

Loud Fridge Theatre Group Announces

Twelfth Night of the Living Dead (or What You Kill)

By A.J. Schaar

Original Text by William Shakespeare

Directed by Kate Rose Reynolds

June 21st - July 7th at the City Heights Performance Annex

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April 22nd, 2024, San Diego **For Immediate Release**

[Loud Fridge Theatre Group](https://www.loudfridge.com) opens their second mainstage season with the World Premiere of ***Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, or, What You Kill*** by local playwright A.J. Schaar, adapted from William Shakespeare's original text. The production is directed by Kate Rose Reynolds and runs at the Performance Annex in City Heights. ***Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, or, What You Kill*** previews on Friday, June 21st, opens on Saturday, June 22nd and runs through Sunday, July 7th; performances are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 2:00pm. To reserve seats for ***Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, or, What You Kill***, patrons can visit www.loudfridge.com or contact our box office at (619)387-8186. Tickets to this production are offered free of charge as part of our "Open Fridge" policy; pay-what-you-wish donations are encouraged and appreciated to keep our fridge running.

Director Kate Reynolds shared: "What grabbed all of us at Loud Fridge when we read this show was the opportunity for play, the opportunity to democratize classical text and, through the universal language of zombies, invite people into the theatre who otherwise might think that Shakespeare isn't for them. What is so brilliant about AJ's reimagining is that almost all of Shakespeare's beautiful language is still there. Nothing has been added; there're just sections that have been replaced by groans, or friendly bites. We still have our love triangles, we still have our pranks and our ploys, and we still have poor cross-gartered Malvolio, but now not only are they contending with the vagaries of love, but they're contending with the undead as well. We can't wait to bring undead Shakespeare to City Heights; I'm especially pleased that we are expanding our Open Fridge policy for this production, meaning that all performances are pay-what-you-wish, furthering our mission of increasing access to theatre."

About *Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, or, What You Kill*

This is what happens to Shakespeare's original text of *Twelfth Night* when its heroine, its 'beating heart,' is marauding through it as a ZOMBIE. WARNING: Let all who see this know that Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is a masterful comedy from the greatest English playwright of all time, perhaps Shakespeare's finest comedy, which *Twelfth Night of the Living Dead* does not intend to modernize or (belches) improve. However, when it strikes you that the original text can and does survive as one-by-one its characters are turning into zombies... And when it becomes clear that the sheer self-involvement of some characters transcends all need for earthly dialogue... And when one of the characters has been famously threatening revenge for more than 400 years... ...it seems like a worthwhile endeavor to massacre (not just cut) Shakespeare's text in order to see the silly creature-feature 'show within the show.' "If music be the FOOD of LOVE," Slay On.

The cast features twelve local artists: Danny Campbell, Freddy Gomez Cruz, Robert Del Pino, Lee Engelman, Julia Giolzetti, Nick Kennedy, BJ Robinson, Ruth Russell, Kaylin Saur, Hayden St Clair, Donae Swanson, Liliana Talwatte in a thrilling 90-minute show that's part Shakespeare, part monster movie, and all fun.

The *Twelfth Night of The Living Dead, or, What You Kill* production team includes the following talented theatre makers:

Director: Kate Rose Reynolds

Set Designer: Amira Temple

Lighting Designer: Emily Johansson

Sound Designer: Estefanía Ricalde

Movement Director: Taylor Jo Oxley

Fight Choreographers: Nicolas Castillo and Kaivan Mohsenzadeh

Music Director: William BJ Robinson

Hair and Makeup Consultant: Daniel Volkart

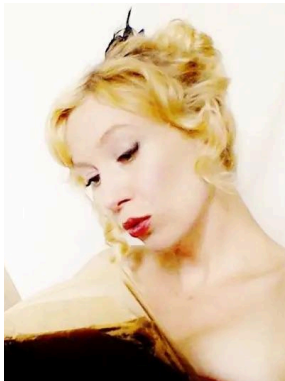
Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, or, What You Kill will be performed at the City Heights Performance Annex, 3795 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA 92105.

More information can be found at <https://www.loudfridge.com/twelfthnight>

For interviews and photos, please contact Estefania Ricalde by emailing

estefania@loudfridge.com or calling 619.517.5998

About A.J. SCHAAR



A.J. SCHAAR is an acclaimed comedic playwright of small renown. Her first play, *Rummy Starker Love Fest*, was produced first by her college (ASU), and then by a small professional theatre in downtown Phoenix called the Theatre in My Basement (TIMB). *Rummy Starker* was awarded "Best Avant Garde" by the East Valley Tribune, quote, "if you thought doing Disneyland on acid was a trip, you haven't seen Schaar." Her next play, *Kill Socrates* was workshopped and read by the New Fortune Theatre (Ms. Schaar is founding executive director). It was produced as a world-premiere by the Don Bluth Front Row Theatre (you may know the producer, Mr. Bluth, by his work as animated film Director: *Secret of NIMH*, *American Tale*, *Land Before Time*)-- and in a double-team of childhood heroes, it was directed by her Mom! *Kill Socrates* was nominated for almost every Arizoni award including Best Production, Best Direction, and every actor was nominated for Best Actor. *Talking Broadway* called it "...a drama that is very humorous while also moving and ultimately heartbreaking... a funny, charming, moving, interesting and intriguing new play." *Twelfth Night of the Living Dead* will be Schaar's third world premiere. She is delighted that this "groaner" is taking its place with the Loud Fridge Theatre Ensemble! Other published plays by Schaar include *Three Sisters* (interpreted from Anton Chekhov), *Oggetto Metallico* (concerning Mussolini, The Pope, and an Alien Coverup), and *The Triumph of Moriarty* (based on the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). Also a published novelist, her debut story, *The Storybook Coroner*, was almost immediately recognized as an "INDIE BOOK WE LOVE" by LoveReading in the U.K., and is still trending among their works of "most popular" fantasy fiction. Thanks are due to Gideon Rappaport, Ph.D., for ensuring that Schaar's deep cuts of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* were dramaturgically 'smart;' a thousand thanks are due to Richard Baird, Schaar's partner in Love and Art, for 'Ordering the Deaths,' for directing its workshops; and thanks are due to one and all involved in the readings and this production for taking this comedy seriously and bringing it to LIFE!

About KATE ROSE REYNOLDS



KATE ROSE REYNOLDS is a multi-hyphenate theatre maker and the Director of Operations for Loud Fridge Theatre Group. Recent directing credits include: *We Lovers*, *Ripped*, *The*

Pandemusical Diaries, Straight (Loud Fridge Theatre Group); Misery, the world premiere of It's a Small World, or, The Robot Play, Mala (Bristol Valley Theatre); and co-directing gUnTOPIA (Roustabouts Theatre Company). She was most recently seen on stage in Tartuffe (North Coast Repertory Theatre and Laguna Playhouse), and stars in the independent horror film Soul to Keep, currently streaming on various platforms. She also serves as the resident Technical Director for Chequamegon Children's Theatre in northern Wisconsin. www.katerosereynolds.com

About the Cast

DANNY CAMPBELL has appeared in over fifty Southern California mainstage shows and a variety of festival productions and staged readings. Credits include: 100+ performances in THE NORMAN CONQUESTS trilogy at Cygnet, AS YOU LIKE IT and PUBLIC ENEMY for New Fortune, HAMLET, ALL MY SONS, ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, KING JOHN and others for Intrepid, more than a dozen shows at Moonlight and multiple shows each at Long Beach Playhouse, Starlight, Lamb's, Octad-One, Onstage and Scripps Ranch. Favorite roles include Michael in DANCING AT LUGHNASA, Bejart in LA BÊTE, York in RICHARD II, Duncan in MACBETH, James Wilson in 1776, and Pickering in MY FAIR LADY.

ROBERT DEL PINO is an actor and songwriter, under the name Lewith Pines, from Corona CA who has made rounds in San Diego and has now landed himself in Los Angeles. After attending San Diego State University and performing at Seaworld for multiple years, Robert is excited to return to San Diego to work with Loud Fridge and be a part of this reimagined classic. Music has been the focus for Robert since making the move to LA so returning to San Diego is also a return to the stage and he couldn't be more ready. Enjoy the show!

ASHLEY "LEE" ENGELMAN is a graduate of the University of San Diego, where she earned a BA in English and Theatre, as well as a paralegal certificate. Some of her favorite theatrical credits include Hamlet (Hamlet), Juliet (Romeo and Juliet), Viola (Twelfth Night), Lysander (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Marc (Art), Mary Baltimore (On the Verge), Ms. Delaney (fml:How Carson McCullers Saved My Life), Cinna the Poet/Calpurnia (Julius Caesar), Perdita (Winter's Tale), Pistol/Dauphin (Henry V), and Lady Macbeth (Macbeth). She most recently appeared as Maggie Cutler in Vanguard Theatre's production of The Man Who Came to Dinner.

JULIA GIOLZETTI is a San Diego native, spent 2 years Off-Broadway in the company of Drunk Shakespeare, a New York Times Critic's Pick. Local credits include Puffs (Tenth Ave Arts Center), Return Engagements (Scripps Ranch Theatre) & The Winter's

Tale (Coronado Playhouse). She also performed in an immersive experience for the Amazon Prime series "The Expanse" as part of Comic-Con 2019. In 2020 as a response to the pandemic, Julia created Sofa Shakespeare, an international project where anyone can perform 1 minute of Shakespeare from home. She is the proud mom of Rosalind & Cameron (humans) and Fred (hound dog). BFA: NYU. www.JuliaGiolzetti.com

FREDDY GOMEZ CRUZ is ecstatic to make his Loudfridge debut! He is a San Diego-based actor, singer, dancer, fight choreographer, and teaching artist. His favorite projects include *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *Optika Moderna's La Lucha* (Morfeo), *Bocon's Hip Hop It Don't Stop* (Geelow), and *MiraCosta's Addams Family* (Gomez Addams). Currently, he is a member of the Camino 23 Collective and has begun his Teaching Artistry journey with Bocón! He is grateful to his family and wife, Natasha, who inspires him to be a brave Artist. Next Up: Short Film: *Apocalypse on the Rocks*.

NICK KENNEDY has acted in more than twenty full productions of Shakespeare's works and has directed seven productions. He is a Co-Founder of Poor Players, now New Fortune Theatre Company, where he was last seen on stage as Peter Stockmann in last summer's production of *Public Enemy*. Nick holds a Master's Degree in English from SDSU and Bachelor's degrees in English and Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin, where he participated in the Shakespeare at Winedale program. Having grown up between New Jersey, Virginia, Guam and Texas, he has been a proud San Diego County resident since 2001.

DONAE SWANSON is ecstatic to be performing with Loud Fridge Theatre Group for the first time! She is a fourth year performance major at San Diego State University. She has performed in regional and community theater both nationally and internationally. Some of Donae's favorite performances include *Rosalind* in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (Divadlo Bez Zábradlí, Prague), *Cobweb/Hermia Swing* (Coronado Playhouse), *Katherine* in *Love's Labor's Lost* (SDSU Mainstage) and *Ruth* in *A Raisin in the Sun* (SDSU Mainstage).

LILIANA TALWATTE is a San Diego-based actor and dramaturg from the UK. Previous credits include: *Sunny* in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (reading, Roustabouts Theatre Company); *Clown/Annabella/Pamela/Margaret* understudy in *The 39 Steps* (New Village Arts); *Catherine* in *Proof*, *Shelby* in *Steel Magnolias*, *Angela* in *Abigail's Party* and *Young Judith* in *Witchland* (Backyard Renaissance); *Weird Sister* in *PoeFest* and *Pinnocchio* in *TwainFest* (Write Out Loud); and *Wolf and Bird* in *We Lovers* (Scripps

Ranch Theatre). She has also been Resident Dramaturg at Basement Arts and Greek Language Consultant on An Iliad (Creede Repertory Theatre). IG: @liliana_zt

WILLIAM BJ ROBINSON is an adopted Black, Puerto Rican, and White queer international arts educator, music director, and composer. BJ moved from New Jersey to San Diego in 2009, and they've worked throughout San Diego, with churches & schools to non-profits & professional companies. Recent credits include their original one-person show, The Pandemusical Diaries, and Notes on Killing Seven Oversight Management & Economic Stability Board Members at Moxie. Musical Direction credits include I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change! at Vanguard Theatre & Seussical Jr. at Scripps Theatre Arts. Currently, BJ is Director of Music at Christ United Presbyterian Church, Board President/Director of Community Outreach for Loud Fridge Theatre Group, Creator/Host of Tough Talk, and Host of 'KPBS/Arts' on KPBS.

RUTH RUSSELL is thrilled to be making her Loud Fridge debut. She studied acting at the University of St Thomas and has trained locally with Justin Lang, Jacqueline Ritz and Jo Anne Glover. Favorite roles include: Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream (Coronado Playhouse), Myra Bruhl in Deathtrap, Arlene Moss in Rose and Walsh (PLP, Aubrey Award winner), Abigail Williams in The Crucible, and Daisy Lawrence in Return Engagements (SRT). Ruth is the resident producer at Scripps Ranch Theatre and occasionally spends time with her husband and adorable dogs. IG: @theruthrussell, @citydoggosd. Reel: tinyurl.com/RuthRussellActor

KAYLIN SAUR is a theatre artist in the broadest sense of the word "theatre" who landed in San Diego in 2021 after spending several years as a touring circus acrobat. She is a multi-hyphenate performer (Arson 101, A Choose Your Own Adventure - Best of Charm City Fringe 2023), who hosts drag shows (San Diego Kings Club: Kings & Friends), writes/directs movement musicals (Two Wolves, SD Fringe 2024), invents the occasional game show (Triple Threat Throwdown), and balances the books for small theatre companies (Loud Fridge Board Treasurer). Learn more about her at www.tjalsokj.com

HAYDEN ST CLAIR has been *dying* to work with Loud Fridge Theatre Group! They were most recently seen at Lamplighter's Theatre La Mesa in Charlie Brown Christmas (Charlie Brown). Other work in San Diego: Xanadu (Clio/Kira), Company (Jenny); Coronado Playhouse. Hayden received their BA in Theatre from Concordia University Irvine; credits include Into The Woods (Jack's Mother), Bright Star (Stanford), Xanadu (Urainia), and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Tom Snout/Wall). They would like to thank the wonderful cast, crew, and creative team for all their efforts putting on this killer production. And thank *you* for supporting theatre!

About Loud Fridge Theatre Group

Loud Fridge Theatre Group (LFTG) is committed to using the performing arts to make NOISE in the San Diego theatre community, by amplifying voices that have a history of being silenced, by elevating stories that have historically been denied a platform, and by creating an inclusive, intersectional environment for artists and patrons. LFTG is dedicated to the transformative power of theatre, fostering candid and loving conversations about the role of theatre in our culture, and making professional theatre accessible to everyone. LFTG is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. To learn more, visit www.loudfridge.com.