Barbara Marring & David Charact and Phys Productions present

Assoryabout the life and work

Af Brent Nicholson Barle

Then Us

Friday January 24, 2020 at SPA Saniday January 25, 2020 at SPA Saniday January 20, 2020 at JPA

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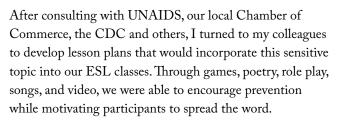
The producers also wish to thank: Tláloc López-Watermann, Anita Ross, Greg Emetaz, Michael Kerr and Flora Charner.

This show celebrates the continuing work of Brent Nicholson Earle and honors the memory of Raul Martinez.

Letter from the Executive Producers

On Thursday, June 14, 1990, my life was forever changed upon learning of my baby brother's death due to AIDS-related complications. My sweet, handsome, ambitious, and multi-talented brother was only 26 years old. Raul had battled the disease for a year-and-a-half before it exhausted his once strong, athletic body.

As an educator, I knew that vital information could have prevented Raul from becoming infected. I knew that his age group was being affected disproportionately. I knew that I didn't want him to be just another statistic. This motivated me to begin reaching out to AIDS-related organizations who shared my concerns.



This journey has also introduced me to many activists, leaders, educators, positive (+) individuals and dedicated volunteers who, through their example, motivate me to continue this effort **until there's a cure**. Key among them is **Brent Nicholson Earle**, the heart and soul of our Out of the Darkness World AIDS Day event, and star of this show.

For the Love of Friends encompasses the essence of our effort. This performance is the week after Brent's birthday and before what would've been Raul's 56th birthday. Our desire is to honor Brent's incredible journey and commemorate Raul's 30th anniversary.



Barbara and Raul Martinez

—Barbara Martinez

Letter from Brent Nicholson Earle

Thank you all for joining us tonight for the World Premiere performance of our experimental dance/theater/opera piece, "For the Love of Friends: A story about the life and work of Brent Nicholson Earle." It born out of our forthcoming documentary, "For the Love of Friends"—and it is the brainchild of the director of our film, Cara Consilvio.

Not only is tonight's performance based on interviews for our soon-to-be-finished film, moments from the show's rehearsals will also be featured in it! This life-imitating-art cycle is a recurring theme of not only our show tonight but also our film. It certainly is in keeping with AREA's inaugural event, The American Run for the End of AIDS, my more than 9000-mile Run around the perimeter of the United States and to three Canadian cities on the northern route.



Homecoming by Laine Wilder

We've touched on some of the highlights and low points of the original Run around America and its aftermath. Many attempts have been made over more than 30 years to tell this story without success, so I am indeed grateful to Hup! Productions, Cara, Alex, Barbara and David, the performers, the crew of the show and the film, the surviving AREA members, associates and supporters, many of whom have already been interviewed for the film and some of you who are in the audience tonight.

In keeping with our recurring circular themes, I want to share one more ironic anecdote. It has to do with the apartment where I have lived for almost half a century. In the summer of 1974, Al Sobek and I ended up moving out of our 4th floor walk-up in Hell's kitchen to the 10th floor of Bretton Hall, which had been a luxury hotel when the upper west side of Manhattan was countryside. Fast-forward another 20 years and I'm searching for a new home for our **Out of the Darkness** program



The Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, Out of the Darkness, 2016

on World AIDS Day and I find myself gazing out my window at the steeple of St. Paul and St. Andrew which I'd seen every

morning for well over 40 years. We only held Out of the Darkness here for two years, but the Quilts filled the sanctuary with an awe-inspiring presence.

Also, for the past four years, my church, Broadway United Church of Christ, has found a home here. And now, our show is premiering here, as well! If this isn't a classic case of "Before you call, I will answer," I don't know what is!



Brent with his mother Marion Nicholson August of 1987

One of my favorite nuggets of wisdom has always been, "Coincidence is God acting anonymously!" Sort of like Shakespeare dying on his birthday or the 12th Day of Christmas marking the Magi's Epiphany, when they were led out of darkness by a distant star to the humble manger where a prophesied king had been born. Tragically, his nativity also prompted Herod to murder all of those baby boys in Bethlehem. And this sad thought returns me to the woeful reasons underlying my unfinished story, the Quilts still to be finished, the archives and ephemera to be preserved. You know, I discovered on the night we met that my friend and mentor, Mel Cheren and I shared the same birthday, January 21. March 1, 1986, the day my run started, is another birthday for me.



Brent with his friend and mentor, Mel Cheren

—Brent Nicholson Earle

FOR THE LOVE OF FRIENDS

A story about the life and work of Brent Nicholson Earle

Written by Cara Consilvio and Brent Nicholson Earle Original Music by Salomon Lerner, Amelia Brey and Christian Adam Jacobs

Cast

Brent Nicholson Earle*

Aaron Casey*
Kristyn Christman-McCarty
Mario Diaz-Moresco

Kathleen Grace Fiori Christian Adam Jacobs* Sarah Misch

Directed by

Cara Consilvio

Music Director & Pianist

Gordon Schermer

Production Staff

Lighting DesignerAbigail Hoke-BradyCostume DesignerAnthony Paul-Cavaretta

Projections Designer Cara Consilvio

Stage Manager Cynthia Hennon Marino*

Assistant Lighting Designer Daniel Schreckengost
Projections Operator Lauren Gismondi

Executive Producers

Barbara Martinez and David Charner

Producers

Cara Consilvio and Alex Charner

The show runs 85 minutes without intermission. Audience talkback following the show with Brent Nicholson Earle

^{*}The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Music

Prelude, Op.28 No 4 composed by Frédéric Chopin

Aufschwung, Op.12, No 2 composed by Robert Schumann

The Saint

music by Christian Adam Jacobs lyrics by Brent Nicholson Earle and Cara Consilvio

Lost is My Quiet composed by Henry Purcell

Save a Place on the Dance Floor for Me music by Salomon Lerner lyrics by Brent Nicholson Earle

Élégie

composed by Jules Massenet

Spinning Song, Op.67, No.4 composed by Felix Mendelssohn

Marion

music by Amelia Brey libretto by Brent Nicholson Earle and Cara Consilvio

Remember

Music by Salomon Lerner lyrics by Brent Nicholson Earle

Cast

Brent Nicholson Earle

For more than 45 years, **Brent Nicholson Earle** has been a contributing member of the artistic community in New York City as an actor, writer, stage manager, lecturer, archivist, photographer, optical designer, curator and art gallery administrator. Trained by Sanford Meisner and Uta Hagen, his range as an actor encompasses contemporary drama and comedy, Shakespeare and the classics, public speaking and voice-overs.

Throughout the Seventies, Earle held many positions at the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater including Assistant to the producer Joseph Papp and Assistant to composer Peter Link on several productions at the Public Theater complex, the Delacorte Theater in Central Park and the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center. He also assisted Link on such Broadway productions as *The Good Doctor, The Mighty Gents* and *King of Hearts*. He went on to collaborate with Peter Link, developing two contemporary musicals with him, *Island* and *On the Road to Babylon*, which premiered at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater Company in Wisconsin. Earle created the optical design for *Island* in subsequent productions in Maine and Virginia. He also worked as Production Photographer for shows produced by the Public Theater and for the Broadway Musical *King of Hearts*.

Brent is best known as an athlete, orator and activist. He has been on the front lines of the battle against AIDS since the onset of the epidemic in the early Eighties. He is the Founder and President of The American Run for the End of AIDS, Inc. (AREA), a not-for-profit, all-volunteer AIDS education and advocacy organization. From March 1, 1986 to October 31, 1987, he ran more than 9,000 miles around the perimeter of the United States to raise awareness and funds for the fight against AIDS. Earle was accompanied throughout his unprecedented journey by his 70-year-old mother, Marion Nicholson. Together, they advocated for AIDS education and prevention and for support and care for people with HIV/AIDS.

Upon the completion of the Run, Earle continued to work with his own organization and other groups, speaking out on AIDS issues and advocating for LGBTQ human rights. After thirteen years of service as a charter Director of the Federation of Gay Games, he became one of their Honorary Life Members in a ceremony at the Sydney Opera House in Australia during Gay Games VI. He has served as keynote speaker at many conferences, marches, demonstrations and major events around the world, including the inauguration of the Mile-Long Rainbow Flag up First Avenue in New York during Stonewall 25.

Every December 1st since 1992, Earle has produced with AREA and other community groups in New York, Out of the Darkness, a Gathering and Candlelight March in observance of World AIDS Day. At the conclusion of the 25th Out of the Darkness on December 1, 2016, held at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, Earle provided a tribute to his former life-partner and AREA Executive Director Thomas W. Faucett, who had lost his hard-fought battle with AIDS and cancer on March 21, 2016. On March 30, 2017, he was a featured speaker during the Memorial Section of ACT UP's 30th Anniversary Action. He also serves as a Board Member of Heritage of Pride and was a leader for activities surrounding Stonewall 50/World Pride in New York during June of 2019.



Aaron Casey

Humanitarian and Artivist, **Aaron Casey** is a native of north Texas. Whilst growing up Aaron was exposed to many artistic mediums in which inspired his adult exploration of artivism. His formal training began at the University of Houston where he studied opera performance at the acclaimed Moores School of Music. There, Aaron starred in over a dozen productions gaining him public recognition. But even amidst his collegiate and post-collegiate success he performed on concert, theatre, and operatic stages globally; sharing his talents at venues such as the New World Center (Miami, FL), Baden-Baden Festspielhaus (Baden-Baden, Germany), Jazz at Lincoln Center (New York, NY), Warner Bros. Studios (Los Angeles, CA), Walter Hall (Toronto, ON, CA), and Cook Recital Hall (St. John's, Newfoundland), to name a few.

Since moving to NYC Aaron has created roles in world premieres, national tours, and theatrical workshops alike. Aaron made his NYCO debut last season in their world premiere of *Stonewall*, and soon after was cast as the title role, Dee Legendary in the upcoming premiere of *Legendary*, which is another queer operatic tale.

In addition to his stage appearances, he has been featured on several television episodes on HBO with Bobby McFerrin and Renée Fleming as well as an exclusive television interview with host, Ernie Manouse on PBS. Aaron is currently working on two feature films while simultaneously collaborating on his first original studio recorded album.

Not only limited to his performing abilities he actively uses his social media platforms as a means to promote social justice, inspiration, and CHANGE for humanity. Aaron recently devoted a year solely mentoring and tutoring fifth grade students at a public school in East Harlem. Always emphasizing artistic forms of expression in his curriculum for his students to be introduced to song, dance, theatre, and visual art in innovative ways. Aaron believes that art heals the soul, and as long as it's done respectfully, healthily, and truthfully then no wrong could ever be done.

Mario Diaz-Moresco

An active interpreter of Art Song, Opera and new music, **Mario Diaz-Moresco** is recognized for his versatility and stage presence.

Recent highlights include recitals with pianist Spencer Myer at the Mendocino Music Festival, the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Series in Chicago and with the Brooklyn Art Song Society; Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, singing the Baritone role in Phillip Glass and Allen Ginsberg's *Hydrogen Jukebox*, playing the lead role in Robert Ashley's *Dust*, which was named one of the 10 best classical music performances of 2017 by the New York Times, (continues on next page) and performing the song cycle *The Wanderlusting of Joseph C.* by Joan La Barbara at Roulette Intermedium and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Mr. Diaz-Moresco has been a young artist with Central City Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival, Chautauqua Opera, a Stern Fellow at Songfest and a vocal fellow at the Ravinia Steans Music Institute. He is a student of Diana Soviero.





Christian Adam Jacobs

Christian Adam Jacobs ("Chopper") is an actor, singer/songwriter, and MFA graduate of The New School for Drama. His favorite acting credits include his three seasons with The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (Cymbeline, Twelfth Night, Troilus & Cressida, Taming Of The Shrew, The Bomb-itty Of Errors, Hamlet) as well as the HVSF Touring Company (Julius Caesan); The Esperance Theater Company (Twelfth Night); and The Flea Theater in NYC as part of The Bats (Looking At Christmas, #Serials). As a singer and songwriter, Christian is more commonly known as northeast punk rock mainstay, Johnny Giovanni, who continues to bring his unique brand of charismatic "death-folk" to the New York underground. His songwriting work could most recently be seen in the premiere of "13th Point," performed at the Geffen Theater in Los Angeles.



Kathleen Grace Fiori

Kathleen Grace Fiori is thrilled to be a part of "For the Love of Friends" as her third show with Hup! Productions. It is a privilege to share Brent's story of bravery and perseverance. Kathleen Grace is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Recent theatre credits include Royal Caribbean's *Grease* (Jan), *Columbus* (Shirley); *Cirque du Soleil's Cirque Dreams* (vocalist), *Aftermath* (Hup! Productions). TV/Film: Discovery ID; *C.I.T.*, Hup! Production's award winning short film. Many thanks to Cara, Alex, Gordan, Anthony, Cindy and especially Mr. Earle.



Kristyn Christman-McCarty

Kristyn Christman-McCarty is a non-binary singer and performer from Liverpool, NY with a background in opera and musical theatre. Kristyn was most recently seen in the ensemble of Faust by Charles Gounod with Portland Opera. Some of their favorite roles as a mezzo-soprano include Jo in Mark Adamo's opera Little Women, The Witch in Hänsel und Gretel, Ruth in Pirates of Penzance, and Dame Quickly in Verdi's Falstaff. This is Kristyn's premiere as a transgender performer and they are thrilled to be sharing the stage with trailblazer Brent Earle. Kristyn holds a Master of Music Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Bachelors of Music Performance and Music Education from SUNY Fredonia.



Sarah Misch

Sarah Misch is a New York-based actor, dancer, filmmaker, and educator. Favorite theatre credits include Two Beans Productions' inaugural tour of *The Cat in the Hat, Plan G* (Randomly Specific Theatre), *Girls Night! the Musical* (Entertainment Events, Inc.), *That Which Remains* (Improbable Stage), *Full City+: a site-specific serial comedy* (dir. Joe Salvatore & Keith Huff), *The Curse of the Babywoman* (NYC Fringe), and *Aftermath: a dancetheatreopera* (Hup! Productions). Sarah has also appeared in several indie films and new media projects, including the award-winning horror short "Corpse Pose," now available for streaming on Amazon Prime and Roku. Sarah is a company member with Improbable Stage, a movement-based theatre ensemble, and she serves as the Social Media Coordinator for Film Repertory Group, a collective of emerging indie film artists. She holds a B.S. in Educational Theatre from New York University. Learn more about Sarah's work at sarahmisch.com



Composers

Salomon Lerner

Salomon Lerner has an M.F.A. from NYU's Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. He studied Film Scoring at the Berklee College of Music and Composing at the Ars Nova School of Music (Caracas).

In New York, he has worked as composer, orchestrator and music director for off-Broadway shows. His original compositions have been performed at various renowned venues including La Mama's Ellen Stewart Theater (New York) and Barrington Stage Company (Pitttsfield, MA) and the Colony Theatre (Miami Beach, FL). He also founded the VirtualStudio.NYC which connects musicians and engineers around the world to produce top-quality recordings. He is also the composer the score for the Hup! Productions short *C.I.T.*

Before moving to New York, he worked professionally as a music director/conductor, a composer for film, TV, and theatre, and a record producer and arranger in his native Venezuela.



Amelia Brey

Amelia Brey's music has been described as possessing "haunting beauty" and "a deep, disquieting power" (National Sawdust Log). Her orchestral work, *Two*, was premiered by the Juilliard Orchestra under the direction of Jeffrey Milarsky as a winner of the Juilliard Composers' Orchestra Competition, and received an Honorable Mention from the Nashville Symphony's Composer Lab; her wind quintet, *AR(i/e)AS*, was the recipient of a BMI Student Composer Award. Other accomplishments have included premieres by Ensemble Dal Niente, Ensemble Connect, and LAM House Ensemble, in addition to commissions from Project eGALitarian, Music City Trombones, and the University of Nebraska Chamber Music Institute. Hailing from Tallahassee, Florida, Brey studied with Michael Slayton and Stan Link at Vanderbilt University as the Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Honor Scholar in Music; she is currently a C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellow at the Juilliard School, where she studies with Robert Beaser.



Christian Adam Jacobs

Composer **Christian Adam Jacobs** is also a member of our cast. Please visit the Cast section for his bio.

Production Team

Cara Consilvio

Cara Consilvio is a director and producer of opera, film and theater. Upcoming projects in 2020 include directing the feature documentary For the Love of Friends, a world premiere of two one-act operas, Kassandra and The Leader at Opera in the Heights, and Scalia/Ginsburg at both Opera Carolina and Opera Grand Rapids. In 2019, Cara directed An American Dream at Anchorage Opera, The Elixir of Love for Piedmont Opera and The Threepenny Opera for Syracuse Opera.

In 2018, Cara directed the world premiere of *Inheritance* for UC San Diego and *Suor Angelica* with Tri-Cities Opera.

She also directed *After Life* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites* for Loyola University New Orleans and *The Merry Widow* for The Hartt School. Cara earned outstanding reviews for her 2017 productions of *Hydrogen Jukebox* at Chautauqua Opera and *Glory Denied* at Tri-Cities Opera.

Cara is a co-founder of Hup! Productions. Her film directing projects include her debut narrative short film *C.I.T.*, which was screened at eleven festivals and her upcoming short film *Dry*. Cara is executive producer and co-story writer of the horror comedy feature film *Camp Wedding*, which is currently finishing its festival run and being distributed by Gravitas Pictures. She has also produced and directed many tribute videos, promotional videos, and behind the scenes minidocs for the NEA Opera Honors, the NEA Jazz Masters videos, OPERA America and the American Composers Orchestra.

Gordon Schermer

Pianist and conductor **Gordon Schermer** has performed on three continents with some of the world's finest musicians. He joined the music staff of The Santa Fe Opera in 2019 for Puccini's *La bohème* and the world premiere of Poul Ruders' *The Thirteenth Child*. Last season, Mr. Schermer prepared productions of Philip Glass' *Satyagraha* at LA Opera, Verdi's *Aida* at Seattle Opera as well as Puccini's *La bohème*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Massenet's *Werther* at Florida Grand Opera. Recent engagements as a conductor include *Frida* at Florida Grand Opera, *La traviata* and *Carmen* at Opera Maine, and *Tosca* and *Les Pêcheurs de perles* at Tulsa Opera. Additionally, he has worked for the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Michigan Opera Theatre.

He has appeared in master classes given by Renée Fleming, Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milnes, Mignon Dunn, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Carol Vaness, Catherine Malfitano and Nathan Gunn. Mr. Schermer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's Degree in Collaborative Piano from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included lan Hobson, Kenneth Merrill and John Wustman.





Cynthia Hennon Marino

Cynthia Hennon Marino (Production Stage Manager) Cindy has spent the majority of the last 10 years working in Opera with a focus on new and modern works.

She has had the joy of working all across the United States, from Portland Opera (co-production of Faust with Chicago Lyric Theatre) to San Diego Opera (Aida, and Barber of Seville), Opera Omaha (Elixir of Love and premiere of The Wreck) to Boston Lyric Opera (The Handmaid's Tale and world premiere of The Nefarious, Immoral, But Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke and Mr. Hare). She spent 6 seasons at Long Beach Opera where she called some of her favorite productions (Nixon in China and Hydrogen Jukebox); two seasons as the Director of Production and Stage Manager at Tri-Cities Opera; three seasons at Bel Canto at Caramoor and now in her third season as Director of Production for Teatro Nuovo; three seasons at Opera Philadelphia as a Production Supervisor with their O Festival (including a show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the world premiere of Denis & Katya); as well as the Director of Production for Death of Classical in NYC where she gets to perform in Catacombs and Crypts.

When not working in opera, Cindy enjoys volunteering for benefits (especially BC/EFA), knitting, traveling with her husband and being a cocreator and co-host with her twin sister, Stacy, on their podcast about technical theatre called Twins Talk Theatre (twinstalktheatre.podbean.com).

Cindy is a proud member of AEA and AGMA, sits on the Executive Board of the Stage Managers Association and is a strong supporter of the #yearofthestagemanager #YSM2020 www.CynthiaHennonMarinoSM.com

Anthony Paul-Cavaretta

Anthony Paul-Cavaretta (Costume Designer) Design Credits Include: Little Women: The Broadway Musical (Gallery Players), Stupid F##king Bird (Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute), Ludwig And Bertie (Theater For The New City), Tour: Julius Caesar (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival), Murder For Two (Hope Summer Repertory Theatre), An Inspector Calls *Winner Of The 2019 New Hampshire Theatre Award For Best Costume Design In A Professional Production, Steel Magnolias (Peterborough Players); Tartuffe, Cyrano, The Tempest (Titan Theatre Company): Hydrogen Jukebox (Chautaugua Opera): Mesquite, NV. Composure (Workshop Theater); Discover Opera: Mary Popera, Hansel & Gretel, Rapunzel, & The Magic Flute (Manhattan School Of Music), Lake, The Iceman Cometh (Hudson Guild Theatre Company); Brundibar (Sarasota Youth Opera); Carmen, Rigoletto (Long Island Opera); A Midsummer Night's Dream, Life of Galileo, Electricidad, Hamlet (Lehman College); Trojan Barbie, As You Like It, Othello, Big Love (Post Theatre Company).

Film Design Credits *Camp Wedding* (2019), *Penned* (Short 2019), *The Tell-Tale Heart: A Musicabre* (Short 2019)*Winner of the 2019 Cinema World Fest for Best Costumes, and Winner of the 2019 South Film and Arts Academy Festival for Best Costume Design in a Feature Film, *C.I.T.* (Short 2016); M.F.A. Theatre (Purdue University) anthonypaulcavaretta.com





Abigail Hoke-Brady

Abigail Hoke-Brady (Lighting Designer) Abigail Hoke-Brady is a New York based lighting designer. Recent design projects include *The Last American Hammer* and *FLORIDA* (UrbanArias), *Glory Denied* and *Three Decembers* (Tri Cities Opera), *Bound* (Fresh Squeezed Opera), *Silent Voices* (Brooklyn Youth Chorus), *The Little Death vol 1* (Prototype), *MukhAgni* (Ars Nova, Under the Radar). Current and upcoming projects include *Salome of the Moon* (Bard College - LD), *Hansel and Gretel* (City Lyric Opera - LD), *Aging Magician* (San Diego Opera - Associate LD), *The Barber of Seville* (San Diego Opera - Associate LD). Lighting Design Mentor for Williams College senior projects (Spring 2020). 2017 recipient of the Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Grant, Opera America. MFA NYU 2016. Member USA 829. hokebradydesigns.com



Alex Charner

Producer **Alex Charner** is a film and theater producer for Hup! Productions whose credits include producing the upcoming documentary film of *For the Love of Friends* and short films *C.I.T.* and the *Dry* (currently in post-production). He also provided film art (storyboards, logos) for both shorts and the MINORapocalypse short *Bowes Academy*. For over 16 years, Alex has empowered speakers, trainers and salespeople to craft and deliver their ideas at ERC Consultants. Alex is an illustrator, whose work includes season art for Chautauqua Opera and regular work for NPR/Futuro Media Group's Latino USA. He continues his art studies with Dalvero Academy.



"This run has not been run for any honors, but for the love of friends."

Brent Nicholson Earle

Brent's mission and work continue through A.R.E.A. americanrunendaids.org

HUP! PRODUCTIONS