Hayes Alan Baral & Sharre Jacoby Alice & Sam Johnston Kahn Education Foundation Janice & Mark Kaspersen Deb Lacusta & Dan Castellaneta Howard & Patrick Leder-Morrow Pamela & Todd Littleworth Susan & Bob Long Jill Maglione & Paul Van Dorpe Stephanie McNamara & Robin Gammell Desirée Mee Jung & Brandon Kruhm Ana Rose & Grant O'Halloran Linda Park Bess & Daniel Park Bess Amy Proctor & Lloyd Roberson II David Rambo & Ted Heyck Cara Robertson Gregory Shapton & Barbara Rugeley Ned & Suzanne Schmidtke George & Carolyn Seitz Stuart Sigman Adam Smith Elizabeth Swain Lori & Marcelo Tubert University of California Los Angeles Laura Wernette Richard Yaffe

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### **BOARD & STAFF**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019/20**

David Gindler, Chair Rhonda Aldrich Jamie Anderson Sonja Berggren Stuart Berton Charlie Bohlen Bill Brochtrup **Bob Craft** Evie DiCiaccio Dawn Didawick **Ruth Eliel** Karen Frederiksen Harry Groener Mary Lambert Melinda Eades LeMoine Kwana Martinez **Claudette Nevins** Ana Rose O'Halloran Ara Oshagan Linda Park Laura Seigle Kitty Swink **Reba Thomas Debra Thompson** Jocelyn Towne Peter Van Norden Arlene Vidor Jack Walker April Webster

### **STAFF:**

Executive Director ANA ROSE O'HALLORAN

Artistic Directors
BILL BROCHTRUP, KITTY SWINK

Director of Development ALICE JOHNSTON

Operations Manager NICOLE SAMSEL

Executive Assistant
JADE MOUJAES

Development Assistant ISABEL NGO

Communications Coordinator EMILY YAFFE Technical Director ADAM MEYER

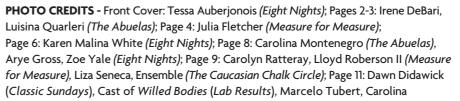
Bookkeeper AMY MICHNER











Montenegro, Presciliana Esparolini, Xavi Moreno (*The Madres*), Seamus Dever, Joel Swetow, Kwana Martinez, Richard Miro, Danielle Thorpe (*Metamorphoses*); Pages 14-15: Zoe Yale, Karen Malina White, Christopher Watson, Josh Zuckerman, Arye Gross (*Eight Nights*); Pages 14-15 Aaron Lyons, Rhonda Aldrich (*Eight Nights*); Page 17: Seamus Dever, Luisina Quarleri (*The Abuelas*); Pages 18-19 from top left: Seamus Dever, Luisina Quarleri (*The Abuelas*), Carolyn Ratteray (*Measure for Measure*), Denise Blasor (*The Abuelas*), Tessa Auberjonois, Josh Zuckerman (*Eight Nights*); Arye Gross (*Eight Nights*), Desirée Mee Jung (*Measure for Measure*), Christopher Watson, Karen Malina White (*Eight Nights*), David DeSantos (*The Abuelas*), Paul Culos, Bo Foxworth (*Measure for Measure*), Llyod Roberson II (*Measure for Measure*); Back Cover: Ramón de Ocampo (*Measure for Measure*).

All production photography by Jenny Graham; reading and event photography by Antaeus staff.

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