

By the Waters of Babylon Production Biographies

Robert Schenkkan

Playwright

Robert Schenkkan is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Kentucky Cycle*, which had its world premiere in 1991 at Intiman. It also won the PEN Center West and LA Drama Critics Awards for Best Play, as well as nominations for Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics' Circle awards. His other plays include *The Devil and Daniel Webster* (Seattle Children's Theater world premiere), *Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates*, *The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune*, *Handler*, *Heaven on Earth*, *Final Passages*, *The Dream Thief*, and *Conversations with the Spanish Lady and Other Plays*. Mr. Schenkkan's film work includes *The Quiet American* directed by Phillip Noyce. For Television he wrote the miniseries, *The Andromeda Strain* (A&E), *Spartacus* (USA), *Crazy Horse* (TNT) and he is a writer/producer for the Spielberg/Hanks/HBO epic, *The Pacific*. He is a New Dramatists' alumnus and a member of the Ensemble Studio Theater. Mr. Schenkkan lives in Seattle with his wife, the author Maria Davana Headley, and his two children.

Richard Seyd

Director

From 1992-1995, Richard Seyd served as the associate artistic director of the American Conservatory Theater where he directed *The Learned Ladies*, Dario Fo's *The Pope and The Witch*, *Pygmalion*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Oleanna*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Othello*, *The Matchmaker*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In the 1980s he served as associate producing director of the Eureka Theater. He has won Backstage West awards for his productions of *Cloud 9*, *Noises Off* (which he staged at Seattle Rep, 2004) *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Collected Stories*. Some favorite productions include *Present Laughter* and *The Presentment* for Pasadena Playhouse, *The Lion in Winter* for La Mirada Theater, *Dinner With Friends* for Berkeley Repertory, and *Feast Of Fools* with Geoff Hoyle at La Jolla Playhouse. He directed a highly successful production in London's West End of *A Reckoning* with Jonathon Pryce. Mr. Seyd directed the award-winning short film *Brass Tacks*. He founded Seydways Acting Studios in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Michael Ganio

Set Designer

Michael Ganio previously designed *Doubt* for Seattle Repertory Theatre. Also in Seattle, he worked on productions of *The Little Foxes*, *The Royal Family*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Born Yesterday*. American theatres include the Asolo Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, the Denver Center Theatre Company, Repertory Theatre of Saint Louis, South Coast Rep, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, the Chautauqua Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, and American Players Theatre. Opera designs include Handel's *Agrippina*, *Fidelio*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *The Ship of Fools*, and *Sight Unseen*. He received his graduate degree in design from New York University.

Frances Kenny

Costume Designer

This is Ms. Kenny's third show at the Rep this season following *Twelfth Night* and *Birdie Blue*. Her previous designs for Seattle Rep include *Doubt*, *Living Out*, *New Patagonia*, and *When Grace Comes In*. She is particularly delighted to work on another Robert Schenkkan play, the first was *The Kentucky Cycle*, which premiered at Intiman and had productions at the Mark Taper Forum, The Kennedy Center, and Broadway. She has also designed for La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Rep, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center Theatre Company, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Seattle Children's Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, ACT Theatre, and the Pat Graney Dance Company. Ms. Kenny also styles wardrobe for commercials, still shoots, and related media.

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York Kennedy

Lighting Designer

Award-winning lighting designer York Kennedy has designed for theatres across America and Europe including Berkeley Rep, A.C.T., the Old Globe Theatres, Seattle Rep, the Alley Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, Yale Rep, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Whitney Museum in New York. In the dance world he has designed and toured throughout Eastern Europe and the United States. As an architectural lighting designer, he has designed lighting for numerous themed environment, theme park, and museum projects including the Sony Metreon Sendak Playspace (2000 I.E.S. Award) in San Francisco, Warner Bros. Movie World in Madrid, Le Centre de Loisirs in Morocco, and the LEGO Racers 4D attraction in Germany, Denmark, England, and the U.S. His recent projects include *For Better or Worse* (Arizona Theatre Company, Berkeley Rep), the American premiere of *A Reckoning* (Magic Theatre), high-end residential designs in Tahoe, Santa Monica, and San Francisco, and a new medical facility in Walnut Creek, CA. A graduate of the California Institute for the Arts and the Yale School of Drama, Mr. Kennedy lives in Berkeley, CA.

Christopher Walker

Sound Designer

Chris Walker has designed *Birdie Blue*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Triumph of Love*, *Light Up the Sky*, *When Grace Comes In*, *Don Juan*, *The Last True Believer*, *The Beard of Avon*, *In Real Life*, and "Art" for Seattle Rep. During his seven years as the resident sound designer at the American Repertory Theatre in Boston, he designed sound and composed for over 40 productions, including *The Winter's Tale*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*; as well as accompanying shows on tours to Singapore, Taiwan, and Moscow. Locally, Mr. Walker has designed at Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, and the Bathhouse Theatre. Regionally he designed at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, the La Jolla Playhouse, the Mark Taper Forum and the Geffen Theatre in Los Angeles, at A.C.T. in San Francisco, Trinity Repertory in Rhode Island, the Alley Theatre, the McCarter Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, the Minetta Lane Theatre, the 92nd Street Y, and for Lincoln Center's Serious Fun Festival. For his 1997 design of *Shlemiel the First* at the Geffen Theatre, he won a Los Angeles DramaLogue Award.

Peter Bjordahl

Projections Designer

Pete Bjordahl is a Seattle-based media designer and owner of The GSD Group (www.thegsdgroup.com). His work has been featured on stage, in film, on television, and online. Mr. Bjordahl has designed large scale multimedia projections for Skechers, Microsoft, and AT&T. In 2001, he was selected as one of the top 100 multimedia designers in the U.S. by AV Multimedia Producer. His projection design work was last seen in Seattle at Cornish College in the Erwin Schulhoff retrospective, *Tempo of Recollection*. *By the Waters of Babylon* is his first work for Seattle Repertory Theatre.

JR Welden*

Stage Manager

JR Welden returns to Seattle Rep where he has stage managed *Blue Door*, *Beauty of the Father*, *Living Out*, *Things Being What They Are*, *Stop Kiss*, *The Beard of Avon*, and *The Chosen*. Across the street at Intiman, he has served as stage manager for *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Play's the Thing*, *Love and Taxes*, *Blue/Orange*, *The Dying Gaul*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Tricky Part*, *Irma Vep*, *Nickel and Dimed* (also Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles). He also stage managed *Miss Witherspoon*, *Mitzi's Abortion*, *The Underpants*, *Souvenir*, *The Mojo and the Sayso*, and *A Christmas Carol* for ACT Theatre.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Founded in 1935, the Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in Ashland, OR is among the oldest and largest professional non-profit theatres in the nation. Each year OSF presents an eight-and-a-half-month season of eleven plays in three theatres plus numerous ancillary activities, and undertakes an extensive theatre education program. Now under the artistic direction of Bill Rauch, OSF presents more than 780 performances annually with attendance of approximately 400,000.

*Member Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.