

JEWELTHEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

A VIDEO STREAM

**FEBRUARY 26**  
thru **MARCH 14**



DIRECTED BY **SUSAN MYER SILTON**

FEATURING DIANA TORRES KOSS, HANNAH MARY KELLER & JULIE JAMES

[www.JewelTheatre.net](http://www.JewelTheatre.net)

# CREDITS

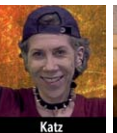
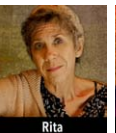
## **WOMEN ON FIRE** by Irene O'Garden

*This production was sponsored by Audrey Stanley*

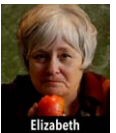
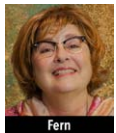
Director . . . . . Susan Myer Silton^  
Technical/Media Director . . . . . Steve Gerlach  
Stage Manager . . . . . Lydia Lyons\*  
Properties Master . . . . . Shaun Carroll  
Dialect Coach . . . . . Audrey Rumsby  
Camera Work . . . . . Steve DiBartolomeo  
Graphic Designer . . . . . rBAUERdesign

## **CAST** (in order of appearance):

Trude, Clover, Miriam, Rita, Zatz, Jordy . . Julie James\*



Fern, Lydia, Elizabeth . . . . . Diana Torres Koss\*



Eileen, Kalisha, Audrey . . . . . Hannah Mary Keller



^Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society    \*Member, Actors' Equity Association

"Women On Fire" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.co](http://www.concordtheatricals.co)

# MUSIC

## **Carried Away**

Written by Chris Kee  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Daley's Reel**

Traditional; Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Jig Etude**

Written by Glenn Pomianek  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Keeper of the Flame**

Written by Chris Kee & Peter Tucker  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **All I want is You**

Written by Travis Jones  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Gypsy Hornpipe and March**

Written by Glenn Pomianek  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Train Wreck in G Major**

Written by Glenn Pomianek  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Houston Jones)*

## **Vanna's Waltz**

Written by Glenn Pomianek  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Tocatta in Swing (Hold the Aria)**

Written by Glenn Pomianek  
Performed by Houston Jones  
*(Three Crow Town)*

## **Wait on the Rising Sun**

Traditional; Performed by Jayme Stone  
*(Jayme Stone's Folklife)*

## **This World Can't Stand Long**

Written by J. Anglin  
Performed by MAW  
*(Advice for the Young and Foolish)*

## **Durang's Hornpipe**

Traditional; Performed by Adam Steffey  
*(Instrumental Bluegrass Mandolin)*

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## **A SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Irene O'Garden  
Michael Silton

Marija Stanojčić DeNike  
Lance LaShelle

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Jewel Theatre Company operates under a contract with the Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Jewel Theatre Company is a proud member of Theatre Bay Area.



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This production is funded, in part, by grants from the following organizations:



# ABOUT

## **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

Irene O'Garden has won or been nominated for prizes in nearly every writing category from stage to e-screen, hardcovers, children's books as well as literary magazines and anthologies. Her critically acclaimed play, 'Women On Fire,' starring Judith Ivey, was twice extended and played to sold-out houses Off Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre. It was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show. Her new play, 'Little Heart,' about artist Corita Kent, won her a Berilla Kerr Playwriting Fellowship and was awarded full development at the New Harmony Play Project.

O'Garden's lyric essay, "Glad to Be Human," won The Pushcart Prize. Her writing is anthologized with Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou, Gloria Steinem and others in 'The Greatness Of Girls.' O'Garden's prize-winning poem "Nonfiction" is included in 'Fulcrum: Selected Poems.' She also recently won The Scott Meyer Poetry Award for her new poem, "Morning Coffee" and her poems and essays have been featured in dozens of literary journals and award-winning anthologies.

For her work in children's literature, Irene received the Alice Curtis Desmond Award and the Gold Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Best Book Award. Her children's books include 'The Scrubby Bubbly Car Wash,' and 'Maybe My Baby.' Irene has presented at children's literature conferences and teaches poetry workshops at New York City schools.

'Risking the Rapids: How My Wilderness Adventure Healed My Childhood' is Irene's newest book (2019), a memoir that opens with the shocking death of her problematic older brother in 2014. Presented in short, punchy, lyrical chapters, Irene's narrative alternates between her repressed mid-century Midwest Catholic upbringing to the present-day pitching white waters of Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness – immediately grabbing readers where most of us live – in a family.

Irene O'Garden lives joyfully with writer John Pielmeier, her husband of forty years, who is most known for his play 'Agnes of God.' They live in upstate New York.

# NOTES

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In theater, we talk a lot about objective, a theory that Konstantin Stanislavski introduced in his System of Objectives for actors. It has to do with what you want to achieve, whether it's with a line of text, a scene, or the overall intention of the play. The concept has grown to also include the creative collaborators of a play: the playwright, designers, and director.

Objective took on deeper meaning in the face of the pandemic. Before we started work on *Women on Fire*, Julie James, producer and an actor in the play, Steve Gerlach, media director, and I talked about intentionality, about theatre versus film, about the perspective and point of view of the camera as opposed to the eye of the audience, about how other companies approached bringing about theatre without a stage and people sitting in front of it, and about mediated performance, which uses digital platforms or incorporates, film, music, or digital technologies.

Julie and I are deeply grounded in theatre, and so is Steve, whose education and experience has contributed to many mediated performances for Jewel. Because of our grounding, we were on the same page about our approach, objectives and intention for *Women on Fire*, and that it above all, remain a work of theatre art.

A stage performance seems to effortlessly unfold in real time, but its foundation is the rehearsal process. With film, there's an aspect of capturing an immediate moment of feeling. We did not "find" the characters in front of the camera but instead, brought the characters before the camera as we would a play before an audience, using the same process of discovery and rehearsal. Depending on the point of view of the character – *Women on Fire* is a set of 12 individual monologues – the camera would integrate as either a scene partner, an observer in the scene, or both. In this way, we would neither be filming a play nor making a film, but staying true to the theatrical form.

Did we achieve our objective? You, the audience, will determine that. If we have, it is with deep gratitude to all involved, but especially Irene O'Garden, who was an accessible, responsive, creative partner, and Julie James, who worked valiantly to keep Jewel alive, so that we theatre artists could continue to have a platform for our work.

– Susan Myer Silton, Director, February 21, 2021

# BIOS

## CAST



**JULIE JAMES** (Trude, Clover, Miriam, Rita, Zatz, Jordy) is the founder and Artistic Director of Jewel Theatre Company where she has acted in and directed several shows. As director, her credits include *Next to Normal*, *Woman in Mind*, and *Company*. As an actor, her credits include *The Other Place*, *Me and My Girl*, *Always... Patsy Cline*, *Sylvia*, *The Dance of Death*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Complications from a Fall*, *Harper Regan*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Arcadia*, *One for the Road*, *Mary Stuart*, *Hello and Goodbye*, and *House of Blue Leaves*. She has also performed with several other theatres, including Marin Theatre Company, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, California Conservatory Theatre, Center Repertory Theatre, The Willows Theatre, and VITA Shakespeare Festival. Julie holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University.



**HANNAH MARY KELLER** (Eileen, Kalisha, Audrey) Hannah has a B.A. in Drama from San Francisco State University and is currently a 3rd Year Conservatory Student at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in NYC. She is very excited to be working with Jewel Theatre Company, again, in this virtual setting! Hannah's previous productions with Jewel include *Mysterious Traveler - The Good Die Young* as Sandra, *War of the Worlds* as Announcer 3/Captain, *A Street Car Named Desire* as Woman/Flower Woman/Nurse, and *Arcadia* as Thomasina. Hannah's other credits include *All My Sons* as Lydia Lubey (Stella Adler Studio of Acting), *Comedy of Errors* as Dromio of Ephesus (Stella Adler Studio of Acting), *The Crucible* as Mary Warren (Pacifica Spindrift Players), *Race* as Susan (Dragon Productions Theatre Company), *Noises Off* as Poppy (Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre), *An Enemy of the People* as Petra (Pear Theatre), *Romeo y Julieta* as Gregorio (Half Moon Bay Shakespeare Company), and *King Lear* as Burgundy/Oswald (Theatre Rhinoceros). Hannah has loved working with Jewel as always and can't wait to see what's coming next.

# BIOS



**DIANA TORRES KOSS** (Fern, Lydia, Elizabeth) For Jewel: *Me and My Girl* (Maria, Duchess of Dene), *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (Josie), *SUDS!* (Marge), *Silent Sky* (Williamina Fleming), *Always... Patsy Cline* (Louise), *All My Sons* (Sue), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Eunice), *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely), *Master Class* (Manny), *Fallen Angels* (Saunders), *Woman in Mind* (Muriel), *Enter The Guardsman* (Dresser), *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Rhetta), *Mary Stuart* (Queen Elizabeth), *Blithe Spirit* (Madame Arcati - co-directed with Julie James), *House of Blue Leaves* (Bunny), *Company* (Joanne), *Starting Here Starting Now* (Woman), *Peggy the Musical* (Peggy Guggenheims' Mother). She directed the comedy hit *Sylvia*, was music director/vocal director for many Jewel shows like *I Do! I Do!*, has created original music for *Arcadia*, *Streetcar*, and *Silent Sky*, and often co-designs sound for shows with her husband, John Koss. Other Regional: *Theatreworks* (*Sweeney Todd*, *Civil War Christmas*, *Being Earnest*); *Palo Alto Players* (*Light in the Piazza*); *Marin Theatre Company* (*Cowgirls*); *Willows* (*Nonsense*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Radio Gals*). When not performing in a Jewel show, Diana can usually be found coaching performers of all ages, teaching music, and directing plays and musicals for *Starting Arts*, a Bay Area arts educational non-profit. Proud member of *Actors Equity*.

## PRODUCTION



**SUSAN MYER SILTON** (Director). Director for Jewel Theatre's *The Other Place* (2020), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2018), *Silent Sky* (2018), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2016), *Master Class* (2016), *Saint Joan* (2014), *Arcadia* (2013), *Mary Stuart* (2012), *House of Blue Leaves* (2011) and *Clouds* (2010). Dramaturge for JTC's *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *The Explorers Club*, *Red Velvet*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Odd Couple*, *Always... Patsy Cline*, *All My Sons*, *Sylvia*, *The Dance of Death*, *The Book Club Play*, *Next to Normal*, *Talley's Folly*, *The Price*, *Woman in Mind*, *Three Days of Rain*, *What the Butler Saw*, and *Arcadia*; Associate Dramaturge for *Fallen Angels*. Artistic Director and Co-Founder *Pisces Moon Productions, Inc.* (1998-2011). Credits: Acting (*Cabrillo Theatre Arts*, *Central Coast Theatre Works*, *Dangerous Neighbors*, *Mello Center for the Performing Arts*, *MCT*, *Pacific Repertory*, *Santa Cruz County Actors Theatre*, *Twice Struck By Lightning*); Producing (*Dangerous Neighbors*, *Pisces Moon*) and Directing (*JTC*, *Pisces Moon*, *Santa Cruz County Actors Theatre*). Training: *National Shakespeare Conservatory* (Merit Scholarship); *Casey Kizziah*, *James Tripp*, *Dana Zeller-Alexis* and *Mark Zeller*. Advisory committee for the *Arts Council's Arts in Education* program. Awards: *Rydell Visual Arts*; *Gail Rich Award*. Proud member of the *Stage Directors and Choreographers Society*.

# BIOS



**STEVE GERLACH** (Technical Director) was born and raised in Illinois but has worked in theatres along the East coast and California including New York Theatre Workshop, The Roundabout Theatre Company and La Jolla Playhouse. He recently received his MFA in Digital Arts and New Media from UC Santa Cruz. With a lifelong enjoyment of building and creating, his main focus currently resides in how to integrate new and emerging audio/video technology into the performing arts.



**LYDIA LYONS** (Stage Manager) was part of the Jewel Theatre Company production of *Me And My Girl* last year. She reprised her role as Donna in *Mamma Mia* the most successful show in Pac Rep History! At Pacific Repertory Theatre her many productions include *La Mancha* as Aldonza, *Hooray for Hollywood*, *Spelling Bee* as Rona, *The Full Monty* as Vicki, *Fiddler* as Yenta/Fruma Sarah, *La Cage* as Jacqueline as well as the many Holiday Rock n Roll reviews. At Western Stage she was Margaret White in *Carrie*, one of her all-time favorite roles. Lydia has also been in several award-winning productions at San Jose Stage Company including *Cabaret* as Fraulein Kost, *Beehive* and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. Lydia has also performed at the famous Purple Onion in San Francisco. She has sung all over Europe with *The Singing Waiters* and Royal Caribbean Productions along with the famous Bracebridge Dinners in Yosemite.



**SHAUN CARROLL** (Properties Master) was Assistant Stage Manager/ Props for the 6-month National Tour of *Nunset Boulevard*, starring Cindy Williams of "Laverne & Shirley". He has been doing props for various theatre companies around the Bay Area for 10 years, including 7 years as the resident Props Designer for the Willows Theatre Company in Concord. Theatres include Jewel Theatre Company; Lake Tahoe, California, and San Francisco Shakespeare Festivals; Capital Stage Theatre; Shotgun Players; Foothill Theatre Company; Opera Santa Barbara; and Ensemble Parallele. He also ran props for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the European tour of Walt Disney's World on Ice.



# BIOS



**AUDREY RUMSBY** (Dialect Coach) is delighted to return to Jewel Theatre Company after appearing in *Red Velvet* as well as serving as Assistant Director, Movement Director and Dialect Coach for that production. Favorite productions with JTC include *All My Sons*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Complications from a Fall*, and *What the Butler Saw*. Regional credits include numerous productions as actor, director, and choreographer with TheatreWorks, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and Arabian Shakespeare Festival. Miss Rumsby is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and has appeared in many productions in the UK, including a role as lead musician and dancer for the 2012 London Olympics Team Welcoming Ceremonies. She recently completed a feature documentary entitled "Barry & Joan", marking her debut as a film director and producer. The film is currently on the festival circuit, and a premiere date will be announced shortly. Watch this space! [www.barryandjoan.com](http://www.barryandjoan.com), [www.audreyrumsby.com](http://www.audreyrumsby.com)

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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 48,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. AEA seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. AEA negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)