

PORTE PAROLE (USA)
THE ASSEMBLY - UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 • 8PM
FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2019 • 8PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019 • 8PM
THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Stage Manager*

Ben Walsh is a contingent Production Supervisor at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, where he frequently serves as Stage Manager for large ensembles, recitals, events and visiting artists. His theatrical stage management credits include shows with companies such as Olney Theatre Center, Signature Theatre, Merry Go Round Playhouse, Gateway Playhouse, Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, Shakespeare Theatre's Academy for Classical Acting, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Red Branch Theatre Company, UrbanArias, Maryland Opera Studio and Busch Gardens Williamsburg. Walsh holds a BA in Arts Administration from the University of Kentucky and is an Alumnus of the James W. Rouse Scholars Program at Howard Community College.

Playwright and Actor*

A professional actor for over twenty years, Brett Watson has extensive credits in theatre, film, TV and voice. Since 2016, Watson has been working with Porte Parole playwright Annabel Soutar and actor Alex Ivanovici on creating the concept for *The Assembly*. Stage credits include: *The Dream Project* (Yonder Window/ NYC/ Mexico), *The Bacchae* (Scapegoat Carnivale / Meta nomination), *Elizabeth Rex* (Tableau d'hôte), *Battered and Zarathustra said some things, no?* (Infini theatre / MECCA nomination), *Triplex Nervosa*, *Paradise by the river*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Cheech* (Centaur theatre), *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Amadeus* (Segal Centre), *Sexy Béton* (Porte Parole) and *So Many Doors* (Sour Brides / national tour).

Playwright and Actor*

Alex Ivanovici, co-founder of Porte Parole Productions, has worked as a bilingual actor, theatre director and teacher in Montreal since his graduation from the Dome Theatre School in 1992. Since 2016, Ivanovici has been working with playwright Annabel Soutar and actor Brett Watson on creating the concept for *The Assembly*. Ivanovici has directed three productions, acted in eight (including Porte Parole's *Seeds and The Watershed*), helped conceive of a few, co-written two and created one interactive installation with Porte Parole. For 20 years, Ivanovici has been developing the concept of the *Artful Citizen* with Annabel Soutar — the use of art to encourage citizenship.

Actor*

Elliott Bales (Jim) is making his debut with Porte Parole. Bales works as a theater and film actor living in the Washington, D.C. area. Theater credits include *Henry IV, Part 1* (Riverside Theater), *Junk*, *Kleptocracy* and *The Great Society* (Arena Stage), *Kings* (Studio Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Folger Theatre), *Occupied Territories* and *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* (Theater Alliance), *Harvey* (1st Stage), *Not Enuf Lifetimes* (The Welders), *Romeo and Juliet* (Unexpected Stage) and *Annie and White Christmas* (Little Theater on the Square). Bales' film credits include the award-winning film *Wireless*, *The Sultan and the Saint* and *The Coming Storm* and TV credits include *Legends and Lies: Patriots* and *House of Horrors: Kidnapped*. Bales is a graduate of Abilene Christian University and the National War College and retired from the U.S. Army after 26 years of service.

Actor*

Lida Maria Benson is a Ukrainian-American actor based in Washington, D.C. Recent credits include *Notes from the Basement* (Center at West Park); *What Every Girl Should Know and Dry Land* (Forum Theatre); *Dog Sees God* (Prologue Theatre); *Draw Me Like One of Your French Girls* (The PIT); *River Rouge* (Naked Theatre Company); *In This Hope: A Pericles Project* (The Welders); *In Cabaret We Trust and Dupont Underworld* (TBD Immersive); *Tribes* (Vermont Stage Company); *Seminar* (Middlebury Actors Workshop); *The Three Musketeers* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company). Upcoming credits include *Boy* (Keegan Theatre).

Actor*

Veronica Reyes-How is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Acting credits include Theatre: *Rent National Tour*, *Miss Saigon National Tour*, *Spelling Bee National Tour*, *Night Over Taos*, *Motherfreakinghood*; TV: *Blue Bloods*, *Blacklist*, *Person of Interest*, ABC's Pilot *Alex Inc.*; National Commercials: Tylenol, Verizon, Kraft Cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc.

Actor*

E. B. Smith's Selected Theater Credits: Boatswain in *The Tempest*, Surrogate in *Coriolanus* and Doctor in *Napoli Millionaria! Orsino (Twelfth Night)*, Seyton (*Macbeth*), Dr. Jim Bayliss (*All My Sons*), Thaliard, Leonine (*Pericles*), Eilif (*Mother Courage*), Melun (*King John*), Bellievre (*Mary Stuart*), Abhorson (*Measure for Measure*), Cymbeline, Elektra. (Stratford Festival) Othello, *Othello* (Shakespeare BASH'd); Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *The Mountaintop* (Grand); Big Sam, *Gone With the Wind* (RMTTC); Seyton, *Macbeth*; Friar Laurence, *Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare); Macduff, *Macbeth* (First Folio Theatre); King, *King Hedley II* (Karamu); Moustique, *Dream on Monkey Mountain*; Junior, *Before It Hits Home*; Cleveland Play House; Idaho Shakespeare Festival; Theater Wit, Chicago; The Great Lakes Theater Festival. Film/TV: *The Beast* (Sony), *Ask Gilby*, *Maybe By Then*, *Thunder Bay*. Training: Ohio University, Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theater.

* *Appearing through an Agreement between The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Porte Parole Productions and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. Equity is governed by its own members through an elected Council, representing principal actors, chorus actors and stage managers living in three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Members at large participate in Equity's governance through a system of regional Boards and Committees. Equity has 28 designated area liaison cities with over 100 members each.*