



**CalPoly**  
Pomona



**LET ME  
DOWN EASY**

**March 18-24, 2022 | Studio Theatre | Building 25-110**



# LET ME DOWN EASY

Written by Anna Deavere Smith  
Directed by Michael T. Kachingwe

Featuring

Christina Apreza, Julian Carrasco,  
David Hermosillo, Julia Hibner, Alexis Stanfield

Set Designer  
Jorge Macias

Costume Designer  
Kelly Tsan

Lighting Designer  
Jesse Rodriguez

Sound Designer  
Melanie Lopez

Stage Manager  
Ariana Michel

**There will be one 10-minute intermission.**

LET ME DOWN EASY is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The Department would like to dedicate our Spring production season to the memory of  
Connor A. Chuateco.

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Anna	Alexis Stanfield
James H. Cone / “Let Me Down Easy”	Julian Carrasco
Elizabeth Streb / “Fire Dance”	Julia Hibner
Lance Armstrong / “Righ On Time”	David Hermosillo
Sally Jenkins / “Ashes”	Christina Apreza
Eve Ensler / A Rasin A Day”	Julia Hibner
Brent Williams / “Toughness”	Christina Apreza
Michael Bentt / “When Boxers See Lights”	Julian Carrasco
Hazel Merritt / “A Sheet Around My Daughter”	David Hermosillo
Lauren Hutton / “Mojo”	Julia Hibner
Ruth Katz / “That Bedrock Of Care”	Julian Carrasco
Kiersta Kurtz-Burke / “Heavy Sense Of Resignation”	Christina Apreza
Phil Pizzo / “Takes A Lot Of Time”	David Hermosillo
Susan Youens / “Passing Bells”	Julia Hibner
Eduardo Bruera / “Existential Sadness”	Christina Apreza
Ann Richards / “Chi”	Julian Carrasco
Lorraine Coleman / “Gloves”	David Hermosillo
Joel Siegel / “Three Thousands Years of Being Kicked Around Europe”	Christina Apreza
Peter Gomes / “Why Don’t You Stick Around”	David Hermosillo
Trudy Howell / “Don’t Leave Them In The Dark”	Julian Carrasco
Matthieu Ricard / “Teacup”	Julia Hibner

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Brian S. Newman
Director of Theatre Facillities	Jonathan Bastow
Technical Director	Kenneth Blenc
Costume Shop Supervisor	Vannessa Poveda
Assistant Production Manager	Ariana Michel
Assistant Costume Designer	Janette Arellano
Assistant Stage Manager	Hailey Hill
Charge Scenic Artist	Hanalei Vasquez
Properties Lead	Andrea Lopez
Properties Artisan	Anthony Arzate
Lighting Programmer & Board Operator	Trevor Campbell
Audio Engineer	Natalie Lambert

Deck Crew .....	Shawn Lollis
Wardrobe Crew .....	Claudia Arias, Jonathan Fang
Scene Shop Crew .....	Stephanie Alvarado, Samantha Lizarraga
.....	Isaac Medina, Athena Ramirez
.....	Rossy Sarabia, Kelly Tsan
Costume Shop Crew .....	Destiny Avina, Crystal Espinoza
.....	Serena Gonzalez, Katelyn Lopez
.....	Erin Nign, Chelsea Sykes, Julie Valdez
Electrics Crew .....	Flora Chen, Myles Cox
.....	Kevin Hynes, Shawn Lollis, Sara Torres
Publicity Crew .....	David Hermosillo, Mary Kapella, Sadaf Sharif
House Managers.....	Athena Ramirez, Sadaf Sharif

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## DIRECTOR NOTES

*Let Me Down Easy* presents the question of LIFE and how is it that we take our existence for granted when in fact Life is a privilege rather than a right. This play dives directly into the vulnerability of the human body and the resiliency of the human spirit. The timely subject of health and care is relevant in our current challenges to graciously maneuver through a worldwide pandemic. Often it is said we take our lives for granted by sometimes wasting it and not considering the endless possibilities we could strive for. The obvious goal that is unspoken is immortality through denial of the aging process with social media platforms hiding who we really are. In this play, it is revealed that it is actually death that we take for granted by not addressing it often enough until it is too late. These stories will reconnect the meaning of what it means to embrace the inevitable. The hope is be moved enough to have meaningful conversations with those in your life that ultimately will be impacted by your absence.

**-Michael T. Kachingwe, Director**

# CAST



Christina Apreza



Julian Carrasco



David Hermosillo



Julia Hibner



Alexis Stanfield

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Christina Apreza (Ensemble)** This is Christina's first stage production at Cal Poly Pomona. She is a transfer Theater major - Acting option in her third year. Christina would like to thank her family and loved ones for their support and encouragement throughout her journey here at Cal Poly. She would also like to thank her castmates and crew for making this experience fun, enjoyable, electric, and full of precious memories. "Let's break legs!"

**Julian Carrasco (Ensemble)** is a senior acting student at Cal Poly Pomona. He is very excited to be a part of this ensemble. Past credits include Coach Ripper in *Heathers: the Musical*, Henry in *Skin of Our Teeth*, Quintus in *Titus Andronicus*, Student written plays (Spring 2020 and Spring 2021), and Fool in *King Lear*.

**David Hermosillo (Ensemble)** is a fourth year Theatre Major with an emphasis in Acting. During his time at Cal Poly he has been heavily involved with the department being in productions like *Polaroid Stories*, *References to Salvador Dali* *Make Me Hot*, *Legally Blonde*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Skin of Our Teeth*. He is grateful for the many opportunities provided to him by the department faculty and is incredibly grateful for his supportive family and friends. He dedicates this performance to those he holds close to his heart. Enjoy the show!



**Julia Hibner (Ensemble)** is honored and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of *Let Me Down Easy*. She would like to dedicate this show to her family and friends. Her past acting experiences include *Rudolph*, a staged reading of *The Time Of Our Lives*, and *Heathers: The Musical*. Additional experiences include being Stage Manager for *The Revolutionists*, Stage Manager for *Fefu and Her Friends*, and Production Assistant for Southern California Shakespeare Festival's film of *King Lear*. She wants to thank the Director, Stage Management, Designers, and the beautiful Cast for their incredible work and continued support. We are looking forward to sharing these stories with you. Thank you for being here!

**Hailey Hill (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a junior here at Cal Poly Pomona and a transfer student from Victor Valley College where she earned an associate degree in early childhood education. She is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in theatre arts with an emphasis in education and community engagement. She looks forward to passing her love and passion for the arts onto the future generations as she becomes an educator. Hailey has been participating in theatre for 10 years now and has had the opportunity to be part of more than 22 productions through High School, Community Theatre, with VVC, and here at CPP. Her experience includes performing as Emily Webb in *Our Town* (Creative Arts Theatre), Stage Manager for *Jungle Book Circus: Scotland* tour (Encore High School), and Assistant Props Artisan for *The Thanksgiving Play* (Cal Poly Pomona). She is beyond blessed and excited to add *Let Me Down Easy* as number 23! She thanks the cast, crew, management and designers for their dedication and support through this process. She also thanks her friends and family for their endless love in every dream she chases. Lastly, a thank you to the audience as she invites you to let your emotions take you on this shared journey. Enjoy!

**Michael T. Kachingwe (Director)** is pleased to be directing such a talented cast. As a member of SAG/AFTRA and AEA, he has appeared in *The Tempest* as Prospero as well as in *Richard III* as Queen Margaret. He is also currently a member of The Actors Co-op Theatre company and Norman Bates Production Company. He has performed in over 40 productions including theatrical engagements at the Kennedy Center (Washington DC), La Mama (off Broadway), Steppenwolf (Chicago), Goodman (Chicago), Victory Gardens (Chicago), Shubert (Boston), Southern California Shakespeare Festival, Hayworth (LA), Robey (LA) and Unicorn (Kansas City). Theatre roles include Claudius in *Hamlet*, Caius in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Michael Cassio in *Othello*, Claudius in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Charlie in *Bourbon at the Border*, Wil in *Flyin' West*, Slow Drag in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, Bynum in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and Keo in *Nomathemba* (featuring Ladysmith Black Mambazo). He most recently was seen in the Web Series *Just Jackie* in the role of Marcus. In addition to his theatrical performing credits, Michael has appeared in film and television including roles in *The West Wing*, *The Bold and the Beautiful*, and several national commercials. Michael has also directed over 50 theatrical productions, vocal coached over 40 productions, and fight choreographed over 30 productions.

**Melanie Lopez (Sound Designer)** is a fourth-year General Theatre major at Cal Poly Pomona with a focus in Sound Design and Performance. Her past design credits include *Fefu and Her Friends* and *The Thanksgiving Play*. She wants to thank her friends, family, and fellow designers for all their support. Enjoy the show!

**Jorge Macias (Scenic Designer)** is a senior at Cal Poly Pomona and majors in Design and Technical Production. This is his first project as a set designer and would like to thank staff, faculty, family, and friends for words of encouragement and for supporting him every step of the process. After graduation he plans to study industrial design and attend graduate school for scenic. He dreams in working on theatre shows, concerts, and fashion runway sets in the future. He is thankful to everyone that made it possible to see this production in person.

**Ariana Michel (Stage Manager)** is a fourth-year student at Cal Poly Pomona majoring in Theatre Arts Design and Technical Production. She wants to be a role model for young women of color who strive to be in leadership roles. Ariana's past credits include stage manager for *Polaroid Stories*, *Zorro X2*, *The Tempest*, and *King Lear*. She got the great opportunity to work this year's Super Bowl Experience and is currently working as Outside In Theatre's stream manager and works in deep collaboration on the weekly virtual production of *Trek Table* hosted by women of color. Ariana has also taken on the role of assistant production manager for Cal Poly's fall 2021 and spring 2022 season. She is grateful for the community that was built on her last production here before she graduates. Ariana is blessed to be surrounded with positive creative energies and is looking forward to continuing her studies in a graduate program in stage management.

**Jesse Rodriguez (Lighting Designer)** In his final year of undergrad, Jesse Rodriguez has designed and participated in several Cal Poly Pomona productions including but not limited to *Stop Kiss*, *Boy Gets Girl*, and *King Lear*. He would like to thank all those that supported him and his endeavors

**Alexis Stanfield (Ensemble)** is a fourth-year theatre major with an emphasis in acting. She is very excited to be in her first in-person show here at Cal Poly! She wants to thank her family and friends for their endless support.

**Kelly Tsan (Costume Designer)** is a 3rd year student at Cal Poly and plans to graduate Fall of 2022. She is a Theater Design/Tech major with a focus on Design and Management. Her past experiences include working as an ASM for *ZorroX2* and *Mr. Burns* as well as Props designer for *The Revolutionists*. She would like to thank the designers, cast, director, and faculty for all their work and support!! And a special thank you to her assistant Janette Arellano and costume shop supervisor Vannessa Poveda for all their help and guidance.

# WELCOME TO THE CAL POLY POMONA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

**About Us:** Cal Poly Pomona's Department of Theatre and New Dance awards undergraduate degrees in theatre, emphasizing theatrical production and the "doing" of theatre. At the same time, the Department offers courses in all aspects of theatre, both artistic and academic. After completing the theatre major at Cal Poly Pomona, students are prepared to begin their careers or specialized training in professional theatre, television or film; to go for advanced training in graduate schools; or to go into teaching in high schools. We are proud to boast alumnus in numerous professional positions throughout the entertainment industry.

**Our Mission:** The Department of Theatre and New Dance provides opportunities within a diverse and inclusive environment to explore and develop meaningful, innovative ideas that engage the interdependence of process and creation. Students develop critical thinking and disciplinary excellence through experiential learning, collaboration and interdisciplinary practices to prepare them to be current and relevant artists. Students work within established and experimental processes utilizing trends in new technologies, community and contemporary performance practices.

We thank you for your attendance during this production, and we especially wish to thank the following for their support of the arts here at Cal Poly Pomona:

- Dr. Soraya M. Coley – President of Cal Poly Pomona
- Dr. Iris Levine – Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Sara A. Garver – Interim Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
- The Cal Poly Pomona Foundation for its continuous support of our department

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at Cal Poly Pomona respectfully acknowledge the original caretakers of this land, the Tongva peoples, and all of their ancestors, elders, and descendants, past, present and emerging. We also recognize this land known as Los Angeles County today is also home to many Indigenous peoples from all over, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live and work here as guests on these lands, the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva.

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# DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**Bernardo Solano** - Professor, Department Chair  
**Linda Bisesti-Reidy** - Professor, Head of Acting  
**C. Julian White** - Professor, Movement and Acting  
**Sarah Krainin** - Assistant Professor, Head of Design  
**Jesse Portillo** - Assistant Professor  
**Brian S. Newman** - Assistant Professor

### **Adjunct Lecturers, Theatre**

Lily Bartenstein • Tom Bryant • Colin Campbell • Doug Cooney  
Barbara Dodge • Joyce Hesselgrave • Jill Holden • Michael Kachingwe  
Nancy Kyes • Paulo Lima • Tashara Moorehead-Gavin • Teri Nagasawa  
Elizabeth Noth • Richard Pluim • Paula Weston Solano • Dylan Southard  
John Sylvain • Julianne Zajac

### **Adjunct Lecturers, Dance**

Suchi Branfman • Kim Gadlin  
Zachary Groenewold • Jeremy Hahn • Manny Macias

### **Costume Shop**

Vannessa Poveda - Costume Shop Supervisor

### **Scene Shop**

Kenneth Blenc - Technical Director  
Jonathan Bastow - Director of Theatre Facilities

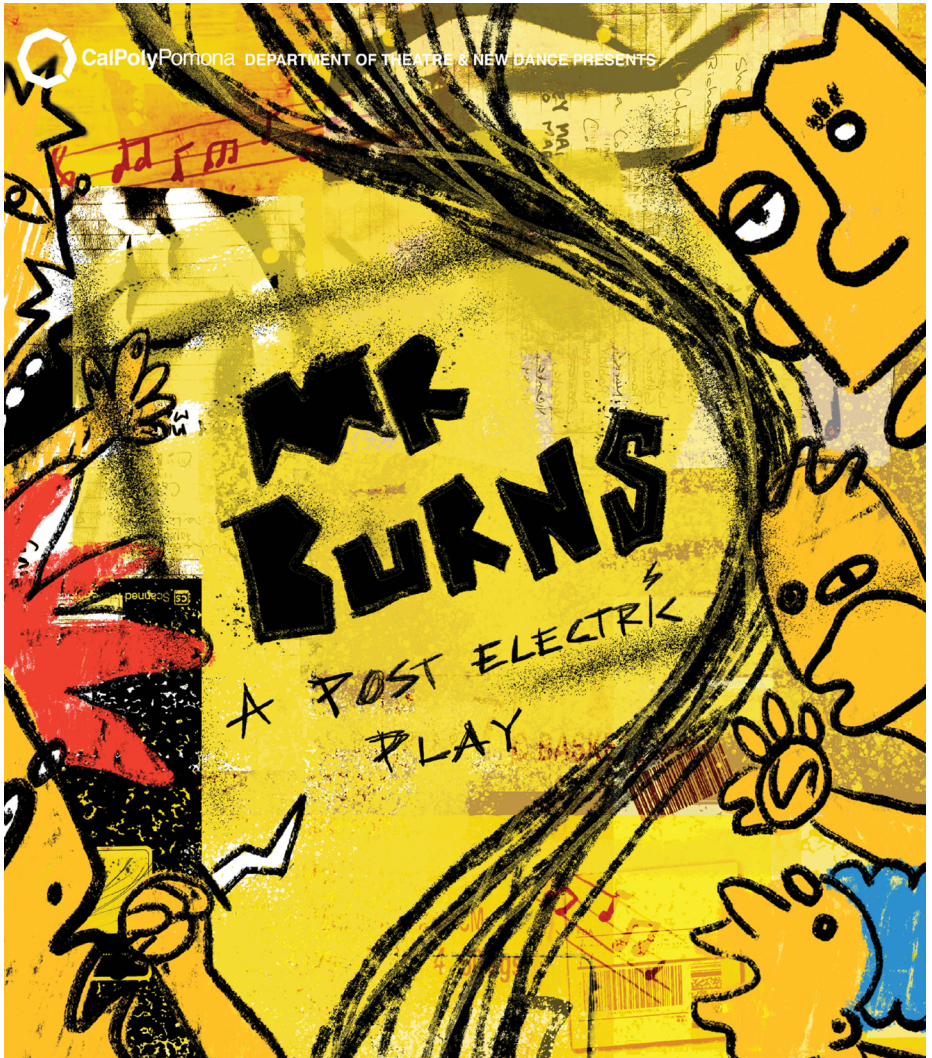
### **Theatre Staff**

Marie Maslowski - Department Administrative Coordinator  
Chelsea Sutton - Publicist

Up Next:



CalPolyPomona DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE PRESENTS



Written by Anne Washburn  
Directed by Bernardo Solano

**April 21 - 27, 2022**

Tuesday-Sunday at 7:30pm

*University Theatre Mainstage & Various Locations  
Check in at Building 25 Box Office*

\$15 General Admission | \$12 Cal Poly Alumni  
\$10 Cal Poly Faculty | Staff | All Students | Senior Citizens

INFO & TIX: CPP.EDU/CLASS/THEATRE-NEW-DANCE



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