

# ***For the Greater Good, or The Last Election***

## **DIRECTION & SCRIPT:**

**Michael Gene Sullivan** (SFMT Collective, Playwright, Director, Understudy) joined the Troupe as an actor in 1988, and has since performed in, written, and/or directed over twenty SFMT productions. In 1992 he became a Contributing Writer, and Resident Playwright in 2000. His scripts include *GodFellas*, *Red State* (2008 nominee, Best Original Script, San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critic's Circle), and *Too Big To Fail* (2009 nominee, Best Original Script, San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critic's Circle), and *Posibilidad, or Death of the Worker*. As an actor, Sullivan has also appeared in productions at the American Conservatory Theater, Denver Center Theater Company, Magic Theatre, Theaterworks, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theater, and San Jose Repertory Theater, and has directed for the Mime Troupe, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, African American Shakespeare Company, Mystic Bison Theater, and Circus Finelli. He is also the author of "*Did Anyone Ever Tell You - You Look Like Huey P. Newton?*", his award winning one person show, and **1984**, his critically acclaimed stage adaptation of George Orwell's dystopic novel. **1984** opened at the **Actor's Gang Theater** under the Direction of Tim Robbins in 2006, and has since been performed in Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, and has had several tours of the United States. Michael is also a blogger for the political website, *The Huffington Post*.

**Pat Moran** (SFMT Collective, Musical Director, Composer, Lyricist, Musician) began his involvement with the Mime Troupe during 2005's *Doing Good* and has worked on every show since. Pat has been a lead teacher with the Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project and is an active educator and advocate for the importance of socially conscious art. In addition to his work with the Troupe, he is a freelance composer/musician/guitar teacher fluent in a wide variety of musical styles. Pat received a BFA in Philosophy with a Concentration in Ethics and Public Policy from Clark University, and an MFA Performer Composer degree from Calarts.

## **PERFORMERS:**

**Michael Bello** (Musician) has been playing and writing music since he was a wee little boy. Eventually Bello graduated with honors from the Jazz department at Sonoma State University in '06 with a bachelor's degree in funkology. He has played in clubs, halls and at major festivals touring throughout the US with many projects. Bello is a multi-instrumentalist who has composed and performed with a wide range of groups like: **Albino! Heavy Afrobeat**, **Lee Press-on and the Nails**, **Classical Revolution**, **Afromassive**, **FogDub**, **Cuban Salsa with Rumbache** and **Fito Reinoso**, **Modern Dance with Lisa Townsend**, and countless Jazz ensembles all over the Bay Area with groups like **three little words**, the Mel Graves Quintet, the John Kalleen group, and David Jeffery's Jazz Fourtet among many other local groups.

**Velina Brown** (Actor) has been a principal actor for the Mime Troupe in such shows as *Social Work*, *Escape to Cyberia*, *Coast City Confidential*, *Soul Suckers from Outer Space*, *Killing Time*, *Damaged Care*, *City for Sale*, *Eating It*, *1600 Transylvania Avenue*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, and *Showdown at Crawford Gulch*. She was Veronique in *Veronique of the Mounties*, she's played Condoleeza Rice three times, and was both an actor and Contributing Lyricist on *GodFellas* and *Making a Killing*. Velina's most recent shows with the Troupe include *Red State*, *Too Big to Fail*, and *Posibilidad, Or Death of the Worker* for which she won Best Principal Actress by the Bay Area Critics Circle. Other credits include A.C.T., Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Word for Word, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, Thick Description, SF Playhouse and Theaterworks, as well as film (*Bee Season*, *Milk*) and television (*Party of Five*, *Nash Bridges* and *Trauma*). Velina is also the host "*Kiss the Cook... and the Farmer, Too*", an upcoming PBS about organic farming and cooking. Velina also runs the "*Business of Show Biz*," a career workshop for theater artists, and writes a column of the same name for Theater Bay Area Magazine. In 2012 she was honored as one of the magazine's "35 Faces," artists who've made significant contributions to Theater Bay Area, and to the Bay Area theater community.

**Tristan Cunningham (Understudy)** started her performing days when she was only ten with Vermont's own country circus, Circus Smirkus. After touring for eight years, she decided to change her focus to acting and recently graduated from S.U.N.Y Purchase Acting Conservatory. In the Bay Area she has worked with California Shakespeare Theater, Eastenders Repertory Company, The Cutting Ball Theater, Atmos Theater, New Pickle Circus, Circus for the Arts, Bay Area Children's Theater, and she is an associate artists with Atmos Theater/ Theater in the Woods. She is very excited to work with the Troupe for the first time.

**Joel Fadness (Musician)** a multi-instrumentalist, has a unique and diverse musical history. He has performed with the SF Mime Troupe from 2001-2004 and in 2008, the SF Shakespeare Festival, the Black Hills Playhouse in South Dakota, guitarist Larry Mitchell, R&B artist Cathryn McGill, groups such as Realistic, Groundation, Jetpack Rental, Groove Revelation, The 12th Ave Hot Club, a variety of Jazz musicians in Oregon, California, and New Mexico, Native American Robert Mirabal, Ghanaian Reggae Highlife artist Chata Addy, Zimbabwean dance/trance with Jaka, his solo show DJ Drumkit, and has played dun duns for various West African Dance Classes. Starting in 2005, he has been a pianist and drummer for the National Dance Institute (NDI-NM) of New Mexico. Joel's musical experiences came together on his 2006 solo album *Dynokaleido* on which he played, recorded, and mixed drumset, percussion, piano, Hammond and Lowrey Organs, Rhodes and Wurlitzer electric pianos, synths, autoharp, marimba, balaphon, guitar, and bass guitar.

**Ed Holmes (SFMT Collective, Actor)** has been performing and teaching in the bay area for the past 4 decades. Ed has performed with the Berkeley Mime Troupe (yes, that kind of mime), Fratelli Bologna, Antenna Theater, SF Opera, Oakland Symphony and Young Audiences. He has taught mime and physical theater at ACT, CSUH, Mills College, and given numerous workshops to students of all ages as well as to animators at Sony, DreamWorks and PDI. Ed has performed his one man show *SUBHUMAN-True Tales from Beneath the Sea* at bars and VFW halls throughout California and in Ohio and Maine. As Bishop Joey, head of the First Church of the Last Laugh, he has instigated the annual *St. Stupid's Day Parade* since 1979. Ed is collaborative writer and the director of the environmental commedia show *TIP of the ICEBERG* by Theater RAB in Frieberg Germany. His movie credits include *The Right Stuff*, *Howard the Duck*, *Golden Gate*, *Monkeybone*, *Valley of the Hearts Delight* and the documentaries, *Vigilante/Vigilante* and *The Doggie Diner Headtrip*. Ed has been a performing/directing member of the Troupe since 1986. Ed also takes a lot of photos and occasionally shows them somewhere.

**Lisa Hori-Garcia (SFMT Collective, Actor)** joined the Mime Troupe and Collective in 2004. Born in Santa Cruz and growing up in Salinas, CA., Lisa moved to Northampton, Massachusetts where she received her BA from Smith College. Upon graduation, Lisa landed her first professional theater job with New WORLD Theater in Amherst, MA where she stayed til moving to San Francisco in 2002. In SF, Lisa has worked exclusively as a theater artist, performing with Asian American Theater Company, Magic Theatre, Woman's Will, Impact Theater, and Word for Word to name a few. For three years, Lisa was the Program Director of the SF Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project. And this past May, after 3 years of living and studying in SoCal, Lisa received her MFA/ Acting from the University of Southern California. Lisa is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA.

**Pat Moran (SFMT Collective, Musical Director, Composer, Lyricist, Musician)** began his involvement with the Mime Troupe during 2005's *Doing Good* and has worked on every show since. Pat has been a lead teacher with the Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project and is an active educator and advocate for the importance of socially conscious art. In addition to his work with the Troupe, he is a freelance composer/musician/guitar teacher fluent in a wide variety of musical styles. Pat received a BFA in Philosophy with a Concentration in Ethics and Public Policy from Clark University, and an MFA Performer Composer degree from Calarts.

**Keiko Shimosato Carreiro (SFMT Collective, Actor)** was born in Cambridge Massachusettes. Keiko holds a BFA in Interdisciplinary Arts and an MA in Multimedia from the University of Iowa. She arrived in San Francisco with the Horse Drawn, Caravan Stage Company of Canada. She has been an actor, designer and director for the Mime Troupe since 1987. Keiko has also designed costumes for many other Bay Area Theater companies including, The San Francisco Circus School, Berkeley Rep, S.F. Shakespeare in the Parks, The Asian American Theater Company and African American Shakespeare Company. She has directed *City for Sale*, and *Gotta Getta Life* for the Mime Troupe, and *Cowboy versus Samurai* for the Asian American Theater Company.

**Victor Toman (SFMT Collective, Actor, Scenic Designer)** was born and raised in Oregon City, Oregon. After completing his B.A. in Dramatic Arts from the University of Oregon, Victor moved to San Francisco. He joined the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe in 1997 and has appeared as a principal actor in 2012 - *The Musical!*, *Making A Killing*, *GodFellas*, *Showdown at Crawford Gulch*, *Mister Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, *1600 Transylvania Ave*, *Eating It*, *City For Sale*, *Damaged Care*, *The Independent Female*, and *Revenger Rat*. In addition he has choreographed many of the Troupe's musical numbers for the past 10 years. In 2005 he had the honor of directing *Doing Good*. He has also performed locally with Sideshow Physical Theater, El Teatro de la Esperanza, Berkeley Repertory Theater, The Joe Good Performance Group, The Dance Brigade, Intersection for the Arts, The Ellen Bromberg Ensemble and Elbows Akimbo to name a few. Outside the area he has performed with The Caravan Stage Company in Toronto, and Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis. In 2008 Victor graduated from UC Davis with an MFA in Dramatic Arts.

**Reggie D. White (Actor)** is a Bay Area actor, singer, and dancer and is THRILLED to be making his SFMT debut with *The Last Election*. Reggie studied theatre at Cal State Hayward and has been working across the Bay Area with Bay Area Playwright's Foundation, Berkeley Playhouse, Crowded Fire, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, California Conservatory Theatre, and others. Reggie is also a company member for Impact Theatre and PlayGround as well as serving as a teaching artist for Berkeley Rep and CalShakes.

## PRODUCTION TEAM:

**Maurice Beesley (Technical Director)** was tricked into auditioning for the Senior Class play in 1961. Since then he has built scenery for A.C.T., S.F. Opera and Berkeley Rep., and others of fond memory. He has been a member of the stage crew of nearly every theatrical venue in San Francisco and has supervised tours around the West and to Hawaii. Maurice has been a proud member of Local #16, I.A.T.S.E. for thirty years.

### **Ben Flax (Scenic Designer & Painter)**

**Lawton Lovely (Sound Engineer)** recently graduated from Miami University in Oxford, OH with a BA in Theatre and a minor in American Studies. While at Miami University he had the opportunity to be involved in multiple productions in a variety of areas. He debuted in first play titled *The Dream Machine* and he Performed, Directed, Designed Set & Sound, and served as Technical Director & builder for many shows at Miami University. He was also a recent recipient of Honorable Mention in the 2012 Region III Sound Design competition at the KCACT festival. Lawton first came to the Troupe two summers ago as a sound intern and workshop participant. He returned again last season as Sound Assistant/Sound Engineer. Upon completing his two summers he concluded that it wasn't enough, so when the Troupe offered him the job of Sound Engineer for this year's season, he said YES! Additionally Lawton applied to, and was accepted, in to the Emerging Artist in Residence Program for 2012.

**Blake More (Costume Designer)** has worked as the SFMT Youth Theater Project costume designer for eleven years and is amazed to have finally set aside her other responsibilities to devote herself to costuming the summer show. On loan from Mendocino County, she works as a freelance artist, designer, poet/writer, technology director, and artist-in-the-classroom. Since quitting her last "real job" in 1989, she's designed for productions in the Bay Area, Tokyo, Los Angeles, and throughout Mendocino County, and has worked with various theater troupes, performance artists, musicians, and other production groups helping to create stage costumes and visual continuity. She also stage manages, produces and performs, but being on the team responsible for developing "the look of a show" is always her favorite obsession.

**Spain Rodriguez (Poster Designer)** legendary underground cartoonist, created the first underground tabloid, *Zodiac Mindwarp*. His character Trashman, Agent of the Sixth International, was an icon in underground newspapers of the '60s. Big Bitch, another popular Spain character, appears in *She Comics*. Spain's work currently appears in the online graphic novel *Dark Hotel*, the *LA Weekley* and *Blab*. His graphic novel, *Nightmare Alley*, was recently lauded by *Time Magazine*.

**Karen Runk (Production Stage Manager, Web Programmer)** moved to SF with the intention of only staying for a few months. One and a half decades later she's still here! This is largely due to the talented folks at the Troupe. Runk first experienced the Troupe by stage managing two '97 youth projects, *Revenger Rat Meets the Merchant of Death* and *Inside Out*. After which she ran screaming into the arms of the Magic Theatre and there she stayed, contently for two years. The Troupe then wooed her back for their '99 Summer Production *City For Sale*. Still under the Troupe's wooing spell she's stage managed a plethora of their summer shows and has only managed to escape, successfully, one full summer back in '02 when she worked with SFShakes.

**Wan-Yin Tang (SFMT Collective, Tour Manager)** joined the Troupe as an intern and workshopper, and is now ecstatic to be a part of the SFMT collective. Rooted in her experiences in UCSC-s multi-cultural theater troupe, Rainbow Theater, as well as the student-run theater company, BarnStorm, her focus in the arts lie in facilitating and devising applied and political theater. She is also a baker at nearby worker-owned co-op, Arizmendi Bakery Panaderia y Pizzeria. Wan-Yin loves co-ops! The Troupe is her wacky home away from home, and she is so glad to be working here as an artist as well as a member of the staff.

**Victor Toman (SFMT Collective, Actor, Scenic Designer)** was born and raised in Oregon City, Oregon. After completing his B.A. in Dramatic Arts from the University of Oregon, Victor moved to San Francisco. He joined the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe in 1997 and has appeared as a principal actor in 2012 - *The Musical!*, *Making A Killing*, *GodFellas*, *Showdown at Crawford Gulch*, *Mister Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, *1600 Transylvania Ave*, *Eating It*, *City For Sale*, *Damaged Care*, *The Independent Female*, and *Revenger Rat*. In addition he has choreographed many of the Troupe's musical numbers for the past 10 years. In 2005 he had the honor of directing *Doing Good*. He has also performed locally with Sideshow Physical Theater, El Teatro de la Esperanza, Berkeley Repertory Theater, The Joe Good Performance Group, The Dance Brigade, Intersection for the Arts, The Ellen Bromberg Ensemble and Elbows Akimbo to name a few. Outside the area he has performed with The Caravan Stage Company in Toronto, and Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis. In 2008 Victor graduated from UC Davis with an MFA in Dramatic Arts.

**Daniel Yelen (Props Designer)**, returning for a fourth Mime Troupe show, concurrently concludes a tenth year as props master for Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera. He has performed and designed for Lamplighters Music Theater since 1987, and recently appeared in their 2012 production of *The Gondoliers*. He has had the good fortune to design *Merrily We Roll Along* for Altarena Playhouse, *Judgment at Nuremberg* for San Francisco Free Civic Theater, and *The Diary of Anne Frank* for Custom Made Theater. Perennial affiliations include the San Francisco Opera Guild's *Opera à la Carte* educational program, and the *Gilbert and Sullivan Scenes* program offered by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Branching into costume design and construction, his handiwork has appeared on the stages of Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, Curtain Theater, Masquers Playhouse, Multi Ethnic Theater, Pocket Opera, and SF Free Civic Theater, in addition to the current Mountain Play, *The Music Man*.