

**Johnnie Moore** (Associate Producer) recently was Alex in *I Love A Piano*, an Irving Berlin Revue, one of The J-Men in Yehuda Duenyas' *One Million Forgotten Moments* in Manhattan, the Narrator in *Amoveo* (a new dance work choreographed by Benjamin Millepied set to Philip Glass' *Einstein on the Beach* at the Palais Garnier in Paris and conducted by Nico Muhly); Captain von Trapp in Doug Elkins' restaging of *The Sound of Music* at Joe's Pub@The Public; and Mather in Michael Portnoy's *The K Sound* at the Kitchen. He is involved with Gotham Chamber Opera (Founding Board Member), Tandem Otter Productions (Chairman), and New York Theater Workshop (Usual Suspect). He is proud to have been the producer of Basil Twist's *Symphonie Fantastique* in San Francisco in 1999. Johnnie is currently at work on a number of projects, including *The J-Men* (with Jason MacMahon), and *Fspamaninye (Russian Remembrance)*. His Banana Bread Rules!

## **ARIAS WITH A TWIST**

### **CREATED BY JOEY ARIAS AND BASIL TWIST**

---

November 18–21, 2009 | 8:30 pm  
November 24–25, 2009 | 8:30 pm  
November 27–28, 2009 | 8:30 pm  
November 22 and 29, 2009 | 7:00 pm  
December 2–5, 2009 | 8:30 pm  
December 9–12, 2009 | 8:30 pm  
December 6 and 13, 2009 | 7:00 pm

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS



# **ARIAS WITH A TWIST**

## **CREATED BY JOEY ARIAS AND BASIL TWIST**

starring **Joey Arias**

with

**Eli Presser**

**Kate Brehm**

**Kirsten Kammermeyer**

**Matt Leabo**

**Jessica Scott**

**Lindsay Abromaitis-Smith**

Lighting Design by **Ayuma “Poe” Saegusa**

Sound Design by **Greg Duffin**

Video Design by **Daniel Brodie**

Artistic Advisor and Costume Concepts by **Thierry Manfred Mugler**

Costumes Executed by **Chris March**

Original Songs by **Alex Gifford**

Musical arrangements and production by

**Eliot Douglass** and **Jean Houle Francoise**

Production Stage Management by **Neelam Vaswani**

produced for **Tandem Otter Productions**

by **Barbara Busackino**

directed by **Basil Twist**

Originally presented by HERE's Dream Music Puppetry Program in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of The Dream Music Puppetry Program and The Dorothy B. Williams Theatre, New York City, June 2008.

*Funded in part with generous support from Ovation TV, Judith O. and Robert E. Rubin.*



**Neelam Vaswani** (Production Stage Manager) Previous work with Basil Twist include *Master Peter's Puppet Show* (Disney Concert Hall, LA), ASM: *La Bella* (Spoleto, Lincoln Center); NY Credits: PSM: Voice 4 Vision Puppet Festival (4 yrs, TFNC), *Song for New York* (Mabou Mines); *Ghosts* (Juilliard School), *Peter & Wendy* (Arena Stage, Mabou Mines); *The Adventures of Charcoal Boy* (TFNC and HERE) *Uncle Vanya* (Juilliard School); ASM: *The Beard of Avon* (NYTW), *Don Juan* (TFNA), and *La Cenerentola*, Venice (Juilliard School). Enjoy the magic!

**Barbara Busackino** (Producer) was trained as an art historian and painter at Pratt Institute. In 1992 she joined HOME for Contemporary Theatre and Art as Producing Director, seeing hundred of new artists and original works to the New York stage including world premieres by Eve Ensler, Camryn Manheim, Craig Lucas, David Greenspan, Paul Bernstein, Alan Ball and Todd Alcott. She originally produced Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* at HERE Arts Center, which received an OBIE Award in 1997. She is a co-founder of HERE Arts Center, where she originally produced Basil Twist's *Symphonie Fantastique*, which was the inaugural production of HERE's Dream Music Puppetry Program, for which she remains the producer. She is the producer for Twist's Tandem Otter Productions, which is an independent production company based in New York City dedicated to the development, creation, touring and presentation of new work created by Basil Twist among other puppetry artists. Credits include *Symphonie Fantastique*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home* by Paula Vogel, *Petrushka*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show*, *Dogugaeshi*, *La Bella dormente nel Bosco* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

**Ceili Clemens** (Build Manager) is a Brooklyn based super-villianess, and an alumni of UCONN's Puppetry Arts program. She has performed with *Uncle Jimmy's Dirty Basement*, *Carrie*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Maya the Bee*, *Animal Farm: A Musical*, *Butterfly Dreams*, *The Adventures of Charcoal Boy*, *Lonerunner*, *A Show of Hands 2001*, and *Nosforatu*, as well as in many puppet slams across the North East. She has performed at Carnegie Hall with Cats Paw Collective for their performance of *Night On Bald Mountain*. She has performed and wrangled for the television shows *Between the Lions*, *Blue's Room*, *Chappelle Show*, *The Tomatoes*, *The B-Team* and worked with the Sundance Film Festival. She has built for *Avenue Q*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *City Opera*, *Macy's Parade* and for many television shows. She also works as a costumer and theater technician in NYC and the North East.

Mugler the success of his perfumes (number « one » in the world with *Angel*), his photographs (commissioned by numerous international renown magazines), his advertising campaigns, his phenomenal shows (to which prestigious and internationally renown artists and personalities like Cyd Charisse, Jerry Hall, David Bowie or Sharon Stone took part), are still to date a reference for the international media, his costumes designed for famous French productions shows, the directing of the *VH1 Music Awards* in New York, the directing of *Zumanity* show (commissioned by Canadian renown company *Le Cirque du Soleil*) as well as the most acclaimed and prized music clip « *Too Funky* » sponsored by singer George Michael.

**Chris March** (Costume Design Execution) is a freelance Costume Designer in New York City with a client list that includes Cirque du Soleil, Madonna and Thierry Mugler. Originally from San Francisco, he has always kept his eye on a career in fashion. Chris' work on the giant trademark hats and wigs of America's longest running show, *Beach Blanket Babylon*, earned him great acclaim. Without any formal costume or fashion education, he garnered an impressive client list. His love of costuming, fashion, and acting, led him to pursue his fashion design dreams in New York, where his achievements include a Drama Desk Award nomination for outstanding costume design. Chris has created looks and styles for many designers that have appeared on *Entertainment Tonight*, *Martha Stewart*, *Rachael Ray*, *Tyra*, *Today*, E! and MTV.

**Alex Gifford** (Composer) is a man of Catholic tastes. As a musician he has worked with people as diverse as Van Morrison, the Stranglers, Peter Gabriel and The Grid. His production credits range from Old-School rap icons Jungle Brothers to latter-day troubadour Rufus Wainwright. His own Grammy-nominated band, Propellerheads, has a long list of club hits including *Take California*, *Spybreak* and *History Repeating*. He has contributed music to numerous movie soundtracks; *The Matrix*, *There's Something About Mary*, *Get Smart*, *Austin Powers II*, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, to name but a few. He divides his time between his native London and New York City where he lives on the Lower East Side. Since being in New York he has been fortunate enough to become friend and accomplice to the legendary Joey Arias, for whom he has so far written two songs—*Lately* and *The Jungle of Eden*, both of which are featured in *Arias with a Twist*.

### **Tandem Otter Staff**

Artistic Director: Basil Twist

Producer: Barbara Busackino

Technical Director: Michael Kerns

Bookkeeper and Office Management: Aaron Diaz

Accountant: Susan Lee

Facilities Manager: John Compton

Website and IT services: Kate Brehm

### **Board of Directors**

Barbara Busackino, Johnnie Moore, Lynne Twist, Mikki Wesson

### ***Arias With a Twist* Staff:**

Production Stage Manager: **Neelam Vaswami**

Technical Director: **Michael Kerns**

Sound Engineer & Operator: **Masako Kataoka**

Glover: **Sandy Schiller**

Cosmetics provided by **MAC**

Jewelry provided by **Larry Vrba**

Wigs by **Barry Hendrickson / Bits 'n Pieces**

Show Photography by **Steven Menendez**

### **Puppet Build Team:**

Oliver Dalzell, Kirsten Kammermeyer, Randy Ginsberg, Tim LeGasse, Kate Brehm, Richard Clemens, Adam Pagdon, Tim, Lagasse, Carole Simms D'Agostino, Joe Thierren, Riley Hadden, TV Alexander, Rose A.C. Howard, Kate Hubbard, Jonothon Lyons, Laurie Kroll, Caitlin Fraser-Reckard

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Joey Arias** (Performer, Co-Creator) Most recently, renowned drag diva **Joey Arias** enjoyed a wildly successful run as the emcee “Mistress of Seduction” in the Las Vegas Cirque Du Soleil production *Zumanity*. Revered since the 1980s as a central figure in the underground New York art scene responsible for recreating drag as high art, Arias has performed worldwide at venues including Carnegie Hall, The Freedom Theatre in London and on a

transatlantic world tour into the cabaret clubs of Paris, Tokyo, Germany, Canada and England. Off stage, Joey has amassed an extensive resume of media appearances as an actor, vocalist and outrageous personality. On film, he has appeared in *Mondo New York*, *Big Top Pee Wee*, *Elvira*, *Mistress of the Dark*, *Wigstock – The Movie*, *Flawless* and *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*. Television credits include *Saturday Night Live* with David Bowie, Ann Magnuson's *Vandemonium* (Cinemax), Elvira's MTV Halloween Special, HBO's *Dragtime*, HBO's *Real Sex* and *Gayer Than Gay* on VH1, along with numerous appearances on a wide variety of talk shows and programs. Additionally, Arias has produced several of his own recordings including *Arias on Holiday*, *Strange Fruit*, *Jazzo Lozo*, *God Shave the Queen* and live recordings of *StarLust* in Berlin and *Bar D'O* in New York.

**Basil Twist** (Designer- Director) Originally from San Francisco, is a third generation puppeteer who lives and works in New York City, and is the sole American graduate of the Ecole Superieure National des Arts de la Marionnette in France. Original creations include *The Araneidae Show*, *Symphonie Fantastique*, *Petrushka*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show*, *Dogugaeshi*, and *La Bella Dormente nel Bosco*. Collaborations include *Behind The Lid* with the Late Lee Nagrin and *Red Beads* with Lee Bruer/Mabou Mines. Since 1998 Twist has continually expanded the realm of puppetry by creating and touring new works that integrate live music. He has partnered with such premiere institutions as The Spoleto Festival, Lincoln Center Festival, Lincoln Center's Voice and Visions Series, The Los Angel's Philharmonic, The Japan Society and Gotham Chamber Opera. Twist premiered his *Hansel and Gretel* with The Houston Grand Opera and Atlanta Opera Company. His work has been recognized with an OBIE Award, three UNIMA Awards for Excellence in Puppetry, two Bessie Awards, a New York Innovative Theatre Award, and an American Theatre Wing/Henry Hewes Design Award. Mr. Twist is a Guggenheim Fellow and is an inaugural United States Artist Ford Fellow. Twist is the director of the Dream Music Puppetry Program.

**Kirsten Kammermeyer** (Puppeteer) is a puppeteer, teaching artist and an aspiring electric scooter-gang leader. She has had the pleasure of previously working with Mr. Twist in *Behind the Lid* and *Petrushka*, and is delighted to be back with amazing puppeteers, and the ever so lovely Basil, Barbara, and Joey! Kirsten would like to thank her friends and family for being her rock. Thank you!

**Matt Leabo** (Puppeteer) This is Matt's second year working with the great Basil Twist as a puppet builder, and he is very excited to be a puppeteer this year, performing in his first show ever as puppeteer. He would like to thank his six fellow puppeteers for their help and support, it has been a real learning experience. It has been a great privilege to perform with Joey Arias and Matt is appreciative of Barbara and Basil for giving him the opportunity to work on such an awesome and fun show. Let the Alien probing begin!

**Jessica Scott** (Puppeteer) Recent credits include Basil Twist's *Dogugaeshi* (Japan), *Hansel and Gretel* (Atlanta Grand Opera), *La Bella Dormente nel Bosco* (Lincoln Center Festival), and *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (The Longwharf Theatre). She also appeared in Lee Breuer's *Prelude to a Death in Venice* (Ireland), Mabou Mines *Peter and Wendy* (Arena Stages), *Red Beads* (Skirball Center) and as the lead puppeteer in Bjork's music video for *Wanderlust*.

**Lindsay Abromaitis-Smith** (Puppeteer) Recent credits include *Finding A Way Back* (Dixon Place), understudy *Petrushka* (Lincoln Center), *White Elephant* (Dixon Place), *Ego* (HERE Arts Center), puppet design and choreography *Butoh Macbeth* (Montgomery College, MD), *Warhol* (St. Paul, MN), *Peter and Wendy* (Arena Stage), *Prufbox* (Smithsonian Portrait Gallery). Lindsay plays percussion and vocals for The Clearing. She also keeps her hands busy with massage and playing in dirt.

**Greg Duffin** (Sound Designer) is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. He was the record producer/ engineer and production manager as well as resident sound designer for The Japan Society NYC (2003-2008). He is currently in between concert tours with Regina Spektor. Greg's past shows with Basil include *Symphonie Fantastique* (Off-Broadway) and *Dogugaeshi* (NYC and Japan).

**Daniel Brodie** (Video Design) Recent credits include *Behind the Lid* (Basil Twist), *Dixie's Tupperware Party* (ArsNova), *underground* (David Dorfman Dance). Thanks to Robbie and Aleks, and always to Caitlin.

**Thierry M. Mugler** (Artistic Advisor and Costume Concepts) is a creative genius whose work and talent are respected and lauded throughout the world. Apart from the extraordinary fame of his fashion and couture collections and houses, we owe Thierry