

in association with Shantigar Foundation present

THE FAT LADY SINGS

Written by Jean-Claude van Itallie

> Directed by David Schweizer



The Downstairs 66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003 March 22 - April 7, 2019

The Fat Lady Sings

Written by Jean-Claude van Itallie Directed by David Schweizer

CAST
Lauren Flanigan
Tony Torn*
Jake Horowitz*
Nancy McArthur
Jose Useche*

Set Design by Caleb Wertenbaker
Costume Design by Daniel Dabdoub
Light Design by Kirk Bookman
Sound Design by John Albano
ProjectionDesign by Johnny Rogers

Dramaturg: Morgan Jenness
Assistant Director: Ben Stockman
Production Assistant: Daniel Craig Adams
Company Technical Directors:Carlton Ward & Kat Tharp
Press Rep: DKC O&M
Casting Director: Jack Doulin

Production Stage Manager: William Vann Carlton*

Very special thanks to Rinde Eckert for his generous musical contribution.

This production was made possible by La MaMa's Distinguished Artist Initiative, with lead funding provided by the Marta Heflin Foundation.

*appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association



ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913 was the first of the American Actors' Unions and now represents more than 45,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers nationally. Equity members are dedicated theatre professionals who uphold the highest artistic standards. Historically, AEA has stood at the forefront of many issues, including: civil rights (from the historic 1947 boycott of the then-segregated National Theatre in Washington D.C. to the 1986 founding of the Non-Traditional Casting Project); preservation of historic theatres (it initiated the land-marking of all of the Broadway theatres); national, state and local funding for the arts (AEA helped to create the National Endowment for the Arts); and arts lobbying to advance, foster, and benefit all those connected with the art of theatre. A member of the AFL-CIO, AEA is affiliated with the Federated International Artists (FIA), an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit AEA's website at www.actorsequity.org.

CREATIVE TEAM

DAVID SCHWEIZER (Director) is pleased to return to La MaMa where he directed the annual Gala a few years ago. He is honored to be a part of the long, vital legacy of this theater where he first attended seminal experimental theater performances. He has been directing new theater, opera and performance works for more than forty years since his NY debut inaugurating the Mitzi Newhouse Lincoln Center theater with a radical version of Shakespeare's Troilus And Cressida for impresario Joseph Papp. And he returned to Lincoln Center many years later for his production of Richard Rodney Bennett's opera *The Mines* Of Sulphur for NYCO. Notable recent work includes his collaboration with composer/performer Rinde Eckert (OBIE award-winning And God Created Great Whales, Horizon at NYTW, Pericles at Two River Theater) and many new American opera world premiere productions: *Elizabeth Cree* by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell, *Burke & Hare* by Julian Grant and Mr Campbell, The Greater Good by Stephen Hartke. He has directed extensively internationally, nationally and in NYC including Charles Mee Jr's *Wintertime* at Second Stage and many memorable solo/performance shows by Mike Albo (Spermhood, The Junket) and Marga Gomez (Latin Standards at last year's Under the Radar Festival). Uncoming, Laura Kiminsky's opera Some Light Emerges at Utopia Opera and a rare revival of Al Carmines' In Circles at the Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles.

JEAN CLAUDE VAN ITALLIE (Playwright) was born in Brussels in 1936, emigrated to America with his family in 1940, grew up on suburban Long Island, graduated Harvard in 1958, and in the 1960's was a seminal force in the revolutionary New York Off-Off Broadway theater. He wrote the landmark acclaimed anti-Vietnam War play America Hurrah (that Madmen's Don Draper was so moved by), was one of the original playwrights of Ellen Stewart's La MaMa Experimental Theater Club, and ensemble playwright of Joe Chaikin's Open Theater with whom he wrote The Serpent (often called the best ensemble play by any theater group). Among van Itallie's many other plays: Tibetan Book of the Dead or How Not To Do It Again, The Traveler, War and Light. His translations of the major plays of Chekhov are frequently produced in US regional theaters, including The Cherry Orchard at Lincoln Center in 1977. Van Itallie teaches performance, writing and meditation workshops in universities and retreat centers around the country, is author of The Playwright's Workbook and Tea with Demons, Games of Transformation. On his mountainside farm in Western Massachusetts he directs Shantigar Foundation for Creativity, Meditation and Engagement with Nature.

LAUREN FLANIGAN (Mom) has enjoyed a 30-year career that includes performances at the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Glyndebourne, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and New York City Opera. She has been featured in ten world premieres, eleven CDs, five Live from Lincoln Center telecasts, one major motion picture, and has received 10 awards for her musical and humanitarian work. In 2009 she was diagnosed with Sudden Senso-Neural Hearing Loss and a neuro-processing disorder severely affecting her balance and limiting her singing career. In 2010 she founded and runs Music and Mentoring House, a New York State nonprofit whose mission is hands-on mentoring through an example of leadership, musical opportunity, education and community service. For no more than \$50 per day students studying in the arts receive full room and board, musical guidance, career advice and performance opportunities. After a seven year hiatus Lauren happily returns to the New York stage this year performing in PROTOTYPE 2019, the Carol Lipnik Songbook at Joe's Pub, a collaboration with Joan La Barbara at Roulette and in The Fat Lady Sings. www.musicandmentoringhouse. com

JAKE HOROWITZ (Ed) stars in the film *The Vast of Night* which recently won the audience award at Slamdance 2019. Stay tuned for more @ thevastofnightmovie. Off Broadway: *Dutch Masters* (Wild Project/André Holland, director), *The Sensuality Party* (New Group/Danya Taymor, director), *King Lear* (Theatre For A New Audience/Arin Arbus, director), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (TFANA/Julie Taymor, director), *Our Town* (Barrow Street Theatre/David Cromer, director). Regional: *Richard II* (Old Globe Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Dallas Theater Center), *A Country Doctor, The Pillowman* (Zoo City). Film/TV: *The Rivals of Amziah King* (Andrew Patterson, director), *Adam Bloom, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Julie Taymor), *Manifest*/NBC. Founding member of Zoo City. Graduate of LaGuardia High School, and studied at CalArts. Many thanks to my many excellent teachers!

NANCY MCARTHUR (Mary) is a Queens-based actor, singer/songwriter, and teaching artist. She was born in the United States and grew up in Greece, Switzerland, Thailand, and Turkey. Nancy is thrilled to be making her La Mama debut on this beautiful f*ck f#*king frigate! Recent credits include: Athens on the Half Shell (LaGuardia Performing Arts Center), This is Modern Art (New York Theatre Workshop), The Snow Queen (New Ohio), and Shenandoah: A One-Woman Show (Prague Fringe, Garner Arts Festival). Nancy is also an ensemble member of Blessed Unrest. She holds a BFA from the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU, Tisch.

TONY TORN (Franklin) is excited to return to La MaMa, after appearing in Mario Fratti's *Dangerous Women* in La MaMa's First Floor Theatre, *Room For Cream* in The Club, and Karin Coonrod's production of *The Tempest* in the Ellen Stewart Theatre. He is known for the rock musical *Ubu Sings Ubu* - which he created, starred in, and co-directed with Dan Safer, and for his work with legendary experimental theater directors Reza Abdoh and Richard Foreman. Recent Stage includes Ensemble in Suzan-Lori Parks' *Venus* at The Signature Theater; The King in Ben Beckley's *Latter Days* (Dir. Jess Chayes), with Dutch Kills Theater at Ars Nova; Ensemble in *Private Moment* (Dir. David Levine) with Creative Time; Porfiery in *Platonov, or The Disinherited* (Dir. Jay Scheib) at The Kitchen; Rusty Trawler in *Breakfast at Tiffanys*'s on Broadway at The Cort Theater (D: Sean Mathias). Tony manages Torn Page, an event space and classroom in Chelsea dedicated to his parents, the actors Rip Torn and Geraldine Page.

JOSE USECHE (Tim) is an actor/writer from Queens, NY. He was worked with New York Theatre Workshop, MCC Theater Company, The Acting Company, and WaterWell Theatre Company. Favorite credits include Man B in *Degage* at the Hangar Theatre and Paul in *A Chorus Line* at Priscilla Beach Theatre. When not performing Jose can be found writing or being anxious or both. He'd love it if you checked out his web series SLUT, @ slutwebseries, or the foundation he works for, Arcus, which is changing the world. Proud Ithaca BFA Alum--much love to his ship family, La MaMa, and the creative team. www.jose-useche.com

PRODUCTION TEAM

JOHN ALBANO (Sound Design) Theatrical sound design/composition credits include: Tectonic Theatre Project (The Laramie Project 10th Anniversary National Tour, One Arm by Tennessee Williams), Kevin Kuhlke (The Seagull, Liberation) Variations Theatre Group: (Fool For Love), Gisela Cardenas (One Flea Square), Nichi Douglas (Now Go Around the Table and Say You're Thankful For). John is the resident sound designer for Ani Taj's Dance Cartel. He has composed music for films by director River Gallo (Kandide, Morgan in Maywood) and for animator Steve Girard's award winning short film, Wawd Ahp (SXSW) John has recently found a niche scoring commercials for beauty brands (Elizabeth Arden, Sally Hansen). He is one half of R&B duo Bigmun and Frost. College: NYU Tisch Drama Experimental Theatre Wing.

KIRK BOOKMAN (Lighting Designer) Charles Busch productions: The Confession Of Lily Dare, The Green Heart, Shanghai Moon, Divine Sister, Tribute Artist, Judith Of Bethulia. Broadway: The Sunshine Boys (with Jack Klugman and Tony Randall), The Gin Game (with Julie Harris and Charles

Durning) and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Off Broadway: *Nine Circles, God Of Vengeance, Sweetee, Closer Than Ever, Right You Are* (with Tony Randall), *Recent Tragic Events* (with Heather Graham, Playwrights Horizons), *My One Good Nerve* (starring Ruby Dee), *The Book of Liz* (with David and Amy Sedaris). From stage production to large screen video: *The Thomasheskys* with New World Symphony and Company with the NY Philharmonic. Recent productions: *Aunt Jack* in Fort Lauderdale, *Drowsy Chaperone* at Goodspeed Musicals and *The Play That Goes Wrong* at St. Louis Rep.

DANIEL DABDOUB (Costume Designer) is a costume and production designer for theater and television. Designer of Emmy-nominated *Billy on the Street*, shows for Netflix, Oxygen, and Fusion Networks. Stage work recently seen at Ars Nova, Soho Rep, HERE Arts Center, Brown/Trinity Repertory Theater. Member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. For more: danieldabdoub.com or find him on stage as @ddfuego.

MORGAN JENNESS (Dramaturg) has worked as an educator, activist, worked in the literary office and as Associate Producer at the Public Theater, and also was an Associate Artistic Director at NYTW and LATC. Morgan has served in dramaturgical capacities at theaters and developmental situations all over the USAmerican theater for over three decades, as well as creative consultant at both the Helen Merrill and Abrams Artists agencies. Has been a quest artist with multiple educational theater programs, is currently on the faculty of Columbia, Fordham and Pace University and has been on multiple theater funding and award panels including NEA, NYSA, NEFA, the Drama Desk and Herb Alpert Award. Morgan is also a recipient of an Obie for Long Term Support of Playwrights, the prestigious LMDA Lessing Award, the first Elsa Rael VintAge Award and a 2015 Doris Duke Impact Award, under which they are pleased to work as a Creative Consultant for Double Edge Theater as well as several projects at LaMama. Is currently Creative Director/ founder of In This Distracted Globe - a dramaturgical and management consultancy.

ROSEMARY QUINN (Co-Producer) is a decades-long friend of Jean-Claude van Itallie and vice president of Shantigar Foundation. A long-time resident of the Lower East Side, she works as an actress, director, teacher, arts administrator and producer. She most recently performed at LaMama dancing with Molissa Fenley in Cross Bridge and starring in the live lesbian soap opera, Room for Cream, playing Grace in all the seasons. She is a production consultant for Distracted Globe and piece by piece Productions. Rosemary teaches acting at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she is the director of the Experimental Theatre Wing.

JOHNNY ROGERS (Projection Design) is a new media artist based in Baltimore and San Francisco. His playful work spans from gallery and museum installations to music videos and projections in Baltimore's underground. Notable past venues include the SFMOMA, Baltimore Contemporary Museum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and Pacific Design Center. Johnny received a BFA in Digital Media from the San Francisco Art Institute and has worked with Future Farmers, George Kuchar, Abdu Ali, and Matmos. He's best known for his utilization of old technology, dank memes, and immersive video installations at raves and other events crossing into counter culture. *The Fat Lady Sings* is his first time working at La MaMa.

WILLIAM VANN CARLTON (Production Stage Manager) New York credits include: Bright Colors and Bold Patterns Soho Playhouse, ASYLUM Circus Exposure 2017 NYU Skirball, Latin Standards UTR at The Public Theatre, A Christmas Carol In Harlem, The First Noel Classical Theatre Of Harlem, IDIOT HERE Arts Center; Lafayette French Institute Alliance Francais; End of Summer, Walk Hard, Rollo's Wild Oat, Within the Law, A Man's World, The Boss, Both Your Houses, and The House of Mirth Metropolitan Playhouse. Regionally: While I Have The Floor Spoleto Festival USA, CHICAGO Ivoryton Playhouse, CT; All the Kings Men Intiman Theatre, Seattle WA; Trying, Big River Ford's Theatre; Martha, Josie, and the Chinese Elvis, The Faculty Room, Kiki & Herb: The Resurrection Tour and Pardon Our Appearance, Los Big Names Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company Washington, DC. William also works as a Session Manager for APAP NYC, as well as a Stage Manager for the A Broader Way Foundation. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

SHANTIGAR FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVITY, MEDITATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH NATURE: Jean-Claude van Itallie founded Shantigar on the beautiful old farm where he's lived and created for over fifty years. Shantigar's mission is to offer transformative workshops, retreats and performances that inspire you to tap your own inner resources so as to engage with the world from a more profound place. Shantigar's vision is a more peaceful planet created by joining meditative and artistic practices with the healing power of nature.

SPECIAL THANKS

Shantigar Foundation thanks Connie Childs, Angelina Fiordellisi, Wendy Gimbel and Christine van Itallie for their financial support of this production.

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This production was made possible by La MaMa's Distinguished Artist Initiative, with lead funding provided by the Marta Heflin Foundation. Additional support from the Axe-Houghton Foundation.

LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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March 22 - April 7, 2019 The Downstairs

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La MaMa Kids The Three Dolls

March 31 - April 7, 2019 The Downstairs Lounge

Poetry Electric April Fools

April 1, 2019 at 7:30pm The Downstairs Lounge

COMING SOON

Coffeehouse Chronicles John Jesurun

Sat, April 6, 2019 at 3pm Ellen Stewart Theatre

The Fever

April 11 - 21, 2019 Ellen Stewart Theatre

Bach & Bleach

April 11 - 21, 2019 The Downstairs

La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival

April 26 - May 26, 2019 Ellen Stewart Theatre The Downstairs

Stonewall 50 at La MaMa

May 30 - June 30, 2019 Ellen Stewart Theatre