

**MA-YI THEATER COMPANY**

**RALPH B. PEÑA**  
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

And

**THE PUBLIC THEATER**

**OSKAR EUSTIS**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**PATRICK WILLINGHAM**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Present

**A MA-YI THEATER COMPANY and LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE Co-Production**

# SUMO

By **LISA SANAYE DRING**  
Directed by **RALPH B. PEÑA**

With **KRIS BONA, RED CONCEPCIÓN, AKIRA FUKUI, MICHAEL HISAMOTO, AHMAD KAMAL, EARL T. KIM, HANK LIN, HAOWEN LUO** 罗浩闻, **DAVID SHIH, SCOTT KEIJI TAKEDA, PACO TOLSON,** and **VIET VO**

Scenic Design **WILSON CHIN**  
Costume Design **MARIKO OHIGASHI**  
Lighting Design **PAUL WHITAKER**  
Sound Design and Music Composition **FABIAN OBISPO**  
Hair, Wig, and Make-Up Design **ALBERTO "ALBEE" ALVARADO**  
Projection Design **HANA S. KIM**  
Prop Design **THOMAS JENKELEIT**  
Taiko Drum Composition and Performance **SHIH-WEI WU**  
Sumo Consultant and Co-Fight Direction **JAMES YAEGASHI**  
Co-Fight Direction and Intimacy Direction **CHELSEA PACE**  
Production Dramaturg **AMRITA RAMANAN**  
Voice and Text Coach **JULIE CONGRESS**  
Casting **CALLERI JENSEN DAVIS**  
Production Stage Manager **ALYSSA K. HOWARD**  
Executive Producer for Ma-Yi **JAKOB CARTER**  
Line Producer for The Public **EMMA MCSHARRY**  
Company Manager **GRACE CHARIYA**  
Production Manager for Ma-Yi **BARRY STAGG**

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Resident Director  
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Director of Cultural Transformation  
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and Artistic Planning  
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General Manager  
**JEREMY ADAMS**

Directors of Casting  
**HEIDI GRIFFITHS,**  
**JORDAN THALER**

Director of Production  
**PETER DEAN**

The world premiere of SUMO was produced and developed by **LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE**, Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director, and Debby Buchholz, Managing Director, and by **MA-YI THEATER COMPANY**, Ralph B. Peña, Artistic Director. Lisa Sanaye Dring is Ma-Yi Theater Company's 2024 Tow Foundation Resident Playwright.

**THE LUESTHER T. MERTZ LEGACY TRUST** provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.



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THE

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# COMPANY

(in alphabetical order)

Kannushi 2 .....	KRIS BONA
Fumio .....	RED CONCEPCIÓN
So .....	MICHAEL HISAMOTO
Ren .....	AHMAD KAMAL
Shinta .....	EARL T. KIM
Mitsuo .....	DAVID SHIH
Akio.....	SCOTT KEIJI TAKEDA
Kannushi 1 .....	PACO TOLSON
Kannushi 3 .....	VIET VO
Stage Manager .....	TAEUK KANG
Fight Captain.....	EARL T. KIM
Dance Captain .....	KRIS BONA

## UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless  
a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

For Akio, Fumio, Kannushi 3—AKIRA FUKUI; for Mitsuo, Ren, Shinta, Kannushi 2—HANK  
LIN; for So, Kannushi 1—HAOWEN LUO 罗浩闻.



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers and watches. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited by New York City law.

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# NOTES

ABOUT SUMO

I want to express my deep gratitude to our partners, The Public Theater and La Jolla Playhouse, for their commitment in bringing Lisa Sanaye Dring's play *SUMO* to the stage. We are especially grateful to Oskar Eustis for his generosity and leadership, and to everyone at The Public for their warm welcome. The kind of theater we aspire to create is grounded in respect and meaningful relationships, and these partnerships make that vision possible.

**Through *SUMO*, we hope to introduce audiences to this ancient, spiritual sport of Japan, and make space for diverse, meaningful conversations about masculinity, femininity, and our relationships to our bodies.**

Thank you for supporting this vital work.

**RALPH B. PEÑA**  
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, MA-YI THEATER COMPANY

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***SUMO* achieves something very rare in the theater.** It takes us into a world that very few of us know anything about, immerses us in the practices, values, and textures of a foreign culture with fidelity, precision, and respect, and simultaneously raises issues that matter to every one of us in the audience. Bernard Malamud said, "All art has to have an address," which was his way of expressing something many artists have known and embodied in their work: only the most specific truths can aspire to universality.

Lisa Sanaye Dring is a brilliant young writer, someone who writes from the head, heart, and senses. She is early in her career, but a play like *sumo* demonstrates her extraordinary promise. Over the two years that we've been involved in the play's development, I've watched her re-write and re-think the play with extraordinary courage and maturity—she has grown as a writer in front of our eyes. **I think all of us will be glad to have been here, at the dawn of her career.**

Our relationship to Ralph Peña and Ma-Yi has become one of the joys of my professional life, and one of the pillars of The Public Theater. We worked together on *TEENAGE DICK* in 2018 (along with The Apothetae), and two years ago co-produced the marvelous play *THE CHINESE LADY* by Lloyd Suh. Ralph's taste, leadership, wonderful partnership as a colleague, and wide-ranging directing skills have been consistently impressive. In these difficult times for the American Theater, both our companies have found strength in our collaboration. **I suspect, and hope, it will continue for a long time to come.**

**OSKAR EUSTIS**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THE PUBLIC THEATER

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**KRIS BONA** he/they (*Kannushi 2*). The Public debut! Tour: *Spamilton* (first national). Regional: 54 Below, *Bat Out of Hell* (Las Vegas), *SUMO* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Mulan* (Tuacahn), *Miss Saigon*, *Fun Home*, *Grease*, *Mamma Mia!* International: Disney Cruise Line. BFA, AMDA. Endless love and thanks to FSE, DA/BM, Mama, Papa and Brett! @krisbonafide

**RED CONCEPCIÓN** (*Fumio*). Broadway: *Chicago* (Amos Hart). Touring/regional: *Miss Saigon* (The Engineer; U.S. national and U.K./Ireland tours), *Les Misérables* (Thenardiér, The Munny). TV: "Law & Order." Before moving westward, Concepción's body of work spanned over 15 years in his home country, the Philippines: *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Adam/Felicia; Manila and Singapore), *Equus* (Alan Strang), *Annie* (Rooster) and more. @red\_concepcion

**AKIRA FUKUI** (*Understudy Aki/Fumio/Kannushi 3*). Public debut. Select NYC: *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *As You Like It* (Oliver), *Queen Anne* (SheNYC), *It's All About Lorrrie* (ATA), *Chase: What Matters Most* (Dixon Place). A very deep bow to everyone who made this dream a reality.

**MICHAEL HISAMOTO** he/him/his (*So*). The Public: debut! Regional: *Hold These Truths*, *Yellow Face*, *Allegiance*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Stage Kiss*, *Orlando*, *Fast Company*, *SUMO*, *Charlotte's Web*. Hisamoto is also a producer, director and playwright. He serves on the board of the Seven Devils Playwright's Conference and as faculty at Boston University. BFA: Boston University. MFA: Brown/Trinity Rep. michaelhisamoto.com

**AHMAD KAMAL** (*Ren*). Regional: *Babbitt*, *Everybody*, *Richard III* (Shakespeare Theatre

Company); *Gloria*, *Kiss* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company); *Holiday* (Arena Stage); *4,380 Nights* (Signature Theatre); *The Return* (Mosaic Theatre Company); *Selling Kabul* (Northlight Theatre); *Baba*, *The Handless King* (Amphibian Stage). Helen Hayes nomination for Best Supporting Actor in *Gloria*. BFA, University of Virginia; MA, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. @king\_o\_egypt

**EARL T. KIM** (*Shinta*) is an international actor, storyteller and performance artist making his NYC theatre debut with *SUMO* at The Public. In addition to theatre, he is known for his roles in video games like Norio in *Ghost of Tsushima* and Takamori Saigo in *Rise of the Ronin*. Training: MFA (East 15), BFA (Naropa University). twitch.tv/earlofsammitch

**HANK LIN** (*Understudy Mitsuo/Ren/Shinta/Kannushi 2*). Theatre: *A Four Letter Word* (Classic Stage Company), *Neighborhood 3* (The Flea). Film/TV: *Late Night*, "Law & Order: SVU," "Fantasmas," "The Crowded Room," "Let the Right One In," "Pose," "Bull." Graduated from Brandeis University. Instagram: dastardly\_chits

**HAOWEN LUO** 罗浩闻 (*Understudy So/Kannushi 1*), an actor and producer from Qingdao, China, is thrilled to make his debut at The Public in *SUMO* as an understudy. A recent Occidental College graduate, Luo appeared in *Antigone*, *The Receptionist*, *A Dream Play* and *Scenes From Metamorphoses*. Guided by his love for theatre, he aims to bridge cultures through storytelling.

**DAVID SHIH** (*Mitsuo*). The Public: *Awake and Sing!*, *The Tempest*, *365 Days/365 Plays*. Broadway: *Life of Pi*. Off-Broadway: *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME*, *Gnit*, *Henry VI*, *KPOP*, *Somebody's Daughter*. Regional: *The Far Country*, *Kim's Convenience*, *The Paper*

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

*Dreams of Harry Chin*. Film: *Eighth Grade*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Saving Face*. TV: "Billions," "Iron Fist," "The Path."

**SCOTT KEIJI TAKEDA** (*Akio*). The Public and NYC debut. Regional: *SUMO* (world premiere, La Jolla Playhouse), *Pacific Overtures*, *Next to Normal*, *Valley of the Heart*, *The Great Leap*. Film: *No No Girl*, *Carrie Pilby*, *MDMA*, *Evergreen*. TV: "Huge in France," "Grey's Anatomy," "Made for Love." Takeda thanks his family and friends for their endless love, support and encouragement.

**PACO TOLSON** he/him (*Kannushi 1*) has developed work with Ma-Yi Theater for over 17 years including *The Children of Vonderly*, *Rescue Me* and *Soul Samurai*. Lortel nominations: Lead Performance (Fiasco's *Knight of the Burning Pestle*) and Featured Actor (*Vietgone* at Manhattan Theatre Club). TV: "Billions," "Search Party," "Law & Order: Organized Crime," "Prodigal Son," "The Good Fight."

**VIET VO** (*Kannushi 3*). Public debut! Originally from Hawaii. Off-Broadway: *Romeo and Bernadette*, *Fishing for Wives*. Regional: *Vietgone* (three productions) and *Gold Mountain the Musical*. TV/film: *Cupids* (Tribeca Film Festival), "Law & Order: SVU," "The Blacklist," "Tales of the City," "Manifest," "Lost." Huge Mahalo nui loa cast and crew. Dedicating this to my family, especially Nha Thi Nguyen. 사랑해요, Bingsu

**LISA SANAYE DRING** (*Playwright*). Tow Foundation Writer in Residence with Ma-Yi Theater Company. Work includes *SUMO* (La Jolla Playhouse/Ma-Yi), *Kairos* (National New Play Network rolling world premiere). Her work has also been developed/produced by The Geffen, The New Group, Actors Theatre of Louisville, East West Players and

Contemporary American Theater Festival. Awards: Edgerton Award, BroadwayWorld Award for Best New Play; Emmy nomination for "Welcome to the Blumhouse Live"; finalist for Relentless Award, O'Neill, BAPF. Fellowships: MacDowell, Blue Mountain Center, Yaddo.

**RALPH B. PEÑA** (*Director*) is an Obie Award-winning theatremaker and producing artistic director of Ma-Yi Theater Company. Recent credits: *The Far Country* (CT Critics nomination), *SUMO*, *The Chinese Lady* (multiple nominations), *Tiger Style!*, *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME*, *Among the Dead* and *The Wong Kids* (Off-Broadway Alliance Award). Writer/director: film *Vancouver* (Cannes World Film Festival) and PBS documentary *20 Years of Asian American Playwriting*.

**WILSON CHIN** (*Scenic Design*). Broadway: *Cost of Living*, *Pass Over*, *Next Fall*. Off-Broadway: *A Bright New Boise*, *Sunset Baby* (Signature); *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizons); *Jonah* (Roundabout); *All Nighter*, *Space Dogs* (MCC); *Annie* (Madison Square Garden). Opera: *Turandot* (Washington National Opera), *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Lyric Opera of Chicago). Drama Desk, Lortel and Henry Hewes Award nominations. @wilsonchindesign

**MARIKO OHIGASHI** she/her (*Costume Design*). NYC-based costume designer from Tokyo, Japan. The Public: *Out of Time* (NAATCO). Off-Broadway: *Cymbeline*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Veil Widow Conspiracy*. Regional: *SUMO* (La Jolla Playhouse/Ma-Yi), *Romeo and Juliet* (Two River Theater). International: *Next to Normal* (Toho); *Hansel and Gretel* (Sony Music Foundation/Suntory Hall); *Barber of*

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

*Seville, Marriage of Figaro* (Rohm Theater Kyoto). Education: NYU Tisch.

**PAUL WHITAKER** (*Lighting Design*). Ma-Yi: *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra, Go!*; *American Hwangap*. The Public: *Durango, Guinea Pig Solo*. New York credits include Playwrights Horizons, Atlantic Theater Company among others. Regional credits include The Guthrie, La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center among others. Whitaker is a partner at Schuler Shook. paulwhitakerdesigns.com

**FABIAN OBISPO** (*Sound Design and Music Composition*). The Public: *Sea Wall/A Life, Oedipus El Rey, Durango, Two Sisters and a Piano*. Public/Ma-Yi: *The Chinese Lady, Teenage Dick*. Off-Broadway: MTC, MCC, CSC, Atlantic Theater Company, Vineyard Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, The New Group. Regional: Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Kennedy Center, La Jolla, The Old Globe, Goodman, Guthrie, A.C.T., OSF.

**ALBERTO "ALBEE" ALVARADO** he/him (*Hair, Wig and Makeup Design*). The Public: debut. Broadway: *The Outsiders*. Off-Broadway: *Give Me Carmelita Tropicana* (SoHo Rep; co-design). Regional: *La Cage Aux Folles* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Ballad of Johnny and June, SUMO* (La Jolla Playhouse); *A Transparent Musical* (CTGLA; makeup design); San Diego Opera; Seagle Music Colony. Education: BA, SDSU. I'm here to amplify underrepresented voices. YOUR story matters.

**HANA S. KIM** she/her (*Projection Design*). Broadway: *The Outsiders; The Old Man & the Pool; Summer, 1976*. Off-Broadway/New York: *The Harder They Come, Eve's Song* (The Public Theater); *Everything Rises* (BAM). New music/opera: *Magdalene* (Prototype Festival), *L'Orfeo* (Santa Fe Opera), *Sweet Land* (The Industry). Regional: La Jolla Playhouse, A.R.T., Geffen Playhouse, OSF, A.C.T., among others. Awards: Tony Awards, Princess Grace Award, Sherwood Awards from CTG among others. hananow.com

**THOMAS JENKELEIT** he/they (*Prop Design*) is a prop and scenic designer from Queens, New York, devoted to creating new, reimagined and thought-provoking work. Recent credits: Park Avenue Armory, Soho Rep, BAM, Vineyard Theatre, En Garde Arts, Ensemble Studio Theater, HERE Arts Center, New Ohio Theatre, Zipline Media, People

Magazine, The Civilians. BFA Ithaca College. jenkeleit.com

**SHIH-WEI WU** 吳士璋 (*Taiko Drum Composition and Performance*) is a composer-performer of Japanese folk percussion and flutes and excited to be part of the heya. Noted by the *LA Times* as a "passionate performer." Wu is a sought-after collaborator and recording artist. Credits: *Pacific Overtures* (East-West Players); performances with Yoko Ono, Kei Akagi, Miya Folick, Shoji Kameda, On Ensemble and Yukiko Matsuyama. IG: @shihweimusic

**JAMES YAEGASHI** (*Sumo Consultant and Co-Fight Direction*). Born and raised in Japan, sumo was a fabric of life growing up. His love of sumo led to 20-plus years of practice in judo and aikido. Actor credits: *Take Me Out, Richard III, Durango* (The Public); *Breakfast at Tiffany's, A Naked Girl on the Apian Way, Take Me Out* (Broadway); LCT, Ma-Yi, Signature, The Civilians, TFANA. Film/TV: *Civil War*, "Fallout," "Marvel's Runaways," etc.

**CHELSEA PACE** she/her (*Co-Fight Direction and Intimacy Direction*). Broadway: *A Strange Loop, Leopoldstadt, KPOP*. Off-Broadway: Soho Rep, TFANA, Shed, INTAR. Select Regional: CTG, A.C.T., La Jolla, Berkeley Rep, Signature, Arena, Studio, Woolly Mammoth, Folger. Select Film/TV: *Drive Away Dolls*, "Elsbeth," "American Sports Story," "League of Their Own," "Harlem," "Ramy," "Wu-Tang," "All's Fair." Author: *Staging Sex* (Routledge). Founder, Open Intimacy Creatives. chelseapace.com @professorpace

**CALLERI JENSEN DAVIS** (*Casting*) is the collaborative casting partnership of James Calleri, Erica Jensen and Paul Davis. Broadway: *Purpose, Topdog/Underdog, The Piano Lesson, For Colored Girls...*, *Thoughts of a Colored Man, Burn This, Fool for Love, Venus in Fur, Hedwig & the Angry Inch, The Elephant Man, Of Mice and Men, 33 Variations, A Raisin in the Sun, Chicago, The Dead*. TV: "Love Life," "Dickinson," "The Path," "Lipstick Jungle."

**ALYSSA K. HOWARD** (*Production Stage Manager*). The Public: *for colored girls...*, *Teenage Dick, The Fortress of Solitude*. Off-Broadway (selected): *Safety Not Guaranteed* (BAM), *What Became of Us, The Far Country* (Atlantic), *Poor Yella Rednecks* (MTC), *Lady M* (Heartbeat Opera), *Public*

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

*Obscenities*, *Wolf Play* (Soho Rep), *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME* (Ma-Yi Theater). Education: MFA, Yale School of Drama; BA, Williams. IG: @shiningatthetop

**TAEUK KANG** he/him (*Stage Manager*). Broadway: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *KPOP*. Off-Broadway: *An American Soldier*, *Like They Do in the Movies*, *Richard III*, *On Sugarland*. Tour: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *A Little Night Music*. Kang holds an MFA in stage management from Columbia University and is dedicated to fostering international cultural exchange.

**MA-YI THEATER COMPANY** is a professional Off-Broadway not-for-profit organization whose primary mission is to develop and produce new and innovative plays by Asian American writers. It is the country's leading incubator of AAPI works, with numerous award-winning productions that include Lloyd Suh's *The Chinese Lady*, Daniel K. Issac's *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME*, Hansol Jung's *Wolf Play* and *Among the Dead*, Mike Lew's *Teenage Dick* and *Bike America*, Qui Nguyen's *The Inexplicable Redemption*

*of Agent G* and *Soul Samurai* (with Vampire Cowboys), *Rescue Me* by Michi Barall and Lonnie Carter's *The Romance of Magno Rubio*. Ma-Yi Theater is home to the renowned Ma-Yi Writers Lab, the largest collective of AAPI writers in the country. [ma-yitheatre.org](http://ma-yitheatre.org) and [ma-yistudios.com](http://ma-yistudios.com)

**LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE** is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside its theatre walls. Led by Tony winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz, the Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works and sending 36 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, plus the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](http://LaJollaPlayhouse.org)

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

institution engaging, both on stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theatres, The Public has long operated on the principles that theatre is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Lab, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *Hair* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American theatre and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 64 Tony Awards, 195 Obie Awards, 62 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 70 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonly Awards and 6 Pulitzer Prizes.

*Information in "Who's Who in the Cast" is provided by the production. Where opinions are expressed, they are those of the players, not necessarily those of PLAYBILL Magazine.*

## STAFF FOR SUMO

Traditional Chinese Translator.....Xingying Peng  
 Spanish Translator.....Mariana Carreño King  
 SDCF Directing Fellow.....Jessica Chen  
 Associate Intimacy Director.....Alexandra Haddad  
 Ma-Yi Playwriting Intern.....Srujanae Mishra  
 Associate Scenic Designer.....Lily Tomasic  
 Associate Costume Designer.....Clare Lippincott  
 Assistant Lighting Designer.....Jiahao (Neil) Qiu  
 Associate Sound Designer.....Salvador Zamora  
 Associate Design Engineer.....Liam Bellman-Sharpe  
 Associate Projections Designer/  
 Animator.....Jacqueline "JQ" Reed  
 Animator.....Jesus Hurtado  
 Assistant Production Manager.....Franny Kromminga  
 Assistant Company Manager.....Autumn Knight  
 Production Assistant.....Sabeen Shalwani  
 Load-In Production Crew.....Isaiah Rothstein,  
 Joanie Tripodi-Kaminsky  
 Head Audio.....A. Roberts  
 A1.....Irene Wang  
 A2.....Emilia Wojciechowski  
 A1 Sub.....Maddie Hanley  
 Load-In Audio Crew.....Maddie Hanley, Gerard Marcus,  
 Emilia Wojciechowski, Rebecca "Beck" Zegans  
 Video Engineer.....Ashur Rayis

Video Operator.....Daniel Soto  
 Load-In Video Crew.....Akvinder Kaur, Gerard Marcus,  
 Josh Northcutt, Jack Spalding, Daniel Soto  
 Projection Programmers.....Devin Kinch, Sean Preston  
 Wardrobe Supervisor.....Moe Perez  
 Wardrobe Crew.....Nyel Manley, Cait Simonton  
 Hair/Wig Supervisor.....Nora Gustuson  
 Assistant Wig Supervisors.....Carina Metz, Jill Sawyer  
 Head Electrician.....Joe Scardino  
 Lighting Programmer.....Cat Cusick  
 Light Board Operator.....Shawn Salick  
 Deck Electrician.....Riley Allsup  
 Load-In Electricians Crew.....Jewel Calabro, Camille Cooper,  
 Parker Damm, Jimmy Dewhurst, Liv Grasso,  
 River Knight, Jesus Santiago, Sawyer Smith  
 Deck Crew.....Sabeen Shalwani  
 Technical Director.....Thomas Rubin  
 Assistant Technical Director.....Nicholas Brester  
 Head Carpenter.....Courtney Kupferschmidt  
 Load-In Scenery Crew.....Michael Arriaga,  
 Howard Moncada, Ruan Tumulty  
 Lead Scenic Artist.....Ava Rand

## CREDITS

Lighting, video and audio equipment from PRG Broadway.  
 Costume build provided by Parsons-Mearns, Inc. Scenic  
 build provided by StoneDog Studios. Taiko drum build  
 by Stuart Paton. Sponsored Taiko vocationalist with  
 TaikoVentures, LLC. Casting for La Jolla Playhouse  
 production by tbd casting co.; Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA/  
 Jacole Kitchen.

## MUSIC CREDITS

"Opposites Attract" written by Oliver Leiber. Published  
 by BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP) obo. Oliver Leiber Music  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

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 Vienn Al-Rashid, East West Players, MacDowell, Hero  
 Theatre, Tow Foundation, Chelsea Factory, Theater for a  
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 Associate Director of  
 New Work Development ..... Jack Phillips Moore  
 New Work Development Manager ..... Zoë Kim  
 Senior Dramaturg ..... Sarah Lunnie  
 New Work Development Fellow,  
 Miranda Family Fellowship ..... Harris Kiernan  
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# A NOTE

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT



I recently saw an exhibit of Tibetan Buddhist mandalas at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Tenzing Rigdol, a living artist, was invited to create a piece in conversation with centuries-old ancient work. At the exhibit I read mandalas were once seen as powerful maps of the universe which could control worlds, achieve enlightenment, and win war—**through symbology, monks and artists can steer the universe.**

For the exhibit, Rigdol created *Biography of a Thought*: a vibrant, rich piece that was once an homage to the established traditions as well as a departure—pieces included ancient symbology as well as images of climate disaster, national tragedies, and flags of colonized countries.

**It struck me as both extremely reverent and personal to the point that, according to the old ways, it would be considered sacrilegious.**

To me, this was an artist holding the old ways dear to their heart while trying to cleave our current life to a sense of that which is hallowed. And I hope this play is doing the same kind of thing.

**Sumo is Japan's national sport, and it is also a sacred Shinto ritual.** Ancient Shinto and sumo rules dictate that women are not allowed to even transgress the boundaries of the ring: inside the ring is reserved for those who can touch the sky.

I ask that the mythology which has created something as glorious as sumo—governed by the most powerful goddesses, exclusionary to so many, and fundamental to shaping the consciousness of my ancestors—make space for a new sacred imagination. **And I ask that our stage make space for a new kind of hero.**

**Thank you so much for seeing this play.** I hold time as the most valuable thing we have. And for you to spend yours in my company is a great honor.

*Lisa Sanaye Dring*

**LISA SANAYE DRING**  
PLAYWRIGHT



Pictured: *Biography of a Thought #1*, Tenzing Rigdol

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