

The Los Angeles LGBT Center's
Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center
in association with
Suzi Dietz and Elaine Krauss
presents

SAM HARRIS

HAM

A MUSICAL MEMOIR



BYRD2013



LOS
ANGELES
LGBT
CENTER

JANUARY 23—FEBRUARY 7

THE RENBERG THEATRE

LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER'S
LILY TOMLIN/JANE WAGNER CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
SUZI DIETZ AND ELAINE KRAUSS
PRESENTS



SAM HARRIS

HAM

A Musical Memoir

Written and performed by Sam Harris

LIGHTING DESIGN
ADAM EARL

COSTUME DESIGN
PAULA HIGGINS

SOUND AND VIDEO DESIGN
KEN SAWYER

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS
TODD SCHROEDER

STAGE MANAGER
NORMAN COX

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
TINA BALDWIN

SOUND CONSULTANT
DARREN MORA

PRESS REPRESENTATIVE
KEN WERTHER PUBLICITY

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL MEDIA
DANI COLLINS, APP INFINITUM

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
MATT RICHTER

BOX OFFICE SUPERVISOR
KATIE POLTZ

FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR
MAGGIE MARX

SOUND ENGINEER
MEGAN BENAVENTE



Choreographer Lee Martino
Musical Director Todd Schroeder
Directed by Billy Porter and Ken Sawyer

HAM: A MUSICAL MEMOIR is based on HAM: SLICES OF A LIFE,
published by Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster

Net proceeds from these performances support the full range of the Los Angeles
LGBT Center's free and low-cost services and programs. Thank you.

This production includes the use of theatrical haze.

BIOGRAPHIES



SAM HARRIS is a multi-million selling recording artist, Tony-nominated Broadway and television actor, award-winning playwright, composer, director, and most recently, best selling author. Before *American Idol*, before *The Voice*, Harris first exploded into the public eye as the premiere winner of TV's *Star Search*. On Broadway, Harris starred in *The Life* (Tony, Outer Critic's Circle, Drama Desk nominations), *The Producers*, and *Grease* (Drama Desk nomination). National Tour, off-Broadway and regional credits include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Hair*, *Pippin*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cabaret*, *The Jazz Singer*, and *The First Wives Club*. On television, Harris was a series regular on the CBS sitcom *The Class*, had a recurring role on *Rules of Engagement*, other guest star appearances. He has performed on numerous specials and every talk show from Leno to Oprah to Fallon. He has nine studio CDs to his credit, has toured the globe in concert, and he made *Rolling Stone's* list of *The 100 Greatest Singers of All Time*. Harris is the author of the stage musicals *Hard Copy*, *Different Hats*, *Revival*, *Hurry! Hurry! Hollywood!*, and *SAM*. He co-wrote *Liza's at the Palace* (Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event), co-created/co-wrote the TV sitcom *Down To Earth*, musically supervised segments of *Michael Jackson's 30th Year Anniversary Special* at Madison Square Garden, and coproduced the PBS special *Love Letter to New York*. Harris is married to businessman Danny Jacobsen and they are the proud parents of seven-year-old Cooper Atticus Harris-Jacobsen.

BILLY PORTER (Co-Director) is a Tony and Grammy Award-winning singer, composer, actor, playwright, and director. He won the 2013 Tony Award for Lead Actor in a Musical for his performance in *Kinky Boots*. Other Broadway credits include *Miss Saigon*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Grease*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, and *Dreamgirls*. Porter's off-Broadway and regional credits include *Angels in America*, *Romance in Hard Times*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *House of Lear*, *Radiant Baby*, *Birdie Blue*, *Going Native*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Songs for a New World*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Chorus Line* and *Chicago*. His solo show, *Ghetto Superstar: The Man That I Am*, debuted at The Public Theater in 2005. Directing credits include *The Wiz* and *Signed, Sealed*,

Delivered: The Music of Stevie Wonder, and *Being Alive*, a musical celebration mixing the canons of Sondheim and Shakespeare and combining them with musical styles of the African-American experience. He won a NAACP Theatre Award for Best Director of a Musical for *Once on This Island* at Reprise in Los Angeles, where he also conceived and directed a musical revue entitled *The Soul of Rodgers*. Last spring he directed George C. Wolfe's *The Colored Museum* at Boston's Huntington Theatre. Other directing credits include *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Altar Boyz*, and *Rent*.

KEN SAWYER (Co-Director) Award-winning director Ken Sawyer directed *Hit the Wall*, *The Goat*, *D'FunQT*, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, and *Deathtrap* at the Center's Village at Ed Gould Plaza. Recent credits include the world premiere of Ingmar Bergman's 1954 radio play *The City* at The Demon Theatre in Faro, Sweden; *Ragtime* and *Sweeney Todd* (CSUN); and *Dracula* (Noho Arts Center). Ken has previously directed *Lovelace: A Rock Opera* (Hayworth Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Fest), and an all-star cast performance of Paris Barclay's *One Red Flower* featuring David Burnham, Levi Kriess, Hunter Parrish, and Maureen McGovern (The Rubicon, The Brentwood Theatre). Additional directing credits include *Crime & Punishment* at The Actors Co-Op and *The Woman in Black* at the Coronet and the Road Theatre. Ken is a graduate of The Juilliard School. For more info, please log on to: www.kensawyerdirector.com

TODD SCHROEDER (Pianist/Musical Director) 2016 begins the 24th year that Sam and Todd have been collaborating and performing together. Schroeder's gifts are best showcased through a range of talents, including acting as Music Director, Composer, Producer, Arranger, and Performer, all of which he seamlessly moves between. He music-directs and performs regularly with YouTube sensation band "Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox." Todd's work with PMJ has been experienced by more than four million fans. He has also performed at prestigious venues from Carnegie Hall to the White House, and earned recognition as "Musical Director of the Year" from BroadwayWorld. Schroeder has performed with the Boston Pops, Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Duke Ellington Orchestra, and has collaborated with illustrious performers including Angela Lansbury, Tom Jones, Jason Alexander, and many more. Schroeder has composed music for TV and film, written musicals for the stage, and for over a decade, served as vocal director for Disney's "Aladdin" and musical director for Universal Studios Japan's live performances. Todd is most proud of his daughters, Julia Rose and Catherine Kjerste. Special thanks to his manager, Michael Nicklin and as his amazing wife, Carrie.

SUZI DIETZ (Producer) has been producing theatre in Los Angeles for more than thirty years and is the recipient of a *Drama-Logue* Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution to Los Angeles theatre. As Artistic Director of LA Stage Company, she produced the west coast premieres of Christopher Durang's *Sister Mary Ignatius*, Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*, Wendy Wasserstein's *Isn't it Romantic*, and the world premiere of *Penn and Teller*. As Artistic Director of the Pasadena Playhouse, she produced four seasons of plays in two theaters, including the world premieres of *Mail* and *The Baby Dance*, both of which moved to New York. She ran the Canon Theatre in Beverly Hills for 21 years, where she produced dozens of plays, including *The Last Night at Ballyhoo* and *Love Letters*.

A five-time Tony nominee, Dietz produced the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Lonesome West*, *The Little Dog Laughed* and *Fela!* She has worked with Terrence McNally both on and off Broadway for the last decade, developing and touring *Some Men*, and being part of the producing teams on *Deuce*, *Mothers and Sons* and *It's Only a Play*. Last season in New York she developed and produced Billy Porter's autobiographical play *While I Yet Live* at Primary Stages and Sam Harris' musical memoir *HAM*, which Porter directed, at Theatre 411 at Ars Nova. Last fall she produced Jorge Gomez' and Carlos Lacamara's new musical *Cuba Libre* at Artists Repertory Theatre in Portland, Oregon, to glowing reviews and sold-out houses.



ELAINE KRAUSS (Producer) first co-produced *HAM* in 2015 at Theatre 411 at Ars Nova. Her Broadway producing credits include *Beautiful*, *The Carole King Musical*; *Honeymoon in Vegas*; *Horse*; *La Cage aux Folles*; *The Mountain Top*; *Nice Work If You Can Get It*; *A Little Night Music*; *Superior Donuts*, and *Burn the Floor*.

Jon Imparato (Producer) worked as an actor in New York for 25 years before making the switch to producing. In 1998, he was tapped by the Los Angeles LGBT Center to be artistic director of the Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, a program he created for the Center. Highlights include the West Coast premiere of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* and three official 25th anniversary productions: Jack Heifner's *Vanities* (starring Kathy Bates), Jane Chambers's lesbian classic *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, and an all-star staged reading of Larry Kramer's incendiary AIDS drama, *The Normal Heart*, directed by Joel Grey. Jon has also produced the debuts of new shows by Margaret Cho, Kathy Griffin, Alec Mapa, Jenifer Lewis, Carol Channing, Coco Peru, as well as world premieres of *Victory Dance* (Ovation Award nomination), by Jessica Litwak; Patricia Cotter and

Lori Scarlet's Ovation, Garland, and LA Drama Critics Circle Award-winning musical, *The Break Up Notebook: The Lesbian Musical*; the Ovation-nominated *Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted*; Adelina Anthony's *Mastering Sex & Tortillas* and *Bruising For Besos*; Nick Salamone's *Sea Change* and *The Sonneteer*, and highly acclaimed revivals of Ira Levin's *Deathtrap*, Tectonic Theater Project's *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, Edward Albee's *The Goat or, Who Is Sylvia?*, and most recently, Ike Holter's *Hit the Wall*. Jon also produces *Conversations with Coco*, in which Miss Coco Peru conducts onstage interviews with such legends as Lily Tomlin, Liza Minnelli, Jane Fonda, and the late Bea Arthur.

LEE MARTINO (Choreographer) Most recent work: *Carrie* (La Mirada and The Los Angeles Theatre), *First Date* (McCoy Rigby); *When You Wish: The story of Walt Disney*; *American Misfits* (Boston Court); *Oklahoma!* (Musical Theatre West); *Life Without Makeup*, starring Rita Moreno (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *Kiss Me Kate* (Reprise Theatre Company); *Falling for Eve* (The York Theatre Company in Manhattan); directing and choreography for *Les Girls* (Breast Cancer Benefit); *A Night At Sardi's* (Alzheimer's Benefit); the NBC special *Shall We Dance on Ice*; animated feature films *Alpha and Omega 3D*, and *The King and I*. Work for Harley-Davidson, Universal Studios, El Capitan Theatre, Disney International, TUTS Hobby Performing Arts Center, the Opening of Ford Field in Detroit, Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs. Lee has won four Los Angeles Ovation Awards, three Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, and is the recipient of the Joel Hirschhorn Award for outstanding achievement in musical theatre. Lee teaches at UCLA and is a member of SDC.

NORMAN COX (Stage Manager) started out working professionally when he was eight. He has traveled, choreographed and performed in almost every country. Being a part of this amazing Los Angeles LGBT Center staff is a total honor—it started in 2007, and once it started he has not left. Well, he does leave every Nov-Dec to work in New Zealand. "I am so very honored to be with you again. Jon Imparato, thank you for allowing me the freedom and joy to live life as myself! For the icing on this cake, I am grateful and humbled to have the honor of working with all the producers, directors, playwrights! My co-workers...LOVE HUG and SPARKLING LIGHT to you all. You make my coming to work something I TRULY look forward to."



KEN WERTHER PUBLICITY (Press Representative) has been a staple in the Los Angeles performing arts community since 1982. Embassy Television, Lorimar Television; Center Theatre Group (Ahmanson and Kirk Douglas Theatres, Mark Taper Forum). Currently: *Something Truly Monstrous* (The Blank Theatre), *Caged* (Theatre Banshee), *Tell Mr. Poulos* (The Complex), *Breathe* (Greenway Court), *The Sparrow* (Coourage Theatre Company), *Romance.com* (West Coast Jewish Theatre), *Thelma Houston: My Motown* at Catalina Jazz Club, Queer Classics, Greenway Arts Alliance, 2015 Ovation Awards, LA STAGE Alliance. Personalities: Erich Bergen, Sheena Metal, Brian Beacock, Daniel Tatar, Jeremy Lelliott, Mack & Poppy. Web series: *McCracken Live!* and *Acting Dead*. Producer: *The Good Boy* (2011), *All Your Hard Work* (2012), *A Kind of Kind* (2013), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2014), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2015). Assistant director: *Stop The World I Want To Get Off* (2009), *The Women of Brewster Place* (2010), *The Woodsman* (2015). Various benefit events.
www.KenWerther.com



SPECIAL THANKS

Michael Agostino, Tina Baldwin, Lenny Beer, Matt Berman, David Burnham, David Byrd, Craig Dorfman, Bill and Carolyn Harris, Sarah Ivins, Sheryl Kaller, Larissa Kokernot, Reid Thompson, Srda Vasiljevic, the extraordinary staff at the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Voices of Star Search announcer and Ed McMahon
Poster Art

Chris Cox
David Byrd

THE MUSIC OF HAM

“Open Book” Sam Harris; “Ham” Sam Harris/Todd Schroeder; “Dites-Moi” Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein II; “Don’t Rain on My Parade” Jule Styne/Bob Merrill; “Nothing Can Stop Me Now” Anthony Newley/Leslie Bricusse; “Respect” Otis Redding; “Shoelless Joe” Richard Adler/Jerry Ross; “If He Walked Into My Life” Jerry Herman; “Colored Town” Sam Harris/Todd Schroeder; “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round” American Spiritual/Unknown; “Revival” Sam Harris; “I Hear America Singing” Traditional Folk Song; “Sweet Dreams” Sam Harris; “I Am Changing” Henry Krieger/Tom Eyan; “God Bless the Child” Billie Holiday/Arthur Herzog, Jr.; “It’s My Turn” Carole Bayer Sager/Michael Masser; “I Shall Be Released” Bob Dylan; “Come to Me” Aretha Franklin; “Somewhere Over The Rainbow” Harold Arlen/E.Y. Harburg; “Broken Wing” Sam Harris/Todd Schroeder

For the Los Angeles LGBT Center

Director of Cultural Arts, Artistic Director: Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center
Jon Imperato

Program Manager, Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center

Katie Poltz

Coordinator, Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center

Matt Walker

Village Events Manager

Patricia Sutherland

Box Office Staff

Christopher Atkins, Norman Cox, Dominic Furry, Joshua Goldman

COMING TO THE RENBERG THEATRE!



Get Ready to Match the Stars! It's...

The Mismatch Game!

With your host DENNIS HENSLEY
Fri, March 11 and Sat, March 12 at 8 p.m.
Renberg Theatre

WELL-STRUNG

THE SINGING STRING QUARTET

"Brilliantly fuses pop and classical music from Madonna to Beethoven." *New York Times*

"Four hunky clad-in-black musicians move seamlessly between classical concertos and the latest hits." *Playbill*

Sunday March 13

Renberg Theatre



Varla Jean Merman's Big Black Hole

Friday-Saturday April 1-2 at 8 p.m.

Sunday Apr 3 at 7 p.m.

Renberg Theatre

A GENTLE REMINDER

Miss Coco Peru's Guide
to a Somewhat Happy Life

Fri-Sat May 13-14, 20-21 at 8 p.m.

Renberg Theatre



TICKETS ON SALE SOON! CHECK AT lalgbtcenter.org/theatre.



LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER