



The Dance for

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April 15 & 16, 2016

Community Performance

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April 21 - May 1, 2016

Mustard Seed Theatre Performance

Fontbonne University Fine Arts Theatre

Clayton, Missouri

314-719-8060

www.mustardseedtheatre.com

BOSNIAN/AMERICAN PROJECT

The Bosnian immigration to St. Louis has had profoundly positive effects on the St. Louis metropolitan area, but it was caused by the worst calamity to befall Europe since World War II. Between 1992 and 1995, as Yugoslavia was dissolving into its constituent states, ultra-nationalist militants sought to “ethnically cleanse” parts of the newly independent Bosnia-Herzegovina, starting a genocidal war that would last almost four years. In the north and west of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbian extremists sought to expel non-Serbs so that land could be claimed for Slobodan Milošević’s Greater Serbia. In the south and east, Croat extremists sought to expel non-Croat Bosnians and claim territory for Croatia. News correspondents in the U.S. and elsewhere reported on the mass expulsions, the concentration and killing camps, and the deliberate destruction of the rich multiethnic heritage that was once Bosnia. The world stood by as tens of thousands of people—most of them Bosnian Muslims—were murdered. Some 50,000 women and girls were systematically raped, and more than a million Bosnians were displaced from their homes, most of them permanently.

Today, St. Louis is home to more people born in Bosnia than any other city outside of Bosnia. Given the extent of the atrocities and the general failure of the world to intervene, it is all the more remarkable that our Bosnian community has become a decidedly beneficial force in St. Louis, revitalizing neighborhoods and contributing to the well-being, the interest, and the diversity of our metropolitan area. The Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne University is dedicated to establishing an enduring record of the experiences of our Bosnian-American neighbors by recording individual accounts and preserving them for future generations. We believe that Bosnians are the best people to tell the stories of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnia diaspora. We also believe that it is crucial to record the experiences of a younger generation of Bosnian-Americans as they negotiate the complicated questions of cultural identity.

Bosnian/American: The Dance of Life beautifully reflects the spirit of Bosnia and the Bosnian diaspora, in part because it is rooted in dialogue that reaches across cultures, across continents, and across generations. At every step, from its inception to its performance, *Bosnian/American: The Dance of Life* has been shaped by the voices and perspectives of people from Bosnia and their children. It is a St. Louis story, but it is also an international story, one that reminds us that the world begins at our neighbor’s doorstep. We must never forget that part of the purpose behind the war and genocide in Bosnia was to destroy not only people, but also memory, culture, and dialogue. This play and the people who perform it stand as testament to the power of both community and theatre to transcend hatred and death and find life and love in new places.

Dr. Ben Moore

Co-founder and Director of the Bosnia Memory Project

To hear more excerpts from Bosnia Memory Project interviews,
visit <http://www.fontbonne.edu/bosnia>.

BOSNIAN/AMERICAN PROJECT

Iako je imigracija Bosanaca u St Louis imala izuzetno pozitivne efekte na šire područje St Louis-a, bila je uzrokovana najgorom nesrećom koja se desila u Evropi nakon Drugog svjetskog rata. Između 1992-e i 1995-e, dok se Jugoslavija raspadala na konstitutivne države, ultra-nacionalisti ki militanti su u pokušaju da stvore etnički iste dijelove novoproglašene nezavisne Bosne i Hercegovine, zapo eli genocidni rat koji je trajao skoro 4 godine. Na sjeveru i zapadu Bosne i Hercegovine, srbijanski ekstremisti su protjerali ne-srpsko stanovništvo, kako bi zemlja mogla biti dijelom Velike Srbije, Slobodana Miloševića. Na jugu i istoku su hrvatski ekstremisti protjerali ne-hrvatsko stanovništvo, i zahtjevali da se ta teritorija pripoji Hrvatskoj. Novinarski dopisnici iz SAD-a i drugih dijelova svijeta su izvještavali o masovnim protjerivanjima, koncentracionim logorima, kao i logorima smrti, te namjernom uništavanju multietni kog naslijeđa Bosne. Ubijeno je na desetine hiljada ljudi – većina njih su bili bosanski Muslimani. Oko 50 000 žena i djevojaka je sistematski silovano, više od million Bosanaca je raseljeno iz svojih domova, veina od njih zauvijek.

U St Louis-u danas živi više ljudi rođenih u Bosni nego u bilo kojem drugom gradu izvan Bosne. Nakon generalnog neuspjeha intervencije od strane svijeta i obima počinjenih zverstava, posebno je značajno da je naša bosanska zajednica postala izrazito djelotvorna u St Louis-u, obnovili su naselja i doprinjeli blagostanju i različitosti naše metropole. Bosnia Memory Project na Fontbonne Univerzitetu, je posvećen uspostavljanju trajnih arhiva o iskustvima naših komšija -Amerikanaca bosanskog porijekla, zapisivanjem individualnih priča i čuvanjem istih za buduće generacije.

Mi vjerujemo da je najbolje da Bosanci ispričaju svoju priču o Bosni i bosanskoj dijaspori. Mi isto tako vjerujemo da je jako bitno zabilježiti iskustva mlađih generacija Amerikanaca bosanskog porijekla, dok se oni suočavaju sa komplikovanim pitanjima kulturnog identiteta.

Bosanac/Amerikanac: Ples života odražava duh Bosne i bosanske dijaspore, djelomično jer su ukorijenjeni u dijalogu koji se vodi između kultura, između kontinenata i između generacija. U svakom svom dijelu, od samog poetka do izvedbe, Fontbonne Bosanac/ Amerikanac: Ples života je oblikovan glasom i perspektivom ljudi iz Bosne i njihove djece. To je priča St Louis-a, koja je isto tako i internacionalna priča, jedna od onih priča koja nas podsjeća da svijet poinje na pragu vrata našeg komšije. Ne smijemo nikada zaboraviti da je dio cilja rata u Bosni, osim genocida bio i uništenje, ne samo ljudi, već i sjećanja, kulture i dijaloga. Ova predstava i ljudi koji je izvode su zavjet da snaga zajednice i teatra nadja a mržnju i smrt, kao i da pronade život i ljubav na novim mjestima.

Dr. Ben Moore

Ko-osnivač i direktor Bosnia Memory Project

Ukoliko želite da užete više odlomaka iz intervjuja koje je arhivirao Bosnia Memory Project , posjetite web stranicu <http://www.fontbonne.edu/bosnia>.

Special guest appearance by **NORAH SALESEVIC** as the dance student. She is the daughter of Elma and Amir (our accordion player). Norah was born in St. Louis in 2010 and attends Bayless Preschool.



CAST

Elvedin Arnautovic ~ Milan and others
Arnela Bogdanic ~ Mirsada and others
Katie Donnelly ~ Bozica and others
Melissa Gerth* ~ Aska and others
Andrew Kuhlman ~ The Wolf and others
Amir Salesevic ~ Faris and others
Mary Schnitzler ~ Aja and others
Bob Thibaut ~ Muhamed and others
Carly Uding ~ Ariyana and others
Agnes Wilcox* ~ Nena and others
**member of Actors Equity Association*

DESIGNERS & CREW

Playwright	Deanna Jent
Director	Adam Flores
Production Stage Manager	Bess Moynihan
Assistant Production Stage Manager	Traci Clapper
Set Design	Kyra Bishop
Costume Design	Jane Sullivan
Lighting Design	Michael Sullivan
Sound Design	Zoe Sullivan
Prop Design, Master Electrician	Meg Brinkley
Consultant	Ben Moore
Language Consultant	Daniela Sales
Sound Board Operator	Emma Bruntrager
Translator	Elma Salesevic
Backstage Crew	Morgan Fisher
Project Coordinator	Leslie Wobbe
House Manager	Joe Gardiner
Box Office Manager	Tanya Tweedy
Program Art	Fox Smith
Scenery	Jon Hisaw, Tom Stevenson, Ryan Stewart

SPECIAL THANKS

Grbic Restaurant	Fontbonne Community Connection
Europa Market	Mensur Hatic & MIM-TV
Maria Eftink	Akif Cogo & www.stlbosnians.com
Mark Wilson, St. Louis University	Mirsad Muhic & Erik Bothazy
	Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble



CAST



Elvedin Arnautovic is from Kozarac, a Bosnian town with rich and colorful history. As a kid he witnessed the destruction of his hometown, which forced the whole family to seek refuge in Germany, a place where a blond refugee could perfectly fit in. After spending his teenage years and growing up in Germany, Elvedin moved to Saint Louis and never looked back. Ironically, in this American city he learned to be a Bosnian again. Elvedin is passionate about social justice, and working at the Center for Diversity and Cultural Competence at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital helps

him follow this passion. His other passions include singing, construction work, dancing, and basketball. He is excited to participate in a story honoring his community in his first major role since high school.



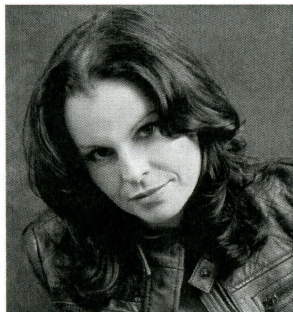
Arnela Bogdanic was born in Maribor, Slovenia, to Sandra and Fahrudin Bogdanic. She lived in Germany before her family settled in Detroit, MI, specifically Hamtramck. Hamtramck has a rich history of cultural diversity, and this has always inspired her to work towards social justice and diversity education. While at Central Michigan University, she worked as a Multicultural Advisor and created programs to do just that. Arnela came to work at Fontbonne University as the Hall Director and is pursuing a Master's Degree at UMSL in education. She aspires to become a professor of

religion and her research focus is on the influence religion has on ethnicity and nationality, as well as how it is used as a tool for violence. She is not an actor and this is for fun and support of the Bosnian American Project!



Katie Donnelly was born and bred in St. Louis, MO having lived everywhere in between South City and St. Charles. After attending Incarnate Word Academy, Katie started her tenure at Fontbonne University in 2005. There she met Adam Flores who asked her to work on his collegiate directorial debut. Since then, she has spent many years working both onstage and off with the Mustard Seed family. Next month, Katie will graduate with a BA in Performing Arts and a concentration in Acting and Directing. She will be moving to New York in August to broaden her horizons and to pursue a career in Theatre.

CAST



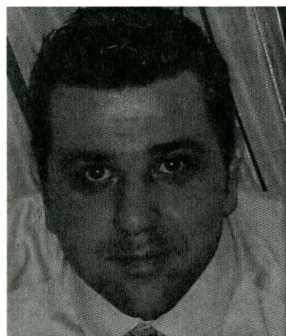
Melissa Gerth was born in Ontario Canada. She has since lived in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and now Saint Louis. She lives with her wonderful husband James Robey (who is one heck of a dancer) and her bulldog Buddha (who is one heck of a farter). She is the proud mother of her amazingly smart, funny, and handsome son Jakobi, who is currently studying philosophy at Webster University. Melissa is an Adjunct Professor at Webster University where she teaches modern dance, yoga, and dance as an art form. She holds an MA in Theatre from Fontbonne University. In her

free time she enjoys traveling, reading, walking and learning to play piano.



Andrew Kuhlman was born in Maryland Heights, grew up in St. Charles, and now lives in Webster Groves. A Bradley University graduate with a degree in Theatre Performance, Andrew moved back to St. Louis to work as the Assistant Director of Speech & Theatre at Francis Howell High School (his alma mater). After two years at FHHS, Andrew began working at STAGES St. Louis where he currently serves as Producing Associate. Andrew has a great love for the STL theatre community and has been happy to work with many local companies. He would like to dedicate this performance

to his late Grandmother, the woman who taught him what love and family really mean.



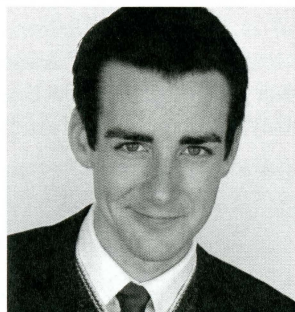
Amir Salesevic was born in Croatia in 1976. His fascination with music first began when he taught himself how to play the melodica at the age of six. His parents quickly recognized his talent and purchased a shiny little black accordion for him. After spending four years at a preparatory music school, he moved to Bosnia and Herzegovina to further his musical education. Then war in Bosnia and Herzegovina erupted, forcing Amir to seek refuge. Continuing his performances with the local folk dance group in Germany, where he spent two years in exile, he then moved to the United States. The need to find work that would allow him to regain stability and support his family paused

his music career. Although this pause eventually encompassed a span of fourteen years, he found renewed hopes of restarting his career in 2007. Not only as an accordionist, but also as an accordion collector, repair technician, and teacher. Soon he hopes to open an accordion museum in St. Louis. Time passes, locations change, and one lives through much loss, but at least one thing remains for Amir: to promote the beautiful instrument that is the accordion.

CAST



Mary Schnitzler was born and raised in the Tower Grove South area and has lived in South St. Louis City for most of her life. She spent much of her childhood riding bikes and playing in Tower Grove Park. Mary went to St. Elizabeth Academy, St. Louis University for her undergraduate degree in Fine and Performing Arts, and recently completed her Master's degree in Theatre at Fontbonne University. She has been involved in St. Louis theatre for over 25 years and teaches theatre and history at Whitfield School. Some of her favorite things are watching films, yoga, knitting, making soup, and going to brunch.



Bob Thibaut was born in New Orleans and moved to St. Louis when he was 8 years old. He went to Bishop DuBourg High School so now you really know him. He then moved to Kansas City but missed the Lou too much. He moved back to St. Louis where he earned his degree in theater performance from Saint Louis University. He moved to LA but again St. Louis called him back! He lives now in Maplewood with his wife and two very spoiled cats. "To Anna my muse, I love every moment."

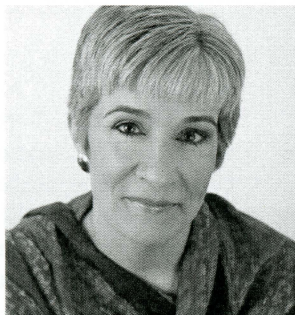


Carly Uding was born and raised in the South County area of St. Louis. To answer the infamous St. Louis question, she attended Notre Dame High School then went off to study theatre at Drury University in Springfield, MO. She then decided to move back home to attend Fontbonne University to finish up her career as a student. Carly will be graduating in December of this year with a Bachelors degree in Performing Arts with a concentration in Arts Management. After graduation, she plans to keep following the pursuit of theatre and seeing what opportunities lie ahead.



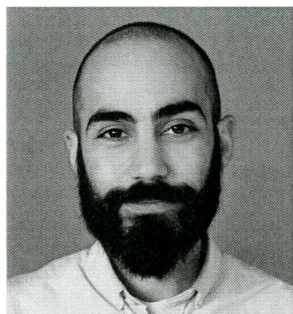
Agnes Wilcox was born in Kentucky and grew up in Wisconsin. Agnes and her husband Bob moved to St. Louis in 1982. She was the artistic director of The New Theatre for thirteen years and artistic director of Prison Performing Arts for fifteen years. Agnes is best known for her production of *Hamlet* with high-security prison inmates, which was featured on NPR's "This American Life" with Ira Glass. Agnes holds an M.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

DESIGNERS & CREW



Deanna Jent is the Artistic Director of Mustard Seed Theatre and a Professor of Theatre at Fontbonne University, where she's been teaching since 1995. She has written stage adaptations of the novels *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis and *Imaginary Jesus* by Matt Mikalatos. Her play *Falling* won the Kevin Kline award for Best New Play of 2011 and was nominated for a Drama Desk Best Play award following its Off-Broadway run in 2012. *Falling* is currently being performed in Singapore and has been translated

into Portuguese for an upcoming production in Brazil. She has directed at professional theaters throughout St. Louis and was named "Best Director of a Musical by the St. Louis Theatre Circle for Mustard Seed Theatre's production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. She was nominated five times for the Kevin Kline "Best Director" Award and won "Best Director of a Musical" for her 2011 production of *Godspell*. She lives in Webster Groves with her husband Steve and children Lindzey, Christopher and Andy.



Adam Flores was born in Jefferson City, Mo. While visiting another college a stranger suggested looking at Fontbonne. After graduating in 2007 he taught middle school theatre in the Parkway School district. During his time in grad school at Baylor University in Waco, Tx he studied community-engaged theatre with Cornerstone Theatre. That project allowed him to work with workers in similar fields in Monterey County his father worked as a Mexican immigrant decades before. After graduating with his MFA, he returned to St. Louis and Fontbonne University as Assistant Professor

of theatre. He could not be happier to be back living in this city working with these people.



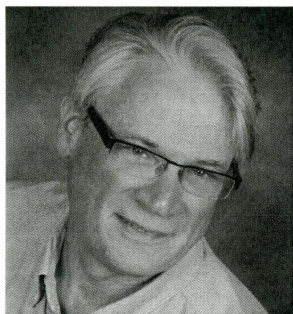
Bess Moynihan was born in Columbia, MO and moved to St. Louis because Adam Flores told her to. After graduating from Fontbonne with a degree in Theatre, she stayed on as Production Manager for Mustard Seed Theatre. She then became Managing Director at HotCity Theatre Company and is currently the Production Coordinator for Washington University's Edison Theatre. Bess lives in Tower Grove South with her husband, dog, and two cats. In her spare time, Bess enjoys riding bikes and doing lighting designs, two of which have received Theatre Circle Award nominations.

DESIGNERS & CREW



Traci Clapper was born and raised in Saint Louis' South City area. She spent many years riding bikes around Lafayette Square Park before moving to the county and transferring to Clayton High School. There, she was exposed to her first theatrical experience. One university, one community college and one dropped biology major later, she finally ended up at her home in Fontbonne University's Theatre Department. Also, because Bess Moynihan told her to. Next month, Traci will be graduating with a Bachelors degree in Performing Arts with a concentration in Arts Management. After graduation, she plans to work with her MST family a little bit longer

before exploring other adventures.



Michael Sullivan was born in Cape Girardeau, MO and attended high school and university there. After bouncing around the country a bit after graduation, Michael moved to St. Louis to take the job at Fontbonne University where he is Associate Professor, resident Lighting Designer and a Founding Artist with Mustard Seed Theatre. Michael lives in the back country of northwest Jefferson County with his wife, Jane (costume designer for this show) and the many wild creatures that wander through his yard on a regular basis. In addition to Mustard Seed Theatre, Michael's lighting designs

have been spotted at various professional theatres around St. Louis – and the critics have said they liked one or two of them.



Jane Sullivan is a life-long resident of Jefferson County, except for a short stint in England and another in Washington, DC for school and work many years ago. St. Louis has always felt like home because growing up, her family shopped here, ate here and were entertained here. Jane spent 27 years as a theatre educator at Jefferson College, where she directed lots of student productions. After retiring from the classroom she decided to take up costume designing and has worked with many theatres around town. She loves spending her retirement hanging out with her family, Michael and Zoe at Mustard Seed!

DESIGNERS & CREW



Zoe Sullivan is from a small town outside of St. Louis, and now lives in the city with her partner and amazing cat. She has been doing theater productions since she was 11 years old, when she was in her first musical. She was infected with a love of performing from then on, with side effects of joining drama club in high school as well as show choir. She has been seeing shows at Fontbonne University since she was a small child as well, since her father Michael is an associate professor of theater there and her mother Jane is an alumna (you might recognize those names from this program, too).

She officially joined the Fontbonne student ranks in 2009, and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Acting & Directing. It is through Fontbonne and Mustard Seed theater that she knows so many of the rad human beings involved in this show, and the larger St. Louis theater community. Thank you so much for coming to see this beautiful show, and we hope that you join us again for future shows!



Kyra Bishop is excited to continue the season at Mustard Seed Theatre, where she previously designed *Eleemosynary*, *The Amish Project*, *All is Calm* and *Gee's Bend*. She has been involved in the arts her whole life, discovering the excitement of theatre in middle school. Originally from Clarksville, TN, she came to St. Louis to attend Webster University, where she received a degree in scenic design. Since then, she has stayed in the area to continue work in the theatre community. www.kyrabishopdesign.com



Meg Brinkley grew up a 3rd generation “immigrant brat” in St Louis’ North County, tomboying in its parks, creeks and ball fields, and making “things” in her Grandpa’s garage, when she wasn’t reading her way through the library. She went to Incarnate Word, where she became addicted to theatre. She got her B.A. from Fontbonne, and switched from acting to Tech because Michael told her to. After many “real” jobs, getting married, and having 3 sons, she came back to working in theatre because Bess offered her a job, thereby saving her soul and creating a Prop-making monster.



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Grbic Restaurant & Banquet Hall has been a vital partner in the development and production of *Bosnian/American: The Dance for Life*. From informational meetings at the beginning of the process to rehearsals and performance, Grbic Restaurant has provided a warm welcome and fantastic food for all of us.

Thank you!

www.grbicrestaurant.com

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