

# PLAYBILL®

Theatre 68 Arts Complex - The Emerson  
5112 Lankershim  
North Hollywood, CA



## Slow Thunder

**bAfa TheatreWorks**  
Theatre 68 Arts Complex  
October 19 - November 12, 2023

Presents

# **SLOW THUNDER**

Written and Directed  
by

**Suse Sternkopf**

with  
*(in alphabetical order)*

Sue Gisser  
Rob Nagle\*  
Ann Noble\*  
Robert Yacko\*

**Set Design**  
Allen Corben

**Sound Design**  
Janna R. Lopez Råven

**Lighting Design**  
Miles Berman

**Costume Supervision**  
Lolly Wrigs

**Music Supervision**  
Lobelia Lawson

**Press Representative**  
Ken Werther Publicity

**Produced by**  
Allen Corben for bAfa TheatreWorks

## **Content Advisories**

*Slow Thunder does not depict, but does contain references to traumatic sexual events, physical violence, and suicide. Help is available for those for whom this would cause distress: The National Sexual Assault Hotline (1-800-656-4673) or The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (dial 988).*

*ALL are welcome, but children may be bored, except for the PG-13 language.*

*Brief strobe effects are used in the play.*

*"If you're not careful, you'll grow up to be glib and shallow."*

*~Sister Chatty Cathy*

*\*Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association*  
This production is being presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Association Los Angeles  
Self-Produced Project Code.

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# CAST

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## Cast Members

Jewel Turner ..... Ann Noble  
Peter Norman ..... Robert Yacko  
Rob Scanlon ..... Rob Nagle  
Roberta Tanzen ..... Sue Gisser

## Production / Creative

Author ..... Suse Sternkopf  
Producer ..... Allen Corben  
Production Design Consultants ..... G&T / Dublin  
Costume Consultant ..... Lolly Wrigs  
Press Representative ..... Ken WertherPR  
Web Designer ..... Danielle Mead  
Production Photos ..... Suse Sternkopf & Allen Corben ImageWorks

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# CREW

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## Crew Members

Stage Manager/Lighting Design ..... Miles Berman  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Mallory Corben  
Music Supervision ..... Lobelia Lawson  
Sound Design ..... Janna R. Lopen Råven

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## WHO'S WHO

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### **Ann Noble**

*as Jewel Turner*

is an award-winning writer, actor, director, solo performer, acting teacher/coach, arts educator and a jail chaplain. She is a proud member of the Echo, Antaeus, Rogue Machine, and Warriors For Peace, having worked on and for all their stages numerous times, as well as many other theatres across Southern California and throughout Chicago, her hometown. Her plays have been produced both nationally and internationally, as have both her new media series. Her directing credits include work with several LA theatres and production companies, as well as for the Museum of Tolerance, LA's Holocaust Museum, LA's LGBT Center, the YWCA, and Homeboy Industries. She currently teaches for Moving Arts Theatre and Hussian College--In Studio L.A. She is also Program Coordinator for Prism Restorative Justice/CFLC which brings chaplaincy to those incarcerated in the LA County jails. She dedicates this performance to the women in CRDF. IG: [\*\*@sparksjacks\*\*](#)



### **Robert Yacko**

*as Peter Norman*

is a veteran of Broadway, off-Broadway, and regional theatres across the country. In Los Angeles, stage credits include Sunday in the Park with George, Legacy of Light, Chess, Parade, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, and Annie at the Hollywood Bowl, among many others. He has shared stages with the likes of Rachel York, Cathy Rigby, Carol Burnett, Leslie Uggams, Christina Pickles, Carl Reiner, and more. He made his Broadway debut in a revival of Fiddler on the Roof starring Herschel Bernardi. Film and TV credits include Raising Helen, The Closer, The Golden Girls, General Hospital, and Picket Fences.

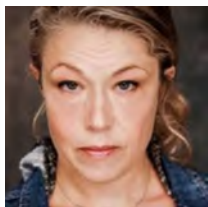
## WHO'S WHO



### Rob Nagle

*as Rob Scanlon*

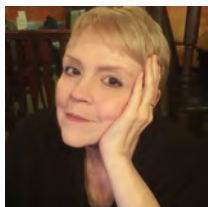
theatre credits include *Church and State*, *Of Good Stock*, *I Love to Eat*, and productions at Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Pasadena Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Centerstage, The Old Globe, and Shakespeare Theatre Company. Film credits include *Alien Vacation*, *To Hell and Gone*, *Bad Samaritan*, *First Love*, *Mother's Day*, *Fishing Naked*, *New Year's Eve*, *The Soloist*, *Fun with Dick and Jane*, *Cellular*. Television credits include *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Batwoman*, *Mom*, *Dynasty*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Little Fires Everywhere*, *Modern Family*, *Superior Donuts*, *The Librarians*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Criminal Minds*, *Castle*, *Major Crimes*, *Harry's Law*, *Mad Men*, *Cold Case*, *Eli Stone*, *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, *Without a Trace*, *Everwood*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *The Guardian*, *Dawson's Creek*.



### Sue Gisser

*as Roberta Tanzen*

has recurred on *Shameless*, *Strangers with Candy*, and *Solved*, and did multiple spots in campaigns for Burlington Coat Factory, Mercury Insurance, and Cedar Fair. Films include *The Activist* and *In the Air*. In the 2023 Hollywood Fringe Festival, she starred in the world premiere of *Bloodsuckers* and performed with *Feel Your Feet*, an innovative game-based musical improv company, of which she is a founding member.



### Suse Sternkopf

*(Playwright/Director)* Directing credits Off- and Off-Off Broadway and in Los Angeles include *Oh Dad, Poor Dad*, *The Wager*, *The Would-Be Gentleman*, *The Good Doctor*, *The Valentine's Day Massacre*, *The Reindeer Monologues*, *The Creation of the World and Other Business*, *Out Cry*, and the world premieres of *Women In Love* and *Hurt So Good*. Los Angeles credits include *Such Interesting Lies and Diamonds & Pearls* (West Coast Ensemble), *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *Anonimous*, *Better Left Unsaid*, and *Rabbit Hole*. She's been writing for decades—ad copy, essays, white papers, research, t-shirts, and, finally, plays. As a writer, her work has been seen or heard (sometimes both) on ads, commercials, books, billboards, and greeting cards, and her plays have been performed in New York, Los Angeles, and London.

## WHO'S WHO



### Allen Corben

*Producer*

was on the board of Stepping Stone Players, and has been on stage and behind the scenes for *Rabbit Hole*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Music Man*, *Godspell*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Nick Tickle: Fairy Tale Detective*, *The Fourth Wall*, *Rex And Bob's Excellent Misadventure*. He has served as the co-chair for the National Organization for Men Against Sexism for 20+ years.



### Ken Werther

has been a staple in the Los Angeles performing arts community since 1982. Public relations, producing, directing. Producer: *All Your Hard Work* (Brimmer St. Theatre Company); *The Good Boy* (LACT) *A Kind of Kind* (Celebration Theatre @ Atwater Village Theatre); the Queer Classics productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Taming of The Shrew*. Assistant director: *Stop the World, I Want To Get Off* (Musical Theatre Guild); *The Women of Brewster Place* (Celebration Theatre); *The Woodsman* (Coeurage Theatre Company). For more, visit [www.kenwerther.com](http://www.kenwerther.com)

# CREW WHO'S WHO

## Miles Berman

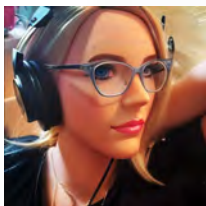
*Stage Manager/Lighting Design*

has been a Professional storyteller for 13 years, having produced 3 plays, 4 shorts, and 2 feature films. He has also performed in over 60 productions while also stage managing over 130 live theater productions.

## Mallory Corben

*Assistant Stage Manager*

is a college student and bookworm, who got her start in theatre as a math gnome in her 2nd grade class play. Other onstage credits include *25th... Spelling Bee*, *Oliver!*, and *Seussical*. She's been backstage for *Three Is Company*, *Woman In Mind*, *Almost, Alaska*, and *Godspell*, and was stage manager for *All In The Timing*. She also spent a year in the production office at Glendale Centre Theatre. With thanks to cast and crew, she exits SR, pursued by bear.



## Lobelia Lawson

*Music Supervision*

is an award-winning songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who's been featured in Billboard Magazine and on PBS. She's worked as a studio musician for 10+ years. Lo books and hosts a variety of songwriter nights for Birmingham's best small artist-led venue, Tower of Song, and is an advocate for sustainable touring. She travels the world performing at house concerts and small venues.



## Janna R. Lopen Råven

*Sound Design*

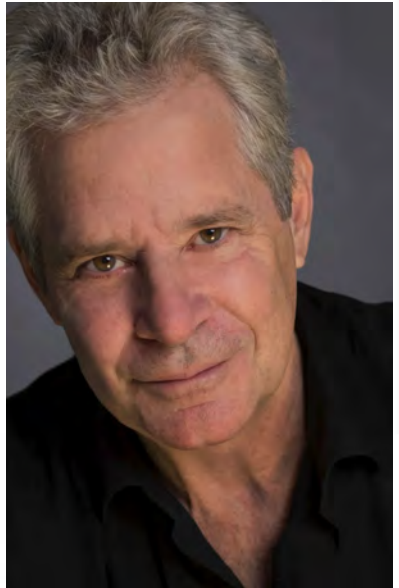
graduated from University of Victoria in Sound Design for Theatre in 2001; she was a guest Sound Designer for Native Voices at the Autry from 2004 – 12, as well with other live theatres in the Los Angeles area. Janna is a proud member of IATSE local 695 as a Sound Utility day player. In her spare time, she does field recordings of sound and a lot of DIY projects.



PHOTOS



PHOTOS



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**G&T** (*Production Design Consultants*) G&T was a Manhattan-based company specializing in live theatre and film. Now retired to Ireland, Slow Thunder is so very grateful for advice and enthusiasm.

## **MUSIC CREDITS (all music used with permission)**

Back Drifts – Jen Chain & Rosetto Stone Trio  
Downtown Train – Everything But The Girl (<https://ebtg.com>)  
You – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
Fuck Was I – Jenny Owen Youngs (<https://www.jennyowenyongs.com>)  
It's A Shame About Ray – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
Beautifully Undone – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
It's A Shame About Ray – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
Consider Me Gone – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
Beautifully Undone – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
Deep Blue Sea – Lobelia (<https://lobelia.bandcamp.com>)  
Shine – Blow Up Hollywood (<https://www.blowuphollywood.com>)

"Nature Boy" written by Eden Ahbez; sung by Robert Yacko

## **THANKS AND MORE THANKS:**

Where to begin...

Amber Breugel and the Theatre 68 Arts Complex for such a warm welcome to Slow Thunder. Y'all are the best!

Maureen Rothery, Catherine Coke, Jazz (who put the "bad" in "badinage"), Matt Doherty, Garth McLean ("Where's *my* part?!"), Joe Lambie, Julia Silverman, Kathleen Bailey, the lovely James Matthews, Gerard Savoy, Maggie Cino, Nicole Godino, Johnny Blaze Leavitt, Margret Echevarria, and Johnny Clark and Vs Theatre family.

And every playwright, director, designer, stage manager, and actor with whom I've worked over the centuries – thank you for invaluable lessons.

And Lobelia Lawson, Holly Cole, Tracey and Ben (EBTG), Jenny Owen Youngs, Steve Messina and Blow Up Hollywood, and Fourth Angry Mouse.

And Cindy D'Andrea, Jim Rispin, and Marla, for all your help.

And Ti, La Cabana Fantastico, Tulis McCall, Monica Anderson, Terria Joseph, and Alice Klugherz.

And KC Walters, Marilyn Freeman, Jane Godfrey, Kim Kraft – for being so delightfully daft as to even think about road-tripping, much less actually doing it.

Janna R. Lopez Råven and Miles Berman for your technical expertise, your artistry, and, not incidentally, your patience.

And thank you to you, the audience. You finish what I began. It's not a fully a play without you.

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Sue Gisser, Rob Nagle, Ann Noble, and Robert Yacko -

Mallory and her crew.

Allen--for all ways always.

And...you. Thank you for coming out and supporting live theatre. We have no AI, no CGI--just four amazing actors walking the tightrope right there in front of you every performance.

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## END NOTES

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"There is no history, only biography,  
~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"There is no biography, only art and lies."  
~ *Jeanette Winterson*



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