

GROUND FLOOR THEATRE  
PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE

GROUND  
FLOOR  
THEATRE

*rain falls special  
on me*

*by Lane Michael Stanley  
directed by Patti Meff-Tiven*



## Cast

Mikey ----- Stan McDowell  
Snake ----- Steve Zapata  
Miss Candace ----- Meredith O'Brien  
Roscoe ----- Bruiser  
Motor ----- Jack Darling  
Mac ----- Devin Finn  
Julie ----- Juleeane Villareal

## Creative

Director ----- Patti Neff-Tiven  
Playwright ----- Lane Michael Stanley  
Set Design ----- Gary Thornsberry  
Lighting Design ----- Jacqueline Sindelar  
Costume Design ----- Laura Gonzalez  
Sound Design ----- Anthony Williams  
Prop Design ----- Patti Neff-Tiven  
Fight Choreographer ----- Riley Wesson  
Intimacy Director ----- Andy Grapko  
EDI Consultant ----- Pamela Owens  
Technical Director ----- Zac Crofford  
Production Stage Manager Kelsey Moringy  
Stage Manager ----- Astrid Rangel

## Crew

Scenic Painter ----- Sydney Hutchison  
Carpenter/Painter ----- Chaz Sanders  
Carpenter ----- Kellan di'Donato  
Master Electrician ----- Chaz Sanders

## Ground Floor Theatre Staff

Development Director ----- Simone Alexander  
Co-Artistic Director ----- Patti Neff-Tiven  
Co-Artistic Director ----- Lisa Scheps

## Playwright Statement

*rain falls special on me* exists thanks to years of stories, workshops, creative writing classes, folding sessions at the street newspaper, and daily chats with people experiencing homelessness and in addiction recovery in Austin, Texas and Baltimore, Maryland.

I first started creating work with homeless folks in Austin around my play *The Tiny Banger*, about a family trying to get housed through cycles of addiction and incarceration. As we toured *The Tiny Banger* to homeless resource centers through Trinity Street Players and focused on barriers to housing, I heard one response over and over: "That's why I'm not trying to get housed."

Out of these conversations, *rain falls special on me* was born. This play seeks to offer a glimpse of why people stop trying to get housed: whether that's due to a lack of good options, lack of access to care, a rejection of a society that requires full participation in white supremacist capitalist heteropatriarchy, or the belief that man is an animal meant to live free outdoors. I hope that you meet these characters in their complex, messy, beautiful realities.

I want to thank the hundreds of individuals who have contributed meaningfully to this play, through conversations or formal readings and workshops. Many stories were shared through Port Recovery, Helping Up Mission, Challenger Street Newspaper, Street Lit at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, Angel House, Terrazas Branch Library, Trinity Center, First Austin Baptist Church, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, and under the 6th Street bridge. In particular, this play would not exist without the contributions of Marcilas Jackson, Linda Jackson, Billy Shaw, and others who know who they are but don't like to see their names in print.

Throughout the community workshops for this play, we have discussed audience. This is a slice-of-life play giving you a window into six very different lives forced together by circumstance. Some folks on the street have shared that they don't need to see this play - it's full of the boring, chaotic daily life they know too well. But for anyone in the audience who has found their housing more stable than not, and would like to reflect on their internalized bias and assumptions, we hope to offer a place to start conversations, questions, and internal, individualized work.

This play is set behind the theater - because while homeless and housed populations have very little social overlap, they are occupying the same exact geographical space. People experiencing homelessness are already part of the theater-going experience for audiences of many theaters, especially those in downtowns. May this play be an opportunity for any theater and its audiences to start conversations with their city's homeless communities, to invite them in, to share space and stories, to create together.

# Who's Who

## **Stan McDowell - Mikey (He/They)**

Stan has been performing for more than 25 years in the theater, television, and film. Stan currently calls Austin home after relocating here after performing in *Sweat* produced by the Southwest theater company. Stan recently appeared in *Clyborne Park* and played the role of Bono in August Wilson's *Fences*. Stan has a double major in Theater and Radio/TV/Film in Wisconsin and he attended his professional internship at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, where he appeared in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. Some of Stan's previous roles includes Lee in *True West*, Jim in *Big River*, Tom in *Glass Menagerie* and Tartuffe in *Tartuffe*. When Stan is not performing he enjoys playing golf and working on his own screenplays and plays.

## **Steve Zapata - Snake (He/Him)**

Steve started acting in 2015. He studies at the Carol Hickey Acting Studio and did improv at Coldtowne Theater. Previous work include the films *Support the Girls*, *Headphones* and TV shows such as AMCs *The Son*. In his free time Steve enjoys traveling and spending time with his family. Steve would like to thank Patti, Lisa, and our resilient rain cast & design team

## **Meredith O'Brien - Miss Candace (She/Her)**

Meredith is thrilled and feels extremely grateful to work at Ground Floor and on Lane's beautiful play. Meredith O'Brien appeared most recently as Oscar Wilde in City Theatre's *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. A New England native, Meredith holds theatre degrees from Circle in the Square Professional Workshop, Emerson College, and Middlebury College. She has taught acting/drama at Texas State University and St. Andrew's Episcopal School. She is a playwright, director, actor, and founder of the Wonder and Rye Theatre Company and the Onion Creek Children's Theatre. Meredith's life is made infinitely richer through the respect and affection she holds for her friends, and the unbounded love and support of her husband, Tim, and their boys, Timmy and Tad.

## **Bruiser - Roscoe**

Bruiser is an 8 year old chihuahua mix. She is delighted to be performing in this show as Roscoe. A few years ago, she was rescued from a shelter just six weeks before the opening of the Georgetown Palace Theatre's production of *Legally Blonde*, in which she played Bruiser. Her favorite activities include performing on stage and visiting nursing homes as a therapy dog. She is trained and loved by Shari Heino.

## **Jack Darling - Motor (He/Him)**

Jack Darling is an award-winning writer and magician. Won magician of the year in 2017. A 5 time winner of Best of Fest for FronteraFest. Has performed on stages all over the US and perhaps even in your living room. Jack is currently attempting to finish his first novel.

## **Devin Finn - Mac (He/Him)**

Austin Shakes: (*Merchant of Venice, Indian Ink, Hamlet, Pride and Prejudice, Winter's Tale, As you Like It*) Theatre Synesthesia (*Marfa Lights, Kill Devil Hills, Pontiac Firebird Variations, Butcher Holler Here We Come, Static*) Street Corner Arts (*Great God Pan, Bull*) Jarrott Productions (*Seminar*). Cofounder and Artistic Director of Theatre Synesthesia. BFA in Acting from Texas State University.

## **Juleeane Villareal- Julie (She/Her)**

Juleeane Villarreal is a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Theatre and Acting. She has previously been seen in *Spring Awakening*, and *Enron* at The University of Texas. This is Villarreal's first show at Ground Floor Theatre.

## **Patti Neff-Tiven -Director (She/Her)**

Patti grew up in San Antonio, TX and graduated with a degree in theatre from St. Edward's University in Austin. She interned at Plano Repertory Theatre, learning all aspects of theatre production and later becoming their full-time Production Manager. Returning to Austin in 2001, Patti began her freelance career as a director, production manager, actor, and designer for numerous companies including Rude Mechs, ScriptWorks, Fusebox Festival, FronteraFest, Salvage Vanguard and Zilker Summer Musicals. Previous directing credits include: *Senora Tortuga, Charlotte's Web & The Legend of the Poinsettia* for Plano Repertory Theatre; *Night of the Living Dead, The Servant Girl Annihilator, Grotesque & Arabesque* and *A Teenager's Guide to Love* for Weird City Theatre and 2018's *There and Back* for Ground Floor Theatre. She shares a house in South Austin with her hubby Seth Tiven and a minimum of five cats. Patti would like to thank the entire cast and creative team for always being ready and willing and the best damn humans around. It has truly been a life affirming honor to do this work with them.

## **Lane Michael Stanley - Playwright (He/They)**

Lane Michael Stanley is a transgender filmmaker and playwright, and the co-founder of Secretly Famous Productions. Lane has won Best Director from Baltimore City Paper, The Bad Oracle, and DC Metro Theatre Arts, and received the Mayor's Individual Artist Award. Their films include their feature *ADDICT NAMED HAL* (Santa Barbara International Film Festival, Dances with Films) and their short *UNTIE* (Outfest, Toronto Short Film Festival). Their plays have been produced by 19 theaters in 8 states and Australia, including Barter Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater, and Island City Stage. For more information, visit [www.lanemichaelstanley.com](http://www.lanemichaelstanley.com) and [www.secretlyfamousprod.com](http://www.secretlyfamousprod.com).

## **Gary Thornsbery - Scenic Designer (All pronouns)**

Gary has an MFA in scenic design from Texas State University and is currently working on an MA in Disability Studies from City University of New York (CUNY). Gary has worked on several projects here at Ground Floor including *single black female* and *Trans Lives/Trans Voices*. They work as a freelance scenic and production designer based in Austin and NYC. They hope you are going to enjoy this production and hope that you invest in the community's most affected by this pandemic. Please put your energy and love into helping those in need. If nothing else put on your mask, go get your shot, and do what is within your means to help others.

### **Jacqueline Sindelar - Lighting Designer (She/Her)**

Jacqueline graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a BFA in Film and Visual Arts. Since then, she has been working in film, professional theater and live event production for over a decade. Jacqueline has most recently been the Lead Theatrical Electrician for Color Factory Houston; Lighting Designer for New Manifest Theatre Company and The Back Pack; Lighting Supervisor for Fusebox Festival; and Master Electrician for kidsActing Studio and Zilker Theater Productions. This will be Jacqueline's first production at Ground Floor Theatre, and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with such a talented and considerate production team

### **Laura M. Gonzalez - Costume Designer (She/Her)**

Laura M. Gonzalez is an Austin born Costume Designer. She graduated from UT, earning her degree in Costume Design, Laura continues to design for dance, theatre, and film. Recent theatre credits include *Yana Wana and the Legend of the Bluebonnet* (Teatro Vivo), *Click* (Vortex) and *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing* (Zach Theatre). Recent film credits include *I Am Mackenzie* (SXSW, Texas Shorts Jury Award), and *Addict Named Hal*. Laura is honored to be a part of this production working with such wonderful artistic collaborators!

### **Anthony Williams - Sound Designer**

Anthony Williams was born and raised in NYC where he received his BA in Music at Brooklyn College and received his graduate education at NYU in Music Technology. Anthony is a self-taught music producer/sound designer/DJ. He taught sound design at the SAE Institute and has provided sound design for off-Broadway theater and large art installations at Burning Man. His most recent project was providing Sound Design for a recreation of the classic Twilight Zone episode *Time Enough* at Last on Clubhouse that featured Tiffany Haddish. He is thrilled to be working with the Ground Floor Theatre

### **Riley Wesson - Fight Choreographer (He/Him)**

Riley graduated from Texas State University with a degree in performance and production where he trained with Toby Minor. He's also trained with fight choreographers around the country at various workshops and conventions. Select fight choreography credits include *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *She Kills Monsters*, and *Tail End Charlie*. Rileywesson.com

### **Andy Grapko— Intimacy Director (She/Her)**

Andy is a Lecturer and intimacy specialist for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas, Austin. With a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, she's done intimacy training through Intimacy Director's International, Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, and Theatrical Intimacy Education. A director for over 20 years, she is a Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Associate and a member of the Association of Theatre Movement Educators. Her intimacy credits include: *A Fistful of Trespassing*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *How I*

## Kelsey Moringy - Production Stage Manager (She/Her)

Kelsey is a born & raised unicorn of Austin, TX. She studied Performance & Production at Texas State University with an emphasis in stage management & directing. Previous Ground Floor Theatre shows Kelsey has worked on include *Next To Normal*, *Fun Home*, *Single Black Female*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Dex & Abby*, *TRANSom*, and *There & Back*. Kelsey would like to thank Patti, Lisa, our amazing & resilient rain cast & design team. Special shout out to Astrid for being a literal stage management goddess and always joining Kelsey for a night cap. Cheers!

## Astrid Rangel - Stage Manager (She/Her)

Astrid is a Texas State University graduate where she studied Performance & Production with an emphasis in stage management and directing. Her previous shows include *The Rivals*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Girl of Glass* and *Lighting Girl*. Astrid would like to thank Ground Floor Theatre for the amazing opportunity to get back to what she loves to do. She would also like to thank Kelsey for being such an amazing person and inviting her on this life changing journey!

### Note from GFT on Covid19, EDI and Survival

This crisis has certainly been a struggle for Ground Floor Theatre. We are committed to the survival of our theatre while being safe and thoughtful as we navigate the global pandemic. We have put systems in place to make sure our audience, cast, crew, designers, and staff are all operating safely. Our philosophy is 'people first' — making sure we have an environment that fosters creativity without putting our people in peril. Ground Floor Theatre does not subscribe to the belief that 'the show must go on.' Sometimes, it shouldn't...

We learned a great deal from our BIPOC theatremakers who, in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, published a list of demands called "We See You White Theatre" Our staff read each demand and discussed how we could be a more equitable company and are taking steps to make that a reality.

We would also like to acknowledge the incredible Austin Theatre Community. We have come together at this time to support and learn from each other — from dealing with not being able to practice our craft, loss of ticket sales, loss of City funding, and coming to terms with the inequities in our community. We have had open, honest, and candid conversations... we hope this continues post-pandemic.

Finally, we'd like to thank our loyal patrons, creatives, and funders that have helped us keep the lights on for the past 17 months. As we spiked back in to Stage 5 thanks to the Delta Variant and the hesitancy for some to not get vaccinated, we continue to react as best we can. We will continue to communicate with you as we move forward.

Know this: WE LOVE YOU!

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CATCH US IN THE ACT

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MOTLEY CREW  
M E D I A



We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

Moreover, (I) We would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

We would also like to acknowledge that East Austin has also been historically home to segregated and under resourced Mexican and Black communities.

As guests, we pay respect to these peoples, past, present, and future, here in their homeland.

## Special Thanks

Amber Whatley, Hank Kersten, Nehemiah Alexander, Clinton Williams, Seth Tiven, Ploeger ASL Interpreting, Eric Graham and IC Pictures, Kate Taylor and Salvage Vanguard Theatre, Shari Heino, Talena Martinez, Carol Gibbs, Val Romness, the Challenger Newspaper, Treasure City Thrift, University of Texas Dept of