THE ACTORS' GANG

SPRING SEASON OF JUSTICE

HARLEQUINO: ON TO FREEDOM

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE REBEL SLAVE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
TIM ROBBINS

MARCH 16 - MAY 6

TheActorsGang.com
THE ACTORS’ GANG
presents

MARLEQUINO:
on to FREEDOM
A MUSICAL CELEBRATION of THE REBEL SLAVE

Book, Music and Lyrics by
TIM ROBBINS

Additional Music by
DAVID ROBBINS      KEN PALMER      LEE MARGARET HANSON

With
PIERRE ADELI      ADAM BENNETT      JULIA FINCH
LEE MARGARET HANSON      ADAM J. JEFFERIS      DORA KISS
JOSHUA R. LAMONT      WILL MCFADDEN      MARY EILEEN      O’DONNELL
STEPHANIE PINNOCK      CIHAN SAHIN      BOB TURTON      GUEBRI VANOVER
MIROSLAV VEJNOVIC      SABRA WILLIAMS      PAULETTE ZUBATA

Mask Design
ERHARD STIEFEL

Lighting Design
BOSCO FLANAGAN

Costume Design
OLIVIA COURTIN

Projection Design
CIHAN SAHIN

Production Design
JASON LOVETT

Show Art by
DAVID SILVERMAN

Musical Direction and Design by
DAVID ROBBINS

Directed by
TIM ROBBINS

March 16 - May 6, 2017
at The Actors’ Gang
CAST

In Order of Appearance

Will McFadden........................................... Dr. Phineus Preamble, Max
Bob Turton.......................... Dr. Ignatius Afterword, Pulcinella, Inquisidator
Joshua Lamont..................................................... Harlequino
Pierre Adeli........................................................ Pantalone, Elk
Mary Eileen O'Donnell.......................... Madame Brancantini
Lee Margaret Hanson................................. Isabella, Dumbrina
Adam J. Jefferies................................. Mario, Capitano
Sabra Williams........................................... Columbina, Mama Piña
Paulette Zubata.............................. Mama Piña, Servant
Dora Kiss......................................................... Mama Piña
Stephanie Pinnock............................... Adella, Servant
Guebri VanOver.......................... Cadella, Servant
Julia Finch......................................................... Badella, Servant
Cihan Sahin................................. Father Ambrosia, Servant
Adam Bennett............................................... Servant
Miroslav Vejnovic........................................ Dr. Baloardo

UNDERSTUDIES
Jaime Arze | Ethan Corn | Lance Frantzich | Melanie Green | Chas Harvey
Della Saba | Pedro Shanahan | Jeff Williams

STAGE MANAGER
Austin Brown

There will be a 10 minute intermission
MUSIC CREDITS
Music Director............................................................... David Robbins
Original Music Composed and Arranged by.............. David Robbins
Additional Music Composed by........... Ken Palmer and Ara Dabanjian

Music performed by:
David Robbins........................................
Aaron Guzzo.............................................................
Ara Dabanjian..................................
Pedro Shanahan...........................................
Davis Haines.............................................

Song Credits

"We Bear Witness"
Lyrics by Tim Robbins
Music by David Robbins

"The First Sunrise"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"The Hidden Road"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"The Concoction Lazzi"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"Saturnalia"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"De Rerum Natura"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"Fruits of Life"
Lyrics by Lucretius
Music by Tim Robbins

"Dueil Angoisseux"
Lyrics by Christine de Pisan
Music by Lee Margaret Hanson

"The Unicorn Song"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"A Stage on a Street Corner"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

"The Harlequino Waltz"
Lyrics by Tim Robbins
Music by Ken Palmer

"Sugar Slave Sweet"
Lyrics and Music by Tim Robbins

All Songs arranged by David Robbins and Tim Robbins
“A theater, a literature, an artistic expression that does not speak for its own time has no relevance”
Dario Fo

In 2014 I was blessed to meet the Italian playwright and Nobel Prize winner Dario Fo. I had been an acolyte of Dario Fo since reading his Accidental Death of an Anarchist as a young student of theater. We talked about religion, St. Francis, socialism, the Commedia dell’Arte, the Harlequino character, and the function of art in a culture. The following year I asked him to read an early draft of the play you are about to see, Harlequino: On to Freedom. He gave me notes. And he made a painting in appreciation of the play. He entitled it “The First Harlequino”. Dario became a mentor to me in the next couple of years as I rewrote the text and I am eternally grateful for the guidance he provided me. I last met with him in Cesenatico, Italy, a month before his death in 2016. This play is dedicated to him.

“He who controls the present controls the past.”
George Orwell, 1984

Who controls history? Who writes what we know of the past? As we abandon libraries and embrace convenience and speed to gather our knowledge from the internet, will we really know or care who is writing the online history of the Counter-Reformation, a time in 16th century Europe that saw a great suppression of art? On Wikipedia I read no tales of artists killed or paintings destroyed or texts confiscated and burned. Are we to receive a sanitized past from whomever has an immediate inclination or motivation to write history? And if, because of this, we are not able to understand the predilection of power to resist and censor artists, then how can artists understand their current function in society and the power they possess to create art that matters?

“During the Counter-Reformation, all art forms were massacred, not just theater. Blind violence was used, and we can say that the Commedia dell’Arte genre was created outside of the theater and it greatly enriched it. So you see, sometimes, even violence against theater develops creativity. And thanks to the repression at the hands of the Counter-Reformation, a completely new and innovative kind of theater was created. Sometimes priests are useful in theater.”
Dario Fo
The Commedia dell’Arte was developing as an art form in the early 16th century, a time that was witness to great changes in religion and culture. The African slave trade had begun in Portugal and was spreading throughout Europe. Religious conflicts led to a succession of wars between Spain and Italy and France. Amidst this tumult, artists in this war weary Italian culture began telling the story of the relationship between the wealthy and the poor, the rich Pantalone and his servant Zanni (later named Harlequino). Along with this came the story of the Innamorati (the Lovers), unbridled and passionate, kept from their true love by a business deal between Pantalone and a pompous Doctor or fraudulent military hero.

Hypocrisy was satirized in the town square by roving bands of actors and musicians. Historically we have no evidence of the actual content of these plays. The first written scenarios appear in the early 17th century, but these are the works of the elite companies that performed for royalty. So what about the first hundred years of the Commedia dell’Arte? Who are the unknown players? What was important to the poor and powerless in 16th century Italy? Why in one account was a Duke in Mantua so offended by a Commedia troupe’s performance that he hanged three actors?

“Censorship of art has always existed in all senses, at all times, during every era. Commedia dell’Arte's jesters were talking newspapers. People couldn't read or write and, through jesters, they would listen to reviews and comments about the news. They learnt about what was happening elsewhere. And above all, the jesters' reports helped raise people's awareness. The jesters were liked by the poor, by the common people, but they were hated, feared and despised by those in power.”

Dario Fo

Who were these daring comedic artists that dared to tell truth to power? Harlequino: On to Freedom asks this question. Set in a time that is both 1530 and 2017, the play tells the story of a rogue group of actors that hijack a lecture and slide show on the Commedia dell'Arte. The play questions how history is written, what is funny, when is a servant a slave, and how are these actors from the 16th Century related to the artists of today that face censorship and death in a world of radical Caliphates and authoritarian fundamentalists?
WHO'S WHO

In Order of Appearance

WILL MCFADDEN  (Dr. Phineus Preamble, Max)
Will has been a member of the company for 6 years.
Past productions: 1984 (1st Party Member), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Lysander, Snug), Red Noses (Frapper), The Rivals (Fag) and Harlequino: On to Freedom European and China Tours (Pantalone, Max), Harry Potter Hamlet (Harry Potter), The Tempest: Star Wars Edition (Yoda), Will also co-wrote and directed The Queen Family Very Special Holiday Special.

BOB TURTON  (Dr. Ignatius Afterword, Pulcinella, Inquisidator)
Bob has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 7 years.

JOSHUA R. LAMONT  (Harlequino)
Joshua has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 2 years.
Past productions: The Exonerated (Robert Earl Hayes), Harlequino: On to Freedom European Tour (Ensemble) and The State Holiday Family Show (Ensemble). Joshua is also a Teaching Artist with The Actors’ Gang Education Department and Prison Project program.

PIERRE ADELI  (Pantalone, Elk)
Pierre has been a member of the The Actors' Gang for 13 years.
Past productions: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Oberon/Theseus), 1984 (Winston), Harlequino: On to Freedom European and China Tours (Harlequino), Tartuffe (Tartuffe), The Rivals (Bob Acres), Scrooge Must Die! (Mr. Fezziweg). Pierre is also a Teaching Artist with The Actors’ Gang Education Department and Prison Project program.
MARY EILEEN O’DONNELL  
(Madame Brancantini)

Mary Eileen has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 13 years.
Past productions: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Quince), Oy! (Selma), Red Noses (Pope), Break the Whip (Shaman), I Am Not a Racist But... (Ensemble), Love's Labors Lost (Holofernes), The Women of Lockerbie, (Olive), Tartuffe (Madame Parnelle), The Queen Family Very Special Holiday Special, Beast of Burden, Die Arty Party Die, Cymbeline, The Puppet King, Romeo & Juliet: Monsters in Love and Harry Potter Hamlet.

LEE MARGARET HANSON  
(Isabella, Dumbrina)

Lee has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 5 years.
Past productions: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Hermia), 1984 (2nd Party Member), Harry Potter Hamlet and Romeo & Juliet Pokemon Go! Lee is a lead Teaching Artist for The Actors' Gang Education Department and The Prison Project program.

ADAM J. JEFFERIS  
(Mario, Capitano)

Adam has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 9 years.
Past productions: Bury the Dead (Second General), Our Town (Sam Craig), Break the Whip (Guyapi), Tartuffe (Damis), Red Noses (Brodin), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Demetius, Snout), The Queen Family's Very Special Holiday Special (Todd Queen), King O'Leary, Cymbeline the Puppet King, Katie the Curst: The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo & Juliet: Monsters in Love, The Tempest: Star Wars Edition, Twelfth Night: The Super Hero Edition, Romeo & Juliet: Pokémon Go! and Harry Potter Hamlet. Adam is a lead Teaching Artist for The Actors' Gang Education Department.

SABRA WILLIAMS  
(Columbina, Mama Piña)

Sabra has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 13 years.
Past productions: Tartuffe (Dorine), 1984 (Understudy 2nd Party Member), Love’s Labour’s Lost (Rosaline), I’m Not A Racist, But..., A Christmas Carol (Mrs Fezziwig, Emily), Break The Whip (Dottore, Palassa), Red Noses (Druce, Camille) and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Titania, Hippolyta). Sabra is also the Director of The Actors' Gang Prison Project.

PAULETTE ZUBATA  
(Mama Piña)

Paulette has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 3 years.
Past productions: Harlequino: On to Freedom European and China Tours (Ensemble), Romeo & Juliet: Pokemon Go! and Harry Potter Hamlet. Paulette is also a Teaching Artist with our Education Department after school and on site programs.
DORA KISS  
(Mama Piña)
Dora has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 3 years.
Past productions: Lysistrata (Dispas), Harlequino: On to Freedom European Tour (Ensemble), The Ghost Sonata and The Queen Family Very Special Holiday Special.

GUEBRI VANOVER  
(Cadella, Servant)
Guebri has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 3 years.
Past productions: Pantalone Smantalone (Mama Moondog) Guebri is a Teaching Assistant for The Actors' Gang Education Department.

STEPHANIE PINNOCK  
(Adella, Servant)
Stephanie has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 4 years.

JULIA FINCH  
(Badella, Servant)
Julia has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 1 year and this is her first production. Julia is a Teaching Assistant for The Actors' Gang Education Department.

CIHAN SAHIN  
(Father Ambrosia, Servant)
Cihan has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 6 years.
Past productions: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck, Philostrate), Red Noses (Boutros), Atomic Holiday Free Fall (Alien) and The Queen Family Very Special Holiday Special (Astronaut).

ADAM BENNETT  
(Servant)
Adam has been a member of The Actors' Gang for less than a year and this is his first production.

MIROSLAV VEJNOVIC  
(Dr. Baloardo)
Miro has been a member of The Actors' Gang for 3 years.
Past productions: Pantalone Smantalone (Mr. Schmantalone). Miro is a Teaching Assistant with The Actors' Gang Education Department.
The Actors Gang has throughout its history developed theater that reflects the concerns of our community, attempting to shine a light on the nature of those in power while celebrating the stories of the anonymous and marginalized.

The Actors' Gang Iraq war satire Embedded opened in Los Angeles in July 2003, two months after President Bush landed on an aircraft carrier and declared ‘Mission Accomplished.” It was the first American play to call to question the atrocities of that war and the mainstream press' compliance with the Bush administration agenda. Embedded played to sold out audiences in L.A., in New York and London, and subsequently toured throughout the United States. In 2007, Le Petit Théâtre de Pain, under the direction of Georges Bigot toured Embedded for a year throughout France.

In 2006, The Actors’ Gang produced Michael Gene Sullivan's adaptation of George Orwell’s 1984. This production has, for the last 10 years, toured throughout the United States and on 5 continents, most recently in Spoleto, Italy, in the summer of 2016.

**ABOUT US**

**TIM ROBBINS  (Writer, Director)**

Tim has been with the Actors’ Gang for 35 years.


**CYNTHIA ETTINGER  (Co-Artistic Director)**

Cynthia has been with the Actors’ Gang for 33 years.

In 2010, The Actors’ Gang produced *Break the Whip*, written and directed by Tim Robbins, a play that explored the class divisions of the English settlers and the early bonds between indentured Europeans, African slaves and indigenous people in the Jamestown Colony in the years 1609-1623. Inspired by Howard Zinn’s “A People’s History of the United States,” the play told the story of “the anonymous, the indentured and enslaved, the muted voices, the vanquished.” *Break the Whip* played to sold out audiences for 10 weeks in Los Angeles at The Actors Gang Theater.

Since 1981, The Actors’ Gang has created and presented over 150 bold, original works and reinterpretations of the classics that address the human condition from an uncompromising and fresh perspective. Over the past 35 years, The Actors’ Gang has performed for audiences throughout the world, on five continents and in 40 U.S. States.

Our groundbreaking *Prison Project* is currently in ten California prisons serving incarcerated women, men and children with rehabilitation programs that reduce tensions in prisons and significantly reduce the recidivism rate.

Hundreds of children in Los Angeles public schools discover confidence and creativity with our *Education Department* through in school immersion and after school programs. Our classes encourage acceptance, respect and team building in a fun and effective way.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Colette Brooks • Chair | Rick Marcus • Treasurer | Bill Morgan • Secretary
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Claudette Lussier | Tim Robbins

SPECIAL THANKS
THE ACTORS’ GANG THEATER

SPRING SEASON of JUSTICE

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ON TO FREEDOM

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TIM ROBBINS

MARCH 16 - MAY 6
EVERY THURSDAY @ 8 PM
FRIDAY @ 9 PM
SATURDAY @ 8 PM

REFUGEE PROJECT

DEVELOPED AND WORKSHopped BY THE ACTORS’ GANG
DIRECTED BY TIM ROBBINS

MAY 25 - JUNE 17
EVERY THURSDAY @ 8 PM / FRIDAY @ 9 PM / SATURDAY @ 8 PM

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